



# Weymouth

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## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### aWeymouth School Committee

Humanities Center & Zoom

August 18, 2022

#### MEETING OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

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**Members In Attendance:** Dr. John Sullivan, Chair; Tracey Nardone, Vice Chair; Carrie Palazzo, Secretary; Kathy Curran

**Members Absent:** Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw; Steve Buccigross; Mayor Hedlund

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

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The meeting was called to order at 5:47pm

#### **District Status & Update**

The Superintendent shared that student tours will need to be postponed at MWC so that construction may continue uninterrupted. Messaging will be conveyed on Friday from Principal Meehan. Postponement dates potentially could be August 30 & 31. A suggestion was made for a combination parent/student information session and tour during late afternoon or evening. It was reiterated that the building will be ready for the planned target September 1 opening for full occupancy.

Superintendent Wargo advised the folders sent to the committee included qualitative and quantitative data and talking points and the purpose for the meeting was to discuss where the committee thought the district currently stood and where they would like to see it moving forward. He mentioned that visioning teams will be reassembled.

Mrs. Nardone expressed her opinion that the district has picked up momentum after it plateaued and has culminated with the accomplishment of opening the New Chapman. She expressed the need to have all stakeholders share and believe the vision of the educational plan as well as her concern for security, safety, and adequate staffing to be able to back up the

promise of delivering the best educational experience. She conveyed that she is happy where the district is.

Ms. Palazzo touched upon 2021 elementary MCAS scoring performance in relation to DART schools. The DART group has 11 schools-of which 6 are making substantial growth and 5 are at moderate growth. Weymouth is making moderate growth. In addition to growth she looked at per pupil expenditure as well-Attleboro-substantial at 14K, Cambridge-substantial at 31K, Falmouth-substantial at 19K, Leominster-substantial at 14K, Medford-substantial at 20K, Methuen-moderate at 14.7K, Peabody, moderate at 15.6K, Quincy-substantial at 17K, Taunton-moderate at 14.7K, Westfield-moderate at 15.6K, Weymouth 17K. Layers are involved in the numbers. Possible reasons suggested: curriculum, culture, or facilities. She also cautioned that autonomy may inadvertently result in equity. She referenced Science 5th graders at Pingree scores being 27% higher than other Weymouth elementary schools. She communicated her support for creating peer relationships and partnerships.

Mrs. Curran expressed her opinion that coming out of Covid presents an opportunity to start with a clean slate. She'd like to see attendance (students and staff) and data points be of focus as well as Chard St. and tiered supports implementation and outcomes. She stressed the importance of the Executive Director of Elementary Education's position and would like the school improvement plans to include data points of the number of students who are at grade level.

Discussion of how establishing a line of measure was had. The Superintendent shared that at the end of Covid the district level for students was at ~93%. Changed Covid health guidelines were talked over briefly.

Dr. Sullivan shared his feeling that with Covid, leadership transitions, data points updates, changing MCAS it's hard to use past years as a point of measurement and suggested to determine baseline this year. He shared his support of local decision making and the position of the role of the Executive Director to assist with issues of equity. He emphasized equity and that it can be measured qualitatively. He expressed his opinion that there may be an esteem problem at Seach and Chapman. He hopes that the Chapman staff is enlivened by this new change for positive culture. Positivity and continuity of that philosophy was reiterated. He touched upon the importance of restorative justice and accountability at the WHS.

The committee commented on the Bent and Guilfoil report/template and the changes that have resulted. The increase in the ELL population, intercultural work, special education added programming and supporting teachers to be able to support students (social emotional behavior), town esteem and positivity was talked about.

Superintendent Wargo shared that autonomy is with alignment and not siloed and that the committee is looking for impact and added value of changes; a school district, not a district of

schools. He emphasized that the 3 E's are the focal point of work to develop a baseline and for a strategic plan to be created by the end of this year.

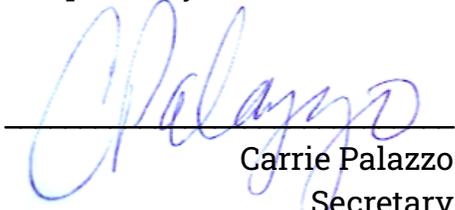
Stability and continuity was emphasized with the Adams project and transitions. Matriculating students from Chapman to the high school was mentioned for the future. It was reiterated for high standards to be upheld.

It was suggested to have ELL teachers placed on future school committee agendas. Highlighting schools in another forum besides school committee meetings was proposed.

**The Meeting adjourned at 6:52pm** on the motion of Mrs. Nardone, seconded by Ms. Palazzo. Motion passed.

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Respectfully Submitted,

  
Carrie Palazzo  
Secretary