

WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, April 13, 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

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 FY23 Budget meeting of March 9, 2022.

VOTE 4-0-0

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Mr. Ponticelli to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2022 regular meeting.

VOTE 4-0-0

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

Students from the Elementary and Middle School were recognized as Student of the Month: Rylan Tobin, Lucy Fair, Thomas Scalera, and March's High School Student of the Month Abby Mullins.

3. Student Advisory Council Representative Lucy Allen reported on:

- Student Council – CDMASC Spring Conference, April 28th; May elections; Mother's Day Plant Sale, May 7th; Diaper Drive event updates
- NHS – NHS Induction, May 5th; May elections; Diaper Drive event updates
- NAHS – NAHS Induction, April 12th
- Wellness Club – Paper heart sales profits towards Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis Relief; WB-Connects updates
- Tri-M – New York, musical, *Hadestown*, April 20th
- International Thespian Society –Improv Night April 15th; *Seussical* on April 29th, 30th, and 31st
- French Honor Society Induction- Induction; April 28th
- Yearbook – Updates
- Sports – Spring Sports updates
- Class – Updates

4. Acknowledgement of Recording Secretary

5. Highlight on Schools: Tiered Focus Monitoring Review – Sherri Traina

Ms. Traina presented the Tiered Focus Monitoring Review.

6. Community Input

Ms. Kathy Cavan – 3 Phelps Place, West Boylston – After recently following the story about the West Boylston Public Schools and the results of the Colliers Project Ms. Cavan felt the town of West Boylston needs new buildings. Ms. Cavan continued to pose the following questions to the School Committee. What is the process to obtain new buildings? In the last 20 years has this process ever been started before? If not, why? Can't continue to put band aides on issues in the buildings, how is that helpful? What is the School Committee thinking now? What is the state process at this time? Surrounding towns have newer schools and West Boylston should be able to offer that to students to assist in their academic growth.

Mr. Pedone – Prior to COVID-19 there was an evaluation completed and communications had begun about the buildings. During the 2021-2022 school year The West Boylston Public Schools has had the Colliers Project complete the assessments of both buildings. At this time neither building is fit for replacement as both building conditions are in a generally well maintained conditions. There are repairs that are needed and those repairs would be handled through a Statement of Interest.

Ms. Breen – Currently The West Boylston Public Schools doesn't fit the criteria for a new school due to stable enrollment numbers. The town of West Boylston is geographically unable to build more houses and therefore, enrollment numbers will not increase.

7. Warrants

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

- March 18, 2022
- April 1, 2022

VOTE 4-0-0

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

- March 21, 2022
- March 28, 2022
- April 11, 2022

VOTE 4-0-0

8. 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 and further review of the contract is needed prior to the Teacher's review.

Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee – Mr. Pedone shared with the committee that the Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee met with FINCOM to review the proposal for a new boiler, ADA bathroom and fire alarm system at Major Edwards Elementary School. Approval has been given for the alarm system and ADA bathroom and steps are moving forward towards town approval. Other cost saving options are being looked into for the replacement of the boiler.

9. Communication and Reports

- a) Major Edwards Elementary School Principal Mr. Audette reported on:
- MCAS; grades 3-5 updates
 - Professional Development updates
 - Student selected Most Valuable Teacher Award; Mrs. Stratton via Country Bank and WooSox Foundation
 - PTA sponsored “Coin Competition” updates
- b) Middle/High School Principal Mr. Fournier reported on:
- School Trip updates; Washington DC and Nature’s Classroom
 - Middle School Play; *Mary Poppins Jr*: April 1st and April 2nd
 - High School Play; *Seussical*: April 29th, 30th, and 31st
 - Spring Sports updates
- c) Director of Special Education Ms. Traina reported on: NONE
- d) Business Administrator Mr. Pontbriand reported on:
- March 2022 Expense Report
 - April 8th; Van update
- e) Superintendent of Schools Mr. Meagher reported on:
- School Choice Lottery
 - Strategic Planning
 - March 2022 Student Information Management System (SIMS) Report
 - Vocational Enrollment
 - Scholarship Luncheon; April 13th

Mr. Ponticelli made a motion to appoint, Mr. Pedone and Ms. Breen to the Sick Bank Committee seconded by Ms. Hubbard.

VOTE 4-0-0

- f) School Committee reported on:

Ms. Breen made a motion to appoint Mr. Pedone to the West Boylston Parks Commission, seconded by Ms. Hubbard.

VOTE 4-0-0

Ms. Breen thanked Ms. Traina for all her time and hard work put in during the Tiered Focus Monitoring Review.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Hubbard moved, seconded by Ms. Breen to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

VOTE 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Pratt
Recording Secretary