

**WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE AGENDA
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 - 7:00 pm
WEST BOYLSTON MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
School Committee Meetings may also be viewed live at the below link
<https://youtube.com/@wblive125>**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

ADMINISTRATORS

Richard A. Meagher, Superintendent
Christopher Fournier, Principal M/HS
Alex Audette, Principal Elementary
Cristy Morrison, Business Administrator
Sherri Traina, Director of Special Education

Faculty & Staff
Guest & Press

Motion Second Action

1. Acknowledgement of Recording Secretary
2. Approval of Minutes
 - Regular School Committee Meeting of April 10, 2024
 - Executive Session Meeting of April 10, 2024
3. Student Recognition Awards: Major Edwards, Middle School, High School
4. Student Advisory Council Representative
5. Highlight on Schools: Drama Club Presentation – Mrs. Huard
6. Community Input
7. Warrants –
 - Approval of Payables Warrants dated : 4/22/2024; 5/6/2024
 - Approval of Payroll Warrants dated: 4/26/2024; 5/10/2024
8. Subcommittee Reports
 - a) Budget and Capital Planning Subcommittee
 - Motion to approve the FY25 budget as presented with a town appropriation of \$14,137,414.00
9. Communication and Reports
 - a) Major Edwards Elementary School Principal
 - b) Middle/High School Principal
 - c) Director of Special Education
 - d) Business Administrator
 - e) Superintendent of Schools
 - f) School Committee
 - Motion to approve the “Memorandum of Agreement between The Leominster School Committee and the West Boylston School Committee” for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - Motion to approve the second reading and adoption of Policy GCBA - Management Compensation, Fringe Benefits, and Conditions of Employment
 - Discussion – Monthly school committee meeting documents access
10. Adjournment Time: _____

If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in a meeting, contact the Superintendent of Schools, Richard Meagher at richardmeagher@wbschools.com or (508) 835-2917 in advance of the meeting. While the municipality will do its best to accommodate you, certain accommodations require the hiring of outside contractors who may not be readily available if requested immediately before the meeting.

Performing Arts Workshop 2024
presents



An Overview

New rotating schedule this year meant less time to rehearse

- Adapted and used our resources to make it happen

Biggest technical show we've done to date

- New animated projections through Stage Player
- New light board meant new more involved lighting design
- Over 250 costumes pieces - on average each student had seven costume changes

How Do We Do It?

We are extremely lucky to have so many resources here at West Boylston. It allows us to break up our time.

Mrs. Huard - responsible for producing, directing and general oversight of the rehearsal schedule and artistic vision

Asuque - responsible for musical direction and teaching the students the songs and organizing the pit

Mr. Joel - our hired choreographer as well as responsible for most of the costuming in the show

Matt Nachtrieb - a NEW addition for this year - An intern from MWCC that acting as the supervisor of our tech students

Tech Crew - with the addition of our Technical Theatre Foundations class over the last few years, we have become 100% capable of designing, creating and building all of our technical elements in class and by students

Some Cool New Things

Some really amazing new technical things we did this year.

Creating a frame for our projection screen

Created opera boxes from soda bottles and pool noodles

Creating a WORKING fountain that actually bubbled water on stage

Take a Look...



Take a Look...



Take a Look...



St. Petersburg
1906



A Word from Some of Our Students...

Hunter McNulty-Hochberg - Lead role - Dmitry

Helida Corra - Lead role - Anya/Anastasia

Izzy Hall - Supporting Role - Gleb

Sally Quinlan - Stage Manager/Technical Director

A Few Accolades

This is the first year we have students going on to study theatre in college.

Helida Corra - Accepted to NYU - Tisch for BFA in Musical Theatre

Ainsleigh Flanagan - Accepted to Nazareth University - BFA in
Musical Theatre

Sally Quinlan - Accepted to the Royal Conservatory of Scotland -
Technical Theatre and Stage Management

A Few Accolades

We are also excited to announce that we received the following nominations for the TAMY Awards.

The TAMY Awards are a central MA based high school musical theatre competition hosted through the Theatre at the Mount.

- Best Performance in a Leading Role - Helida Corra
- Best Costumes, Hair and Makeup
- Rising Star Award - Teddy Quinlan
- Not Your Average Chorus Member - Amya Chamberlain

West Boylston Public Schools
FY25 Budget Overview

	FY25	FY24	FY25-FY24		FY25 Budget
	Budget	Budget	Change	%	Percent %
Salaries & Wages					
K-12 Superintendents Office	\$ 646,991	\$ 635,265	\$ 11,725	1.85%	3.96%
Major Edwards Elementary School	\$ 2,762,314	\$ 2,690,509	\$ 71,805	2.67%	16.93%
Middle/High School	\$ 4,231,787	\$ 4,172,534	\$ 59,254	1.42%	25.93%
Middle/High School Athletics	\$ 105,701	\$ 101,454	\$ 4,247	4.19%	0.65%
Special Education K-12 System Wide	\$ 187,149	\$ 183,538	\$ 3,611	1.97%	1.15%
Special Education Major Edwards Elem	\$ 1,811,516	\$ 1,818,636	\$ (7,120)	-0.39%	11.10%
Special Education Middle/High School	\$ 1,296,379	\$ 1,119,883	\$ 176,496	15.76%	7.94%
Total Salaries & Wages	\$ 11,041,837	\$ 10,721,819	\$ 320,019	2.98%	67.67%
K-12 Superintendents Budget					
K-12 Superintendents District Expenses	\$ 207,401	\$ 196,255	\$ 11,146	5.68%	
Total K-12 Superintendents Budget	\$ 207,401	\$ 196,255	\$ 11,146	5.68%	1.27%
Major Edwards Elementary School					
Instructional/Technology	\$ 207,884	\$ 135,533	\$ 72,351	53.38%	1.27%
Building Maintenance	\$ 301,453	\$ 289,564	\$ 11,889	4.11%	1.85%
Total Major Edwards Elementary	\$ 509,337	\$ 425,097	\$ 84,240	19.82%	3.12%
Middle/High School					
Instructional/Technology	\$ 257,561	\$ 268,346	\$ (10,785)	-4.02%	1.58%
Building Maintenance	\$ 358,266	\$ 342,725	\$ 15,541	4.53%	2.20%
Total Middle/High School	\$ 615,827	\$ 611,071	\$ 4,756	0.78%	3.77%
Special Education					
K-12 System Wide	\$ 63,162	\$ 50,576	\$ 12,586	24.89%	0.39%
Major Edwards Instructional	\$ 75,728	\$ 59,736	\$ 15,992	26.77%	0.46%
Middle/High Instructional	\$ 294,454	\$ 291,177	\$ 3,277	1.13%	1.80%
Out-of-District Tuition Major Edwards	\$ 421,408	\$ 505,388	\$ (83,980)	-16.62%	2.58%
Out-of-District Tuition Middle/High School	\$ 1,366,292	\$ 1,065,540	\$ 300,752	28.23%	8.37%
Sped Transportation Major Edwards	\$ 297,378	\$ 298,036	\$ (658)	-0.22%	1.82%
Sped Transportation Middle High School	\$ 339,835	\$ 435,169	\$ (95,334)	-21.91%	2.08%
Total Special Education	\$ 2,858,256	\$ 2,705,622	\$ 152,634	5.64%	17.52%
Vocational					
Vocational Tutiton	\$ 399,305	\$ 436,119	\$ (36,814)	-8.44%	2.45%
Vocational Transportation	\$ 141,019	\$ 122,775	\$ 18,244	14.86%	0.86%
Total Vocational	\$ 540,324	\$ 558,894	\$ (18,570)	-3.32%	3.31%
Transportation					
Regular/504 Transportation	\$ 458,752	\$ 495,772	\$ (37,020)	-7.47%	2.81%
Homeless/Foster Transportation	\$ 86,360	\$ 53,851	\$ 32,509	60.37%	0.53%
Total Transportation	\$ 545,112	\$ 549,623	\$ (4,511)	-0.82%	3.34%
Total School Operating Budget	\$ 16,318,095	\$ 15,768,381	\$ 549,714	3.49%	100.00%
Revenue Summary					
	FY25	FY24	FY25-FY24		
Town of West Boylston GF	\$ 14,137,414	\$ 13,837,414	\$ 300,000	2.17%	
School Choice	\$ 819,993	\$ 1,096,204	\$ (276,211)	-25.20%	
Circuit Breaker Funds/SPED Tuition	\$ 1,275,688	\$ 714,763	\$ 560,925	78.48%	
Rev. Funds Transportation	\$ 60,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 25,000	71.43%	
Preschool Revolving	\$ 25,000	\$ 85,000	\$ (60,000)	-70.59%	
Revenue Totals	\$ 16,318,095	\$ 15,768,381	\$ 549,714	3.49%	
WB Town Adm. Appropriation / School Committee Vote Approved 5.8.24					

**West Boylston Public Schools
FY25 Budget Overview**

	FY25	FY24	FY25-FY24		FY25 Budget
	Budget	Budget	Change	%	Percent %
K-12 Superintendents Budget	\$ 854,392	\$ 831,520	\$ 22,871	2.75%	5.24%
Major Edwards Elementary School	\$ 3,271,651	\$ 3,115,606	\$ 156,045	5.01%	20.05%
Middle/High School	\$ 4,953,315	\$ 4,885,059	\$ 68,257	1.40%	30.35%
Special Education	\$ 6,153,301	\$ 5,827,679	\$ 325,622	5.59%	37.71%
Reg./504 Transportation	\$ 458,752	\$ 495,772	\$ (37,020)	-7.47%	2.81%
Homeless Transportation	\$ 86,360	\$ 53,851	\$ 32,509	60.37%	0.53%
Total Vocational Budget	\$ 540,324	\$ 558,894	\$ (18,570)	-3.32%	3.31%
Grand Total School Budget	\$ 16,318,095	\$ 15,768,381	\$ 549,714	3.49%	100.00%

**West Boylston Public Schools
FY25 Budget Overview**

	FY25	FY24	FY25-FY24	
	Budget	Budget	Change	%
Regular Education (59%)	\$ 9,624,470	\$ 9,381,808	\$ 242,663	2.59%
Vocational (3%)	\$ 540,324	\$ 558,894	\$ (18,570)	-3.32%
Special Education (38%)	\$ 6,153,301	\$ 5,827,679	\$ 325,622	5.59%
TOTAL Budget (100%)	\$ 16,318,095	\$ 15,768,381	\$ 549,714	3.49%

School Committee



**WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
MAY 8, 2024**

SCHOOL UPDATES



Major Edwards Elementary School Report **May 2024 School Committee Meeting**

This month at Major Edwards, much of the focus has been on completing the MCAS assessments in the areas of Math and Science / Technology in Grades 3-5 along with the completion of the end-of-year student assessments. Our students have continued to give their best on the assessments and we look forward to seeing the progress made by students over the course of the year.

This month we have two professional development days planned for teachers. This past Friday, teachers spent time learning about the effectiveness of Math Talks led by our Math Interventionist, Rose DiBenedetto, and classroom teachers Kelly Connors, Renee Brancalone, and Liz Lemay. Additional time was spent on co-teaching, where our 2nd Grade teachers, Ali Johnston and Jen Kallberg along with some of our 3rd Grade teachers, Christine Stratton and Christina Franklin, discussed how the implementation of the co-teaching model has gone in their prospective classrooms. It was great to hear some of the different strategies and methods that have been utilized with students to help increase their effectiveness in teaching in an inclusive classroom.

On May 17th, teachers will meet in grade level teams to meet with administration, specialists, and support staff to begin formulating the class lists for the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, teachers will take time to meet with our Title 1 teachers, Mrs. Gangai and Sharon Bokankowitz to discuss student progress in literacy and determine where support is still needed as students head to summer and we begin thinking about support for next year in literacy.

This past Friday, students met for a community meeting that was focused on the theme of acceptance. Our 3rd grade students led a presentation where they read a story about acceptance, defined acceptance, and then shared unique facts about themselves to help the other grades learn what it means to be accepting to their classmates and school community. Next, selected students received an acceptance award from each classroom who the teachers felt have modeled acceptance the best in their classrooms. Later, the 5th Grade sang a song about reading and we had a special visit from two goats, Maverick and Goose that received kisses from the principal.

Lastly, this week the PTA planned an incredible week of celebration for our teachers during the Teacher Appreciation week. We would like to take a moment to thank all of our teachers at Major Edwards for their continued commitment to our students and dedication to teaching them each and every day. We would also like to give a special thanks to Jacqueline Leonardo and the many PTA members for all they have done to provide teachers with treats, donations, and ample appreciation for all that the teachers do throughout the school year. We are lucky to have such a generous and caring PTA committee.

Important dates for this month:

- Arts Festival; May 22nd @ 4:30pm – 6:00pm
- Grade 5 Wax Museum; May 24th @ 1:15pm – 2:15pm (families)
- Grades K and 1st Field Day; June 4th
- Grades 2- 5 Field Day; June 10th
- PTA End of Year Event; June 11th
- Report Cards Issued to Families; June 12th

Middle/High School Report **May 2024 School Committee Meeting**

The middle high school was pleased to receive a letter from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) notifying us that we have been awarded continued accreditations. The Commission on Public Schools reviewed the First Report of Progress and Planning of West Boylston Middle/High School and voted to award the school continued Accreditation in New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission wished to commend the following areas for West Boylston Middle/High School:

- The use of common curriculum template
- The plan to complete curriculum mapping for all courses, beginning with full-year courses
- The initial stages of implementing the vision of the graduate and integrating it into the curriculum
- The review and evaluation of curriculum by department to ensure vertical alignment for grades 6-12
- The plans to publish the curriculum when completed
- The sharing of best practices during faculty meetings to support learning and growth

May is a very busy month for students at the middle/high school. Some important dates include:

- Grade 8 trip to Washington DC (with Mr. Fournier); May 7th – May 10th
- National Art Honor Society Induction; May 7th
- Math MCAS grades 6-8; May 13th – May 16th
- Refresh Day / ½ Day of School / Prom Night; May 17th
- Music in the Parks; May 18th
- STE & Civics MCAS for grade 8; May 20th – May 22nd
- Math MCAS grade 10; May 21st and May 22nd
- Senior Cookout and Senior Walk; May 24th
- Senior Week; May 28th – May 30th
- High School Graduation; May 31st
- Schedule of AP Exams for May
 - May 6 – US Govt. and Politics
 - May 8 – Literature & Composition
 - May 10 – US History & European History
 - May 13 – Calculus
 - May 14 – Language and Composition
 - May 15 – World History
 - May 17 - Physics

Superintendent’s Report May 2024 School Committee Meeting

Teachers Attendance through April 30, 2024

District 93.9%

Student Attendance through April 30, 2024

Major Edwards Elementary School 94.6%
 Middle School 92.3%
 High School 95.2%

Suspensions as of April 30, 2024

Major Edwards		Middle/High	
In School Suspensions	1	In School Suspensions	2
Out of School Suspensions	0	Out of School Suspensions	9

FY 25 Budget Update

At their April 3rd meeting, the West Boylston Select Board voted to support the inclusion of a Proposition 2 ½ override at the May 20th Town Meeting. The proposed override will also be on the June 4th town election ballot. The West Boylston School Committee followed suit at the April 10th school committee meeting voting 5-0 to endorse the process. Planning continues as the district has submitted five-year projections to the Town Administration. The compiled projections are based on the average historical annual increases over the past decade, in tandem with estimated operating expenses for the next five years.

The West Boylston Finance Committee will host an educational forum on Monday, May 13 at 6:00 to discuss historical revenue and expense trends in West Boylston as well as the challenges presented in the FY25 Budget, including options to address them, both now and in the coming years.

Additionally, there is little doubt that referenced one million dollar deficit during the March budget presentation was concerning, however a few vital points should be highlighted:

1. The deficit was not created by fiscal mismanagement. The deficit impacting the District this budget season is also impacting many communities throughout the State was created by the following.
 - School Districts budgets increasing by at least 4-5%
 - ESSER grants being phased out
 - Flat student enrollment impacting Chapter 70 funding
 - Low per pupil inflation growth of 1.13%
 - Reduction in Low- Income students (down 7,000)
 - Average Municipal Revenue Growth Factors increase of only 4.35%
2. The District can manage the deficit for FY 25 by heavily relying upon projected sources of revenue and reconfiguring existing programming and priorities. Although, the fiscal outlook for FY 26 is dire at this point.
3. The District is legally responsible to provide special education services for students with disabilities from ages 3-22. Services include instructional and behavioral support and a wide array of therapies. The District currently has 13 students receiving their education out of district. The average tuition for out of district placements is \$178,900 with transportation averaging \$45,880. These costs are uncontrolled and unpredictable
4. Sub Separate programs have been created at all levels to minimize the number of West Boylston students enrolled in out of district placements, including the expansion of the PASS program at Major Edwards, which expands to two classrooms next year.

The District's continued reliance on anticipated sources of revenue, with the grim fiscal projections in Massachusetts and the uncertainty on the federal level remains a source of concern. The District does not believe a "reduction in force" is necessary this fiscal year. We will continue our communication and collaboration with the Town with the continued goal of providing quality education offerings for all students.

Massachusetts School Building Authority /Statement of Interest

A Statement of Interest was successfully submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority on March 13, 2024. The submission included detailed information related to the current state of the Middle High School facilities, including specifics related to HVAC, plumbing, windows, roof, auditorium, cafeteria, science labs, enrollment projections and ADA compliance concerns. The 2022 Colliers Project Leaders Facilities Assessment and the 2022 Town of West Boylston American with Disabilities Act Self Evaluation and Transition Plan were submitted as supporting documents.

The information provided in the SOI will play an important role in helping the MSBA understand the needs at the Middle High School and to decide whether to move forward with the district for further assessment of the facility. Once an SOI has been submitted and reviewed, the MSBA will work with districts to validate the deficiencies identified in the SOI and, if appropriate, collaborate on potential solutions. The MSBA will notify districts of any actions necessary during the due diligence period; after all SOIs are on file and the filing period has closed. A senior study may also be conducted as was the case with 2023's SOI submission.

The MSBA follows the steps below prior districts prior to extending invitations to enter the “eligibility period.”

1. Review SOI submissions for completeness:

Once the SOI system has closed, MSBA staff review each submission to confirm that all required materials have been received. The MSBA works with districts throughout the filing period to ensure that the SOI is complete.

2. Review each SOI submission and accompanying documents for content:

Once an SOI is determined to be complete, MSBA staff review the information and any additional documents submitted by the district. MSBA staff then compile the data necessary to assess SOIs filed in that calendar year that may be categorized as the most urgent and needy.

Determining the most urgent and needy SOIs relies on many different data sources. MSBA staff use over 50 data points that include the SOI, the MSBA project management system, the MSBA's enrollment tool, the MSBA's [2016 School Survey](#), and information from the [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(“DESE”\)](#). There are many factors that can impact the assessment of urgency and need in an SOI, such as increasing enrollment, overcrowding, building condition, general environment, and program deficiencies. As such, it is important to assemble as much data as possible so that staff may gain as complete of a picture of the submitted SOI as possible.

Due to the volume of SOIs submitted for the Core Program, the MSBA requests that each district identifies a Priority SOI for consideration when filing more than one in a given year. This enables the district and the MSBA to focus financial and staff resources on completing a project and ensures an opportunity for a grant for as many districts as possible. Additionally, this narrows down the cohort of potential projects if districts have submitted multiple schools within the district for consideration.

With their focus on each district's identified Priority SOI, MSBA staff then look at this smaller cohort of submitted SOIs to assess urgency and need, focusing on:

- The 2016 School Survey rating of building condition;
- The 2016 School Survey rating of general environment;
- The previous or ongoing Core Program project activity with the MSBA; and,
- Section 8 of the MSBA's [statute](#).

Consideration of these factors produces a smaller subset of the Priority SOIs that appear to be more urgent and needy than the other SOIs submitted that year. With this assessment, a group of SOIs are identified for further consideration. This further review may or may not require a senior study visit. If the MSBA is familiar with the school facility identified in the SOI or if the facility has already received a senior study visit within the previous two or three years, a senior study visit may not be needed for the SOI. The MSBA may choose to re-visit a school within this two or three-year window if the SOI contains new information since the last visit.

3. Conduct Senior Study Visits, if required:

If MSBA staff determine that a [Senior Study visit](#) is needed to complete the due diligence process, MSBA staff, accompanied by a technical consultant, will visit the SOI facility. The MSBA may conduct facility visits either virtually, in-person or a combination of virtual and in-person. The MSBA may request the use of alternative technology to complete the visits such as virtual meetings, drones, district-supplied recordings or other means.

Depending upon the method used, the senior study visit may be conducted in two parts, holding the meeting and the facility tour at different times and days.

The Senior Study visit lasts approximately two hours and is an opportunity for the MSBA to further understand the issues identified in the district's SOI. MSBA staff request that the district have someone familiar with the facility and systems present, someone familiar with the financial readiness of the district, as well as someone who is familiar with the curriculum as it relates to the programs offered. The district is requested to provide a copy of the school's floor plans (emergency/evacuation plans are sufficient) ahead of the MSBA's visit. The Senior Study visit starts with a meeting to review the SOI and the MSBA process and to hear district concerns. The discussion is followed by a tour of the main areas of the school, as well as typical general classrooms and specialty spaces.

Depending upon the number of senior study visits that are required, this phase can take approximately eight to ten weeks, with visits typically scheduled from August through October. This timeframe may vary.

4. Recommend SOIs for Invitation into Eligibility Period:

Once the content review and senior study visits have been completed, MSBA staff once again review the factors that can impact the assessment of urgency and need in an SOI (e.g., increasing enrollment, evidence of overcrowding, building condition, general environment and program deficiencies), to understand the total impact of all of the factors on the overall need expressed in the SOI. As the number of invitations that the MSBA can issue varies each year and the number of SOIs received each year exceeds the MSBA's annual cap expenditure, MSBA staff compare the SOIs that were selected for further review to each other to determine a degree of urgency and need, ranging from minor to major, for each of the SOIs.

MSBA staff then provide their findings to the [Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director/Deputy Chief Executive Officer](#) and the MSBA's [Facilities Assessment Subcommittee](#). Recommendations are then presented to the MSBA Board of Directors and the Board of Directors vote to invite districts into the Eligibility Period.

New Teacher Induction

Kelli McSweeney will coordinate the New Teacher Induction Program on August 21st and 22nd at the Middle High School Media Center. The focus will be on "Rudiments of Planning and Preparation" that will include two days of staff presentations on:

Day 1:

- High Quality Work from Every Student
- Engagement
- Meeting Diverse Needs

Day 2:

- Safe Environment
- Collaborative Environment
- Motivating Achievement