

WEST BOYLSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, October 10, 2012**

LOCATION: West Boylston Middle/High School Media Center

PRESENT:

<u>SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u>	<u>ADMINISTRATORS</u>
John Owanisian, Chairman	Elizabeth Schaper, Superintendent
Jennifer Breen, Vice-Chairman	Lawrence Murphy, Principal Middle/High School
Richard Shaw	Christopher LaBreck, Associate MS Principal
Erin Palumbo	Marjorie McCarthy, Principal Elementary School
James Pedone	Sherri Traina, Director of Special Education
	Eric Bokankowicz, Technology Coordinator

COMMUNITY

Faculty & Staff: 15 **Guests:** 7
Student Advisors: 2 **Press:** 1

Meeting Opened Mr. Owanisian opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the October 10, 2012 School Committee Meeting.

Approval of Minutes Ms. Breen made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular School Committee Meeting of September 12, 2012; Mr. Shaw seconded. Motion approved. **Voted 5-0-0.**

Student Recognition Awards Mr. Owanisian introduced the presentation of Student Recognition Awards beginning with Major Edwards School.

Ms. Marjorie McCarthy presented an award to 5th grade student, Nicole Barakian; the student of the month for October.

Mr. LaBreck presented the middle school student recognition award to 8th grader, Peter Pearson, who was nominated by Miss Avery.

Mr. Murphy presented the high school student recognition award to Hannah Acomb.

Student Advisory Council Mr. Owanisian welcomed the members of the Student Advisory Council; Kelly Sorge and Abby Colangelo.

Kelly Sorge stated that as of today the French and Spanish National Honor Societies

had their induction ceremony. Kelly stated that Dickinson's Ribbon's, the school literary magazine, is currently taking submissions for their winter issue. Their long term projects are to be able to have enough submissions for a winter and spring issue. The National Honor Society is currently in the process of their fundraiser called "Flocking", in which they sneak out in the middle of the night and place flamingoes on someone's yard that requested it. The funds raised go to the National Honor Society.

Abby Colangelo explained that students were working on homecoming week and that Powderpuff was postponed today because of the rain, to next Wednesday. She stated that the girls' varsity soccer team is 7-2-2.

Mr. Owanisian stated the pink flamingoes are very noticeable as he drove home one day and his neighbor had them on the lawn. He stated that it's a great idea for a fundraiser because it is very visible. .

Acknowledgement

of Camera Crew

Mr. Owanisian thanked the camera crew and Mr. Bokankowicz for their filming of the meeting.

Highlight on the Schools

Dr. Schaper introduced Ms. Jeanne DeRosa who led a presentation on iPads in the classroom.

Ms. DeRosa explained that a number of teachers went to Burlington High School and spent the first week or so of their summer vacation learning all about using iPads in the classroom.

Ms. DeRosa stated that prior to this experience she hadn't really worked with iPads at all. She explained that she felt quite behind in her ability to make use of this technology. Ms. DeRosa spoke with one of the math teachers at Burlington High School, telling him she was quite concerned about how she was to get this program started. He told Ms. DeRosa that she should just start with one class/one project at a time.

Ms. DeRosa then volunteered to be one of the people in the Middle/High School that would use the iPads, and she decided to use it in one of her most comfortable classes; Calculus.

Ms. DeRosa decided to try using the Khan Academy, which is a website that allows students to learn or review mathematics concepts through video tutorials and practice problems. Ms. DeRosa also saw another app called Show Me, which is a way to evaluate children by listening to them speak to you through a recording they make on the iPad in addition to watching them write on an electronic blank slate to show their explanation. Ms. DeRosa stated that if a teacher has a class of 20 kids in front of them, every voice can be heard, and you will know if every voice can understand and speak about the material.

Ms. DeRosa started with the Calculus class and they then spent some time practicing and watching instructional videos. Ms. DeRosa had given them a list of Trigonometry topics she wanted them to review for Pre-Calculus so that they knew what to look for.

She explained that after the Khan Academy experience, the students had additional worksheets to work on in groups so that they could speak about it with their peers, and that allowed them to discuss the topics before they were then evaluated with the Show Me app, where they were responsible for their own learning.

Ms. DeRosa stated that the best thing about the www.khanacademy.org website is that now that her students know how to use it, they can use it from home; it can be used from any computer, not just an iPad.

Ms. DeRosa mentioned that as the coach, the kids have signed up as her students, and she can take a look at them and see what work the students have done and what they understand. She explained that just from clicking on certain boxes, which students are struggling, which are making proficient progress; and so this program allows her to track each single subject area. This website also allows her to see who's on task, which is a wonderful tool for a teacher. Ms. DeRosa explained that the great thing is that the dark blue color on the graph shows her that the kids have been going on this website outside of school hours. They were so excited they went home that night, and they went on Khan Academy.

At the current time, there are videos on Khan Academy for Chemistry, Physics, all kinds of different subject, but mostly just practice on Math.

Ms. DeRosa showed presented pictures of the students in her presentation, where the students all seemed to be engaged and enjoying material they were working on. She stated the students were really focused and enjoyed working on their iPads.

Ms. DeRosa also used the iPads and Khan Academy with her students in Honors Algebra and Algebra 2CP who were also really engaged and enjoyed learning in this way and through Khan Academy.

Ms. DeRosa explained the benefits for the students by using this type of technology were as follows:

1. Students learned an appropriate use of technology
2. Students could work at own pace;
3. Were easily monitored;
4. Engaged and excited;
5. Had to explain their reasoning; and
6. Students had to learn how to use Khan Academy.

Ms. DeRosa stated that she plans on using more Khan Academy with the students, as well as the Show Me app. She also started working with the apps called "Evernote, Notability, and Explain Everything". She stated that it is her goal by the end of this semester to get all of her Calculus notes on line.

Ms. DeRosa said that she has spent an enormous amount of time learning, and preparing this information for the kids, but that it has been well worth it.

Mr. Owanisian thanked Ms. DeRosa for her presentation to the School Committee and asked if there was a significant learning curve on her part in this experience.

She explained that one of the most shocking things for her about going to Burlington High School was, that her family had always thought of her as the technology go to person, and when she got there, she felt really lost, like the technology for the classroom had gotten so far beyond her.

She stated she has really put her nose to the grindstone since August and has just really been working quite hard trying to figure out how to better use her iPad and the apps for it.

She stated that some of the students who weren't engaged before Khan Academy, became engaged by using the program, and the kids that were engaged before, were still engaged using the program.

She stated the kids really think it's a neat thing to be using the iPads. They see the iPad cart roll in, and they are ready and excited to learn.

Ms. Palumbo applauded Ms. DeRosa for taking the time to learn such a huge amount of new material, and asked if Ms. DeRosa had full access to an iPad cart, how often she would plan on using this type of learning.

Ms. De Rosa explained it was the goal, eventually, to get every single classroom online entirely; notes online, working on problems online. It's the way that everybody is going. She explained that her own child is disorganized, and for him, an iPad would be a glorious thing; saving all those crumpled papers at the bottom of the book bag, or I can't find my homework issue. With an iPad, you take a picture of your homework, there it is – it's on your iPad. You can pass it in; you can do whatever you need to with it.

Ms. Palumbo asked how much time she spent teaching the iPad as opposed to traditional instruction. She expressed her concern that this type of learning in a large proportion seems very isolating, and that the students would forget how to interact personally.

Ms. DeRosa stated that whenever she was working with the children through Khan Academy, they were also working within a group and presenting things in front of the class as a group.

Community Input Mr. Owanisian asked if there was any community input to be heard, and there was none at that time.

MCAS Report

Dr. Schaper presented the district overview for the MCAS 2012 data – the test that was conducted in May of 2012.

She stated that the MCAS measures both performance and growth. Dr. Schaper stated that we measure the performance students in mathematics, English Language Arts and Science to determine if we meet grade level state learning standards for grades 5, 8 and 10 (for the science test) and all grades 3 – 8 and grade 10, take the ELA and math.

The other component that the MCAS measures, is the students' growth. Dr. Schaper explained that the difference between performance and growth.

Dr. Schaper indicated that principals will be presenting detailed reports for MCAS improvement based on the data that they have in their MCAS packets.

Dr. Schaper explained the Proficiency Levels that were obtained by our students on each test at each grade level. She stated that we will direct efforts toward the areas where students have lower testing scores with a goal of bringing more and more students into the advanced and proficient areas

Dr. Schaper indicated that the scores for the West Boylston School District scores are at the state average. She expressed a desire to raise these scores in the coming years and indicated that our improvement plans will attempt to address all deficiencies that we see in the data.

In science and technology, she stated we are far outpacing the state scores, where fewer than half of the students are in warning than the state.

Dr. Schaper explained to the committee that some grades demonstrate higher growth than others. We are working to address both performance and growth in our improvement plans.

Dr. Schaper stated that we in terms of accountability, our district, and all districts, are judged based on how well we do for our neediest learners. She stated the our schools are setting goals to bring the students with disabilities and special needs into the high growth, high performance quartile.

Dr. Schaper explained to the committee that our smart goals have been developed to address the gaps in the MCAS data.

Mr. Owanisian thanked Dr. Schaper for the MCAS presentation and the data, which was prepared for the committee. He stated that this information is important to them and to the families of the students in West Boylston.

Mr. Owanisian stated that both he and the committee is looking forward to working with the superintendent on a plan that will result in both noticeable and sustainable improvements to the MCAS scores in the near future.

Mr. Owanisian asked about last years MCAS with reference to weak scores in the area

of open response questions, as well as a focus on individual students who had either scored as failing or needing improvement, and wanted to know how we did in those areas.

Dr. Schaper stated we still see some gaps in the open response scores. There is variability in these scores between grade levels. Some of the scores are above the state average on open response questions, and some are far below. She stated we are aware of what those gaps are and we do have plans to address them. Dr. Schaper explained it takes hard work and effort on the teachers and well as on the part of the students to see change in these scores. She expressed the need for all of the students to write more as it is a crucial skill that needs to be honed over time.

Mr. Owanisian asked whether it was possible to get an interim update for the MCAS. Dr. Schaper stated that some districts do have an assessment program that they buy, which is very much like the MCAS program, where they test children quite often. She indicated she wouldn't necessarily advocate for that model. Instead, she specified that our teachers should be aware of what the standards are that they are working on with students and skilled at identifying students who have performance issues. Teachers use many kinds of assessment to make these determinations. The goal is that most performance issues should be addressed by the classroom teacher.

Ms. Palumbo thanked Dr. Schaper for her presentation and for everyone's involvement in trying to get the best scores possible for our students. She asked Dr. Schaper what her thoughts were regarding West Boylston's ranking so closely with the state median.

Dr. Schaper stated that she would like to see West Boylston students achieving above the state average. She indicated the Town of West Boylston would be well served if we could move into the high growth, high achievement quadrant. She stated that we need to do some work to align our curriculum and make sure that it is the one that is actually being tested. A team of 13 people has been put together from the district to run a pre-K-12 English curriculum revision. This team will have its first meeting on October 31, 2012.

She indicated the district is working with Teaching Learning Associates to help establish reader and writer workshops in elementary and middle school classrooms. Dr. Schaper said that they have seen wonderful things already. These classrooms can then serve as demonstration areas for all of the teachers.

Ms. Palumbo wanted to know what Dr. Schaper's thoughts were relative to comparable districts both in size and geographical closeness.

Dr. Schaper explained she has not conducted a review of other district's score but has focused on our own performance. She stated that if the school committee requests it, she will get some comparative data for local schools.

Ms. Palumbo wanted to know what Dr. Schaper would tell families looking for a school in this area.

Dr. Schaper explained the MCAS is not a complete picture of the work that we do. She stated that we strive to do our best work every day, and the teachers and staff, staying committed to the students and willing to make adjustments; that's how you move things in a positive direction.

Ms. Palumbo asked Dr. Schaper how she thought West Boylston's data has been trending over the past several years.

Dr. Schaper expressed her willingness to put together a report on this if that is the committee's desire. She indicated that she would prefer to take the time to develop a complete report rather than to speak off hand about this.

Ms. Breen made a comment that the MCAS came in as she was leaving the teaching profession. She stated that she agreed with the idea that this is just one test, one day in the life of the students. She expressed her position that it was really difficult for people to make judgments about the MCAS unless they really could break down every, single part of the test. Ms. Breen asked that the parents also make a commitment to their children to do well in school.

Mr. Shaw thanked Dr. Schaper for the presentation given. He indicated he sees a trend in the data, and that trend has not been towards the positive. He stated that the middle school has struggled for a while now, but the high school has improved dramatically every year. He wanted to know why it has been like that for some time.

Dr. Schaper indicated that the MCAS data for the 10th grade has higher stakes. She further explained that this makes the state have a very vested interest in making sure that not a lot of students fail that test. She stated that there is variability in how well you need to do to score Advanced at each grade level and that at 10th grade the number of points needed for higher scores is fewer than at other grade levels..

Mr. Pedone stated that in looking at some of the data in the report it seemed to him that some students might do better on the MCAS one year than they do in the next, that there was quite a lot of fluctuation in some cases. He asked if there was any kind of analysis that tracked progress per grade, such as in following the third grade; how did they do compared to their previous scores.

Dr. Schaper explained that that is called a cohort report or cohort analysis. She stated that we do look at those types of reports, but that type of data was not presented at this meeting. She mentioned that when we talk about a cohort, we are talking about only the kids who stayed together and moved from 3rd to 4th to 5th. They are the group of kids who moved together and didn't come apart.

Mr. Owanisian stated it would be very interesting to see the improvement plans. He indicated that he also agreed that the MCAS data is only one piece of the educational environment, but it's an important piece and we are measured, unfortunately, against other competing school districts.

Mr. Murphy mentioned to the committee that he, Marjorie McCarthy and Chris

LaBreck will have more detailed plans and will be bringing staff back with them to share what those plans are.

Mr. Murphy stated that he agreed with Dr. Schaper; that we have all we need in place to warrant high growth for our students. He stated there was no reason why we couldn't move in a positive direction. He indicated it would take a lot of work and a shift in thinking.

Mr. Murphy indicated that one of his smart goals is by June 1st, he will have collected from every teacher in those three areas, evidence of student work, lesson plans and a unit plan that they've worked on. The teachers will share with him how that unit plan has related to the Mass Frameworks.

Mr. Murphy stated that with regard to the iPad cart, we want our students to be 21st century students that can use all of the resources at their disposal.

Mr. Murphy said his third goal was something he was working on with Mr. LaBreck; the establishment of a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math academy, which would start as a pilot program with the 7th grade students – with the idea of having it available for 7th through 10th grade.

Mr. Murphy stated his 4th goal is in English, Language Arts, Math and Science, to bring that student growth percentile score up a minimum of 5%.

Mr. Murphy explained that his 5th goal was to have an emergency management policy and procedure in place and his final goal would be to do a project this year with a business, community or college thereby getting the community more involved with the school.

Mr. Murphy felt MCAS scores are extremely important, but not to forget that in other areas that contribute to student teaching, West Boylston does an excellent job, especially in promoting a positive school environment. He also stressed the importance of collaboration in trying to help our students achieve.

Ms. Palumbo wanted to know what Mr. Murphy would say to parents who found data on the internet regarding the schools and how they perform in relation to other schools.

Mr. Murphy stated that when you look at any successful school district, student achievement is certainly about academics. He said that if he were a parent, he would look to other areas as well, such as the importance of school climate, support for students, and relationships. To illustrate how he feels about relationships, he explained that he gives tours to schools choice students and their parents thereby showing both parents and children that we have a warm, welcoming atmosphere with the support of the community in West Boylston.

Ms. Palumbo asked Mr. Murphy, if when he did his presentation, he could illustrate

how the comparable schools geographically and academically are doing.

Mr. Owanisian asked if the other administrators were also going to give their school updates, in the interest of time.

Mr. LaBreck stated that he did come prepared to give that report and that he did have some of the same goals as Mr. Murphy.

His first goal was to establish the STEAM academy and hopefully to have that program running for the start of the next school year. The second goal is to increase the student growth percentage by 5% at each grade level, which in the middle school was accomplished last year. The third goal would be to increase the math scores by 5% and the fourth goal would be something he's working on with Dr. Schaper – to implement a school based induction program for new teachers.

Mr. LaBreck explained that like Mr. Murphy, his fifth goal is to improve our communication with parents by involving them with their child's education in a more productive manner.

Mr. LaBreck described his last goal as one that should ensure the alignment of the curriculum.

Mr. Owanisian asked if there were any questions for Mr. LaBreck. Ms. Palumbo stated she had questions for him, but they could wait until Mr. LaBreck made his presentation at a future time.

Dr. Schaper wanted to make a distinction between tonight's information and last months. Tonight's information was based on the school improvement plans. Last month was the district improvement plans. This month Dr. Schaper said she presented the District Level MCAS reports and in the coming months the principals will report their MCAS results. She stated that if the committee had specific subject matter questions with regard to the MCAS data, that it would be best to save them for the principals' MCAS report time.

Ms. Palumbo asked Mr. LaBreck if the collection of the teacher plans was new for him and Mr. LaBreck stated that it was.

Ms. McCarthy stated that her first goal would be between September and June; she would develop perspectives and routines that would allow her to support teachers using classroom practices that develop critical thinking skills and opportunities for engaging problems solving.

Ms. McCarthy affirmed her second goal was to conduct and participate in six days of embedded professional development and literacy coaching/instruction for teachers in grades K-5.

Ms. McCarthy's stated that between October and May, 2013, she would collect and review one sample unit plan and five sample lesson plans from each teacher indicating

alignment to Mass. Curriculum Frameworks. Her next goal is to increase the median student growth percentage in grades 4 & 5 by 5% as demonstrated by the 2013 MCAS student growth profile, and her final goal is by June 2013, PBIS Universal school initiatives will be obtained by no less than 80% of the student body, while no more than 20% will require targeted support systems.

Mr. Owanisian asked if there were any questions for Ms. McCarthy, and the committee indicated there were none at this time.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Owanisian called for the report of the Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Breen stated that she, Ms. Palumbo and Dr. Schaper reviewed the policy on naming. She stated that at last month's committee meeting there were some requests to look up or conduct research regarding the policy on naming, which they did. Ms. Breen stated that Mr. Shaw wanted to see further information involving corporate naming. Ms. Breen explained that Dr. Schaper was able to retrieve some information where other schools have gone after some kind of support from businesses/private organizations to name fields or parts of buildings, and receive compensation for that.

Ms. Breen explained that the policy subcommittee was not recommending the inclusion of any provisions for corporate naming rights preferring instead to see how other districts fare before we try to put that into policy in West Boylston. She stated that at this time, she felt that it would not be to our benefit to pursue this matter as the state is unsure to what direction it is taking at this time.

Mr. Owanisian had a questions in regard to the paper provided in the School Committee's packet – the first paragraph, third sentence where it begins "The committee"; he wanted to know if that should read School Committee. Mr. Owanisian stated that the paper was very well written and complemented Ms. Breen and Ms. Palumbo on their thorough job. He also made a comment on item 4 where it stated the procedure shall be followed...bottom of the first page. Mr. Owanisian asked that if you go back to the first paragraph, someone could conceivably want to name a school property after a physical location or a geographic area as well. He asked if the naming policy was just designed if the proposal was for the name of an individual or is it broader than that.

Dr. Schaper explained that those provisions were intended to be used when naming something for an individual.

Mr. Owanisian asked if this procedure would apply if someone wanted to name a conference room, for example, "The Mount Wachusett Conference Room", would that follow the same protocol.

Ms. Palumbo stated that they could make that item clearer if need be.

Mr. Owanisian explained his final concern was, item G where it says an ad hoc committee will be formed to determine the manner in which the official naming will take place. He stated that the only thing he would add would be that that would only

be for nominations that were approved by the School Committee.

Ms. Breen advised Mr. Owanisian that the information he was speaking about was actually changed and that a corrected naming policy was added to his packet at the beginning of this October 10, 2012 School Committee Meeting. Mr. Owanisian stated had had no further questions regarding the naming policy.

Mr. Owanisian asked if the committee would like to bring the issue of the naming policy back for approval. Dr. Schaper stated that it was the first reading at this time. Mr. Owanisian indicated there were only a couple of minor modifications necessary.

Ms. Palumbo made a motion to accept the policy on first reading entitled "Naming of Facilities or Places Within or on School Property; Mr. Shaw seconded, **Voted 5-0-0**.

Dr. Schaper updated the information relative to the Ad Hoc Committee. She stated she received a letter from a parent interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Committee which would get a naming ceremony together for the Ann Marie Richardson Library. Ms. Marjorie McCarthy is coordinating that Ad Hoc committee.

Ms. McCarthy stated that they have narrowed down a date for that ceremony to the 23rd of October.

Dr. Schaper clarified that that would be a committee that includes administration, a parent representative and members of the faculty on behalf of Major Edwards Elementary School.

Communication & Reports

Mr. Owanisian called for Reports. Mr. LaBreck gave the report of the Middle School. Mr. LaBreck thanked the community for their support of the students in both their walk to stomp out diabetes and the Children's Friend's Walk for the Kids.

Mr. LaBreck mentioned that he gave an update earlier on the progress of the STEAM Academy. He stated that he had a group of about 12 parents, teachers and administrators that met at the school a couple of weeks ago. He mentioned that there were a few members of the community who were not able to meet, but that they are interested.

Mr. LaBreck updated the committee regarding the Nature's Classroom trip, which cancelled for now. The school was contacted by Oceanwood who stated that they had experienced an outbreak of bedbugs, thereby forcing them to eradicate the insects and postpone the trip to another date.

Mr. Murphy gave the high school report.

Mr. Murphy then reported to the committee that the high school's theme this year is "Resilience". Mr. Murphy talked about the book circles that the students participated in and thanked Mr. Gibbs and Lianne Hanlon for helping to put those groups together.

Mr. Murphy explained that a guest speaker was brought in to the school; Bernie Carbo.

Mr. Carbo was a former member of the Red Sox baseball team who has had a very tough life and spoke to the children regarding the “Resilience” theme.

Mr. Murphy stated that a college fair was held at the high school recently for the seniors with over 45 different colleges, three branches of the military and four post graduate trade schools attending.

Mr. Owanisian called for the Major Edwards Report.

Ms. McCarthy spoke about the Major Edwards professional community and their development of committees such as expression of leadership teams, BIS, ELA and Math curriculum, teacher resources libraries, etc. Each committee is currently working on coming up with a vision and goals.

Mr. Owanisian then asked Ms. Traina if she had anything to report at this time, which she stated she did not.

Dr. Schaper presented the Superintendent’s Report.

Dr. Schaper advised the committee that in their packet they had a copy of the October enrollment data. She pointed out that last year 80 seniors graduated from West Boylston and we only enrolled 56 kindergarten students this year. She explained that to see a decrease of the district’s overall enrollment by only 5 students and a decrease in 3 in the school choice students, means that more people with West Boylston addresses are choosing to have their children attend our schools. She also wanted to highlight the fact that while our school choice numbers have remained fairly even, 120 last year – 117 this year, she explained that a much larger percentage of the school choice population was at the high school this year. She stated that the district had taken steps to increase the high school population this year and that there are still seats that are available.

Dr. Schaper also pointed out to the committee, information in their packets regarding the John and Abigail Adams Scholarships, which are offered each year to students who illustrated exemplary performance on their MCAS tests and their class rank. She presented a list of students who do qualify for this scholarship which entitles the students to free tuition at any Massachusetts public college or university.

Dr. Schaper explained reported that every member of the administrative team has been meeting regularly for the purpose of discussing how to support every teacher to deliver high quality instruction in every classroom every day.

Dr. Schaper stated over the past month they have also conducted the first series of Learning Walks. She explained a Learning Walk is a time when she and the administrator visit the classroom together so that they can develop perspectives about high quality teaching and learning based on what they’ve actually seen and heard in our classrooms.

Dr. Schaper expressed her opinion that teachers tend to work very much in isolation and sometimes it takes administrators to help weave them together into a cohesive group that understands something together.

Dr. Schaper reported on the New Teacher Induction Program being presented in the district. Dr. Schaper and Mr. LaBreck ran their first session in September and she feels we have a really talented group of new teachers and looks forward to working with them throughout the year.

Dr. Schaper encouraged all to check out the WB website if they haven't done so in a while. There are about 40 new blogs and websites that teachers have created and many are also using the Google Suite of Tools for Education.

Mr. Owanisian had a question with respect to the enrollment numbers. He stated that with regard to the school choice students, he thought his assumption was that since we had opened up the lottery last year that we have seen somewhat of an increase, but this seems to reflect somewhat of a decrease.

Dr. Schaper explained we didn't take elementary students this year with the exception of two students in Kindergarten. She stated that we could fill more if the School Committee wished to because there are waiting lists of elementary and middle school students who want to come to West Boylston schools. She stated that we have taken every school choice student for high school who's asked to come here and that makes for a large increase at those grade levels. Dr. Schaper stated that if the committee wants to open seats in the other grades, it certainly could be done and it would be fruitful because there is such a large amount of children on the waiting list.

School Committee Updates

Mr. Owanisian stated that the School Committee Targets that are enclosed within the packets had some slight modifications. The suggestion Mr. Shaw made last month relative to joining a neighboring vocational school district, had originally been removed from the target list, but item 7 was added – to monitor the impact of vocational education, costs and programming, on enrollment and program offerings in the West Boylston Public Schools. To maintain active advocacy on legislative matters that have a potential impact on small school districts who are unaffiliated with regional vocational schools.

Mr. Owanisian pointed out that item 5 was slightly modified from last year. The key item here is the second part which is the work with the State legislative team in terms of advocating for the unique needs of small school districts. Mr. Owanisian thought that in working with Dr. Schaper this was more focused and in the area where we would want to concentrate our efforts.

Mr. Shaw motioned to adopt the School Committee Targets for the School Year 2012-2013, Ms. Breen seconded; **Voted 5-0-0.**

Ms. Breen added an additional update regarding the WestBEST alumnae breakfast which will take place on Saturday morning. WestBEST is a group that functions through West Boylston Educational Schools Trust. It is primarily responsible for funding West Boylston School teacher grants throughout the system. Ms. Breen stated that the breakfast is free for alumnae from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. – here in the Middle/High

School cafeteria.

Mr. Shaw expressed his appreciation for the excellent care that has been taken in beautifying the grounds of Major Edward Elementary School.

Mr. Owanisian stated that the Spotlight on Schools television series has been restarted this year on Chanel 12. He indicated he had the pleasure of interviewing Dr. Schaper and that the camera crew did an excellent job. He also stated that Mr. LaBreck may be a future guest on the show to talk about the STEAM program.

Adjournment

At 9:12 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Owanisian that the committee goes into to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining, returning to open session only to adjourn. **Voted on a roll call. Mr. Pedone, yes, Mr. Shaw, yes, Mr. Owanisian, yes, Mrs. Breen, yes, Mrs. Palumbo, yes.**

At 10:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Owanisian that the committee adjourn from Executive Session. **Voted on a roll call. Mr. Pedone, yes, Mr. Shaw, yes, Mr. Owanisian, yes, Mrs. Breen, yes, Mrs. Palumbo, yes.**

The School Committee returned from Executive Session and a motion to adjourn was made at 10:25 by Mrs. Breen, seconded by Mrs. Palumbo. **Voted 5-0-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Johnson
Recording Secretary