

September 8, 2020

A regular meeting of the Westfield School Committee was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 7:00 pm remotely (due to COVID-19 crisis). Members present by roll call were: Ramon Diaz, Diane Mayhew, Bo Sullivan, Cindy Sullivan, Heather Sullivan, Tim O'Connor, and Chairman Humason.

At 7:02 pm Chairman Humason called the meeting to order.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public participation, excluding personnel

Cindy Sullivan read the following emails:

Heather and Pat Leonard, Root Road, Westfield

I am writing as my son is hard of hearing and wears hearing aids. Why are the hearing impaired children not accounted into high needs? Remote learning without the FM system or Bluetooth access on the hearing aid will make it hard to hear. This will delay speech and pronunciation of words. Please consider the hearing impaired into the high needs category.

Heather Talbot, Hassler Street, Westfield

When the school committee held the meeting to vote on the district back to school plan, I listened to the entire lengthy 4 hour meeting. Thank you all for your efforts in taking on this undertaking. During that meeting, I made note of the directive laid out by the Westfield Board of Health Director. His original statement was to keep children home till the end of 2020. Then it was later agreed upon by the school committee to take a slower, vote at each phase approach to bringing the full hybrid model up to speed taking into consideration what the health director said.

This vote is what we as parents used to make our decision on how we wanted our kids to return to school. A slow, phased in approach to test the waters so to speak. I recently read that the school committee will be asked to look at an expedited plan to get the hybrid model in effect sooner. Please I ask of you to take the slow approach, with flu season and an expected spike this fall let's not rush kids into the hybrid model until we test the waters and watch the numbers.

I feel that many parents made their decision based on the fact they respected and liked a slow approach. I know I certainly did. I have three students in three different schools. This wasn't a light decision for ANY parent. I certainly hope you take into consideration why the committee agreed to vote the way you originally did, the slow phased in approach.

Jackie Rudzik, Pine Street, Westfield

First I want to commend you for all the hard work everyone has done to come up with the best plan possible for our kids. There is no right and wrong and no matter what decisions are made there will always be unhappy people about it. That's just the way the world works. I have gone around and around with many parent on the issue of home school vs. hybrid. From our understanding the hybrid model wouldn't be starting for the majority of kids until the end of 2020 due to cold and

flu and not being able to tell the difference between them and COVID-19. I know there are MANY parents that are now worried and freaking out because they based their decision off what you guys had agreed to do and are now trying to change. I speak on behalf of many parents who are begging the committee to reconsider getting our kids into a school faster than anyone is ready for and may cause an outbreak. Yes, numbers are low right now but we also want it to stay that way. Having the kids go back earlier than agreed upon would be a terrible mistake. Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns and I hope you do consider some points I've made at your meeting today. I very much appreciate having a voice in all this I just hope it gets heard.

Stacie Breck, Gloria Drive, Westfield

First off, thank you for all the work you have done with the back to school planning. You all have a tough decision to make and I feel you did a great job.

With that being said, the Superintendent is having the committee revisit the plan to potentially expedite the phases. We really need to put the brakes on and let us get started and see how things go. What will end up happening is the kids will start to go to school, and as well all know, they instantly start coughing and sneezing, which will result in absences. I have already experienced in my household the “cold” and having the concern is this COVID-19? Is it a common cold? Fortunately, in both instances I dealt with in the past month, 1 was a typical toddler fever for a day and a half, then it was gone and the other was a common cold. However, now we answer the question YES to does anyone in your house have a cough, fever, or is not feeling well. Now, do we keep your kids all home if someone in the household is not feeling well? This results in the kids needing to be home, either till a – test is provided or 14 days. Are we going to now have a remote option for our kids when now they have to be absent for either 2 weeks or till a test comes back, which takes a few days.

Now, we also need to think of the 100s of adults in the schools. Do we have the sub pool to cover a teacher who wakes up with a scratchy throat and can't come to school? The slightest symptom is going to result in either a call out, or going in not well. Where do we draw the line?

I understand that we want to get the kids back in the classroom. However, I ask that you please put the brakes on, don't try to speed things up, let's just get into a groove with the remote learning, and ensure it is truly safe to send all the adults and children back into the schools. It will be more detrimental to have to turn around and shut down a building or the district again because we rushed a return both to the children as well as the Budget as now we have to spend excess funds to clean/disinfect the building or buildings? As we know, all it takes is 1, and then we have a problem.

3. Approval of School Committee meeting minutes
  - a. Special meeting minutes of August 26, 2020  
Diane Mayhew moved, Tim O'Connor seconded to approve the August 26, 2020 School Committee meeting minutes.

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 | X        |                 |
| Tim O'Connor     | X        |                 |
| Chairman Humason | <u>X</u> |                 |
|                  | 7        | 0 motion passes |

b. Motion to approve the August 26, 2020 regular committee meeting minutes  
Diane Mayhew moved, Heather Sullivan seconded to approve the August 26, 2020 regular 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 | X        |                 |
| Ramon Diaz       | X        |                 |
| Tim O'Connor     | X        |                 |
| Chairman Humason | <u>X</u> |                 |
|                  | 7        | 0 motion passes |

4. Westfield Public Schools 2020-2021 Back to School Plan  
Superintendent Czaporowski provided an update regarding the plan. Public Health Director Joe Rouse was in attendance. Both Superintendent Czaporowski and Joe Rouse provided input and answered questions from committee members.

Ramon Diaz moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to approve the adjusted Back to School Plan phases, as presented.

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     | X        |                 |
| Chairman Humason | <u>X</u> |                 |
|                  | 7        | 0 motion passes |

5. Update on Fall Sports  
Ryan Dunphy was in attendance and updated the committee on fall sports.
6. Approval of home school applications HE2021-41 to HE2021-88  
Diane Mayhew moved, Ramon Diaz seconded to approve home school applications

HE2021-41 to HE2021-88.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

7. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Unit A teachers

Ramon Diaz moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Westfield School Committee and Westfield Education Association Unit A (teachers) to the terms, conditions, and understanding during the state's COVID-19 emergency, effective only for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented, and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the committee.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

8. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Unit D paraprofessionals

Ramon Diaz moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Westfield School Committee and Westfield Education Association Unit D (paraprofessionals) to the terms, conditions, and understanding during the state's COVID-19 emergency, effective only for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented, and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the committee.

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 | X        |                        |
| Tim O'Connor     | X        |                        |
| Chairman Humason | <u>X</u> |                        |
|                  | 7        | <u>0</u> motion passes |

9. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Cafeteria Managers Association  
 Ramon Diaz moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Westfield School Committee and the Cafeteria Managers Association to the terms and understanding during the state's COVID-19 emergency, effective only for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented, and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the committee.

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        | 0 motion passes |

10. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Westfield Lunch Association  
 Ramon Diaz moved, Cindy Sullivan seconded to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Westfield School Committee and the Westfield Lunch Association to the terms and understanding during the state's COVID-19 emergency, effective only for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented, 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 | X        |                 |
| Ramon Diaz       | X        |                 |
| Diane Mayhew     | X        |                 |
| Tim O'Connor     | X        |                 |
| Chairman Humason | <u>X</u> |                 |
|                  | 7        | 0 motion passes |

11. 1st reading, by title only, of policies  
 a. Policy File: ACAB Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Policy and Grievance Procedure

Diane Mayhew moved, Ramon Diaz seconded a 1<sup>st</sup> reading, by title only, to amend policy File: ACAB Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Policy and Grievance Procedure.

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 | X        |                 |
| Tim O'Connor     | X        |                 |
| Chairman Humason | <u>X</u> |                 |
|                  | 7        | 0 motion passes |

- b. Policy File: EBC Supplemental Emergency Plans: Interim Policy for COVID-19 Related Issues

Diane Mayhew moved, Ramon Diaz seconded a 1st reading, by title only, to to adopt policy File: EBC Supplemental Emergency Plans: Interim Policy for COVID-19 Related Issues.

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 | X        |                        |
| Tim O'Connor     | X        |                        |
| Chairman Humason | <u>X</u> |                        |
|                  | 7        | <u>0</u> motion passes |

12. Approval of 2020-2021 Student/Parent Handbook

Ramon Diaz moved, Diane Mayhew seconded to approve the Fort Meadow Early Childhood Center 2020-2021 Student/Parent Handbook.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

- 12b. Elementary

Heather Sullivan moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve the Elementary 2020-2021 Student/Parent Handbook.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

- 12c. Westfield Intermediate School

Heather Sullivan moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve the Westfield Intermediate School 2020-2021 Student/Parent Handbook.

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 | X        |                        |
| Tim O'Connor     | X        |                        |
| Chairman Humason | <u>X</u> |                        |
|                  | 7        | <u>0</u> motion passes |

12d. Westfield Middle School

Heather Sullivan moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve the Westfield Middle School 2020-2021 Student/Parent Handbook.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

12e. Westfield High School

Heather Sullivan moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve the Westfield High School 2020-2021 Student/Parent Handbook.

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     | X        |                        |
| Chairman Humason | <u>X</u> |                        |
|                  | 7        | <u>0</u> motion passes |

12f. Westfield Technical Academy

Heather Sullivan moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to approve the Westfield Technical Academy 2020-2021 Student/Parent Handbook.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

|                  |          |  |               |                 |
|------------------|----------|--|---------------|-----------------|
| Bo Sullivan      | X        |  |               |                 |
| Tim O'Connor     | X        |  |               |                 |
| Chairman Humason | <u>X</u> |  | <u>      </u> |                 |
|                  | 7        |  |               | 0 motion passes |

13. Report of the weekly signed warrants:

Bo Sullivan reported the following warrants were signed:

August 21, 2020 – 14 batches totaling \$282,693.61

August 28, 2020 – 11 batches totaling \$217,357.99

14. Superintendent's Reports

a. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations

Tim O'Connor moved, Diane Mayhew seconded to accept the following gift/donation:

- Paper Mill Elementary School, Fossil Connoisseur, Inc, \$1,895.00  
(return of funds due to COVID-19)

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

b. Other:

Superintendent Czaporowski provided an update regarding chrome books, kindergarten screening, and Google tutorial classrooms for parents/guardians.

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

16. School Committee update: Bo Sullivan thanked the principals at Abner Gibbs and Highland Elementary School for the desks that were loaned for use at the Boys & Girls Club.

17. Items for referral to subcommittee: none

18. Old business: none

19. Subcommittee Reports/Recommendations

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

20. Other items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting:

15. Next regular School Committee meeting: September 21, 2020

At 9:02 pm Heather Sullivan moved, Bo Sullivan seconded to adjourn 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 | X        |                        |
| Ramon Diaz       | X        |                        |
| Tim O'Connor     | X        |                        |
| Chairman Humason | <u>X</u> |                        |
|                  | 7        | <u>0</u> motion passes |

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

A true copy, Attest:

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Cindy Sullivan, secretary  
Westfield School Committee

CS/cm