

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Westwood, Massachusetts

MEETING MINUTES
February 8th, 2024

Attendance and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Tony Mullin. Also present were: Maya Khuri Plotkin, Dorothy Parmelee, Amanda Phillips; and JoAnna French. Superintendent Tim Piwowar, Assistant Superintendent Allison Borchers, Director of Technology, Learning, and Innovation Steve Ouellette, and Director of Finance and Operations Lemma Jn-baptiste were present on behalf of the district.

Westwood Media Center was recognized for providing a live-stream of the meeting.

Harley Pease recorded the minutes.

Superintendent's Report

Digital Literacy and Computer Science Curriculum Review

Assistant Superintendent Allison Borchers and Director of Technology, Learning, and Innovation Steve Ouellette provided the Committee with a joint program review and report. The report included findings from the review committee, goals, a background on the curriculum review process, a vision statement, district-wide recommendations going forward, as well as a timeline for next steps.

Quarterly Financial Update

Director of Finance and Operations Lemma Jn-baptiste provided an update to the Committee on Quarter 2. Ms. Jn-baptiste announced that we are spending at a slightly slower rate this year than last. Turnover is relatively healthy and has been used to hire some staff due to higher Kindergarten enrollment.

School Committee Chair Update/Liaison Reports

Pine Hill Project Update

Superintendent Piwowar provided the Committee with an update that the Pine Hill school will open on February 26th, 2024. Supt. Piwowar provided a timeline of moving into the new school. Supt. Piwowar announced that prior to the first day of school, parents and students will be able to tour the school. Supt. Piwowar provided photos of the new building to show the committee.

Maya Plotkin thanked many individuals for their work to fix the HVAC situation at Pine Hill.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

School Committee Chair Update/Liaison Reports

Chair Mullin announced he and Supt. Piwowar will be attending the FinCom meeting on Monday night.

Chair Mullin announced that JoAnna French will work on producing a document that includes all norms for the school committee.

Dori Parmelee announced that SEPAC has been doing outreach and workshops in order to continue to provide support and resources to families in the district.

Discussion Items

Fiscal Year'25 Budget Hearing

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to open the budget hearing. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

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Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

Tom Pickering of 170 School Street spoke about the cuts to the music program. Mr. Pickering noted he believes that there was a flawed process in the FY'25 budget as well as a material downgrade in students outcomes in the FY'25 budget.

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to close the budget hearing. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

Extended Day Registration Process and Tuition Rate

Supt. Piwowar detailed some changes to the Extended Day process and tuition rates.

Action Items

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to approve the January 18, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to approve the Extended Day tuition increase to \$8.19/hour, and to apply the new hourly rate to all offerings, including the Before School programming and other Vacation programs. Motion seconded by JoAnna French.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to approve the Westwood Public Schools Fiscal Year 2025 operating budget in the amount of \$56,763,603. Motion seconded by Maya Plotkin.

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Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to approve the FY'25 Capital Budget. Motion seconded by JoAnna French.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to approve the Westwood Public Schools Fiscal Year 2025 capital budget in the amount of \$1,017,000. Motion seconded by Maya Plotkin.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to move that, effective March 2, 2024, any furniture, equipment, and material remaining in the Hanlon School be declared as surplus with no usable value. Motion seconded by Maya Plotkin.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to move that, effective March 3, 2024, that the care, custody, and control of the Hanlon School be transferred to the Westwood Permanent Building Committee for the purpose of proceeding with demolition. Motion seconded by Maya Plotkin.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes

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Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to adjourn. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

The Committee adjourned at 7:59pm.