

August 17, 2020

A special meeting of the Westfield School Committee was held on Monday, August 17, 2020, at 5:30 pm remotely (due to COVID-19 crisis). Members present by roll call were: Bo Sullivan, Diane Mayhew, Cindy Sullivan, Tim O'Connor, and Chairman Humason. Heather Sullivan was not in attendance. At 6:01 pm Ramon Diaz entered the meeting.

At 5:30 pm Chairman Humason called the meeting to order.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public participation, excluding personnel:

Cindy Sullivan read the following emails:

Jeff Stucenski, Ridgeview Terrace, Westfield

Dear School Committee,

I am writing to urge you to get schools open immediately. Online learning is a complete joke. What was the point of the two surveys when over 80 percent of parents were against total online learning yet it is being jammed down our throats for no good reason by Superintendent Czaprowski. The surveys were a joke. Nowhere did it ask for parents opinion on the phased opening. The phased reopening is a total giveaway to special interest and does not put kids' education first. Remote learning does not work. I don't care how much you say it will be different it still won't work. There will still be technology issues and some teachers just are not technology savy. Even if you fix the numerous other issues those issues will still remain. Remote learning is fast food education. I don't know how anyone could look at what happened in the spring and say we need more of that. The school department has bent over backward for those who want to keep their kids home which is fine. They have bent over backward for special interests but they don't seem to care about people who just want a proper education. It makes no sense to keep schools closed in September. If anything that is the time to be open and goes against what many colleges are doing in trying to frontload their school schedules. Stop moving the goalposts. Covid is never going to go away even with a vaccine. We have to learn to live with it. People who don't want to be there have the option not to be. Stop playing games with our kids' education and get these schools at least partially reopened on day 1. Don't keep pushing things off. It is what over 80 percent of parents voted for. I urge the school committee to choose a date very early in the school year no later then October 1<sup>st</sup> because simply online learning is a total failure and does not work on any level. Thank you.

Rich Roy, St. James Ave., Westfield

We ask that the School Committee work to have the remote learning instructional videos SLOW DOWN a bit. There's no way to refer back, now that the school year-our 6-year-old twins' kinder year-is over, to recall if this was SeeSaw Videos or Google Classroom videos. But for sure, some of the presenters were just blasting through their scripts, speed reading, going too fast for very young learners. The spaces between paragraphs or moving on to a sub-topic, were almost non-existent due to being so tightly edited in post-production. 'Just too fast for brains of any age...and delivery not geared to tiny tikes. We found ourselves constantly rewinding

to be able to make note of what was said.

Going too fast prevents the students from properly absorbing them, enjoying them, and learning from them....and in order to provide required written ANSWERS to the list of accompanying questions about what they just saw. There needs to be less rewinding in order to be able to get to the day's other lessons. Because so many words are crammed into about only one or two seconds, it's hard to find the starting point without going back too far and have to wait for it. I think you know what I'm trying to say.

We ask that the School Committee please have the District instruct the video sources, the producers of these remote learning videos, to give the very young children in the earliest grades a break, and SLOW DOWN a bit.

Diane Mayhew moved, Mayor Humason seconded to have Vice Chair Tim O'Connor act as the Chair for the meeting.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	
Diane Mayhew	X		
Bo Sullivan	X		
Cindy Sullivan	X		
Heather Sullivan	absent		
Ramon Diaz	absent		
Tim O'Connor	X		
Chairman Humason	<u>X</u>	—	
	5		0 motion passes

3. Approval of the August 10, 2020 school committee meeting minutes:  
Diane Mayhew moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve the August 10, 2020 School Committee meeting minutes.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	
Diane Mayhew	X		
Bo Sullivan	X		
Cindy Sullivan	X		
Heather Sullivan	absent		
Ramon Diaz	absent		
Tim O'Connor	X		
Chairman Humason	<u>X</u>	—	
	5		0 motion passes

4. Westfield Public Schools 2020-2021 Back to School Plan  
Superintendent Czaporowski provided an update regarding the Plan. He reported that the plan was submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on Friday, August 14, 2020. Mr. Langone, Principal of Westfield Technical Academy, reported that currently 8-9 students were requesting full remote learning and this presented a problem. Full remote learning would not be possible due to the requirement for shop attendance. Each parent will be contacted

and informed of the requirements.

5. Approval of the Westfield Public Schools A & B week calendar  
Bo Sullivan moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to approve the Westfield Public Schools A & B week calendar, as presented.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

At 6:01 pm Ramon Diaz entered the meeting.

6. First reading, by title only, of policies:  
a. Policy File: EBCFA Face Coverings  
Tim O'Connor moved, Diane Mayhew seconded a 1<sup>st</sup> reading, by title only, to adopt policy File: EBCFA Face Coverings, as amended.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

- b. Policy File: JICA Student Dress  
Diane Mayhew moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded a 1<sup>st</sup> reading, by title only, to amend Policy File: JICA Student Dress.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

- c. Policy File: BEDH Public Participation at School Committee Meetings  
 Diane Mayhew moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to make no changes to the policy and mark it reviewed.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

7. Approval of retainer agreement with Dupere Law Offices  
 Bo Sullivan moved, Ramon Diaz seconded to approve the Agreement with Dupere Law Offices, effective July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, at a flat rate of \$2,600 per month and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the committee.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

8. Superintendent's Reports  
 a. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations  
 Bo Sullivan moved, Diane Mayhew seconded to accept the following gifts/donations:
- Munger Hill Elementary School, Munger Hill PTO, \$629.37, educational purposes, gift account
  - Munger Hill Elementary School, Munger Hill PTO, \$1,300.09, educational purposes, gift account
  - Munger Hill Elementary School, Box Tops for Education, \$65.10, educational purposes, gift account
  - Munger Hill Elementary School, Lifetouch Photography, \$231.80, educational purposes, gift account
  - Westfield Technical Academy, Tracy & Robert Lacas, \$220.00 in memory of Zachary Saunders 2018 graduate of WTA, educational purposes, gift account

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>
Cindy Sullivan	X	

Heather Sullivan	absent		
Ramon Diaz	X		
Diane Mayhew	X		
Bo Sullivan	X		
Tim O'Connor	X		
Chairman Humason	<u>X</u>	—	
	6		0 motion passes

- b. Acceptance of Grant – Innovation Pathway Implementation Grant  
Diane Mayhew moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to accept the Innovation Pathway Implementation Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	
Heather Sullivan	absent		
Ramon Diaz	X		
Diane Mayhew	X		
Bo Sullivan	X		
Cindy Sullivan	X		
Tim O'Connor	X		
Chairman Humason	<u>X</u>	—	
	6		0 motion passes

- c. Other  
Superintendent Czaporowski reported that guidance was received from MIAA regarding sports. Cindy Sullivan asked if the school committee would be required to vote on the return of sports. Superintendent Czaporowski replied yes once the final recommendations were received.

9. Mayor's update: Mayor Humason provided an update.

10. School Committee update:  
Diane Mayhew stated she participated in the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's webinar last week. She shared information with the members.

Cindy Sullivan stated that she appreciated everyone's commitment to the group and thanked everyone for their time. Meetings and discussions were very important.

Ramon Diaz stated that he heard from teachers regarding the negative comments that were made regarding the remote learning. The remote learning to start the year has had many improvements compared to the previous model.

11. Items for referral to subcommittee: none

12. Old business: none

13. Subcommittee Reports/Recommendations

- a. Reports: Diane Mayhew reported the Human Resources & Policy Subcommittee met this evening and reviewed policies that we addressed earlier during this meeting.

b. Minutes: none

14. Other items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting: none

15. Next regular School Committee meeting: August 24, 2020 @ 7:00pm

At 6:30 pm Cindy Sullivan moved, Ramon Diaz seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Motion passes.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

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

A true copy, Attest:

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Cindy Sullivan, secretary  
Westfield School Committee

CS/cm