

December 16, 2019

A meeting of the Westfield School Committee was held on Monday, December 16, 2019, at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA. Members present by roll call were: Ramon Diaz, Diane Mayhew, Bo Sullivan, Heather Sullivan, Cindy Sullivan, and Acting Mayor Ralph Figy. Tim O'Connor was not in attendance.

At 7:00 pm Vice Chair Ramon Diaz called the meeting to order.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Ramon Diaz asked if anyone was taping the meeting and if so, please state your name and address: no response

2. Public participation, excluding personnel: no response

3. Westfield High School student representatives:

Student representatives were in attendance and provided an update.

4. Westfield Middle School presentation:

Paul Newton, Jessica Kennedy, Karri Kells, and Pete Lurgio shared information regarding the building initiatives undertaken for the 2019-2020 school year.

5. Approval of the November 18, 2019 School Committee meeting minutes:

Diane Mayhew moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve the November 18, 2019 School Committee meeting minutes. All were in favor. Motion passes.

6. Westfield Boys & Girls Club:

Bill Parks, Kellie Browne, and Pat Mahoney were in attendance. The group provided an update on the Massachusetts 21 Century afterschool grant.

7. Attendance Task Force and Data update:

The attached PowerPoint presentation was shared with the committee.

8. Approval of home school application HE1920-128:

Diane Mayhew moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve home school application HE1920-128. All were in favor. Motion passes.

9. Approval of field trips:

a. Westfield High School Hockey Team, Edward Bennett Ice Rink, New Haven, Connecticut, December 7 & 8, 2019:

Bo Sullivan moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to approve the Westfield High School trip for athletes to participate in hockey tournaments on December 7 & 8, 2019 at the Edward Bennett Ice Rink located in New Haven, Connecticut. All were in favor. Motion passes.

b. Westfield High School Wrestling Team, Simsbury High School, Simsbury, Connecticut, December 21, 2019:

Bo Sullivan moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to approve the Westfield High

School trip for athletes to participate in a wrestling tournament at Simsbury High School located in Simsbury, Connecticut on December 21, 2019. All were in favor. Motion passes.

10. Report of the signed weekly warrants:

Cindy Sullivan reported that the following warrants were signed:
 November 15, 2019 = 25 batches totaling \$592,584.22
 November 22, 2019 = 15 batches totaling \$365,651.49
 November 29, 2019 = 6 batches totaling \$35,503.43
 December 6, 2019 = 7 batches totaling \$258,066.51

11. Acceptance of Special Revenue Accounts:

Heather Sullivan moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to accept the Special Revenue Accounts, as presented.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	
Heather Sullivan	X		
Diane Mayhew	X		
Tim O'Connor	absent		
Bo Sullivan	X		
Cindy Sullivan	X		
Ramon Diaz	X		
Acting Mayor Figy	<u>X</u>		
	6	-	<u>0</u> motion passes

12. Acceptance of Westfield Public Schools Financial Statements:

Bo Sullivan moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to accept the Westfield Public Schools Financial Statements, as presented.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	
Diane Mayhew	X		
Tim O'Connor	absent		
Bo Sullivan	X		
Cindy Sullivan	X		
Heather Sullivan	X		
Ramon Diaz	X		
Acting Mayor Figy	<u>X</u>		
	6	-	<u>0</u> motion passes

13. Budget Transfers

Diane Mayhew moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to authorize the following budget transfers:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From Account</u>	<u>Into Account</u>
\$21,492	50004740/587000 Replace of Technology Devices	54004246/551010 WTA Classroom Technology Other
\$18,269	52877221/511110 WIS Office Para	52877221/511100 WIS Office Clerical

\$15,762	529977221/511110 WMS Office Para	52977221/511100 WMS Office Clerical
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The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	
Heather Sullivan	X		
Diane Mayhew	X		
Tim O'Connor	absent		
Bo Sullivan	X		
Cindy Sullivan	X		
Ramon Diaz	X		
Acting Mayor Figy	<u>X</u>		
	6	-	<u>0</u> motion passes

14. Contract Settlement Agreement with Westfield Lunch Association:
Cindy Sullivan moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve the settlement agreement between the Westfield Public Schools and Westfield Lunch Association for the time period of July 1, 2019-June 30, 2022, as presented, and authorize the Mayor to sign.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	
Tim O'Connor	absent		
Bo Sullivan	X		
Cindy Sullivan	X		
Heather Sullivan	X		
Diane Mayhew	X		
Ramon Diaz	X		
Acting Mayor Figy	<u>X</u>		
	6	-	<u>0</u> motion passes

15. Contract Settlement Agreement with Westfield Education Association/teachers:
Cindy Sullivan moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve a settlement agreement between the Westfield Public Schools and Westfield Education Association/Unit A (teachers) for the time period of July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 as presented, and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Cindy Sullivan stated, for the record, originally she was not in favor of a 1-year and 3-year contract. She will vote in favor because of 1-year and 3-year contact due the cycle schedule of contracts.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	
Bo Sullivan	X		
Cindy Sullivan	X		
Heather Sullivan	X		
Diane Mayhew	X		
Tim O'Connor	absent		
Ramon Diaz	X		

	<u>Y</u>		<u>N</u>	
Cindy Sullivan	X			
Heather Sullivan	X			
Diane Mayhew	X			
Tim O'Connor	absent			
Bo Sullivan	X			
Ramon Diaz	X			
Acting Mayor Figy	<u>X</u>			
	6	-	<u>0</u>	motion passes

b. Acceptance of Grants

Future Fund Grant – Westfield Technical Academy

Heather Sullivan moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to accept the Future Fund Grant, Westfield Bank, in the amount of \$1,000.00.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>		<u>N</u>	
Heather Sullivan	X			
Diane Mayhew	X			
Tim O'Connor	absent			
Bo Sullivan	X			
Cindy Sullivan	X			
Ramon Diaz	X			
Acting Mayor Figy	<u>X</u>			
	6	-	<u>0</u>	motion passes

Targeted Assistance Grant – Westfield Intermediate School

Cindy Sullivan moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to accept the Targeted Assistance Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>		<u>N</u>	
Diane Mayhew	X			
Tim O'Connor	absent			
Bo Sullivan	X			
Cindy Sullivan	X			
Heather Sullivan	X			
Ramon Diaz	X			
Acting Mayor Figy	<u>X</u>			
	6	-	<u>0</u>	motion passes

c. Other

Superintendent Czaporowski provided an update.

17. Create an Ad-hoc Committee:

Cindy Sullivan moved, Heather Sullivan seconded to create an Ad-hoc committee with the following members: Cindy Sullivan, Ramon Diaz, and Diane Mayhew. The Ad-hoc Committee's focus will be the funds collected in memory of Kevin J. Sullivan.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>		<u>N</u>	
Tim O'Connor	absent			
Bo Sullivan	X			
Cindy Sullivan	X			
Heather Sullivan	X			
Diane Mayhew	X			
Ramon Diaz	X			
Acting Mayor Figy	<u>X</u>			
	6	-	<u>0</u>	motion passes

18. Mayor's update:

Acting Mayor Figy announced that Inauguration will be held at Westfield Technical Academy on January 6, 2020 at 9:00 am.

19. School Committee update: none

20. Items for referral to subcommittees: none

21. Old business: none

22. Subcommittee Reports/Recommendations:

- a. Reports: none
- b. Minutes: none

23. Any other items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

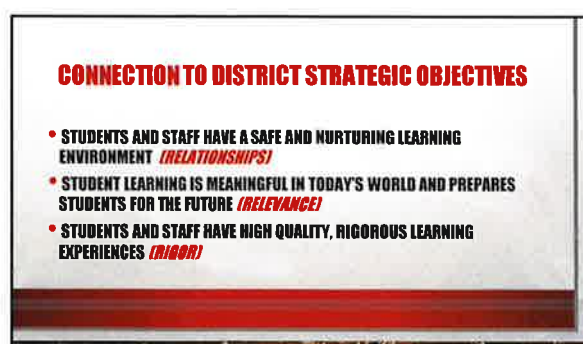
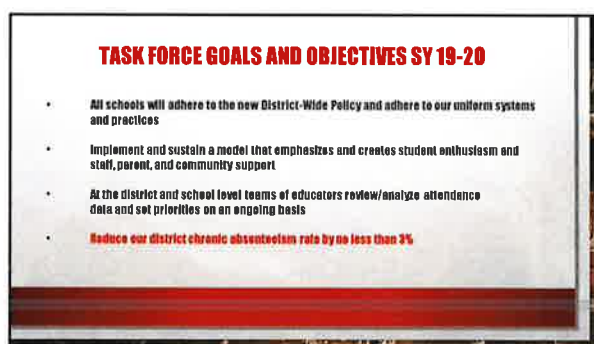
24. Next regular School Committee meeting: January 6, 2020

At 9:00 pm Cindy Sullivan moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Motion passes.

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

A true copy, Attest:

Cindy Sullivan, Secretary
Westfield School Committee



PREVALENCE OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IN U.S. SCHOOLS

- CHRONIC ABSENCE IS WHEN A STUDENT IS ABSENT **10% OR MORE** OF THE CURRENT SCHOOL DAYS
- 2012-14 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS REPORTED THAT **14%** OF STUDENTS NATIONWIDE MISSED **15 OR MORE DAYS** OF SCHOOL PER SCHOOL YEAR
- STUDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY, FROM MINORITY GROUPS, WITH DISABILITIES, AND/OR HIGHLY MOBILE ARE **MORE LIKELY TO EXHIBIT PATTERNS** OF CHRONIC ABSENCE
- POORER STUDENT PERFORMANCE DUE TO ABSENTEEISM BEGINS **ARE EARLY AS KINDERGARTEN** AND EXTENDS ACROSS ALL GRADES, CREATING A CUMULATIVE EFFECT
- CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENTS **MAY NOT DEVELOP SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SKILLS** NECESSARY FOR SCHOOL AND LIFE AND EXHIBIT HIGHER RATES OF DELINQUENT AND RISK-TAKING BEHAVIORS AND ARE AT AN INCREASED RISK FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

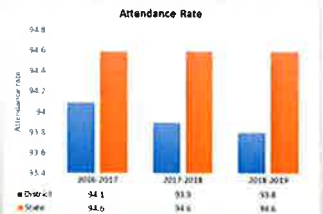
DESE ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

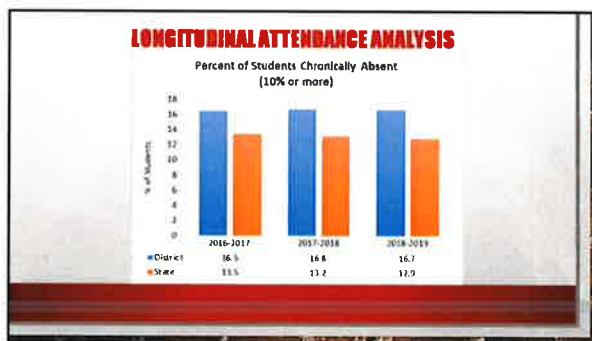
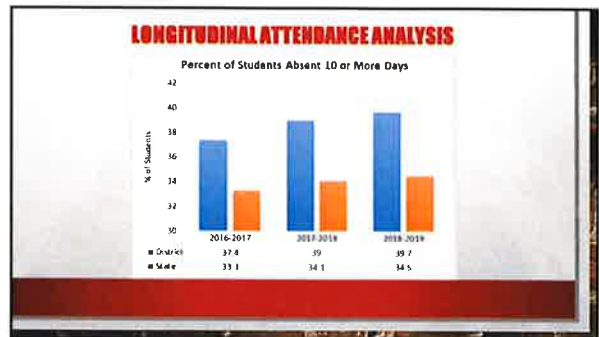
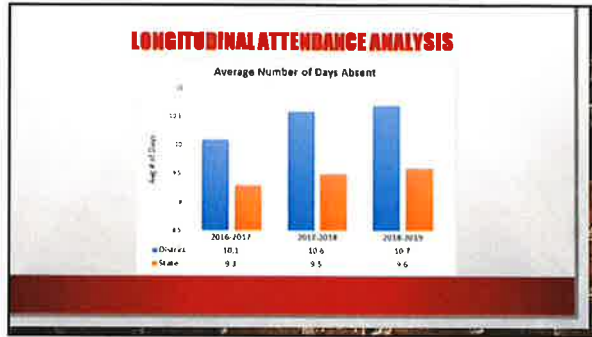
- SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS NOW A FACTOR FOR **ACCOUNTABILITY PURPOSES**
- ATTENDANCE: A STUDENT MUST BE AT SCHOOL, OR AT A SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITY (E.G., FIELD TRIP), FOR **AT LEAST HALF THE SCHOOL DAY** TO BE COUNTED AS PRESENT
- ENROLLMENT: A STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN A SCHOOL IF HE/SHE IS ATTENDING THE SCHOOL OR RECEIVING SERVICES FROM THE SCHOOL ON A **FULL-TIME BASIS**
- WE CAN CLASSIFY ABSENCES AS **EXCUSSED/UNEXCUSSED INTERNALLY** BUT ACCORDING TO DESE, ULTIMATELY THE STUDENT IS **EITHER PRESENT OR ABSENT** FOR ACCOUNTABILITY PURPOSES

WHAT DOES OUR DATA TELL US?

WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAS A SENSE OF URGENCY!!!

LONGITUDINAL ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS





WORKING TOWARD A NEW MODEL

- A **BELIEF** THAT BEHAVIOR, IN THIS CASE, CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM, CAN BE CHANGED
- INCREASED FOCUS ON **PREVENTION AND PROACTIVE MEASURES**
- OUR EFFORTS SHOULD ATTEMPT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO **ADDRESS THE CAUSES OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM (LET'S SURVEY OUR STUDENTS!!!)**
- **ALL STAKEHOLDERS** HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ABSENTEEISM
- RESEARCH SHOWS THAT **WE CANNOT PUNISH STUDENTS** INTO WANTING TO ATTEND SCHOOL (HOWEVER WE DO NEED TO HAVE **EXPECTATIONS/ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALL**)

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL TEAMS

- EACH SCHOOL WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE AN ONGOING ATTENDANCE TEAM (PLEASE NOTE THIS CAN BE A NEW TEAM OR PART OF YOUR CURRENT STAT TEAM)
- TEAM MEMBERS CONSIST OF ADMIN., COUNSELORS, SRD, OTHER SUPPORT STAFF, TEACHER IF POSSIBLE
- THE TEAM SHOULD MEET AS REGULARLY AS YOUR STAT TEAM AND SHOULD BE RUNNING AND ANALYZING SCHOOLWIDE AND INDIVIDUAL STUDENT DATA REPORTS AT LEAST 2 X PER MONTH
- STARTING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 THE OFFICE OF STUDENT INTERVENTIONS WILL BE RUNNING ATTENDANCE REPORTS FOR EACH SCHOOL INCLUDING CHRONIC ABSENTEES EVERY 2 WEEKS TO ASSIST, SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATE WITH YOU
- DISTRICT ATTENDANCE TASK FORCE WILL MEET MONTHLY TO MONITOR PROGRESS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

CURRENT WPS DATA: 12-13-19

- For ALL students in grades PreK-13 our district average daily attendance rate is **95.03%**
- For students in grades 1-12 our district average daily attendance rate is **95.06%**
- Our current chronic absentee rate for ALL students in grades PreK-13 is **13.21%**
- Our current chronic absentee rate for students in grades 1-12 is **13.28%**

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE 3 R'S

- RELATIONSHIPS
- RELEVANCE
- RIGOR
- IF WE BUILD IT THEY WILL ATTEND...

QUESTIONS???

- PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF INTERVENTIONS WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
- (413) 572-6397
- (413) 246-9740
- C.ROGERS@SCHOOLSOFWESTFIELD.ORG