

WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 – 7:00 pm
Middle/High School Media Center – Library
Along with live stream @ <https://youtube.com/@wblive125>

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

James Pedone, Jr. Chairman
Jason Ponticelli, Vice Chairman
Jennifer Breen
Nancy Hubbard
Emily Lehman Miller

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Richard Meagher, Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Fournier, Principal Middle/High School
Alex Audette, Principal Elementary School
Cristy Morrison, Business Administrator
Sherri Traina, Director of Special Education

ADMINISTRATORS ALL PRESENT

ALSO PRESENT

Faculty and audience.

Mr. Pedone called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Pedone announced that starting at this January 10, 2024 School Committee Meeting, the School Committee Meetings would begin to also be live streamed and could be found at <https://youtube.com/@wblive125>.

1. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to accept the regular meeting minutes of December 13, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to accept the Executive Session minutes of December 13, 2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

2. Student Recognition Awards: Elementary School, Middle School, High School

Students from the Elementary School, Middle School and High School were recognized as Student of the month: Michaela Skehan, Kyle Motta, and Madison Pitro.

3. Student Advisory Council Representatives

Student Advisory Council Members Hunter McNulty-Hochberg and Anabelle Anand reported on:

- GSA – Planning for carnation fundraising event for February and Day of Silence in April.
- HS Student Council – Working towards Spring Spirit Week in March, Play Comps in April, as well as planning for the upcoming MASC Conference in Hyannis.
- MS Student Council – Currently looking forward to the door decorating contest in January. The theme this year is states and cities. Each homeroom in the middle school will choose a U.S. state or worldwide city to use as inspiration for their door decorations.

- DECA – Will be taking the individualized certification exam on Jan. 10th and Jan. 11th.
- National Art Honor Society – Completed the annual calendar sales. All funds raised will go towards transportation costs for the spring trip to MASS MoCA in North Adams.
- National Honor Society – Received a thank you from Martha Adams, the organizer of the Ecumenical Food Pantry in town. They are also running a hat and mitten drive in January and February for the food pantry. The society continues to brainstorm for spring fundraising events.
- National French Honor Society – The French Honor Society will hold their induction ceremony on January 23rd. They will be inducting 4 new members.
- National Spanish Honor Society - The Spanish Honor Society will hold their induction ceremony on January 23rd. They will be inducting 21 new members.
- Interact Club – Participating in the snow shoveling program with NHS. Discussions will start about eligible sophomores for RYLA.
- International Thespian Society – The Revolutionist, which will be performed by four senior drama students has been postponed to February 9th and 10th.
- Tri-M Music Honor Society – The Society lead a successful caroling project in the town for the month of December. Annabelle Anand is leading a Community Service Project with Beaman Library to host an ongoing Karaoke night which is open to the public.
- MHS Jazz Band – Will host Open Mic Night on March 29th.
- Volleyball Club – Students are now using the weight room and learning proper strength training techniques.
- Wellness Club – Wellness Club is working on stress reduction for the month of January with the upcoming midterm exams. The club continues to plan and organize for this year’s Refresh Day.
- Freshman Class – The freshman class is continuing it work on organizing fundraisers. They are in the process of getting permission to hold a middle school dance in February and also organizing a dodgeball tournament for the spring. They are also working on ideas for the spring play.
- Sophomores – The sophomore class held a successful second calendar raffle this past fall. The class is working towards ideas and plans for the spring play competition. At the current time they are brainstorming ideas for spring ideas, possibly another trivia night. The class is also in the beginning steps of planning prom for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Junior Class – The junior class is preparing for prom. They are also creating fundraising opportunities for the class of 2025. Students will be in charge of selling concessions for the varsity basketball games this season.
- Senior Class – Winter Wonderland Updates. The seniors continue to work on fundraising to support their class trip and Senior Week activities. The Class of 2024 hopes to host a volleyball tournament in the spring (April).
- Athletics – Emily Pitro was on the all-tournament team. Maddie Pitro was the tournament MVP. Maddie also scored her 1000th point in the first quarter of the championship game against Clinton. The Athletic Department has hired Kelly LoChiatto as our new Cheerleading coach. She in the process of starting up practices.

4. Acknowledgement of Recording Secretary

5. Highlight on Schools: Major Edwards School Improvement Plan 2023-2024 – Mr. Audette

Mr. Audette presented the Major Edwards Elementary School 2023-2024 School Improvement Plan to the School Committee.

6. Vote to approve FY25 School Calendar.

Mr. Ponticelli made a motion to approve the FY25 School Calendar upon the following update being made, the Professional Development Day on January 27, 2025 being changed to January 17, 2025, this motion was seconded by Ms. Hubbard.

VOTE 5-0-0

7. Community Input - None

8. Warrants

Ms. Hubbard moved, seconded by Ms. Breen to approve the payables warrant dated 12/26/2023.

VOTE 5-0-0

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Lehman Miller to approve the payroll warrants dated 12/22/2023 and 1/5/2024.

VOTE 5-0-0

9. Communications and Reports

- a. Major Edwards Elementary School Principal Mr. Audette reported on:
 - Holiday Concert Updates
 - Winter Assessments of Students
 - Star Testing, Literacy Assessments, ACCESS Testing
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School; January 15th
 - Professional Development Day – No School; January 22nd
 - “I Love U Guys” Foundation
 - Literacy Night – January 24th from 4:30pm to 6:00pm
- b. Middle High School Principal Mr. Fournier reported on:
 - Staff Updates
 - Auditorium Updates
 - Ski Club Updates
 - “Wall of Fame” additions
 - Athletic Updates
 - Madison Pitro, 1000th point scored in her basketball career
 - Football State Championship Banner Celebration
 - West Boylston College Board Score Report
 - PSAT, SAT and AP exams
 - Midterm and Final Exam Schedule
- c. Director of Special Education Ms. Traina:
 - IEP Updates
- d. Business Administrator Ms. Morrison reported on:
 - December 2023 Expense Report
- e. Superintendent of Schools Mr. Meagher reported on:
 - School Choice Application – Opens January 17th – March 29th
 - Vocation School Chapter 74 Application Forms – Due to Superintendent April 1st
 - Capital Planning – Building lists
 - FY25 Budget Planning Updates
 - Senator Robyn Kennedy Visited – December 15th
 - Ellison Foundation Mention
 - Roundtable Discussion at Anna Maria College
 - Town Practice Field Damange
 - Statement of Interest

f. School Committee reported on:

- Second reading and adoption of Policy BEDH-E – Public Comment At School Committee Meetings.

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Hubbard to approve the 2nd reading and adoption of Policy BEDH-E, Public Comment At School Committee Meetings.

VOTE 4-1-0

- Second reading and adoption of Policy JJF – Student Activity Accounts.

Ms. Breen inquired to Ms. Morrison if all personnel were on board with the current updates made to the Student Activities Accounts Policy and are all people ready to be able to pass in money in the 24 hour time frame? Ms. Morrison said that all personnel have been very responsive and following the 24 hour time frame.

Ms. Hubbard moved, seconded by Ms. Breen to approve the 2nd reading and adoption of Policy JJF – Student Activity Accounts.

VOTE 5-0-0

- Motion to remove Policy DIF – Student Activity Accounts.

Ms. Breen clarified that this policy was being removed due to it being a duplicate to Policy JJF? Ms. Morrison stated that is correct and all Student Activity Accounts questions and or policies can now be located in Policy JJF.

Mr. Ponticelli moved, seconded by Ms. Lehman Miller to remove Policy - DIF Student Accounts.

VOTE 5-0-0

- Vote to approve increase in Substitute Teacher pay.

Ms. Breen moved seconded by, Mr. Ponticelli increase the Substitute Teacher pay to \$100 per full day for non-certified individuals and \$110 per full day for certified individuals.

VOTE 5-0-0

- Discussion of grade level alinement PreK-12.

Mr. Pedone suggested to the School Committee it would be a good time to think about future discussions on the direction of 2019 NEASC report. The discussions could include the committee's comfortability on certain grade levels of students under one roof. For example grade 7 through 12 under one roof and preschool and grade 6 under another.

Ms. Lehman Miller discussed with the School Committee her desire to have the committee share the School Committee packet along with handouts with the community prior to meetings. Mr. Pedone replied saying this is a discussion that could be had during an AdHoc or Communications Subcommittee meeting in the future.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Breen moved, seconded by Ms. Lehman-Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

VOTE 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Pratt, Recording Secretary