

WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 - 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

“Join the meeting by computer, tablet or smartphone”

<https://zoom.us/j/91386256205?pwd=YWtMQVhRRG9QaGIBdklxOGJIM3FaUT09>

Meeting ID: 913 8625 6205 Password: 437129

You can also dial in using your phone. Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/91386256205?pwd=YWtMQVhRRG9QaGIBdklxOGJIM3FaUT09>

Meeting ID: 913 8625 6205 Password: 437129

Mr. Pedone called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

James Pedone, Jr., Chairman
Jason Ponticelli, Vice Chairman
Jennifer Breen
Nancy Hubbard
Christine Quirk

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Richard A. Meagher, Superintendent of Schools
Roger E. Pontbriand Jr., Business Administrator
Sherri Traina, Director of Special Education
Christopher Fournier, Principal M/HS
Alex Audette, Elementary Principal

ALSO PRESENT

Faculty, audience and press.

Mr. Pedone read the statement from Governor Baker, dated March 12, 2020, in pursuant of the open meeting law.

Mr. Pedone explained to the School Committee members that all votes taken tonight must be in a roll call fashion.

Mr. Pedone requested all questions be directed to the chat feature on the Zoom meeting and all questions and answers would be addressed.

1. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Breen, to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2020 regular meeting.

A roll call vote was taken:

Breen – Yes
Hubbard– Yes
Quirk – Yes
Ponticelli – Yes
Pedone - Yes

2. Warrants

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Breen to accept the payables warrants dated:

- June 22, 2020
- July 6, 2020
- July 13, 2020 (FY20)
- July 13, 2020 (FY21)

A roll call vote was taken:

Breen – Yes

Hubbard – Yes

Quirk – Yes

Ponticelli - Yes

Pedone - Yes

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to accept the payroll warrants dated:

- June 26, 2020
- July 10, 2020 (FY20)
- July 10, 2020 (FY21)
- July 24, 2020

A roll call vote was taken:

Breen – Yes

Hubbard – Yes

Quirk – Yes

Ponticelli – Yes

Pedone – Yes

3. Subcommittee Report

a) Ad Hoc Transportation Committee

Mr. Ponticelli stated the committee had met and spoken with AA Transportation about the upcoming school year. AA Transportation has reviewed the cleaning process, possibility of needing to double up on bus routes along with any additional concerns. Mr. Ponticelli presented that that in light of COVID and many hardships in the West Boylston community, the committee is recommending a one-time reduction to the bus fee for the 2020-2021 school year. The one-time reduced fee would be \$50 per person and not late fee.

Ms. Breen discussed the importance of completing the bus applications by a set deadline, along with not allowing late applications due to the current situation. Ms. Breen also commented that a bus monitor will be needed on all buses to ensure all safety guidelines per DESE rules.

Mr. Meagher stated that results from the West Boylston Public School District survey there were 550 responds and 53% stated no intention to use the bus transportation this year. Conversations with both school principals have been had about drop off and pick up of students.

Mr. Ponticelli made a motion, seconded by Ms. Breen for a one-time reduction of the West Boylston Public Schools transportation fees for the 2020-2021 school year to \$50 per person with an application deadline of August 15, 2020.

A roll call vote was taken:

Breen – Yes

Hubbard – Yes

Quirk – Yes

Ponticelli – Yes

Pedone – Yes

4. Communications and Reports:

a) Superintendent of Schools Mr. Meagher reports:

- Review of initial reopening plan prior to July 31, 2020 to the DESE

Mr. Meagher read the letter presented to the school committee that included the West Boylston Public Schools Initial Reopening Plan.

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to approve Initial Reopening Plan as submitted by the superintendent with a Reopening of the West Boylston Public Schools.

A roll call vote was taken:

Breen – Yes

Hubbard – Yes

Quirk – Yes

Ponticelli – Yes

Pedone – Yes

b) School Committee:

Mr. Ponticelli commented that he appreciates that Mr. Meagher values the well-being of the students and staff in the West Boylston Public School District. Mr. Ponticelli also told the committee that he fully supports Mr. Meagher's Initial Reopening Plan presented before them.

Mr. Pedone recommended to have another school committee meeting prior to submitting the final reopening report from West Boylston Public Schools.

5. Adjournment

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Mr. Ponticelli to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken:

Breen – Yes

Hubbard– Yes

Quirk – Yes

Ponticelli –Yes

Pedone – Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Pratt

Recording Secretary