



# Weymouth

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## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Weymouth School Committee

Humanities Center & Zoom

October 14, 2021

#### MEETING MINUTES

*(approved 10/28/21)*

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**Members In Attendance:** Lisa Belmarsh, Chair; Tracey Nardone, Vice Chair; John Sullivan, Secretary; Kathy Curran; Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw; Carrie Palazzo

**Members Absent:** Mayor Hedlund

**Also Present:** Robert Wargo, Superintendent; Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Melanie Curtin, Assistant Superintendent

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**The Meeting Came to Order At 7:03pm.**

Chair Belmarsh led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Consent Agenda:**

The Consent agenda included:

- Warrant 12-2022 in the amount of \$453,509.22. Dated 9/20/21
- Warrant 14-2022 in the amount of \$627,919.89. Dated 10/4/21
- Regular Minutes: 9/16/21
- Executive Session Minutes: 9/16/21
- Retreat Minutes: 10/2/21

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

The Chair reminded that public comment be in accordance with Policy BED, items on the agenda and kept to 3 minutes; Dr. Sullivan advised that there is an 8 second delay and gave instructions if members wish to speak-WETC-8, name and address should be added in the chat.

After public comment the zoom portion will end and community members can watch the meeting on Weymouth TV, channel 8.

### **Report of the Superintendent:**

Superintendent Wargo shared that there is a community event at WHS on Nov 17, 2021 addressing race. Presenters will be Jameel Adams and Sarah Fury.

The Superintendent expressed his sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the educators for their work in service to Weymouth students.

### **Transportation Update**

Assistant Superintendent Smith thanked families for their patience during the transportation changes and advised that First Student is working to address staffing shortages and that there is a possibility of some routes being combined. He also expressed that traffic patterns are improving. The online payment system for bussing is up and running:

[https://www.invoicecloud.com/portal/\(S\(kpeqlvuu5hykhqwpqxynrrpd\)\)/2/cloudstore.aspx?cs=7552D986-C490-443C-8288-B52BBE18B812&bg=81b50201-5303-4e91-acd1-0f34e853d580&return=Site.aspx%3fG%3dd1476a3e-24dc-407a-bd52-700a9269968f](https://www.invoicecloud.com/portal/(S(kpeqlvuu5hykhqwpqxynrrpd))/2/cloudstore.aspx?cs=7552D986-C490-443C-8288-B52BBE18B812&bg=81b50201-5303-4e91-acd1-0f34e853d580&return=Site.aspx%3fG%3dd1476a3e-24dc-407a-bd52-700a9269968f)

The Chair expressed her appreciation to community member Paul Mulin for sharing his thoughts and solutions on traffic via email on traffic.

### **COVID Update**

The Superintendent reviewed the case numbers. For Massachusetts children aged 0-4 there is 10% increase, children 5-9, 25%, aged 10-14 53% and teens 15-19 2.5%. There is a slight increase in Weymouth cases from 3.0% to 3.4% positivity rate.

A reminder was given to enroll in the test and stay program and that 98% of tests have been negative. Families are urged that if students are feeling unwell that they be kept home. 80% vaccination rate and the mask mandate was reiterated.

Updated information is available on the Covid Dashboard:

<https://www.weymouthschools.org/district/news/covid-19-information-faqs-test-and-stay>

Thanks was expressed to Dan McCormack, Gena O'Hara and their teams.

### **Before and After School Care**

Assistant Superintendent Smith advised that Champions is operating at 4 primary schools. Staffing, licensing, and background checks are being worked on for Seach, Nash, Pingree, and Talbot schools.

School Committee recommended not billing families where WPS is providing before and after school care until Champions is up and running at all schools

Messaging will be included in the Superintendents Friday correspondence.

### **ESSER III Submission Update**

Assistant Superintendent Smith reviewed the allocation of the \$6.7M ESSER funds for the DESE grant that was submitted through Grantium on October 4, 2021. Once reviewed and approved, the district will have 30 days to post publicly the plan for funds which is based on the Return to School plan. The 5 allocated buckets are Unfinished Learning, Mental Health, IT, Community Engagement, and Operations and Management.

Assistant Superintendent Curtin reviewed the balance of resources and people for the allocation of funds. Recruitment, training, and retention is of focus for staffing. Impact and tangible services were talked over.

Thanks and appreciation was expressed to community members, school committee, and administration for the collaborative and open process.

The committee requested to be kept informed on impact and progress of the grant.

There will be a Community Connections night on Oct 27, 2021 from 6-8pm in the Gold Cafeteria.

Community members can reach out to building administration and school committee members at any time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. Acceptance of Gifts (Action Requested)**

Community Relations Liaison, Elizabeth Harris reviewed the gifts received from July 1, 2020 - Jul 30, 2021. Donations are received either monetarily or in kind (item or service). The gift report is given twice per year. For January 21, 2021 through June 30, 2021 the monetary donations totaled \$86,988 and donations received in kind were \$20,478. Donations are through campaigns, partners and schools.

The textiles campaign has been quite successful and prevented 650 tons of textiles in landfills. CPR classes through the Weymouth Fire Department are available to all community members. The STEM conference for girls will be on October 23, 2021 at WHS from 8am-1pm. BoxTops is offering referral points currently.

Ms. Harris expressed her thanks to the donating partners and can be reached at (781) 335-1100 x28331.

The committee expressed their thanks and appreciation to Ms. Harris for her report and hard work.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the gift report. Seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Motion passed unanimously.

**b. Report out on retention or release of Executive Session Minutes and Posting: 1/30/19; 2/28/19; 3/14/19; 6/20/19; 7/25/19; 12/12/19; 8/20/20; 11/19/20; 1/13/21; 2/3/21; 2/25/21.**

Dr. Sullivan reported on the retaining or release of executive minutes from the 6 month review according to the open meeting law.

1/30/19-Release with redaction and without further review

2/28/19-Release as redacted and without further review

3/14/19-Retain without further review as right to privacy exists.

6/20/19-Release portion not already released with additional redaction not to be reviewed further

7/25/19-Release with exception of redacted date not to be reviewed further

12/12/19-Release

8/20/20-Release a portion and retain remainder for review in 6 months

11/19/20-Retain for attorney review and review in 6 months

1/13/21-Release

2/3/21-Retain and review in 6 months

2/25/21-Retain and review in 6 months

Minutes are available to view by request.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Attendance Requirements - WHS Student Handbook - Third reading**

Assistant Superintendent Curtin outlined the changes to the handbook attendance requirements. Due to state reporting language, X2 will still reflect 'absent' and 'unexcused absences'. A suggestion was made to add that acknowledgement to the handbook. Education plan and program of studies will be discussed in the future.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the Attendance requirements with changes. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Motion passed unanimously.

**b. Updates and Status of Chapman Middle School Opening 2022-Assistant Superintendent Curtin**

Assistant Superintendent Curtin shared that the Principal position at Chapman was posted for on October 1, 2021 and that furniture selection is complete. The next School Building Committee meeting will be on Oct 26, 2021 at 7pm. Final stages of the Chapman story boards are in the works.

**c. Review Status of School Committee Goals and Superintendent Evaluation**

There was a retreat on October 2nd where shared goals were discussed, Superintendent goals will be shared out at the October 28 meeting.

**Announcements:**

Policy Sub Committee Meeting - October 25, 2021 - School Administration Building

Community Connections Nights - October 27, 2021

Weymouth Market-November 3, 2021-3:30pm-WHS, Gold Cafeteria-Market will return to pre-Covid model of in person pick up

Unified Sports Basketball on Oct 19, 2021 vs Hingham

SEPAC-October 26, 2021

Federation for Children with Special Needs, October 26, 2021

**Next School Committee Meeting:**

Regular Meeting: Thursday, October 28, 2021 - 7:00pm

**The Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm** on the motion of Mrs. Nardone, seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Passed unanimously.

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**Documents Attached to These Minutes:**

- Regular Minutes:9/16/21
- Executive Minutes: 9/16/21
- Retreat Minutes: 10/2/21
- Gift Report
- Handbook Attendance Requirements

Respectfully Submitted,



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John Sullivan  
Secretary