



# Weymouth

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## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Weymouth School Committee

Humanities Center & Zoom

June 9, 2022

MEETING OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

(approved 6/16/22)

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**Members In Attendance:** Dr. John Sullivan, Chair; Tracey Nardone, Vice Chair; Carrie Palazzo, Secretary; Kathy Curran; Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw; Steve Buccigross

**Members Absent:** Mayor Hedlund

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

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Mrs. Curran moved to enter into executive session at 6:00pm;

- a. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to all collective bargaining negotiations and litigation: Workman's Compensation Claim Update
- b. For the purposes of: Reviewing Executive Session Minutes to retain or release: 1/18/18, 2/1/18, 11/7/18, 12/6/18, 12/12/18, 12/20/18, 1/17/19
- c. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to all collective bargaining negotiations and litigation: WEA Unit A MOA: Chapman Schedule
- d. Pursuant to M.G. L c 30A s 21(a) (2) To conduct strategy session in preparation for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to conduct contract negotiations: Superintendent Contract

Motion seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shagraw and passed unanimously.

**The Meeting returned from Executive Session and was called to order at 7:46pm**

The chair informed that a community member will be recording the meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone and seconded by Ms Palazzo to take out of order b. Monitoring Student Violence Incidents. Roll call vote. Passed unanimously.

**a. Monitoring Student Violence Incidents**

Hearing concern from the community, videos that have surfaced and with the national uptick the committee wanted to discuss student's abilities handling conflicts and what resources might be needed.

The Superintendent introduced and thanked Principal Meehan, representing Abigail Adams and Associate Principal Paulus, representing WHS for attending and sharing with the committee and advised that data wouldn't be presented at this meeting however would be an opportunity for dialogue.

The committee expressed their hopes for the discussion as well as what might be needed to take proactive action. Defining what kinds of violence, aggression, vandalism are happening, data, and school culture. Emphasizing what positivity is happening in the district and championing WPS for incoming families was mentioned. Concern was expressed whether middle school students are being supported enough, if there are enough resources available. It was emphasized that middle school is a challenging age and that parents and schools need to work together; 'that it takes a village'.

Principal Meehan advised that there are internal crisis teams in place which also serve as think tanks. They are defining what is happening, shifting focus and support and plans are put in place within 2 days of an incident. There are student and adjustment counselor check ins, student and administrative check ins as well as parent meetings to discuss strategies. Cultural shifts are happening on a monthly basis. An incentive program is in place for students who are meeting benchmarks.

It was reiterated that there will be a larger counselor staff next year at MWC with the addition of guidance counselors and an additional Social Emotional Coach. The Social Emotional Coaches work with teachers and are instrumental with immediate restorative justice strategies. Administration has met with staff to address concerns. Decisions regarding incidents are not made without discussion with adjustment counselors, psychologists, and administrators. Tiered level of supports were mentioned.

There will be a zero tolerance cell phone policy next year at MWC.

The committee expressed that this is not a WPS problem but a Town of Weymouth problem; that help is needed from parents, caregivers and the community. Concern for the new MWC building was expressed and a suggestion was made for the 'Dads on Duty' program, giving an extra presence in the hallways.

Much discussion was had on the expectation that school building administrators do not have to handle this by themselves. It was repeated that support from and to families is needed. The Family engagement center and wrap around services can help support as well as school and

town wide parent councils. Parent accountability was also mentioned as well as parent volunteerism and increasing parent council involvement.

Associate Principal Paulhus stated that not only are students having to be reengaged into education due to Covid but some are also having to do so with other outside stresses on top of that. Addressing the root of the problem and putting fundamental support in place is taking place. There will be Trauma Instruction professional development on Tuesday with partnership from 'Minding Your Mind' who also provided a zoom meeting where 50 families attended.

Administrators are being proactive in looking at students who might need support. Principal Meehan reiterated the importance of the advisory block every week, for students to connect with adults.

A request was made to have SSDR (School Safety and Discipline Report) data reported to the committee twice a year; midyear and end of year. It was shared that it's difficult to have dialogue without the data to reference. It was remarked that the Resilience, Dignity, and inclusion meeting led with Mr. Abruzzi was helpful and informative.

Associate Principal Paulhus advised that in addition to pulling the safety and discipline data that it would be beneficial to report on what interventions, supports, and tools that are being used to address incidents.

Data context and comparison, and how it relates to how the school is operationally and programmatically running on a day to day basis, and parent involvement was talked over. Drilling down the data to the next level was mentioned and remarked that some data may be surprising. Principal Meehan shared that whatever data the committee is looking for will be provided. Number of incidents and number of students included in incidents is a point of consideration.

The Principal, Assistants and Associate Principals are responsible for entering incident report information.

The Assistant Superintendent shared that for FY23 there will be 30 adjustment counselors district wide and that the addition of Assistant Principals and Directors will help.

The committee expressed their agreement for receiving SSDR drilled down reporting in addition to support/interventions, coping strategies offered afterward to be able to get a feel for the student's whole experience however doesn't want to burden administrators with additional workload. Possibility of posting the SSDR to the blog was made.

A suggestion was made to have data reporting at school committee meetings during school improvement plan presentations.

The committee expressed their thanks and appreciation to Principal Meehan and Associate Principal Paulhus for all their work, attending the meeting, and for the conversation. A suggestion was made to table item b. As there are many points to address at such a late hour.

**b. Committee and Superintendent Communication**

Discussion of future available dates was had. The Chair requested for members to email him with availability dates.

The Superintendent expressed his eagerness to communicate the way they would like and shared that he is open to constructive feedback and if the committee could forward what they would like to be communicated he'll provide it.

A new organization chart, with names was requested.

Motion to table Committee and Superintendent Communication. by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw and seconded by Mrs. Nardone Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.

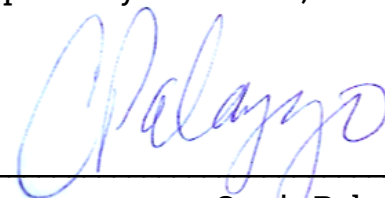
**The Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm** on the motion of Mrs. Nardone, seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Motion passed.

**Next School Committee Meeting:**

Regular Meeting: Thursday, June 16, 2022 - 7:00pm

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Respectfully Submitted,



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Carrie Palazzo  
Secretary