

WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, May 10, 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
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. Quirk to accept the Special School Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 6, 2023.

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: Caitlyn Silver, Eva LaPointe, and Sally Quinlan.

3. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student Advisory Council Member Matthew Breen reported on:

- Student Council
 - Plant Sale – May 11th-May 13th
 - Teacher Appreciation Week Events
 - Senior Events
 - Student Council Elections
- NHS
 - Community Service Opportunities
 - NHS end of the year event updates
- NAHS -NAHS Induction updates
- Wellness Club – Refresh Day – May 19th

- Tri-M
 - E-Board updates
 - Tri-M Elections in June
- DECA –
- Spanish Honor Society + French Honor Society – Induction Ceremony updates
- International Thespian Society – Induction Ceremony – May 16th
- GSA
 - End of the year events
 - E-Board Elections in June
- Yearbook updates
- Spring Sports updates
- Class updates

4. Acknowledgement of Recording Secretary

5. Highlight on Schools: West Boylston Performing Arts Workshop – Ms. Deb Huard and student Sally Quinlan

Ms. Deb Huard along with West Boylston Middle/High School student Sally Quinlan presented, “The Performing Arts Workshop 2023, The Next Generation. School of Rock the Musical”.

6. Community Input

Bryan Levangie of 15 Lawrence Street, West Boylston and Kristen Ryder of 21 Evans Road, West Boylston spoke to the School Committee as Co-Chairs of the Middle/High School PTA. Mr. Levangie and Ms. Ryder asked the School Committee how the PTA could support the School Committee? Mr. Levangie also inquired if the Middle/High School PTA should be meeting with the Major Edwards PTA? Ms. Hubbard and Mr. Audette gave a recommendation on speaking with Ms. Leonardo when it came to making a connection between the middle/high school and elementary school organizations. Ms. Breen and Mr. Meagher agreed they would add the question of “How can the Middle/High School PTA support the School Committee?” to the August Retreat as the committee does not have an immediate answer at this time.

7. Warrants-

Ms. Hubbard moved, seconded by Ms. Quirk to accept the payables warrant dated May 1, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Breen to accept the payroll warrants dated April 14, 2023 and April 28, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

8. Subcommittee Report

- Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee - Mr. Ponticelli shared with the School Committee that the Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee met to interview for the open position for the School Business Administrator.

Mr. Pedone made a motion to appoint Cristy Morrison as the School Business Administrator as of July 1, 2023, seconded by Ms. Hubbard.

VOTE 5-0-0

Mr. Ponticelli made a motion, to approve the FY24 budget as presented with a town appropriation of \$13,837,414 seconded by Ms. Quirk.

VOTE 5-0-0

- Policy Subcommittee – Ms. Hubbard shared with the School Committee that the Policy Subcommittee met and reviewed Policy ADF-Wellness Policy. After reviewing Policy ADF there is a need to further establish the two following committees; School Wellness Committee and District Wellness Committee. The Policy Subcommittee will also meet again in June to review the policies previously reviewed in April.

10. Communication and Reports

- a. Major Edwards Elementary School Principal Mr. Audette reported on:
 - Professional Development Days
 - May 5th – WIDA Assessment Information + Special Education training
 - May 19th – End-of year assessments + Student growth in literacy and math
 - Teacher Appreciation Week events organized by PTA
 - 5th Grade MCAS Math testing ; May 11th and May 12th
 - 2nd Grade Fieldtrip (Ecotarium) ; May 12th
 - 3rd Grade Annawon Weedon as a special Wampanoag presenter ; May 12th
 - 4th Grade MCAS Math testing ; May 15th and May 16th
 - 5th Grade MCAS STE testing May 17th and 18th
 - Professional Development ½ Day ; May 19th
 - Memorial Day Presentation (Gym) ; May 19th @ 9am
 - K Fieldtrip (Southwick Zoo) ; May 25th
 - Arts Festival / 5th Grade Wax Museum / 2nd Grade Heritage Project ; May 31st
- b. Middle/High School Principal Mr. Fournier reported on: Not present. Given in packet
- c. Director of Special Education Ms. Traina reported on: NONE
- d. Business Administrator Mr. Pontbriand reported on:
 - May 2023 Expense Report
 - Building maintenance updates
 - West Boylston Public Schools FY24 Budget Overview
- e. Superintendent of Schools Mr. Meagher reported on:
 - Massachusetts School Building Authority / Statement of Interest
 - New Teacher Induction Program
 - August 22nd and August 23rd
 - Summer Building Priorities
- f. School Committee reported on:

Ms. Quirk made a motion, seconded by Ms. Breen to approve the “Memorandum of Agreement between The Leominster School Committee and The West Boylston School Committee” for the 2023-2024 school year.

VOTE 5-0-0

Mr. Ponticelli thanked Mr. Pontbriand for all his years of service on the board along with all of his hard work over the years, as this would be his last official school committee meeting before retiring at the end of June. Mr. Ponticelli told Mr. Pontbriand how he was continuously amazed by how he was able to explain things in simple terms so all could understand, even the most complex situations the first time around.

Mr. Pedone thanked Ms. Quirk for her years of service on the School Committee and wished her will in the future as her term has ended.

Ms. Breen shared with the School Committee the current updates with the WestBest Subcommittee and the future of the funds. Ms. Breen also shared what has happened with the members within the WestBest Subcommittee over the years along with the planning that is currently taking place through legal representation to ensure the current money that remains will properly be dispersed and put to correct use. At this time the matter is still in the hands of the trust and legal before any further actions can be done.

10. Executive Session: To Conduct Strategic Session in Preparation for Negotiations with Nonunion Personnel

Mr. Ponticelli made a motion to go into executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, and the School Committee will not return to open session and will adjourn the meeting from executive session, Ms. Breen seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Hubbard – Yes

Ms. Quirk – Yes

Ms. Breen – Yes

Mr. Ponticelli – Yes

Mr. Pedone - Yes

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

VOTE 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Pratt, Recording Secretary