

WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Wednesday, November 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  
Christopher Fournier, Principal M/HS  
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 October 12, 2022 regular meeting.

**VOTE 5-0-0**

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Quirk to accept the minutes of the November 1, 2022 special 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: Caylor Bella, Melina Lam, and Megan Bourque.

3. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student Advisory Council Member Annabelle Anand reported on:

- Student Council
  - Trick or Treating for Cans Event update
  - Giving Tree updates
- NHS –Tutoring Club updates
- NAHS – Calendar Fundraising updates
- Tri-M-
  - Election updates
  - Trip updates – New York City
  - Open Mic Night – December 9<sup>th</sup>
- National French/Spanish Honors Society – Updates on Puerto Rico and Quebec trips
- International Thespian Society-

- A Christmas Carol – December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>
- Yearbook updates
- A Capella Club
  - Annual Tree Lighting – December 4<sup>th</sup>
  - M/HS Art Show and Concert – December 8<sup>th</sup>
- DECA
  - School Store updates
  - Updates on upcoming winter competition
- Environmental Club updates
- Fall Sports updates
- Class updates

#### 4. Acknowledgement of Camera Crew and Recording Secretary

#### 5. Highlight on Schools: Major Edwards: 2022 MCAS Overview – Mr. Alex Audette

Mr. Audette presented the Major Edwards Elementary School 2022 MCAS Report results.

#### 6. Presentation of the Lacrosse Program in the Town of West Boylston – Ms. Annelle Benson

#### 7. Community Input – None

#### 8. Warrants

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Quirk to accept the payables warrants dated October 17, 2022, October 24, 2022 and November 7, 2022.

#### **VOTE 5-0-0**

Ms. Quirk moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to accept the payroll warrants dated October 14, 2022, October 28, 2022 and November 10, 2022.

#### **VOTE 5-0-0**

#### 9. Subcommittee Report

- Negotiations Subcommittee – Mr. Pedone shared with the School Committee that the Negotiations Subcommittee has held off on meeting at this time and they will meet in the future once a proposed high school schedule has been provided.
- Policy Subcommittee – Ms. Breen shared with the School Committee that the subcommittee met to review the following current policies, Policy JJIF – Athletic Concussion Policy; Policy JFCI – Policy on Drugs and Alcohol on School Property; and Policy JICH – Prevention Education regarding the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco/Nicotine, and Drugs by Students. Further review of these policies are needed by the subcommittee to update language and will be brought to the School Committee in January to vote on.

#### 10. Communication and Reports

- a. Major Edwards Elementary School Principal Mr. Audette reported on:
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Plant Project
  - Halloween Parade / Trunk or Treat
  - The Thanksgiving Collections begin for Joseph's Project
    - November 7<sup>th</sup> until November 18<sup>th</sup>

- Report Cards issued – November 16<sup>th</sup>
  - International Festival of Gratitude – November 10<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm to 6pm
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Meeting for Students (Grades K-5) – November 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Parent/Guardian Conferences (1/2 Day for Major Edwards Students) – November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>
- b. Middle/High School Principal Mr. Fournier reported on:
- Turkey Gobble Collection begins – November 7th
  - Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences – November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm to 8pm
  - High School scheduling updates
    - Handbook Committee
    - Scheduling Committee
- c. Director of Special Education Ms. Traina reported on: None
- d. Business Administrator Mr. Pontbriand reported on:
- Expense Summary October 2022
  - Energy Grant update
  - FY24 Budget Timeline updates
  - Elevator updates
- e. Superintendent of Schools Mr. Meagher reported on:
- National Assessment of Educational Progress
  - New School Discipline Requirements – Effective November 9, 2022
  - FY24 Budget Development Timeline updates
    - Tuition increase updates
    - Statement of Interest updates
  - School Cancellation Procedures 2022-2023
  - Middle/High School Attendance

Mr. Meagher presented the 2022-2023 West Boylston Public Schools District Improvement Plan.

Mr. Ponticelli moved, Ms. Breen seconded to approve the 2022-2023 West Boylston Public Schools District Improvement Plan.

**VOTE 5-0-0**

- f. School Committee reported on:

Ms. Breen expressed her support for a lacrosse program as an additional spring sport option for West Boylston Middle/High School. Ms. Breen also shared with Ms. Benson the steps she took when instituting a boys' soccer program into the district.

Ms. Smith, West Boylston Middle/High School Athletic Director, shared with the School Committee along with others in the audience the steps to ensure all requirements are met to fulfill Title IX requirements when offering a new sport within a school. She further shared what requirements would be needed for the appearance on a field as a team along with the difference between offering the sport as a club or a team sport to a school. Another item that was explained was the option of a coop, which the West Boylston Middle/High School is currently in with Hudson. Ms. Smith explained you cannot be in a coop and offer a JV team at the same time.

Mr. Pedone expressed his support for a lacrosse program as an additional spring sport for West Boylston Middle/High School. He also stated that the 2022-2023 budget has already been approved and it doesn't seem feasible for this spring. Mr. Pedone requested Ms. Benson, along with Ms. Smith, come back to the School Committee with startup costs, interest in each grade, and estimated transportation expenses. Once requested

information is provided to the School Committee for review, discussions related to additional coaching stipends for the 2023-2024 may ensue.

Mr. Ponticelli expressed how impressed he was at the MCAS results for Major Edwards Elementary, especially at the growth of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Ms. Breen shared that she was pleased with the improvement with the Middle/High School tardy numbers and would like to see the numbers continue to decrease.

Mr. Pedone expressed concern with the new school discipline requirements and wanted to know if the School Committee needed to take any actions at this time. Mr. Meagher shared that because the discipline requirements were updated by the legislature, no further actions are required at this time by the School Committee. All items are currently covered under the handbook and will be further reviewed by the School Committee at the August 2023 Retreat.

#### 11. Adjournment

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm.

**VOTE 5-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Pratt, Recording Secretary