

January 28, 2021

A special meeting of the Westfield School Committee was held on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 5:00 pm remotely (due to COVID-19 crisis). Members present by roll call were: Ramon Diaz, Diane Mayhew, Bo Sullivan, Cindy Sullivan, Tim O'Connor, and Chairman Humason. At 5:08 pm Heather Sullivan entered the meeting.

At 5:00 pm Chairman Humason called the meeting to order.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public participation, excluding personnel:

Diane Mayhew read the following emails:

Samantha Scanlon, Jessie Lane, Westfield, MA

As a captain of Longmeadow's Girl Ice Hockey Co-op and a student of Westfield High School, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read our emails and for trusting us with following the rules. I understand that this decision was very hard due to the many variables, but it means the world to my teammates and myself for allowing us to participate in games. I know we will play harder than ever due to the circumstances. My whole team is extremely appreciative for all of your help and I am so very grateful I get to compete again.

Marcia Scanlon, Jessie Lane, Westfield, MA

I wanted to take this time tonight to thank you for addressing the letters of the athletes. It truly meant a lot that you took the time to read them, responded verbally and in writing, and provided commentary during the meeting. Regardless of the favorable outcome, it was more telling to me that the committee does listen and dialogues about the issues from all viewpoints. I agree that the pandemic has challenged everyone and decisions must be as fluid as the virus itself.

I would also like to add that although athletics is important, academics has always been my top priority. Just to give you my perspective, my children are getting a high quality education with the committee phase hybrid model and therefore there were no issues to bring to the committee. In this case, silence was a good sign. In hindsight as a parent, I should take the time to give kudos as well as to address issues. The teachers have done an amazing job delivering an exceptional education virtually. My children are engaged, learning the entire day, and have appropriate homework. Their teachers should be commended and I apologize that I omitted this in my original email. Also the guidance counselors and staff reach out regularly to provide a sense of support.

My children are also in Cohort B with less on ground days. Although I want them in class more often, I think changing the schedule would be burdensome for many. So as a B parent, I believe the schedule should not be adjusted if it directly and negatively impacts others.

Nar Darjee, Harrison Avene, Westfield, MA

Is it ok if I switch to the cohort that goes to school every week I think it's E. The reason is it's because whenever I'm doing online I feel like very lazy cause I'm at home instead of school. Now I have seen my grade I want to change that so I can go to high school.

Gina Kane, Heritage Lane, Westfield, MA

I just want to start by saying I fully supported the shift to remote learning before and after the holidays. It was definitely a necessary step to help control the spread of the virus after holiday gatherings that you knew would inevitably happen. With that being said, I am very much looking forward to the future and my children being in school. I know it is on your radar how much less in person learning the B Week cohort has received which I was relieved to hear. I was not pleased to realize the first week back for my kids in school, since the beginning of December, they will have a half day. Is it possibly to cancel/change this? I would think most parents would agree the full day of in person learning greatly outweighs the benefit of parent/teacher conferences. I know I cannot speak for every parent but I have never been so involved in my children's lessons and have had so much communication with their teachers as I have this year. I would feel comfortable forgoing it. Also, since in person conferences aren't happening, how necessary is the half day? My son's kindergarten teacher held optional phone/video conferences in December that worked out well. Thank you in advance for the consideration.

3. Westfield Public Schools Back to School Plan
  - a. Review the hybrid model start date of February 1, 2021  
Superintendent Czaporowski and Joe Rousee updated the committed on COVID-19 numbers. No motion needed. The hybrid model will start on February 1, 2021.
4. Any other items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting
  - a. Approval of the amended Westfield Public Schools 2020-2021 calendar  
Bo Sullivan moved, Heather Sullivan seconded to approve the Westfield Public Schools 2020-2021 school year calendar, as presented.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>
Diane Mayhew	X	
Bo Sullivan	X	
Cindy Sullivan	X	
Heather Sullivan	X	
Ramon Diaz	X	
Tim O'Connor	X	
Chairman Humason	<u>X</u>	
	7	<u>0</u> motion passes

b. Building Based Substitutes

Bo Sullivan moved, Diane Mayhew seconded to approve the building based substitute pay at \$125.00 per day through February 26, 2021.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>
Bo Sullivan	X	
Cindy Sullivan	X	
Heather Sullivan	X	
Ramon Diaz	X	
Diane Mayhew	X	

Tim O'Connor  
Chairman Humason

X  
X  
7

—  
0 motion passes

Tim O'Connor commented about the passing of Mr. Laurence Brady and Mr. Angelo Furioni, both long time employees of the Westfield Public Schools. A moment of silence was observed.

At 6:31 pm Ramon Diaz moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Stefan Czaprowski, Superintendent of Schools  
Clerk – Westfield School Committee

A true copy, Attest:

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Diane Mayhew, secretary  
Westfield School Committee

DM/cm