

**WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE AGENDA  
Wednesday, September 11, 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**

The meeting was opened at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. by \_\_\_\_\_.

	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Acknowledgment of Recording Secretary			
2. Approval of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Meeting August 22, 2024</li> </ul>	_____	_____	_____
3. Warrants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of Payables Warrants dated: 8/27/2024; 9/10/2024</li> <li>• Approval of Payroll Warrants dated: 8/30/2024</li> </ul>	_____	_____	_____
4. Highlight on Schools: Introduction of New Staff			
5. Community Input			
6. Subcommittee Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Subcommittee</li> </ul>			
7. Communication and Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Major Edwards Elementary School Principal</li> <li>b. Middle/High School Principal</li> <li>c. Director of Special Education</li> <li>d. Business Administrator               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote to approve updated West Boylston Public Schools Facilities Rental Fees.</li> </ul> </li> <li>e. Superintendent of Schools</li> <li>f. School Committee               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote to appoint a municipal representative to the negotiations subcommittee.</li> <li>• Discussion of 2024-2025 School Committee Targets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	_____	_____	_____
8. Executive Session – Discussions with respect to collective bargaining strategy included discussions of proposals for wage and benefits packages or working conditions for union employees.			
9. Adjournment                      Time: _____	_____	_____	_____



**WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**

**SCHOOL UPDATES**



## **Major Edwards Elementary School Report** **September School Committee Meeting**

The Major Edwards 2024-2025 school year is off to a very smooth start. We welcomed back students in first through fifth grade on Wednesday, 8/28. The first three days of school went seamlessly with the slight changes that we have made for this school year. We welcomed several new students and families to the district and it was great to see the students that have been coming to Major Edwards over the years helping the new students get acclimated with the school.

During the first week, we had our Kindergarten screening for our incoming kindergarten students and held both the preschool and Kindergarten open houses. This was a good way to ease the new students into the school as they transition into kindergarten and preschool. This allowed them to become familiar with the school, meet their teachers, see their classrooms, and enjoy a bus ride around West Boylston. Kindergarten and Preschool students had their first days last week on Wednesday, 9/4, and on Thursday, 9/5.

During the first few weeks of school, teachers and students reviewed the rules, expectations, and routines throughout the classrooms and the different areas of school such as the cafeteria, hallways, playground, and during the arrival and dismissal process. This time was spent reviewing and practicing procedures in order to establish a safe, positive environment for all students so that they are comfortable with their surroundings and ready to learn.

During our first two days of professional development at the beginning of the year, our teachers participated in a district wide training by The I Love U Guys Foundation that focused on the Standard Response Protocol and the Standard Reunification Method for responding in emergency situations. Special Education Teachers and support staff participated in a training led by Kristin Nasuti on the newly implemented IEP in MA and also reviewed important updates from the Special Education Department.

We had several new paraprofessionals join our school district this year and they all participated in a training led by Sherri Traina to review what the paraprofessional role entails and the specific responsibilities and expectations that are in place as they support students throughout the district. Lastly, Matt MacAvoy provided training for all staff regarding Special Education law and regulations, 504 Plan requirements, and an overview of the recent changes to Title IX and Civil Rights regulations.

### **Important dates for this month:**

- Picture Day, Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> (Retakes, Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>)
- Open House (Grades 3-5) Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- Open House (Grades 1 + 2) Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- PTA Meeting; Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, @ 7:00pm in the Major Edwards Library
- Newsletters shared with families (Sept. / Oct.) Thursday, October 3rd

## **Middle/High School Report** **September 2024 School Committee Meeting**

Our opening of the 2024-2025 school year has been excellent. Mrs. Smith and I are pleased with the new staff that we have hired for the middle/high school. Now in our second year of the new high school schedule, we continue to see the positive impact on student motivation, academic achievement, and on the overall tone of the building. Once again our senior class did a great job of welcoming all students and staff on opening day. School pictures and assemblies went very smoothly as we set expectations for a productive, cooperative, and respectful school culture. We are truly excited for this school year to be the best ever.

Highlights of our class meetings with students and staff included: Setting the tone and strong leadership from grade 12. We warmly welcomed our freshman class in their first year of high school. We spoke to grade 8 about being leaders in their final year of middle school as we plan for a class trip to Washington DC. We greeted our new grade 6 students as they started middle

school and welcomed back our 7th grade students who are now middle school veterans. We reviewed expectations and procedures for staying after school and using the late bus and accessing the homework club. Finally we urged our sophomore and juniors to work hard, study hard, and to get involved in school activities as they build their high school transcripts and prepare for the college application process. Each grade had its own message and will begin to forge their own unique personality as a class.

Middle school students kicked-off their magazine drive fundraiser this past Friday. The students are raising funds for their trips to Nature's classroom in October for grade 6 and for the spring trip to Washington DC for grade 8. The magazine drive has allowed students to participate in fundraising toward school trips and activities while raising school spirit for the start of the school year.

The senior class has enjoyed painting their "senior parking" spots these past two weeks. The seniors are also gearing up for spirit week, pep rally and homecoming which is right around the corner. Our soccer teams, football team, cheer team, cross country runners, field hockey and golfers have begun their fall sports season. Thanks to our fall coaches and Mrs. Smith for a smooth start to the fall sports season. We look forward to supporting our teams during this exciting time of the school year. Thank you for your support.

We warmly welcome to our newest staff members:

**Diane Romano** will be joining our staff as our new ESL teacher. Diane is a graduate of UMass Amherst and has several years of experience working with ESL students. She has traveled and worked in education in various countries around the world and currently lives with her college-aged daughter in Westborough Massachusetts.

**Callie MacDuffie** has been hired as our new school nurse for the middle/high school. Callie is a graduate of Becker College with a Master's Degree from Regis as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She has been a nurse for Reliant and at UMass Medical Center. She is excited to be working in West Boylston as a school nurse, something she has always wanted to do.

**Emma Comeaux** is our newest addition to the math department. She is a graduate of UMass Amherst majoring in Economics. Emma taught math at the Learning First Public Charter School before joining our staff at the high school last spring. She is excited to begin her first, full-year at WB where she will be teaching Algebra I and Business Math.

**Nicole Redmond** will be our newest addition to the sixth grade. Nicole will be teaching grade 6 ELA where she joined our staff mid-year last school year and is excited to begin her first full year with us. Nicole is a graduate of Emmanuel and has a Master's Degree from Worcester State. Before arriving at WB Nicole taught at Holy Name Central Catholic Jr/Sr. High School.

**Brianna Dodd** will be our new high school History teacher replacing retired staff member Cindy Foley. Brianna is a graduate from Worcester State with a Master's degree from Endicott. She served as a paraprofessional in Shrewsbury Public Schools for six years and is excited to be joining our high school history department where she will teach US History and Psychology.

**Casey Lynch** has been hired as our new high school Health teacher. Casey is a graduate of Keene State where upon graduation she taught for three years in Thailand in an international exchange program. She is excited to teach Health and a Physical Education elective for our high school students this school year.

We are pleased to welcome these new members of the staff and fortunate to have found these highly qualified people to join our team.

# Superintendent's Report September 2024 School Committee Meeting

## School Crisis Training

On August 26, 2024 the District welcomed the return The I Love U Guys Foundation for a presentation for all staff. While the Foundation did provide an overview of various crisis response scenarios in January 2024, less than half of the staff were in attendance, as special education teachers were involved in another training session and the date was not contractual work day for paraprofessionals. The Foundations core training was once again focused upon a Standard Response Protocol, Standard Reunification Method. Crisis responses that were addressed included hold, secure, lockdown, evacuate and shelter. Once again, Stacy Avila was the Instructional Coordinator for the presentation. Stacy was a law enforcement officer and hostage negotiator in Colorado for over twenty years before joining "I Love U Guys" seven years ago. She has presented in several Massachusetts communities, most recently a two day training session with the administration of Worcester public schools.

The District will be meeting with representatives from the West Boylston Police and Fire Departments on September 12, 2024 to continue crisis planning strategies and drills. Chief Minnach, Sgt. Petit, and Chief Sadowski will be participating in the session. A meeting of the school safety committee will be scheduled for later in September.

## Special Education Training

Matthew MacAvoy, ESQ (Nutall, MacAvoy, & Joyce) provided training for all staff on August 27, 2024. Attorney MacAvoy's presentation focused upon Special Education law and regulations, 504 Plan requirements, and an overview of the recent changes to Title IX/ Civil Rights regulations.

## Transportation Report

Four hundred eighty nine students have been issued bus passes for the 2024-2025 school year. The number of riders from Major Edwards is 279, and the number of Middle/High School riders is 210 (Middle School riders 122 and High School riders 88).

Collected transportation fees as of September 1, 2024 total \$34,600, a \$2,200 increase from September 2023. The total cost of the regular transportation program for 2023-2024 is \$364,000, a decrease of \$9,000.

## Enrollment Update

<b>Major Edwards 463</b>	<b>Middle School 219</b>	<b>High School 245</b>
PreK 34	Grade 6 77	Grade 9 67
Kindergarten 76	Grade 7 76	Grade 10 62
Grade 1 68	Grade 8 66	Grade 11 62
Grade 2 68		Grade 12 52 (+2 Post Grads)
Grade 3 79		
Grade 4 63		
Grade 5 75		

## Total Enrollment 927

<b>CTEI</b>	<b>Norfolk County Agricultural</b>
Grade 9 5	Grade 12 2
Grade 10 5	
Grade 11 8	
Grade 12 8	
	<b>Total Enrolled 2</b>

## Total CTEI Enrollment 26

New West Boylston Public Schools Staff  
2024-2025



September 11, 2024  
School Committee Meeting

## West Boylston Public Schools - New Staff – 2024-2025



*Emma Comeaux – High School Math Teacher – High School*

My name is Emma Comeaux. This is the start of my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as a teacher, after joining West Boylston midway through last year from WPS to wrap up year 2. I have previously worked as a Math Interventionist in Middle/Elementary, which means that as of this year, I'm also excited to say I've worked with every grade level in K-12 on the growth of their math skills. In my spare time, I attend Fitchburg University to earn my Educations Masters – but for fun I do a wide variety of arts and crafts (fabric and yarn are my favorites though), commit a little too much effort to my recreational soccer league, and can be found line-dancing my Thursday nights away. If the previous sentence didn't give it away, I am an avid consumer of most kind's caffeinated drinks.

I am looking forward to getting involved in WBMHS and its community over this year to assist in my goals and my growth in educations. I am also very proud to be a member of the math department here, and am excited about the things we can accomplish as a team!



*Brianna Dodd –History Teacher – High School*

My name is Brianna Dodd, and I'm thrilled to join the West Boylston Public Schools community as the new history teacher at the high school. I graduated from Endicott College with a Master's in Education and Worcester State University with an undergraduate degree in Developmental Psychology. Previously, I taught at Littleton High School, where I taught World History and AP Psychology. Outside the classroom, I'm a mom of two little ones which leaves me exactly zero time to do any sort of hobby, however I do enjoy a good book when time allows. As I embark on this new chapter, I'm excited about the opportunity to bring my enthusiasm for history to West Boylston. I look forward to collaborating with my new colleagues, engaging with the students, and contributing to a vibrant and supportive learning environment.





*Oscar Esposito – Physical Education Teacher – Major Edwards Elementary School*

My name is Oscar Esposito and I am the new PE teacher at Major Edwards Elementary School. I am a graduate from Springfield College where I competed in Track and Field and Rugby. I have been a teacher for 7 years, my prior experience being in Worcester, Quabbin and Wachusett. I have also been the Head Boys Track coach at Wachusett for the last 3 years. I am very excited to be the new PE teacher at the elementary school because I believe that the love for physical education should happen at an early age and it is a great opportunity for me to foster that love. Some of my hobbies include sports, racing triathlons, reading, fly fishing and hiking.



*Casey Lynch – Health and Consumer Science Teacher – High School*

My name is Casey Lynch, and I am a graduate of Keene State College, where I studied Public Health and Substance Abuse and Addictions. Before joining West Boylston, I worked as a long-term substitute health teacher in Worcester and spent three incredible years living abroad in Thailand, where I taught Health and English to elementary students. When I am not teaching I love to travel, and learn about new cultures! I am excited to be a part of the faculty here in West Boylston and look forward to the opportunity to make a positive impact on my students.



*Callum (Cally) MacDuffie – Nurse – Middle/High School*

My name is Cally and I am the new school nurse for West Boylston Middle/High School. I went to school at Becker College and graduated in 2017. I then pursued my Master’s degree at Regis College as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, specializing in primary care. My hobbies involve house projects on our new 200+ year old home build in 1790, playing with my dogs and my horse, and going on day trips and traveling with my boyfriend. I am so happy to join this community and look forward to getting to know you all!



(No Photo Available) *Diane Romano – ESL Teacher – Middle/High School*

My name is Diane Romano and I have a Bachelor's degree in Japanese Language and Literature from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and I am currently working on a Master's in TESOL from Framingham State University. Early in my career, I lived and taught English in several countries including Japan, Indonesia, Italy and Austria. After 5 years of teaching abroad, I returned home to Massachusetts. I worked in greater Boston for 20 years in the field of International Sales and Marketing. After my daughter started Kindergarten in the Westborough Public Schools, I transitioned to the field of public school education. I have taught in Westborough, Framingham and mostly recently Hopedale Public Schools. My lifelong passion for language and cultural understanding has found its greatest fulfillment in teaching ELS students. I look forward to continuing my career in West Boylston where I can promote multiculturalism, celebrate learning and make a positive difference in kids' lives. I enjoy traveling, cooking, volunteering at the Italian Cultural Center of Western MA, and spending time with my 19 year old daughter, family and friends. I am a member of the U.S. Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) group and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).



*Nicole Redmond – Grade 6 ELA Teacher – Middle School*

My name is Nicole Redmond and I am happy to return to WBMHS this year after taking over Grade 6 ELA this past January. I am a graduate of Emmanuel College and received my Master's in English from Worcester State University. Previously, I taught at Holy Name Central Catholic Jr. /Sr. High School for several years, then I taught incarcerated adults in the Department of Correction. I am a resident of West Boylston and have one daughter at Major Edwards and one daughter at the Middle School. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, reading, baking, and exploring the many historical sites and museums around New England. I am excited to be a part of this district as both a teacher and a parent.



*Meghan Wright – Board Certified Behavior Analyst – District*

My name is Meghan Wright, I attended Plymouth State University for my undergraduate studies and graduated with a degree in Psychology. In 2018, I graduated from Bay Path University with my Master's in Applied Behavior Analysis. Prior to coming to West Boylston, I was the District BCBA in the Ayer-Shirley Regional School District. Working part time in West Boylston allows me to spend time with my family. I look forward to working closely with the staff and families this upcoming year.