

WEST BOYLSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
Middle/High School Media Center – Library
Along with live stream @ <https://youtube.com/@wblive125>

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

James Pedone, Jr., Chairman
Jason Ponticelli, Vice Chairman
Jennifer Breen
Nancy Hubbard
Emily Lehman Miller

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Richard A. Meagher, Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Fournier, Principal Middle/High School
Alex Audette, Principal Elementary School
Cristy Morrison, Business Administrator
Sherri Traina, Director of Special Education

ALSO PRESENT

Faculty and audience

Mr. Pedone stated that he was going to extend the recess from the Superintendent Candidate Interview Session to conduct the regularly scheduled business of the April 9th school committee meeting. Once the meeting is completed the school committee will reconvene the Superintendent Candidate Interview Session.

Mr. Pedone called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

1. Acknowledgement of Recording Secretary and IT Coordinator

Mr. Pedone acknowledged Mrs. Pratt, the Recording Secretary, for taking the minutes and Mr. Bokankowitz, IT Coordinator, for live streaming the School Committee meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ponticelli made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing Meeting of March 12, 2025, seconded by Ms. Breen.

VOTE 5-0-0

Ms. Hubbard made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2025, seconded by Ms. Lehman Miller.

VOTE 5-0-0

Ms. Breen made a motion to approve the minutes from the Executive Session Meeting of March 12, 2025, seconded by Mr. Ponticelli.

VOTE 5-0-0

The School Committee discussed the minutes from the Community Listening Session Meeting of March 26, 2025 and agreed to post the minutes.

3. Student Recognition Awards: Major Edwards, Middle School, High School

Students from the Elementary School, Middle School and High School were recognized as Student of the Month: Kylie Mulcahy, Prudence Karanja, and Sophia Johnson.

4. Student Council Advisory Representatives

Student Advisory Council Members Annabelle Anand and Emily Pitro reported on:

- Spring Athletics
 - Varsity baseball and softball are having a successful start to the season
 - JV baseball and JV softball are developing daily
 - Co-op Lax and varsity track have had great wins with middle school track starting later this month
- High School Student Council
 - Clothing Drive update – Won with a total of 972.6 lbs. of clothes
 - New Spring Olympics Event and Spring Spirt Week planning
 - Working with Sophomore class on annual Mother's Day Plant Sale
- Interact Club
 - St. John's Food Pantry updates
 - Teacher Appreciation Week updates
- International Thespian Society
 - Planning for new members for upcoming induction
- Mathletes
 - Freshmen and Varsity wrapped up the season at the end of March
 - Pie-a-teacher fundraiser; fundraised over \$200
 - Bi-weekly practices will continue until the end of the year.
- MS Drama Club
 - Rehearsals for Spring performance, "Out of the Woods"; Performances updates
- National Art Honor Society
 - Trip to Clay Time; April 17th
- National Honor Society
 - Induction; April 10th
 - Middle School Dance; April 11th
 - Volunteer Opportunities
- National Spanish Honor Society
 - Working on future Projects/Activities
 - Discussion of possible spring field trip
- P.R.I.S.M.
 - Dress to Impress Event
 - Upcoming event planning
- Tri-M
 - Open Mic Night updates
 - Upcoming trip to PPAC in RI; April 24th
- Wellness Club
 - In It To End It planning
- Freshman Class
 - Senior Shout Out fundraiser updates
- Sophomore Class
 - March Mingle / Plant Sale fundraiser
- Junior Class
 - Prom; May 16th
 - Chipotle fundraiser; March 5th
 - Trivia Night @ the Senior Center; March 27th
- Senior Class
 - End of the year activity planning

5. Community Input - None

6. Warrants

- Approval of Payables Warrants March 25, 2025 and April 8, 2025.

Mr. Ponticelli made a motion to approve payables warrants March 25, 2025 and April 8, 2025, seconded by Ms. Breen.

VOTE 5-0-0

- Approval of Payroll Warrants March 14, 2025 and March 28, 2025.

Ms. Breen made a motion to approve payroll warrants March 14, 2025 and March 28, 2025, seconded by Ms. Hubbard.

VOTE 5-0-0

7. Vote to approve 2025-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement between The West Boylston School Committee and The West Boylston Teachers' Association.

Ms. Hubbard made a motion to approve 2025-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement between The West Boylston School Committee and The West Boylston Teachers Association, seconded by Mr. Ponticelli.

VOTE 5-0-0

8. Vote to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between The West Boylston School Committee and The West Boylston Paraprofessional Association.

Mr. Ponticelli made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between The West Boylston School Committee and The West Boylston Paraprofessional Association, seconded by Ms. Breen.

VOTE 5-0-0

9. Subcommittee Reports

- a) Negotiations Subcommittee – Ms. Breen shared with the School Committee members that the Negotiations Subcommittee was able to have successful conversations with both the Teachers union and the Paraprofessional union.
- b) Superintendent Search Committee – Mr. Pedone explained how the Superintendent Search Committee worked to include the timelines and processes used. He explained in the start there were 22 applicants and the committee was able to identify 7 candidates to move forward in the first round. In the second round they were then able to narrow the candidates down to 3. Once they were at that round this is when the candidates came into the schools and did a site tour and met with staff and students. During this time there was an opportunity for the community to complete the WBPS 2025 Superintendent Search Committee Survey along with a Community Listening Session. Up until the very end there were two strong candidates in the running and one of the candidates was offered a position in another district prior to the interview session tonight and they withdrew. Tonight we are interviewing a very strong candidate

10. Communications and Reports

- a) Major Edwards Elementary School Principal, Mr. Audette, Reported on:
 - Someone Special Dance: Friday, April 11 @ 6pm – 8pm (Major Edwards Gym)
 - Drama Club Performance for Students: Friday, April 11 @ 1:15pm (Major Edwards Gym)
 - Drama Club Performance for Families: Tuesday, April 15 @ 6pm (Major Edwards Gym)
- b) Middle/High School Principal, Mr. Fournier, Reported on: NONE

- c) Director of Special Education, Ms. Trainor:
 - Integrated Monitoring Updated
 - Survey Results Reviewed
- d) Business Administrator, Ms. Morrison:
 - March 2025 Expense Report
- e) Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Meagher, Reported on:
 - National Honor Society Induction Event
- f) School Committee:
 - Discussion on Class Dues

Ms. Breen was inquiring on the current status of where the class dues procedures stood in the high school at this time. Updates were provided from Mr. Fournier and Ms. Smith.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Breen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Hubbard at 7:48pm.

VOTE 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Pratt, Recording Secretary