

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: September 8, 2026
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: WMHS Auditorium**

MINUTES

Members Present: Evan Gendreau, Jason Pacheco, Caitlin Sampers

Members Absent: Fred Melnyk, Christopher Thrasher

Also Present: Laura Charette Westport Middle High School Principal, Holly Hargraves Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Lori Melo Executive Secretary, Kerrie Moreau Special Education Parent Advisory Council SEPAC, Kim Ouellette Supervisor of Facilities, Sean Persico Westport Middle High School Assistant Principal, Paul Poulin Director of Facilities, Michelle Rapoza School Business Administrator, Francine Roy Superintendent, 1 Community Participant

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Evan Gendreau opened up the Westport School Committee Regular Meeting at 6:01 pm. with a quorum of the members present, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Gendreau announced:

Notice of Recording of Meeting (M.G.L. 30A:20f)

Comments and Statements from the Public -

Mr. Peter DeFusco who is a neighbor and volunteer has been walking the grounds and picking up trash on school property with his 2 young children. He is coming with problems and solutions. The trash is coming from parking spaces, so possibly number parking spots, assign spaces, charge \$5 dollars for a parking spot. Driving here is atrocious while crossing the road with his children. He offered a few options for solutions. From a noise and visual perspective, all trees planted are either dead or dying. He requested replanting with coniferous species and not deciduous. Place more ownership on students using student clubs. LED sign is out of place and should be shut off by 8 p.m. Playground at Westport Elementary School was built with plastic rubber tires crushed up. Rubber is all over the place. Should be elevated. Change bell sound. He would like to work together to bring changes.

Mr. DeFusco left at 6:10 p.m.

Informational Agenda

e. **Special Education Parent Advisory Council Update** - *(taken out of order)*- Ms. Moreau on behalf of Special Education Parent Advisory Council SEPAC explained their goal is to build strong relationships with Special Education Department, other parent led organizations, district leadership, School Committee and school staff. They would like SEPAC to be a helpful partner. They will be offering grants for staff and classrooms, host 2 family involvement events, support unified schools, help with planning, focus on safety protocols with students with disabilities and communicate with parents. The organization meets on 1st Thursday monthly at 6:30 p.m.

a. **Superintendent Report** – Dr. Roy thanked the committee for attending the Convocation. Over the Summer 28 new staff members were hired, with 4 openings left. Tomorrow is the first day of Kindergarten. Opening was fairly smooth. They are working with the Student Resource Officer SRO concerning traffic issues.

b. **Curriculum Director Report** - Ms. Hargraves reported they had Convocation and the next day was a Professional Development Day. Collaboration with Ms. Miranda from the Special Education Department developed a variety of professional learning.

Elementary teachers used Context for Learning Math which is a hands-on math curriculum that uses real world context and visual models.

Middle High School teachers focused on the "Portrait of a Graduate" with Ms. Charette. This is a district wide effort defining skills, mindsets and qualities for students to carry onto graduation, emphasizing a shared vision for WCS graduates.

Social Studies Teachers from Grades 5-8 participated in training to launch 2 new programs, available from an 18 Foundation grant.

MCAS parent portal is open and families have online access to test results in ELA, Math, Science, and Civics. Growth data and state results will be available in late September.

Two grants were received to support the Innovation Career Pathways Program. The first grant is an Implementation Grant and the second grant is to develop a new pathway for Business.

c. **Business Manager Report** - Ms. Rapoza reported there are about 150 cars involved with student pickup for Westport Elementary and same amount at Westport Middle High School. Costs for bus transportation is free for younger children and \$200 for grades 7-12. There is an eligibility form that can be filled out online based on income that can reduce the cost by \$100.

Ms. Rapoza would like to let families know about bus changes. A 20-minute delay will be happening on both ends of the school day. For K- grade 4 parents need to be at bus stops or be visible in the doorway. A note to the school and the bus driver must be submitted if children can be left unattended.

Ms. Rapoza listed the following CIPC items for FY27:

\$150,000 for Macomber playground (grounds are staked out, waiting for construction company) Sept. 14 playground equipment will be delivered.

Mini splits - (working on groundwork) A meeting will be held on September 21 with Cathy Stanley giving a presentation at Westport Elementary School WES about the AC and electrical.

Dump truck received and being used.

Cameras getting quotes, upgrading camera visibility between MAC and WES.

125 Interactive TV's came in today and will be put in place.

Chair Gendreau requested to have Cathy Stanley come to a committee meeting to give a presentation.

Chair Gendreau asked if there are any further questions? There were none.

d. Committee Liaison Reports - Ms. Sampers had a School Building Committee meeting. She shared concerns about the company that was hired to help manage the project issues due to items not getting addressed.

Mr. Pacheco reported no Cable Advisory Board meeting. There was a new hire for Television Production Assistant Cable TV.

Chair Gendreau reported there will be an upcoming School Building Committee meeting on September 14 and on October 5 an Audit Committee meeting will take place.

e. Special Education Parent Advisory Council Update - Done above.

f. Presentation of Strategic Plan - Dr. Roy explained the *Westport Community Schools Strategic Plan 2026-2031*. Dr. Roy used her entry plan, listening to stake holders, parents, and community about what significance Westport community had on them and where do we want to go. She used what she learned from everyone. Once this plan is accepted it will be posted on the website.

Dr. Roy detailed the "Portrait of a Westport Graduate" as being Community Builders, Self-Directed Navigators, Creative Thinkers, and Reflective Collaborators.

Five focus strategies are Applied Learning, College & Career Pathways, Enrichment and Wellness, Systems of Support, and Fiscal & Human Capital.

The way this plan is written uses strategic objectives with success indicators and initiatives and preliminary action steps setting the course for the next 5 years.

The committee likes the real-world application, community and college pathways, measurable goals with indicators, common thread for the 5 focus areas, allows administration and community to look at the goals, and gives details and objectives to focus on for the next 5 years.

A motion was made to approve the *Westport Community Schools Strategic Plan 2026-2031*.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 3/0/0

Chair Gendreau requested plan updates during roll out.

g. Presentation: Facilities, Grounds and Fields - Mr. Poulin gave a very extensive list covering all the district's Summer 2026 improvements.

Chair Gendreau asked if there have been any issues with the pumps? Mr. Poulin verified there has been none.

Ms. Sampers asked for any infield plans? Mr. Poulin ordered tarps that will be used for covering.

h. CIPC Discussion - Ms. Rapoza presented a draft list based on department's suggestions. Items are marked as priorities and still have items needing prices. The town will be requested a list in about 30 days.

WES - closet doors at WES and put cubbies in classrooms, energy efficient windows and doors, AC entire building

WMHS - glass encloses at end of hallways, long-term field equipment shed for athletics, extra well, 2 batting cages 1 baseball and 1 softball, maintenance pickup truck, 7 passenger caravan for transportation of smaller groups, zero turn industrial mower, field lining machine (rent to purchase/lease), snow blower attachment, sidewalk remediation

Campground Area - power, lighting, speakers, athletic fields concession stands, bathrooms /phase it in, additional parking spots as phase 1

MAC - ceiling tile replacement at MAC and WES, cracks in walls at MAC, MAC kitchen equipment upgrade

Chair Gendreau noted AC at WES as a priority and to watch out for timing.

These items will be further discussed.

i. **WCS Bill Warrant: 8/21/26 and 9/4/26**- Chair Gendreau verified that each member received an electronic copy for review of the bill warrants 8/21/26 in the amount of \$238,816.11 and 9/4/26 in the amount of \$300,358.25.

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

Chair Gendreau confirmed the bill warrants acknowledged.

j. **Second Read of the following Policies:** ECAB: Access to Buildings and Grounds, EEAEA: Bus Driver Examination and Training, JFBB: School Choice, KBG Parent Advisory Councils, JKAA Time-Out, Seclusion, and Restraint of Students, JLCD Administration of Medication to Students, JLCDC Self-administration and Self-Carry of Medications

Chair Gendreau announced all the listed policies are up for Second Read and have been previously vetted by the Policy Subcommittee. These policies are updates and recommendations from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees MASC.

Action Agenda

f. **Review and Act the Implementation of the Following Policies:** (taken out of order)

ECAB: Access to Buildings and Grounds, EEAEA: Bus Driver Examination and Training, JFBB: School Choice, KBG Parent Advisory Councils, JKAA Time-Out, Seclusion, and Restraint of Students, JLCD Administration of Medication to Students, JLCDC Self-administration and Self-Carry of Medications -

A motion was made to approve all the above listed policies in the Action Agenda.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 3/0/0

Action Agenda .. continued

a. **Review and Act on 8th Grade Washington D.C. /Philadelphia Field Trip June 8 to 11, 2027** - Mr. Persico explained the trip itinerary is the same as past trips and mentioned the trip is very educational and students learn a lot.

A motion was made to approve the 8th Grade Washington D.C. /Philadelphia Field Trip June 8 to 11, 2027-

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 3/0/0

b. **Review and Act on Revised Breathalyzer Language** - Ms. Charette explained they took feedback back from the last discussion and revised the language.

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

A motion was made to approve the revised Breathalyzer Language.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 3/0/0

c. **Acknowledgement of the Kara Elizabeth Borges Memorial Scholarship - \$1000 to be awarded annually. Total amount received \$9,127.20.**

A motion was made to accept and acknowledge the Kara Elizabeth Borges Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$9,127.20.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 3/0/0

d. **Acknowledge and Accept the following Donations:**

- Back to School Kits from Project 351 to WMHS
- Clothing Donation from Jeffrey Boutique to WMHS Guidance Department
- Backpacks and School Supplies from Westport Point United Methodist Church to WMHS, WES and MAC
- Backpacks, lunch boxes and stickers from Amazon HUB to WES
- Furniture from Cardis Furniture to WMHS, WES and MAC for Teachers' Room and Lobby

A motion was made to acknowledge and accept all the above listed donations.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 3/0/0

All donors were thanked.

e. Review and Act on Policy ACL: Interacting With Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement -

Chair Gendreau explained there was a new state law passed this session. This policy was written by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. Districts are required to adopt the policy to comply with the new law. This item is taken under emergency to comply with a legal deadline. Acting at direction of the Commonwealth with legal counsel recommending to adopt.

A motion was made to adopt Policy ACL, effective immediately, and to dispense with the sequence of readings to meet emergency conditions.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 3/0/0

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g. Review and Act on SC Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, August 5, 2026 -

A motion was made to approve the SC Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, August 5, 2026.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 3/0/0

Routine Matters:

- Correspondence and Notices - There were none.
- Discussion of Future Agenda Items - There were none at this time. Reach out to Ms. Melo if there are any items to add.

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

Adjourn

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

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 3/0/0

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes Pacheco Yes Sampers Yes

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Meeting Documents

WCS Bill Warrants: 8/21/26 and 9/4/26

CIPC Draft list

Westport Community Schools Strategic Plan 2026-2031

Second Read of the following Policies: ECAB: Access to Buildings and Grounds, EEAEA: Bus Driver Examination and Training, JFBB: School Choice, KBG Parent Advisory Councils, JKAA Time-Out, Seclusion, and Restraint of Students, JLCD Administration of Medication to Students, JLCDC Self-administration and Self-Carry of Medications

Revised Breathalyzer Language

Kara Elizabeth Borges Memorial Scholarship/received \$9,127.20.

8th Grade Washington D.C. /Philadelphia Field Trip June 8 to 11, 2027

Donations:

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Policy ACL: Interacting With Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement
SC Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary