

WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, January 11, 2023 - 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

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 Ms. Quirk by to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2022 regular meeting.

VOTE 5-0-0

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

Students from the Major Edwards Elementary School and the Middle/High School were recognized as Student of the Month: Josie Skehan, Henry Brown, and Shannen Luksha.

3. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student Advisory Council Member Megan Bourque reported on: Not present – Report handed out to School Committee to review

4. Acknowledgement of Camera Crew and Recording Secretary

5. Highlight on Schools: Proposed 2023-2024 High School Schedule Overview – Mr. Fournier

Mr. Fournier and Mr. David Gustafson presented the proposed 2023-2024 High School Schedule Overview that the Schedule Committee has been reviewing.

6. Vote to approve FY24 School Calendar

The FY24 School Calendar was presented at the January 11, 2023 meeting. Additional revisions were required prior to a vote. The School Committee will review at the February 8, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 0-0-5

7. Community Input - None

8. Warrants

Ms. Hubbard moved, seconded by Ms. Quirk to accept the payables warrants dated December 19, 2022, and January 9, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Breen to accept the payroll warrants dated December 23, 2022 and January 6, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

8. Subcommittee Report

Policy Subcommittee – Ms. Breen shared with the School Committee that the Policy Subcommittee reviewed Policy JFCI- Policy on Drugs and Alcohol on School Premises and Policy JICH – Prevention Education Regarding the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco/Nicotine, and Drugs by Students.

9. Vote to Authorize the Superintendent to Submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form.

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Quirk to authorize the Superintendent, Mr. Meagher, to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form.

VOTE 5-0-0

Having convened in an open meeting on January 11, 2023 prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Town of West Boylston in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 14, 2023, for the West Boylston Middle/High School located at 125 Crescent Street, West Boylston, MA 01583 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and priority category(s) for which and application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. Priority 1, Building jeopardizing student health – poor health and learning environment; Priority 5, Modernization of school facility systems – poor energy efficiency and poor operating efficiency; Priority 7, Obsolete building – poor educational space utilization; and hereby future specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

10. Communication and Reports

- a. Major Edwards Elementary School Principal Mr. Audette reported on:
 - 4th and 5th Grade Holiday Performance Updates
 - Winter Assessments
 - ELL Students – ACCESS testing updates
 - Professional Development Day – January 20th
 - Special Education Inclusion and Literacy Shifts
 - IEP updates for Teachers
 - Literacy Night – January 25th @ 4:30pm – 6:30pm
 - Major Edwards School Improvement Plan for 2022-2023

- b. Middle/High School Principal Mr. Fournier reported on:
- Championship Football Banner update
 - “Athletic Wall of Fame” updates
 - Varsity Girls’ Basketball Team Holiday Tournament win
 - Ski Club updates
 - DECA Competition
 - Massachusetts Student Council Conference – March 8-10th
- c. Director of Special Education Ms. Traina reported on: Not present.
- d. Business Administrator Mr. Pontbriand reported on:
- Expense Summary December 2022
 - FY24 Budget updates
 - Facilities update – Middle/High School (Gym Floor)
- e. Superintendent of Schools Mr. Meagher reported on:
- School Choice Applications
 - January 17th – March 31st
 - Vocational School Chapter 74 Applications Forms
 - Submitted to superintendent by April 3rd
 - New District Website
 - Capital Planning
 - Middle/High School Attendance
 - Major Edwards Elementary MCAS Comparison Grades 3,4 and 5
 - West Boylston Middle/High School MCAS Comparison Grades 6,7,8,and 10
- f. School Committee reported on:
- Motion to approve 1st reading Policy JFCI-Policy on Drugs and Alcohol on School Premises.

A motion was not made on the 1st reading of Policy JFCI- Policy on Drugs and Alcohol on School Premises. The policy will be reviewed at the February 8, 2023 meeting.

VOTE 0-0-5

Mr. Pedone expressed his gratitude to Mr. Gustafson, the administration, and the School Scheduling Committee for all the time spent on putting together the high school schedule. Mr. Pedone wanted to know what the next steps were to move forward with scheduling changes.

Mr. Fournier shared with the School Committee that the presentation the Committee was seeing tonight was going to be shared with teaching staff. The next steps would be to revise class selection sheets for all departments along with modifications to a few of the current West Boylston Public Schools policies along with curriculum preparations.

Mr. Ponticelli expressed concerns over teacher availability on offering more class selections. Mr. Fournier had shared that after looking over current class selections there were some teachers teaching the same classes. Mr. Fournier furthermore shared each teacher has the ability to teach 30 instructional periods.

Ms. Breen expressed that she was “glad West Boylston High School is here with this new schedule”. A positive approach will be needed to make a successful transition for students and staff. Ms. Breen expressed that this new schedule has the potential for positive outcomes on AP scores along with MCAS scores in the future.

12. Executive Session: Non Union Contract Discussion

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Breen to enter into Executive Session, not to return to Open Session.
A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Hubbard – Yes
Mr. Ponticelli – Yes
Ms. Quirk – Yes
Ms. Breen – Yes
Mr. Pedone - Yes

13. Adjournment

Mr. Pedone moved, seconded by Ms. Breen to exit Executive Session and adjourn the meeting at 9:08pm.
A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Ponticelli – Yes
Ms. Hubbard – Yes
Ms. Quirk – Yes
Ms. Breen – Yes
Ms. Pedone - Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Pratt, Recording Secretary