

WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, October 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
Emily Lehman-Miller

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Richard A. Meagher, Superintendent of Schools
Alex Audette, Principal, Major Edwards Elementary School
Cristy Morrison, 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. Breen to accept the minutes of the September 13, 2023 regular meeting.

VOTE 5-0-0

2. Student Recognition Awards: Major Edwards and High School

Students from the Elementary and High School were recognized as Student of the Month: Owen Alcorn and Carter Maple.

3. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student Advisory Council Members Hunter McNulty-Hochberg and Brielle Tego reported on:

- Student Clubs
 - GSA Club - Brainstorming fundraising ideas, potential outreach opportunities within the community, a potential professional development day for teachers regarding gender identity and chosen names
 - Acapella Club - Rehearsing with and performing with the high school choir and tree lighting for Christmas
 - Volleyball Club – small group focusing on teaching the fundamentals of the game, long term goal of the club is fundraising for an official net
 - National Honor Society - Personal care items drive 10/7 – 12/13/23
 - Interact Club – Senior Center breakfast, Fall Fest, Trunk or Treat and Turkey drop off in November, snow shoveling
 - Student Council - Spirit week, Powderpuff and Homecoming, Trick or Treating for cans

- Athletics
 - Football team – undefeated
 - Boys and girls soccer teams

4. Acknowledgement of Camera Crew and Recording Secretary

5. Highlight on Schools: District MCAS Results – Mr. Meagher

Mr. Meagher presented a District overview of the 2023 MCAS results for West Boylston Public Schools.

6. Community Input – None.

7. Warrants

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to accept the payables warrants dated September 18, 2023 and October 2, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to accept the payroll warrant dated September 15, 2023 and September 29, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

8. Subcommittee Report

- Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee - Mr. Ponticelli shared with the committee that the Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee met to discuss the upcoming Town meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023 and last week's visit by the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

9. Communication and Reports

a. Major Edwards Elementary School Principal Mr. Audette reported on:

- Focus on students becoming acclimated to their new classrooms, expectations, teachers and classmates
- Professional Development day - Fall Benchmark Assessments – STAR, Lexia, Literacy and Math
 - Teachers spent time discussing these assessments, formalizing instructional groupings and supports and establishing plans to target areas for student growth
- Annual Open House – September 20 and 21st
- Picture Day
- First Community Meeting of the Year – NED's Mindset Mission – positive behavior program
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- World Smile Day
- Tougas Family Farm apple picking
- 10/13/23 – 4th grade field trip to New England Botanic gardens
- 10/26/23 – picture retakes

- 10/31/23 – Halloween Parade/Fall Festival
 - 11/9/23 – Classroom Newsletters
- b. Middle/High School Principal Mr. Fournier reported on: Not Present
- c. Director of Special Education Ms. Traina reported on: None
- d. Business Administrator Ms. Morrison reported on:
- October Expense Summary
 - FY24 Budget Overview
- e. Superintendent of Schools Mr. Meagher reported on:
- 9/20/23 - Administrative team met for a crisis planning meeting with Police Chief Petit
 - Senator Robyn Kennedy will tour both schools on December 15, 2023 from 9-10:30 a.m.
 - Massachusetts School Building Authority meeting last Thursday
 - Facilities updates
 - Boiler work at Major Edwards is still in process
 - Still awaiting a quote for the sidewalks at Major Edwards and the Middle/High School and for floor work at the High School
- f. School Committee reported on:
- Superintendent's Evaluation - Mr. Pedone indicated the School Committee would move this vote to next month's meeting
 - Streaming/hybrid of future School Committee meeting - Mr. Pedone indicated the School Committee would move this vote to next month's meeting so that they may have a chance to view a demo of the camera system

10. Adjournment

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Lehman-Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

VOTE 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Johnson
Recording Secretary