

WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Middle/High School Media Center-Library

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
Christopher Fournier, Principal, Middle/High School
Alex Audette, Principal, Major Edwards Elementary School
Roger E. Pontbriand Jr., Business Administrator
Sherri Traina, Director of Special Education

ALSO PRESENT

Faculty, audience and press.

Mr. Pedone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2021 regular meeting.

VOTE 5-0-0

2. Student Recognition Awards: Major Edwards, Middle School, High School

Students from the Elementary and Middle/High School were recognized as Student of the Month: Jacob Lavoie, Abby Rickert, and Gage Lenkarski.

3. Student Advisory Council Representative Helida Corra reported on:

- A Capella Club – Using SmartMusic to record members for upcoming events.
- NHS – Fundraising updates
- NAHS – Fundraising updates
- Wellness Club – Working on Equity and Justice Project
- Interact Club – Community Service updates
- International Thespian Society/Tri-M – Open Mic Night, postponed; pending Improv Night; Tri-M induction ceremony in May
- National Spanish Honor Society – Induction ceremony February 23rd
- Yearbook – Updates
- Winter Sports – Updates for Girls and Boys basketball, Girls Hockey and Cheer
- Class Updates

4. Acknowledgement of Camera Crew

5. Highlight on Schools: Major Edwards School Improvement Plan – Alex Audette

Mr. Audette presented the 2020-2021 Major Edwards School Improvement plan.

6. Vote to approve FY22 Calendar

Ms. Hubbard moved, seconded by Ms. Quirk to approve the FY22 calendar.

VOTE 5-0-0

7. Community Input

Keary Bartlett, 190 Maple Street, shared her concerns with the School Committee about her elementary children's experience with the hybrid learning model along with expressing her children's desire to be back in the building for more in-person learning.

Leah Fernandes, 23 Brandywine Road, shared her concerns with the School Committee about her elementary children's experience with the hybrid learning model along with expressing the need for younger children to be back in the building for longer periods of in-person learning.

8. Announcement of Public Hearing of FY22 Budget

Mr. Pedone announced the date of the public hearing on the FY22 budget, March 10, 2021.

9. Warrants –

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

- January 25, 2021
- February 1, 2021

VOTE 5-0-0

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

- January 22, 2021
- February 5, 2021

VOTE 5-0-0

10. Subcommittee Reports

- Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee – Mr. Pedone stated the committee reviewed the current preparation of the FY22 West Boylston Public Schools Budget.
- Policy Subcommittee – Ms. Breen stated the committee did not meet this month however second readings an adoptions needed to be completed at this month's School Committee meeting.

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to approve the 2nd reading and adoption of Policy AC – Non-Discrimination and Harassment.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Ms. Hubbard moved, seconded by Ms. Quirk to approve the 2nd reading and adoption of Policy ACAB – Civil Rights Grievance Procedures.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Ms. Quirk moved, seconded by Ms. Breen to approve the 2nd reading and adoption of Policy IJNDB – Acceptable Use of Technology.

VOTE: 5-0-0

11. Communication and Reports

- a) Major Edwards Elementary School Principal Mr. Audette reported on:
 - Thank you to students, teachers, families during Hybrid to Remote learning transition
 - Professional Development – LexiaCore5, January 29th
 - Math Review Team Updates
 - February School Activities

- b) Middle/High School Principal Mr. Fournier reported on:
 - Tri-M Open Mic Night, postponed
 - Senior Scholarship Packets
 - Community Service for Students
 - Leominster CTEI Open House
 - DECA Students
 - Senior College Acceptances

- c) Director of Special Education Ms. Traina reported on:
 - Preschool application updates for 2020-2021 school year

- d) Business Administrator Mr. Pontbriand reported on:
 - January 2021 Expense Report
 - FY22 Budget updates
 - Facilities updates

- e) Superintendent of Schools Mr. Meagher reported on:
 - School Choice Applications
 - DESE announces ESSER II Allocations
 - 2021-2022 School Calendar
 - Indoor Air Quality
 - DESE Survey updates
 - Planning Ahead

f) School Committee Reported on:

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to approve Fall II Season February 22, 2021 – April 25, 2021.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Ms. Breen expressed her concern about the quality of football during Fall II season due to the time given to the sport and the current weather conditions. Mr. Fournier shared with the School Committee that Shrewsbury High School has allowed the West Boylston Football team to access the turf field during this season as the West Boylston fields will most likely be unplayable during the allotted February – April months given the weather.

12. Adjournment

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Pratt
Recording Secretary