

WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 - 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
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 February 9, 2022 regular meeting.

VOTE 5-0-0

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

Students from the Elementary and Middle School were recognized as Student of the Month: Torrie Brown and Sonia Downer.

3. Student Advisory Council Representative Megan Bourque reported on:

- Student Council – Semi-Formal March 18th; State-wide MASC conference March, 12th
- NHS – Sock Drive update; Boston Walk for Hunger update
- NAHS – Club updates
- Wellness Club – Celebrating Women’s History Month; Crazy Sock Day March 21st (for World Down Syndrome Day)
- GSA – Updates on Teacher Professional Development and Group educational field trip in the spring.
- Tri-M – Open Mic Night, May 6th; Music tutoring updates
- International Thespian Society –Improv Night April 15th
- Yearbook – Updates
- Sports – Spring tryouts updates; Girls basketball updates
- Class – Updates

4. Acknowledgement of Camera Crew

5. Highlight on Schools: Facilities Conditions Assessment Presentation – Daniel Phillips

Mr. Phillips presented the Facilities Conditions Assessment Presentation.

6. Community Input

Mr. Berglund – Town of West Boylston Finance Committee and Capital Investment Board – Would Colliers be replacing current failing items with the same grade of items or with upgraded models for example the HVAC system? As a follow up is that cost included in your current price presented tonight?

Mr. Phillips – Colliers Project Leader – Any replacement that is mentioned in this presentation would be upgraded to current day models. The prices you see in this presentation are today prices however, one must always consider a small escalation % between the time the “Facilities Conditions Assessment” is completed and the day the work starts.

Mr. Berglund – Town of West Boylston Finance Committee and Capital Investment Board – After reviewing the presentation there is mention of the roof needing to be replaced. Typically a flat roof lasts 20-25 years and the roof on the Middle/High School is only 17 years old.

Mr. Phillips – Colliers Project Leader – Any replacements mentioned in this presentation are recommendations based on our review and based on our assessment there is considerable overall wear and tear found on the roof.

Mr. Bricault – Town of West Boylston Finance Committee and Capital Investment Board – Could the West Boylston Public Schools ask for more than what the “Facilities Conditions Assessment” is quoting or would there be more? What about ADA costs are they included in this assessment?

Mr. Meagher – The ADA Assessment is being done next week, those facility costs have not been included in this presentation. There are no guarantees the West Boylston Public Schools would not request more additional funding in the future from the town.

Mr. Rucho – Town of West Boylston Selectman – What is the next step now that the assessment has been completed?

Mr. Meagher – The Statement of Interest for Accelerated Repairs would need to be completed, the school is looking to review all Capital needs and hopes to pursue action April 2023.

Mr. Rucho – Town of West Boylston Selectman – Is the School Department no longer looking for a new building?

Mr. Pedone – At this time due to the non-spike in enrollment there is not a need in a new building however, there are many needs for Capital improvements throughout both buildings. At this time research in state funding will be done to help with a lot of that along with completing the Statement of Interest for Accelerated Repairs in April 2023.

7. School Choice Recommendation

Mr. Meagher presented the School Choice recommendations.

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Mr. Ponticelli on the School Choice Recommendations with consideration of the 9th Grade addition.

VOTE: 5-0-0

8. Warrants –

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

- February 14, 2022
- March 7, 2022

VOTE 5-0-0

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

- February 18, 2022
- March 4, 2022

VOTE 5-0-0

9. Subcommittee Reports

Negotiations Subcommittee – Ms. Breen shared with the committee that the Negotiations Subcommittee met along with the members of the West Boylston Teacher’s Union for the third time and the conversations are positive. The next time they will meet is on March 15, 2022.

Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee – Mr. Ponticelli shared with the committee that the Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee has meet a few times to review the current FY23 budget along with meeting with Finance Committee.

10. Communication and Reports

- a) Major Edwards Elementary School Principal Mr. Audette reported on:
- National Reading Month
 - Nation of Diverse Reader; Fun Friday Events
 - Friday, March 4th – Celebrating our diverse qualities on a team
 - Friday, March 11th – Celebrating our diverse community / Community Reading Day
 - Friday, March 18th – Celebrating our diversity in what we choose to read.
 - Friday, March 25th – Celebrating literacy and reading by wearing pajamas and bringing in their favorite stories.
 - MCAS, Grades 3-Grades 5: March 30th
 - Picture Day, March 30th

- b) Middle/High School Principal Mr. Fournier reported on:
- Girls varsity basketball team update
 - Grade 8 NAEP testing updates
 - New Director of Athletics for West Boylston Middle/ High School; Amy Smith
 - Semi-Formal Dance; March 18th
 - Class Trips
 - Natures' Classroom
 - Washington DC
- c) Director of Special Education Ms. Traina reported on:
- Tier Focus Review; April 4th
 - WBSEPAC Virtual Meeting; March 16th
- d) Business Administrator Mr. Pontbriand reported on:
- February 2022 Expense Report
 - Facilities updates
 - Air Quality Testing updates
- e) Superintendent of Schools Mr. Meagher reported on:
- Strategic Planning 2022-2027
 - Focus Group Sessions; March 7
 - Survey updates
 - Masking Optional
 - Curriculum Data Collection
 - ADA review updates
- f) School Committee reported on:

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Mr. Ponticelli to appoint Ms. Quirk to the West Boylston Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant program.

Mr. Ponticelli shared with the committee that he attended one of the Focus Group Sessions on March 7th and was personally impressed with the interactions of the group he was with. Mr. Ponticelli also wanted to congratulate the incoming Director of Athletics for West Boylston Middle/High School, Amy Smith. Mr. Ponticelli continued by extending his appreciation to Todd Smith for all of his hard work and many years as the Director of Athletics.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Hubbard moved, seconded by Ms. Breen to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

VOTE 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Pratt
Recording Secretary