Westport School Committee
Special Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, January 7, 2026
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: WMHS Auditorium

MINUTES

Members Present: Evan Gendreau, Fred Melnyk, Jason Pacheco, Caitlin Sampers Christopher Thrasher
Also Present: Holly Hargraves Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ryan Keane Student Representative *(left at 6:56 pm.),* Student Representative Kenleigh LeBlanc *(left at 6:56 pm.)*, Lori Melo Executive Secretary, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Francine Roy Superintendent, 0 Community Participants

I. Call to Order - Chair Christopher Thrasher opened up the Westport School Committee Special Meeting at 6:34 pm. with a quorum of the members present.

II. Comments and Statements from the Public - There were none.

III. Informational Agenda
a. Student Representatives –
Kenleigh LeBlanc reported the following: Starting off a great new year with a new showcase, after Beetlejuice grades 7-12 will begin Hadestown, no School January 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, next half day February 4, 2026.

Ryan Keane reported the following: Tuesday January 20 is end of term 2/semester 1 report cards will be on community portal Friday January 23, second semester begins January 21 and elective courses will be changing schedule, congratulations to Zoe Dufresne for receiving the Frank W. Gallishaw Scholarship, well wishes to seniors for completing college applications, congratulations to Westport High School Drama Club for their successful performances of Little Mermaid, Students That Exemplifying Extraordinary Leadership STEEL is planning their Annual Prom Pop Up Shop Saturday February 7 from 9 am. -1 pm., scores were reported for boys' varsity and JV basketball and girls' varsity and JV basketball, Co-Op Ice Hockey, Atlantis Charter Co-Op Wrestling, and Co-Op Swim and Dive, Pep Band and Cheering Squad have been supporting the basketball teams at home games.

b. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Roy reported they are installing numerous speakers for auditorium and other places missing them. Funding is coming from the School Building Project. They are making progress in getting the project completed. Flu hit and they are checking attendance.

Dr. Roy asked if there were any questions? There were none.

c. Business Manager Report - Ms. Rapoza reported she and Dr. Roy met with the Capital Improvements Planning Committee CIPC. Playground for Macomber School was accepted, they will know more on Thursday. They continue to work on the budget. A resignation was received from the Technology Director with last day January 23, 2026.

Ms. Rapoza went over the Revolving Accounts for Athletics and Student Activities explaining the amounts taken in and carried over into FY26 through Fall 2025. Waivers are given to families based on income to reduce fees for athletics and transportation.

Ms. Rapoza asked if there were any questions? There were none.

d. Curriculum Director Report – Ms. Hargraves reported working on community celebrations for the 250th. Financial Literacy Program will have February 10 as Banking Day with a guest speaker series. There are 2 Innovation Career Pathways and they are looking for freshmen and sophomores to be able to complete a pathway. More information is on the school website. Ms. Hargraves and Dr. Roy developed instructional leadership STEM and Humanities teams that will meet monthly.

e. Committee Liaison Reports - Mr. Melnyk and Ms. Sampers reported there were no meetings.

Mr. Gendreau reported no past meetings with a School Building Committee meeting next Wednesday.

Mr. Pacheco attended a Cable Advisory Meeting on December 9, 2025. They had a budget discussion and approved hiring a camera operator that is a Westport high school student. Next meeting will take place in March.

Chair Thrasher reported a meeting with CIPC a few weeks before the holidays where they approved requests and switched funding to the most urgent truck needed.

f. Student and Staff Attendance - Chair Thrasher reported everyone has the latest reports in their packets.

Chair Thrasher asked if there were any questions?

Ms. Sampers questioned a large number of absences during a certain week that included the ½ school day.

g. WCS Bill Warrant: 12/12/2025, 12/26/2025 & 1/9/2026 - Chair Thrasher verified that each member received an electronic copy for review of the bill warrants dated 12/12/25 for a total of $172,564.53, 12/26/25 totaling $479,655.60 and 1/9/2026 totaling $175,820.86

Chair Thrasher asked if there were any questions? There were none.

Chair Thrasher confirmed the bill warrants have been acknowledged.

h. Superintendent Findings Presentation - Dr. Roy shared her goal is for her to understand the district and not make assumptions. The district's Strategic Plan expires end of this school year.

Dr. Roy explained the Methodology using Data Collection, Theme Development, Validation & Synthesis, and Strategic Organization. Also explained in detail were the 5 Building Blocks for a Thriving School Community that include Community, Human Capital and Operations, Curriculum, Student Support, and Aspirations. Immediate Action Steps SY25-26 and a timeline were provided.

Dr. Roy asked if there were any questions?

Committee members gave accolades for her thoughtfulness and work done.

i. Discussion of FY27 Proposed School Budget -

Chair Thrasher gave background into the budget process. Lots of work was done to put this together with numerous budget sessions. This proposed budget will still be changed and the next step is to present the budget to the Finance Committee on February 3, 2026.

Ms. Rapoza thanked everyone involved in the efforts of producing a fair and equitable budget.

Mr. Gendreau recognized the Business Office for showing good stewardship of taxpayer's dollars. It was noted 2/3rd's of the increases are contractual obligations. Other increases are existing lines in the budget where costs have increased.

Chair Thrasher asked if there was anything else from committee members? There was nothing else.

At this point we have proposed numbers and the committee can give preliminary budget approval.

A motion was made to approve the Proposed FY27 preliminary budget as presented.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers, all were in favor, motion approved. 5/0/0

II. Action Agenda

a. Review and Act on Special SC Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 3, 2025, SC Budget Work Session for Wednesday, December 3, 2025 and SC Budget Work Session for Wednesday, December 17, 2025 -

A motion was made to approve Special SC Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 3, 2025, SC Budget Work Session Wednesday, December 3, 2025 and SC Budget Work Session Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

Motion by Gendreau, seconded by Pacheco, all were in favor, motion passed. 5/0/0

b. Review and Act on WES Field Trip to Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence RI – May 2026 -

A motion was made to approve the WES Field Trip to Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence RI – May 2026.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers, all were in favor, motion passed. 5/0/0

V. Routine Matters:

- Correspondence and Notices - There were none.
- Discussion of Future Agenda Items - There were none.

VI. Topics the Chair could not Reasonably Anticipate Forty-eight (48) Hours in advance of the meeting - None at this time.

VII. Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by Gendreau, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes Melnyk Yes Pacheco Yes Sampers Yes Thrasher Yes

The School Committee Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Meeting Documents

Innovation Career Pathways
Student Attendance Report By School
Staff Attendance Report
WCS Bill Warrants: 12/12/2025, 12/26/2025 & 1/9/2026
Superintendent's Entry Plan Findings
SC Proposed FY27 Budget 12.17.2025
WES Field Trip to Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence RI – May 2026

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary