

WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, April 12, 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 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 Ms. Breen by to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2023 FY 24 Budget meeting.

VOTE 5-0-0

Ms. Hubbard moved, seconded Ms. Quirk by to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2023 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 West Boylston Middle/High School were recognized as Student of the Month: Adam Brier, Nora Skehan and Cameron Breen.

3. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student Advisory Council Member Cameron Breen reported on:

- Clothing and Textile Drive
- School Sprit Day – April 13th
- CDMASC Regional Spring Conference – April 13th
- NHS
 - NHS Induction – March 29th
 - Hosting Middle School Dance – April 16th
- NAHS -NAHS Induction – April 6th
- Wellness Club – Day 4 Change – May 5th

- Tri-M
 - New York Trip- April 19th
 - Open Mic Night Updates
- DECA – Regional Competition updates
- Spanish Honor Society + French Honor Society – Induction Ceremony – May 4th
- International Thespian Society – Induction Ceremony – May 16th
- GSA
 - Day of Silence – April 14th
 - “Basics of Crochet” Event in May
- A-Capella Club – Fundraising event updates
- Spring Sports updates
- Class updates

4. Acknowledgement of Recording Secretary

5. Highlight on Schools: Preschool Program – Ms. Sherri Traina

Ms. Sherri Traina and Ms. Hailey Gaughan presented the preschool program as the “Highlight on Schools” with an overview of the virtual preschool open house presentation.

6. Vote to approve a Lacrosse Team.

Ms. Hubbard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Breen to approve a Lacrosse Team for the 2023-2024 season.

VOTE 5-0-0

7. Warrants-

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to accept the payables warrants dated March 13, 2023, March 27, 2023 and April 10, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

Ms. Quirk moved, seconded by Mr. Ponticelli to accept the payroll warrants dated March 17, 2023 and March 31, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

8. Vote to authorize the Superintendent to Submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form.

Having convened in an open meeting on April 12, 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 for which and application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. Priority 5, Modernization of school facility systems – poor energy efficiency and poor operating efficiency; 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.

9. Subcommittee Report

- Policy Subcommittee – Ms. Breen shared with the School Committee that the Policy Subcommittee met and reviewed policies IGCA, IKC, IKE, IKF and IJGG. These are the same policies that the School Committee were going to be completing a first reading on at tonight’s school committee meeting. Ms. Breen further shared the policies mentioned needed language updates to be a lined with the new scheduling in the middle/high school. As for Policy IJGG, the subcommittee did review IJGG and found it needed to be removed due to the policy being redundant to the more current policy JICFB The West Boylston Public Schools had adopted.
- Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee - Mr. Ponticelli shared with the School Committee that the Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee met to review the FY24 budget prior to the upcoming town meeting.

Mr. Ponticelli made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy IGCA – Summer Schools/ Night Schools, seconded by Ms. Breen.

VOTE 5-0-0

Ms. Quirk made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy IKC- Class Ranking, seconded by Ms. Hubbard.

VOTE 5-0-0

Ms. Breen made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy IKE Promotion/Retention, seconded by Mr. Ponticelli.

VOTE 5-0-0

Mr. Ponticelli made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements, seconded by Ms. Hubbard.

VOTE 0-5-0

Ms. Hubbard made a motion to remove Policy IJGG – Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy, seconded by Mr. Ponticelli. __

VOTE 5-0-0

10. Communication and Reports

- a. Major Edwards Elementary School Principal Mr. Audette reported on:
 - MCAS updates
 - Professional Development Day updates; April 5th
 - Literacy Committee
 - ELL Committee
 - Arts Committee
 - STEM Committee
 - STEM Night updates
 - PTA Fundraiser update – “Coin Competition”
 - No School; Week of April 17th to April 21st
 - MCAS Make-up testing as needed; Week of April 24th to April 28th
 - Animal Adventures; April 25th (2nd Grade @ 10am)

- CFCE-Passport to Kindergarten; April 25th (Major Edwards Library, 6:30pm-7:30pm)
 - MCAS Math and STE; Week of May 1st to May 5th
- b. Middle/High School Principal Mr. Fournier reported on:
- Student Council Conference update
 - CDMASC Spring Conference at West Boylston Middle/High School; April 13th
 - Spring Sports updates
 - Middle School Student Council dance; April 14th
 - ELA MCAS; Week of April 10th to 14th (middle school students)
 - Washing DC Trip updates; May 9th to May 12th
 - Class of 2026 Trivia Night – April 27th
 - High school PAW production “School of Rock”; May 5th
- c. Director of Special Education Ms. Traina reported on: NONE
- d. Business Administrator Mr. Pontbriand reported on:
- April 2023 Expense Report
 - Building maintenance updates
- e. Superintendent of Schools Mr. Meagher reported on:
- School Choice updates
 - Air Quality Testing updates
 - March 2023 Student Information Management System (SIMS) Report
 - New District and School Accountability Targets
 - Grade 10 ELA and Mathematics
- f. School Committee reported on:

Ms. Breen shared with the School Committee the steps it took a few years ago to start the soccer team within the West Boylston Middle/High School. At this time starting a JV lacrosse team gives another sport option in the spring. Ms. Breen also expressed adding a JV team at West Boylston Middle/High School will also be beneficial to the league by adding the additional team. Ms. Smith, the West Boylston Middle/High School Athletic Director, discussed game options, co-op options, coaching costs, travel costs, and refereeing costs. A representative with the Guardians, along with Mr. Fournier, shared with the School Committee that there would be summer and fall clinics taking place for lacrosse. Those flyers would be going out through school communications. The programs and/ or clinics will need to take place in order to gauge the numbers for the spring lacrosse JV team.

Ms. Quirk expressed her concerns to the rest of the School Committee Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements. During the first reading the wording appeared to required additional review prior to the School Committee amending and voting on the policy. The committee did agree and will have the Policy Subcommittee review Policy IKF further prior to voting on the amended policy.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Hubbard moved, seconded by Ms. Breen to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

VOTE 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Pratt, Recording Secretary