

**Westport School Committee
Budget Work Session
DATE: Wednesday, January 7, 2026
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: WMHS 2nd floor Conference Room**

MINUTES

Members Present: Evan Gendreau, Fred Melnyk, Jason Pacheco, Caitlin Sampers, Christopher Thrasher

Also Present: Holly Hargraves Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Lori Melo Executive Secretary, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Francine Roy Superintendent,

I. Call to Order - Chair Thrasher opened the School Committee Budget Work Session at 6:17 pm. with a quorum of the members present.

II. FY27 Budget Discussion - Ms. Rapoza reported there were 2 minor changes in the budget from the last budget meeting. There was an increase in the athletic trainer of \$1,600 and an increase of \$15,805 for the updated contract with Northeast Water Solutions. Presently there is a \$36,789 difference between school and town numbers.

Ms. Rapoza shared that both herself and Superintendent Roy met with the new town administrator.

Chair Thrasher asked if there was any update on the OPIOD Settlement? Superintendent Roy reported no meeting to date but there is one coming up.

Chair Thrasher shared there are comparables lower than \$105,000 for the Career Pathways Coordinator and asked if it would be possible to cut salary or do stipends? Superintendent Roy explained she wanted to make this an administrative position and take over some of the evaluations. There may grants available. A range of \$95,000 - \$105,000 can be used.

Chair Thrasher shared the budget number is practical and the district is taking a realistic approach.

Chair Thrasher asked if there was any further discussion on the budget? There was none.

III. Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn.

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

The Westport School Committee Budget Work Session ended at 6:29 pm.