

**Westport School Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**DATE: April 8, 2026**  
**TIME: 6:30 p.m.**  
**PLACE: WMHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Hybrid Zoom:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84483063261?pwd=BmkeiEkm7oF0m9OPDVatcLtqAO9dvh.1>  
**Webinar ID: 844 8306 3261**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Evan Gendreau, Fred Melnyk, Jason Pacheco, Caitlin Sampers (*attended via Zoom Link*), Christopher Thrasher

**Also Present:** Tania Camara Out of School Time Coordinator (*left at 8:09 p.m.*), Laura Charette Westport Middle High School Principal (*left at 7:45 p.m.*) Holly Hargraves Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ryan Keane Student Representative (*left at 6:48 pm.*), Lori Melo Executive Secretary, Shelly Morris Athletic Director (*left at 7:35 p.m.*), Paul Poulin District Maintenance Director (*left at 7:35 p.m.*) , Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, John Rezendes Westport Community TV Director, Francine Roy Superintendent, Kerin Tavares Out of School Time Director (*left at 8:09 p.m.*), 0 Community Participants

**I. Call to Order** - Chair Christopher Thrasher opened up the Hybrid Regular Westport School Committee Regular Meeting at 6:40 pm. with a quorum of the members present. One member attended virtually via Zoom.

Chair Thrasher read the following:

According to MGL Chapter 30A Section 20F - This meeting is being recorded.

Pursuant to Governor Healey's approved legislation, H. 62, a bill extending authorizations for all local boards, commissions, and committees to hold public meetings remotely or in a hybrid format Extended Timeline, amending Section 30A of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, most recently amended by Section 40 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, and replacing the current expiration date of "March 31, 2025" with "June 30, 2027." Therefore, this meeting of the Westport School Committee is being conducted via remote participation.

Everyone participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**III. Informational Agenda**

**a. Student Representatives –**

Ryan Keane reported the following:

Third term is quickly coming to an end report cards will be on the Community Portal by April 13, April 14 is a half day for students, Spring vacation is April 20-27, English MCAS testing for Grades 5-6 was last week, Grades 7-8 will finish testing tomorrow, Grade 10 Math on May 20 & 21 and Grade 9 Biology will be June 2 & 3, Westport High School Student Council, Advocats and Raising Individual Student's Expectations R.I.S.E. are sponsoring the 3rd Annual Jaden Araujo Memorial Scholarship Fund Bowling Fundraiser on Sunday April 12 from 4:00-6:00 p.m., Junior Class Student Council will be hosting a Game Night April 15 from 6-8 pm., Westport Drama Club will perform Hadestown Friday, May 8, Saturday, May 9 and Sunday May 10 tickets available to purchase on Zeffy.com and you can look for the link on the Westport Music Boosters Facebook page, Westport High School Junior and Senior prom will take place on Friday, May 15 at the Fall River Country Club, Spring sports is underway and all of our teams are playing with great enthusiasm and dedication. Scores for boys' varsity baseball, boys' varsity lacrosse, girls' varsity softball, girls' varsity tennis and boys' varsity tennis were reported.

*Ryan Keane left at 6:48 pm.*

b. Superintendent Report - Dr. Roy gave the following updates: There was a power surge knocking out internet and phones. Phones were not fixed at the middle high school but were fixed at Macomber and Westport Elementary Schools. They will begin a Cloud based version at the end of June.

A letter was sent out to survey parents on social media and digital usage, including resources.

Diman Regional High School was thanked for building the trophy cases. Some trophies are already in the cases.

Westport 250<sup>th</sup> Committee is planning a reenactment of the Abner Brownell's ride on April 30. There will also be an historical timeline learning about history with a parade through the decades around the school.

Dr. Roy attended the Japanese exchange assembly and learned a lot about the program.

8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington DC will take place April 28.

Chair Thrasher asked if there were any questions or comments?

Mr. Melnyk added students will be traveling to South Korea.

Mr. Melnyk asked if there was any decision on snow days in the calendar? Dr. Roy reported the last day will be June 24 and the district does not qualify for a waiver according to Massachusetts criteria.

Mr. Melnyk asked is the curriculum going to follow these days and can the original format with finals be kept? Dr. Roy mentioned to talk with the school. The district needs 180 school days and 900 hours of instructional time.

c. Curriculum Director Report – Ms. Hargraves began by reporting MCAS testing is in full swing. Grade 4 was impacted by the power outage. Their testing will start back up today with a make-up day on Friday. Grade 3 testing will be next week.

The district will be receiving almost \$25,000 for a One8 Grant for Investigating History. This will allow 5-7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to participate in a professional learning cohort program. The grant will also provide professional development, individual implementation support and an ongoing cohort model over 3 years to bring high quality learning to students and connect with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Democratic Knowledge Project curriculum.

Vacation Math Camp will be held over April school vacation week with a total of 33 students. Center based activities and STEM explorations with the goals of improving math skills and math concepts is the focus.

Innovation Careers Pathways program induction ceremony will take place April 17. Currently 4 students are enrolled in Advanced Manufacturing, 20 students in Healthcare and Social Assisting pathway with a potential of 5 more students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Instructional Leadership Teams has created opportunities for staff on May 7. Teachers will engage in field-based experiences with partners including Westport Land Trust, Westport Watershed Alliance, Westport Historical Society, Buzzards Bay Coalition and New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center. Additional partners are being confirmed. The goal is to light a spark, deepening connections to the community and helping students see education is not confined to 4 walls.

d. Business Manager Report - Ms. Rapoza had nothing new to report at this time.

e. Committee Liaison Reports - Mr. Melnyk and Ms. Sampers had nothing new to report.

Mr. Pacheco reported the Cable Advisory Board will meet on April 22, 2026.

Mr. Gendreau reported the Audit Committee met to identify weaknesses and deficiencies with none found. They will produce a governance letter to keep an eye on certain areas. The School Building Committee

met on March 31 and went over items such as the denitrification system replacement of wood chips with stone, trophy cases, and outstanding items with GALE Associates. They are working to close out the project soon.

f. WCS Bill Warrant: 3/20/2026 & 4/03/2026 - Chair Thrasher verified that each member received an electronic copy for review of the bill warrants dated 3/20/2026 for a total of \$248,739.40 & bill warrant dated 4/03/2026 for a total of \$254,626.94

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

Chair Thrasher confirmed the bill warrants have been acknowledged.

g. Athletics and Fields Report – S. Morris & P. Poulin - Ms. Morris gave some general updates. Spring sports - coaching lineup staff was hired 2 ½ weeks into the season. Ms. Morris commended Mr. Poulin and crew for preparing the baseball and softball fields to get them up and running. Both fields are in good condition.

Mr. Poulin explained they cut diamonds, opened up paths, and rebuilt mound to specs with the baseball and softball fields.

Chair Thrasher mentioned there were issues with fields at the beginning of the school year and commended the work being done in house.

Chair Thrasher asked if there were any comments or statements?

Mr. Pacheco mentioned parent concerns with the filling of coaching positions and bleachers from field hockey remaining on the field. Fields look great.

Ms. Morris explained Spring coaches' positions were posted in November - December and they had a lot of shifting. Fall sports postings will be at the beginning of May and Winter sports is posted in the Summer.

Discussion was held concerning challenges with the fields being ready, accommodating the various sports and field logistics. Communication using the sports app, having an informational meeting for parents, and scheduling games was also mentioned.

*Shelly Morris and Paul Poulin left here at 7:35 p.m.*

h. Volunteer Requirements – Ms. Charette reported this is the first year 20 Community Service hours are a graduation requirement for the Class of 2026. To date there are 71 seniors with 24 completing 20 hours, 5 completing some hours and 42 having 0 hours.

They have developed a game plan so Seniors not completing their hours by end of the school year will be given opportunities to do so. Emails go out every day with opportunities for students. Seniors can do hours when they are off at the end of the year.

Ms. Charette asked if there were any questions?

Ms. Charette went over the *Community Service Graduation Requirement* document. This gives clarity on what does community service mean and provides examples of where hours can and cannot come from. Moving forward, they are encouraging students to document 5 hours a year and need 20 hours to graduate. This document will be part of the Student Handbook and Program of Studies.

Discussion was held on the use of hours connected to two service groups National Honor Society NHS and Students That Exemplify Extraordinary Leadership STEEL.

*Laura Charette left here at 7:45 p.m.*

i. OST Handbook 26/27 SY – Both Kerin Tavares Out of School Time Program Director and Tania Camara Out of School Time Program Coordinator were introduced.

Ms. Tavares explained the Out of School Time Program is in 2 separate locations with 14 staff. Morning Program is at Westport Elementary School WES cafeteria and gym with 38 children. Afternoon program is at the old high school with 65 students bussed from WES and Macomber. K - gr. 4 students have activities in the art room, STEM, organized games, and outdoor play.

Ms. Tavares reviewed the changes highlighted in yellow from the *Westport Community Schools Out of School Time Program Handbook 2026-2027*. On page 2 a \$25 registration fee will be implemented to hold a child's slot and a set schedule must be put in place. Page 7 hours of operation on early release days are 12:00 - 4:30 pm. excluding half days before holidays with cost to attend half days \$45. Page 11 payments can be made on Brightwheel app, \$10 late fee for tuition program, tuition is due even if child does not attend, no charge for winter break or afterschool program, tuition for family trips / vacation can be waived for up to 2 weeks, for longer absences there will be a \$50 holding fee to hold a child's slot.

Chair Thrasher asked if these changes have been communicated? Ms. Tavares confirmed yes and will begin with the summer program.

Discussion was held on adding a maximum length for the holding fee as well as affordability with late fees.

Ms. Tavares explained the option for families to use PACE vouchers. Applications are through Department of Early Education and Care EEC.

#### **IV. Action Agenda**

a. Review and Act on 26/27 OST Handbook - (taken out of order)

A motion was made to approve the 26/27 OST Handbook after adding a maximum length for the holding fee.

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

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes      Melnyk Yes      Pacheco Yes      Sampers Yes      Thrasher Yes

*Ms. Tavares and Ms. Camara left here 8:09 p.m.*

Return to:

#### **III. Informational Agenda**

j. FY27 Budget Update - Mr. Gendreau gave an update on the budget.

\$24,744,332 - Town recommendation

\$24,824,332 - School recommendation

This figure does not include \$80,000 for device upgrades. This item is a separate warrant article from free cash. This budget can support contractual obligations, support a Social Studies Teacher, and career pathways. Capital needs are over 1 million dollars and this will be a separate warrant article.

All parties involved were thanked including the Business Department, Business Manager, Superintendent, Building Leaders, Selectboard, Town Administration, and Finance Committee.

Final budget is subject to approval and voted on at town meeting May 5, 2026.



10. **J Policies** – JB, JBA (delete), JBB, JC, JCA, JE (delete), JF, JFAA (delete), JFABC, JFABD, JFABE, JFABF, JFABG, JFBB, JFBB-1, JH-E (delete), JHFC (delete), JI, JIB, JIC, JICA, JICB (delete), JICC, JICCA (delete), JICE, JICF, JICFA, JICFA-E, JICFB, JICH, JICH-R (delete), JICI (delete), JICJ, JICK, JIE, JIH, JIHA (delete), JIHB (delete), JII, JJ, JJA, JJE, JJH, JJH-R, JJIB, JJIF, JJIF-R, JJJ (delete), JK, JKA (delete), JKAA, JL, JLC, JLCA, JLCB, JLCC, JLCD, JLCF (delete), JQ, JRA, JRC (delete), JRD (delete)
11. **K Policies** - KA, KB (delete), KBA, KBB (delete), KBBA, KBC (delete), KBE, KBG, KCD, KDB, KDC, KDCB, KDD, KE, KEB (delete), KHA, KHB, KI, KLG, KLJ (delete), KLK
12. **L Policies** – LA, LB, LD (delete), LDA, LH (delete)

A motion was made to dispense the reading of each policy.

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes      Melnyk Yes      Pacheco Yes      Sampers Yes      Thrasher Yes

e. Review and Implement the following Policies:

- 6

(delete), IJNDD, IJOA, IJOB, IJOC, IKAB, IKE, ILD, IMA (delete),  
IMB, IMD, IMDB, IMG, IMGA

10. **J Policies** – JB, JBA (delete), JBB, JC, JCA, JE (delete), JF, JFAA (delete), JFABC, JFABD, JFABE, JFABF, JFABG, JFBB, JFBB-1, JH-E (delete), JHFC (delete), JI, JIB, JIC, JICA, JICB (delete), JICC, JICCA (delete), JICE, JICF, JICFA, JICFA-E, JICFB, JICH, JICH-R (delete), JICI (delete), JICJ, JICK, JIE, JIH, JIHA (delete), JIHB (delete), JII, JJ, JJA, JJE, JJH, JJH-R, JJIB, JJIF, JJIF-R, JJJ (delete), JK, JKA (delete), JKAA, JL, JLC, JLCA, JLCB, JLCC, JLCD, JLCF (delete), JQ, JRA, JRC (delete), JRD (delete)
11. **K Policies** - KA, KB (delete), KBA, KBB (delete), KBBA, KBC (delete), KBE, KBG, KCD, KDB, KDC, KDCB, KDD, KE, KEB (delete), KHA, KHB, KI, KLG, KLJ (delete), KLK
12. **L Policies** – LA, LB, LD (delete), LDA, LH (delete)

A motion was made to approve and implement the policies.

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

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes Melnyk Yes Pacheco Yes Sampers Yes Thrasher Yes

#### **IV. Action Agenda**

- a. Review and Act on 26/27 OST Handbook - Done above.
- b. Review and Act on 26/27 School Year Calendar - Done above.
- c. Review and Act on Job Description for Director of MTSS & Social Emotional Development -

Chair Thrasher pointed out that members were provided with the job description and asked if there were any comments from the committee?

Dr. Roy explained this is a new position advocating to fund this with opioid committee monies. This position will support students and families. MTSS stands for multi-tiered systems of support.

Chair Thrasher clarified this is an Action Item on the job description and not dealing with funding the position at this time.

A motion was made to approve the job description for Director of MTSS & Social Emotional Development.

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

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes Melnyk Yes Pacheco Yes Sampers Yes Thrasher Yes

- d. Review and Act on SC Meeting Minutes for Monday March, 9, 2026 -

A motion was made to approve the SC Meeting Minutes for Monday March, 9, 2026.

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

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes Melnyk Yes Pacheco Yes Sampers Yes Thrasher Yes

e. Review and Implement the following Policies: Done above

13. **A Policies-** AA, AB, AC, ACA, ACAB, ACE, ADB (delete), ADC, ADDA, ADF, AE
14. **B Policies-** BA, BAA, BB, BBA, BBAA, BBBA, BBBB, BBBC, BBBE, BCA, BD, BDA, BDB, BDC, BDD, BDE, BDF, BDFA, BDFA-E-1, BDFA-E-2, BDFA-E-3, BDG, BE, BEC, BEDB, BEDB-E, BEDD, BEDF, BEDH, BEDH-E, BEE, BG. BGB, BGC, BGD, BGE, BGF, BHE, BIA, BIBA, BID, BJ (delete), BK (delete)
15. **C Policies-** CA, CB, CBD, CBI, CCB, CE, CH, CHA/CHC, CHC (delete), CHCA, CHD, CL (delete), CM
16. **D Policies-** DA, DB, DBC, DBD, DBG, DBJ, DD (delete), DEC, DGA, DH, DI, DIE, DJ, DIE, DJ, DJA, DJE, DK, DKC
17. **E Policies-** EB, EBAB, EBB, EBC, EBC-S (delete), EBCD, EBCFA (delete), EC, ECA, ECAC, ECAF, EDC, EEA, EEAA, EEAE, EEAEA, EEAEAB, EEAEAC, EEAAJ, EEBA, EFC, EFCC. EFD, EFE (delete), EHB
18. **F Policies-** FA, FCB, FF, FFA
19. **G Policies-** GA, GBA, GBD, GBEA, GBEB, GBEBA, GBEC, GBEBD, GBEC, GBED, GBGB, GBGE, GBGF, GBI, GBJ, GBK (delete), GBJAA (delete), GCA, GCBA, GCBB, GCBC, GCE, GCF, GCG, GCIAA (delete), GCIA (delete), GCJ (delete), GCK (delete), GCO, GCQE (delete), GCQF, GCRD (delete), GDA, GDB, GDC, GDD, GDG (delete), GDH (delete), GDO (delete), GDQD
20. **H Policies** – HA, HB, HF
21. **I Policies** – IB, IC/ICA, ID, IE (delete), IGA/IGD, IGB, IGD (delete), IHAE (delete), IHAIA, IHAJ (delete), IHAM, IHAM-R, IHAMA, IHAMB, IHB, IHBA, IHBA, IHBD, IHBEA, IHBF, IHBH, IHBHE, IHCA, IJ, IJ-R, IJKA (delete), IJL, IJLA, IJNDC, IJND (delete), IJNDB, IJNDC (delete), IJNDD, IJOA, IJOB, IJOC, IKAB, IKE, ILD, IMA (delete), IMB, IMD, IMDB, IMG, IMG A
22. **J Policies** – JB, JBA (delete), JBB, JC, JCA, JE (delete), JF, JFAA (delete), JFABC, JFABD, JFABE, JFABF, JFABG, JFBB, JFBB-1, JH-E (delete), JHFC (delete), JI, JIB, JIC, JICA, JICB (delete), JICC, JICCA (delete), JICE, JICF, JICFA, JICFA-E, JICFB, JICH, JICH-R (delete), JICI (delete), JICJ, JICK, JIE, JIH, JIHA (delete), JIHB (delete), JII, JJ, JJA, JJE, JJH, JJH-R, JJIB, JJIF, JJIF-R, JJJ (delete), JK, JKA (delete), JKAA, JL, JLC, JLCA, JLCB, JLCC, JLCD, JLCF (delete), JQ, JRA, JRC (delete), JRD (delete)
23. **K Policies** - KA, KB (delete), KBA, KBB (delete), KBBA, KBC (delete), KBE, KBG, KCD, KDB, KDC, KDCB, KDD, KE, KEB (delete), KHA, KHB, KI, KLG, KLJ (delete), KKK
24. **L Policies** – LA, LB, LD (delete), LDA, LH (delete)

**V. Routine Matters:**

- Correspondence and Notices - There were none.
- Discussion of Future Agenda Items - Chair Thrasher informed everyone there will be a Special Meeting Monday April 27, 2026 to discuss School Choice and conduct a School Committee reorganization.

Chair Thrasher asked the committee if there are any other items? There were none.

**VI. Topics the Chair could not Reasonably Anticipate Forty-eight (48) Hours in advance of the meeting** - There were none.

**VII. Adjourn** - A motion was made to adjourn. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes. Motion by Pacheco seconded by Melnyk 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes Melnyk Yes Pacheco Yes Sampers Yes Thrasher Yes

The Hybrid Regular School Committee Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

## **Meeting Documents**

WCS Bill Warrants: 3/20/2026 & 4/03/2026  
First Week of School Student Attendance Data SY 22-26  
Student Enrollment State Reporting Current and Projected  
Second Read - All Policies listed on the agenda  
Community Service Graduation Requirement  
Director of MTSS & Social Emotional Development Job Description  
26/27 School Year Calendar Draft  
Westport Community Schools Out of School Time Program Handbook 2026-2027  
Westport Campground Property Design / Fall by Activitas

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*