

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN □ PAXTON □ PRINCETON □ RUTLAND □ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1350

Monday, August 24, 2020  
7:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

*Wachusett Regional School District Committee*

Megan Weeks, Chair	Matthew Lavoie
Michael Dennis, Vice-chair	Linda Long-Bellil
Melissa Ayala	Kenneth Mills
Nicole Amos	Benjamin Mitchel
Krista Bennett	Karl Ottmar
Scott Brown	Deidre Shapiro
Maleah Gustafson (7:06 PM)	Asima Silva
Sherrie Haber	Christina Smith
Jeffrey Haynes	Kelly Williamson
Robert Imber	Linda Woodland
Laura Kirshenbaum	Adam Young (8:15 PM)

*Committee Members Absent:*

None

*Administration Present:*

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools  
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent  
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources  
Brendan Keenan, Director of Social Emotional Learning  
Christine Smith, Administrator of Special Education  
Barry Sclar, Supervisor of Information Technology  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

Kenichi Gomi    Kathryn Mangus

Chair Weeks called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Chair Weeks announced the meeting was being conducted remotely, via Google Meet, and is being broadcast live on HCTV. Members of the public could also access the meeting via YouTube. Chair Weeks also spoke about members of the public submitting comments to [questions@wrsd.net](mailto:questions@wrsd.net), and she also mentioned there will be a second Public Hearing towards the end of the meeting.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Weeks read aloud public comments submitted electronically.

Mary Shepherd, WREA President (attachment 1)

Jim Brigham (attachment 2)

Benjamin Trudell, WRHS incoming senior (attachment 3)

Kim Bembenek, Jefferson resident (attachment 4)

Celia Barton (attachment 5)

Anonymous (attachment 6)

Chair Weeks explained to members of the public there will be a second opportunity to voice questions and comments.

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Weeks addressed the Committee.

III. Student Representatives (K. Gomi, K. Mangus)

Student Representative Mangus spoke about the upcoming freshman orientation. Student Representative Gomi is interested in what Superintendent McCall will be saying about sports, and will likely have questions after.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Weeks turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall. Superintendent McCall gave a general overview of information shared by the state and DESE. Superintendent McCall acknowledged emails sent by WREA members. He also spoke about his virtual meeting with representatives from the Member Towns' Boards of Health. Superintendent McCall reported a survey will be going out seeking parent feedback about transportation and transitioning from remote to hybrid. Superintendent McCall spoke about recent grant applications that have been submitted. Superintendent McCall gave members an update on planned professional development which will be provided and available in advance of students beginning the school year.

Superintendent McCall reported on a MIAA meeting, held this date, and how high school athletics might look for the 2020-2021 school year. Superintendent McCall outlined the proposed athletic schedule for the coming year, including what "pod" Wachusett would fall into and which schools athletic competitions

would be against. Superintendent McCall explained middle school athletics would not be offered in the 2020-2021 school year. At the conclusion of Superintendent McCall's report about high school athletics, Chair Weeks opened the floor to questions.

Student Representative Gomi asked for clarification about which schools would be in the "pod" that Wachusett would play against.

Member Haynes asked if Jennifer Lynch, Curriculum Specialist Athletics, could be invited to the next School Committee meeting, because there are specific questions about opening up athletics for the coming school year.

Member Imber questioned the proposed athletics schedule for the coming year, asking if July 3<sup>rd</sup> is the proposed conclusion to the spring season. Member Imber also had questions about masks and who would be required to wear masks and how much masks would need to be worn.

Member Haber commented about requirements for wearing masks, which is specifically outlined in a document that can be found on the MIAA website.

Member Kirshenbaum spoke about the chronic underfunding of districts by the state. Member Kirshenbaum is awaiting an updated schedule of education/classes during the remote model. Member Kirshenbaum is in support of opening sports, with safety measures being adhered to. Superintendent McCall spoke about the proposed remote model schedule, and also spoke about the lack of funds experienced for many years, prohibiting implementation of many programs and online opportunities. Superintendent McCall explained that Wednesday afternoons will be used as time for professional development, especially with regard to remote teaching/learning.

Member Lavoie's opinion is that there is ample information to allow sports to be offered. Member Lavoie spoke about parents who replied to a survey, opting for the hybrid model. Member Lavoie asked that the Committee take a look at who Committee members are supporting, the residents of the five Member Towns.

Member Long-Bellil expressed her concern about the slow pace transitioning to hybrid and if this pace could be accelerated.

Motion: To require the Superintendent to submit a plan on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September to accelerate the timeline to the transition to hybrid learning

(L. Long-Bellil)  
(R. Imber)

Vice-chair Dennis called a point of order, explaining that it is practice that motions to be acted upon by the School Committee be included on the meeting agenda in advance of the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the August 10, 2020 vote of the School Committee in support of the 2020-2021 School Reopening Plan. Discussion ensued about parliamentary procedure and that a

motion to reconsider is an option at the same meeting a motion is made and voted upon. Chair Weeks re-read the motion on the floor. Point of order was made that once a motion is made, the motion belongs to “the body” and not to the maker of the motion. Discussion continued, with the suggestion made that the Superintendent provide an update on the reopening plan and a timeline for transitioning from remote to hybrid at the next meeting of the School Committee. Member Imber explained the motion is requesting a plan and information, by a certain deadline. Many members shared comments and participated in the discussion. Member Long-Bellil explained she is requesting a plan and a timeline with specificity. She further explained she does not assume that the Committee would approve a plan, she just wants to see something with more specificity that can be evaluated. Superintendent McCall said the timeframe, in the motion, can be dealt with and met.

8:15 PM Member Young joined the meeting.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Michael Dennis  
Nicole Amos  
Sherrie Haber  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Robert Imber  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil

*Opposed:*

Melissa Ayala  
Krista Bennett  
Scott Brown  
Maleah Gustafson  
Laura Kirshenbaum  
Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Karl Ottmar  
Deidre Shapiro  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland

*Abstained:*

Megan Weeks  
Adam Young

The motion failed 7-13-2

Member Mills requested information, to be provided at a later time, about learning time expected of students and school day schedules; what is planned for the ten days of professional development; ChromeBook distribution and the apps to be used; plans for special education and how students with the highest needs will be prioritized. He went on to request additional information that the Committee be kept apprised about the status of HVAC inspections; signage, carpeting, etc. needed in the school; the cleaning process to be used and the availability of disinfectants. He also voiced his opinion that a Committee vote on high school athletics cannot wait until the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the School Committee. Lastly, he asked about the survey that will go to parents about hybrid and if families would need bus transportation, and he asked if parent responses to the survey would be binding, which does not seem reasonable

Member Mitchel voice his opinion that there is not enough information for parents to make an informed decisions about hybrid.

Member Ottmar had questions about HVAC systems in the schools, the status of PPE on hand and what has been order, the status of sanitizer and dispensing stations, the status of District's policies/procedures for testing and communicating to parents about positive results.

Member Shapiro had hoped more detailed information would have been provided in the Superintendent's Report. She also mentioned that a vote on athletics on September 14<sup>th</sup> would be too late.

Member Silva commented she did not feel enough information had been provided to vote on athletics. She also had questions about the amount of screen time during remote and hybrid.

Member Williamson spoke about the many emails from WREA members and would like to see what is being done to address these specific concerns.

Member Woodland asked about facilities that might be used during fall sports and what cleaning will be required/done. She requested an update/additional information about the remote model for elementary students, because these students need more support from parents/caregivers.

Member Amos would appreciate seeing more information about other activities, other than sports.

Member Ayala worries about students and spectators congregating at and after sporting events.

Member Bennett voiced that the arts and other activities are important, as well as sports.

Member Brown stressed that strict guidelines will need to be put in place at sporting events.

Vice-chair Dennis commented that in the absence of information, people create their own narratives. There have been a number of requests made for administration to outline curricular impacts when remote as well as when in a hybrid model. If curricular impact will be none, which he feels is unlikely, he asked that the School Committee be told. When asked, Superintendent McCall reported that there has been no outreach from DESE about the reopening plan that has been submitted.

Member Gustafson listed information she would like to see about staffing, staff reductions, in addition to Food Service staff, building status, special education and compensatory services, HVAC evaluation, technology support plans for teachers and families, the budget. She had several additional questions about special education services and plans for these students.

Member Haber has issues with the lack of communication.

Student Representative Gomi asked why middle school sports will not be offered, to which Superintendent McCall responded athletics at the middle school level was not a part of that decision making. Student Representative Gomi asked when students would be receiving their schedules, and Deputy Superintendent Berlo responded schedules would be available soon.

Student Representative Mangus asked when the last day of school would be for seniors, which is never listed on the school calendar.

Vice-chair Dennis requested of the administration data about those students who have elected to school choice out, will be out-of-District, and will be homeschooled for the 2020-2021 school year and how this data compares to the last two years.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To approve the amended 2020-2021 School Calendar.

(S. Brown)

(J. Haynes)

Chair Weeks projected the draft amended school calendar, and Superintendent McCall spoke to the amended calendar (attachment 7). Chair Weeks opened the floor to questions about the calendar. Member Mills commented that the Wednesday schedule and explanation are confusing. He also noted that it is important to recognize this calendar might need to be fluid, considering how the year may play out. Member Bennett noticed that Wachusett is still celebrating Columbus Day, and asked if this could it be changed. Superintendent McCall said this could be considered. Member Gustafson asked if School Committee would need to vote on the renaming of Columbus Day and if that would hold up the vote on this calendar. Superintendent McCall explained that Columbus Day is the official title. Chair Weeks will reach out to Senator Gobi and Representative Ferguson about the title Columbus Day.

Motion: To include teacher start and end dates, and replace Columbus Day with “State Holiday” on the amended 2020-2021 school calendar.

(R. Imber)

(K. Bennett)

Discussion about the proposed edits to the draft amended school calendar ensued.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Megan Weeks  
Michael Dennis  
Nicole Amos  
Melissa Ayala  
Krista Bennett  
Scott Brown  
Maleah Gustafson  
Sherrie Haber  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Robert Imber  
Laura Kirshenbaum  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Karl Ottmar  
Deidre Shapiro  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the amended 2020-2021 School Calendar, as edited by vote of the School Committee on August 24, 2020.

(S. Brown)

(J. Haynes)

Discussion about the 2020-2021 school calendar continued.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Megan Weeks

Michael Dennis  
Nicole Amos  
Melissa Ayala  
Krista Bennett  
Scott Brown  
Maleah Gustafson  
Sherrie Haber  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Robert Imber  
Laura Kirshenbaum  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Karl Ottmar  
Deidre Shapiro  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To support the Wachusett Regional School District's athletic programs being offered and conducted during the 2020-2021 school year, following the schedule and guidelines outlined by MIAA and DESE.

(M. Dennis)

(K. Mills)

Student Representative Gomi again asked about sports for middle school students, to which Superintendent McCall reported there will be no middle school sports offered at this time. Member Gustafson had questions about meeting safety guidelines. Member Mills would vote on the motion at this meeting, but would want to have more details provided. Member Woodland reiterated question from earlier asking if students, coaches, spectators would be in facilities/schools, which Superintendent McCall explained that Jennifer Lynch is working on this because athletes will need to be in the buildings to change, and that social distancing/safety will need to be observed. Member Woodland noted that this conversation is about fall only, but the motion addresses the full school year. Chair Weeks explained that DESE requires the vote be for the year and the vote cannot be broken down into seasons. Discussion continued, with many members participating. At Member Silva's inquiry, Chair Weeks again explained the vote is on sports/athletics for the full school year, which cannot be edited.



Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Michael Dennis  
Nicole Amos  
Melissa Ayala  
Scott Brown  
Sherrie Haber  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Robert Imber  
Laura Kirshenbaum  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Karl Ottmar  
Deidre Shapiro  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Asima Silva  
Christina Smith

*Abstained:*

Megan Weeks  
Krista Bennett  
Maleah Gustafson

The motion passed 17-2-3

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of #1349 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on August 10, 2020

(K. Mills)  
(A. Young)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Megan Weeks  
Michael Dennis  
Nicole Amos  
Melissa Ayala

Krista Bennett  
Scott Brown  
Maleah Gustafson  
Sherrie Haber  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Laura Kirshenbaum  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Karl Ottmar  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Deidre Shapiro  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*  
None

*Abstained:*  
Robert Imber

The minutes were approved 21-0-1.

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Weeks reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Director of Business and Finance's report that Members should contact the Superintendent; if there were questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, Members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Management Subcommittee (M. Weeks, Chair, M. Dennis, Vice-chair, S. Brown, K. Mills, C. Smith, A. Young)

Chair Weeks reported this subcommittee will meet on September 21, 2020.

- B. Education Subcommittee (C. Smith, Chair, L. Long-Bellil, Vice-chair, N. Amos, K. Bennett, S. Haber, R. Imber, L. Kirshenbaum, D. Shapiro)

Subcommittee Chair Smith reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 3813 *Policy Relating to Education Audio, Video and/or Stenographic Recordings of Parent Teacher*

***Conference and Team Meetings Audio, Video and/or Stenographic Recording of Meetings***, waiving the reading.

(C. Smith)  
(M. Lavoie)

Subcommittee Chair Smith spoke to the motion and the amendment to the policy.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Megan Weeks  
Michael Dennis  
Nicole Amos  
Melissa Ayala  
Krista Bennett  
Scott Brown  
Maleah Gustafson  
Sherrie Haber  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Robert Imber  
Laura Kirshenbaum  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Karl Ottmar  
Deidre Shapiro  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, K. Mills, Vice-chair, M. Gustafson, B. Mitchel, K. Ottmar)

Subcommittee Chair Dennis reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Brown, Chair, K. Ottmar, Vice-chair, R. Imber, K. Mills)

Subcommittee Chair Brown reported this subcommittee met on August 17, 2020 and the full Committee will be updated on negotiations with the bargaining units during executive session, at the conclusion of the regular School Committee meeting.

- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, L. Kirshenbaum, K. Williamson, L. Woodland)

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported this subcommittee has not yet met.

- F. Facilities and Security Subcommittee (A. Young, Chair, J. Haynes, Vice-chair, L. Woodland)

Subcommittee Chair Young reported on the subcommittee meeting on August 18, 2020.

Motion: To extend the meeting to 10:30 PM.

(A. Young)  
(L. Long-Bellil)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Megan Weeks  
Michael Dennis  
Nicole Amos  
Melissa Ayala  
Krista Bennett  
Scott Brown  
Maleah Gustafson  
Sherrie Haber  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Robert Imber  
Laura Kirshenbaum  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Karl Ottmar  
Deidre Shapiro  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Matthew Lavoie

The motion was approved 21-1.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 6612.3 *Policy Relating to Pupil Services Face Covering*, waiving the reading.

(A. Young)

(J. Haynes)

Subcommittee Chair Young spoke to the draft policy, explaining the draft policy has been reviewed by District Counsel. He reported the subcommittee voted unanimously to support this draft policy. Member Kirshenbaum noted a typographical error on the third bullet on the first bulleted list on page 1. She had questions about MIAA guidelines and DESE exemptions, to which Subcommittee Chair Young spoke. Member Gustafson had questions about what is considered an approved face covering i.e. masks/gators/other. Member Smith asked if the District would be providing face coverings, which Subcommittee Chair Young confirmed.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Megan Weeks  
Michael Dennis  
Nicole Amos  
Melissa Ayala  
Krista Bennett  
Scott Brown  
Maleah Gustafson  
Sherrie Haber  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Robert Imber  
Laura Kirshenbaum  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Karl Ottmar  
Deidre Shapiro  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

- G. Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee (A. Silva, Chair, L. Woodland, Vice-chair, N. Amos, M. Ayala, K. Bennett, S. Brown, M. Gustafson, J. Haynes, L. Kirshenbaum, L. Long-Bellil)

Subcommittee Chair Silva reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting

H. Audit Advisory Board (B. Mitchel, Chair, A. Young, Vice-chair)

AAB Chair Mitchel reported the AAB has not met since the last School Committee meeting and is waiting for feedback from administration before scheduling the next meeting

Chair Weeks reached out to Sterling for a member to sit on the Audit Advisory Board.

I. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

J. Building Committees

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Lavoie), Chocksett Middle School (K. Williamson), Davis Hill Elementary School (K. Williamson), Dawson Elementary School (L. Kirshenbaum), Glenwood Elementary School (N. Amos), Houghton Elementary School (D. Shapiro), Mayo Elementary School (A. Young), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (S. Haber), Paxton Center School (K. Ottmar), Thomas Prince School (A. Silva), Wachusett Regional High School (K. Mills), Early Childhood Center (L. Woodland), Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) (M. Gustafson)

No School Council reports were made.

IX. Public Hearing

Anonymous (attachment 9)

Michelle Lagana (attachment 10)

Shannon Simpson (attachment 11)

Jennifer Lefferts (attachment 12)

Kim Bembenek (attachment 13)

Catherine and Brian Kiernan, 11 Woodridge Drive, Sterling (attachment 14)

Aileen Thurber, WRSD SLP (attachment 15)

X. Open Meeting Law Complaint

Chair Weeks called members' attention to an Open Meeting Law Complaint that was filed by Member Lavoie on August 12, 2020. Chair Weeks walked through this process, especially for the new members. Chair Weeks projected the complaint and read aloud, for the record, the complaint filed by Member Lavoie (attachment 8). Chair Weeks explained that Attorney Stonberg had provided an opinion and direction to address this complaint. Member Lavoie addressed the Committee. Member Bennett addressed the Committee. Member Dennis addressed the Committee.

Motion: To accept the opinion of District Counsel Stonberg and that a letter of response be written to Matthew Lavoie, and a copy sent to the Office of the Attorney General.

Motion: To extend the meeting to 11:00 PM.

(J. Haynes)  
(L. Long-Bellil)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Megan Weeks  
Michael Dennis  
Nicole Amos  
Melissa Ayala  
Krista Bennett  
Scott Brown  
Maleah Gustafson  
Sherrie Haber  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Robert Imber  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Karl Ottmar  
Deidre Shapiro  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Laura Kirshenbaum  
Matthew Lavoie

The motion was approved 20-2.

Discussion on the motion on the floor continued. Member Lavoie removed himself from the conversation.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Michael Dennis  
Nicole Amos  
Melissa Ayala  
Scott Brown  
Maleah Gustafson  
Sherrie Haber  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Robert Imber  
Laura Kirshenbaum  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Karl Ottmar  
Deidre Shapiro  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Megan Weeks  
Krista Bennett

The motion was approved 19-0-2.

XI. New Business

Member Mills asked about administration's plan to address requests for additional information.

Chair Weeks announced she would be in favor of calling a Special Meeting for August 31, 2020.

Vice-chair Dennis asked how Superintendent McCall can and/or will address questions asked in public comment.

Member Gustafson asked if the Superintendent will be able to provide the requested information for a special meeting on August 31, 2020.

XII. Executive Session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with three bargaining units (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants; Teamsters Union Local 170 (paraprofessionals); Wachusett Administrators' Association), and to report on progress of



negotiations with the Wachusett Regional Education Association, Inc. (WREA) on 2020-2021 school reopening, as the Chair deems a discussion in public session would have an adverse effect on the District's bargaining position, not to return to public session.

Motion: To enter executive session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with three bargaining units (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants; Teamsters Union Local 170 (paraprofessionals); Wachusett Administrators' Association), and to report on progress of negotiations with the Wachusett Regional Education Association, Inc. (WREA) on 2020-2021 school reopening, as the Chair deems a discussion in public session would have an adverse effect on the District's bargaining position, not to return to public session.

(K. Mills)

(S. Brown)

10:40 PM chair Weeks left the meeting.

10:40 PM Member Mitchel left the meeting.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Michael Dennis  
Nicole Amos  
Melissa Ayala  
Krista Bennett  
Scott Brown  
Maleah Gustafson  
Sherrie Haber  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Robert Inber  
Laura Kirshenbaum  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Kenneth Mills  
Karl Ottmar  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Deidre Shapiro  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 10:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – email from Mary Shepherd
- Attachment 2 – email from Jim Brigham
- Attachment 3 – email from Benjamin Trudell
- Attachment 4 – email from Kim Bembenek
- Attachment 5 – email from Celia Barton
- Attachment 6 – email from Anonymous
- Attachment 7 – Draft Amended 2020-2021 School Calendar
- Attachment 8 – OML Complaint
- Attachment 9 – email form Anonymous
- Attachment 10 – email from Michelle Lagana
- Attachment 11 – email from Shannon Simpson
- Attachment 12 – email from Jennifer Lefferts
- Attachment 13 – email from Kim Bembenek
- Attachment 14 – email from Catherine and Brian Kiernan
- Attachment 15 – email from Aileen Thurber



Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: Public Comment

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:11 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **President WREA** <presidentwrea@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 6:54 PM

Subject: Public Comment

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Good Evening, my name is Mary Shepherd, president of the Wachusett Regional Education Association, 1320 Wachusett Street, Jefferson. As a teacher we are on the frontlines daily with our students, exploring, thinking, responding, questioning, and creating. It is a very special place where we experience everything the universe has to offer; from challenges to successes, from sadness to joy, and from privilege to kindness. Many times in my classroom, I must stop this process. I must stop the process for the only thing that is more important than making art during art class. I must stop everything for the safety of everyone in the art room. There are risks in kids spinning rulers or mishandling scissors. Even unsafe voice volume stops my teaching and makes me take pause for something greater than the lesson itself. Ensuring we are all safe.

If you haven't heard, there is a MTA Campaign #OnlyWhenItsSafe. As teachers, we are thinking of the safety and well being of our students and ourselves as we move to return to our school buildings. I am an art teacher and not a biology

We take roughly twenty thousand breaths a day, we all deserve to breathe easy.

*The contents of this e-mail, and any attachments, are the property of the Wachusett Regional School District, and subject to the Public Records Law, M.G.L. c.66, § 10.*



Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: Fall Athletics

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:11 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jim Brigham** <jbrig03@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 6:50 PM

Subject: Fall Athletics

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Dear School Committee Members,

I understand that the WRSD School Committee will be voting on whether or not WRHS will participate in fall sports while under remote learning status. I believe fall athletics should be offered to our students in conjunction with MIAA safety standards and guidelines. Local town and club athletic organizations have successfully held clinics, practices and games this summer while using safety standards similar to those adopted by the MIAA. These events have occurred without significant COVID 19 outbreaks and have provided a greatly needed outlet for many kids. Given the success at the town and club level and the framework provided by the MIAA, I believe we can safely offer athletics to our students this fall and provide them with a much needed move towards normalcy. I believe this is important to their mental and emotional health. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Best regards,

Jim

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: 2020 Schedule

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:11 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Benjamin Trudell** <BenjaminTrudell21@wrsdk12.net>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 6:25 PM

Subject: 2020 Schedule

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

From: Benjamin Trudell (Wachusett Senior).

Dear Ms. Weeks, Chair of WRSD School Committee

I wholeheartedly suggest that the 2020 timeframe be altered to allow seniors and freshmen to return to the building in the second semester instead of the first. The reopening proposal suggests that students will vacate online school by November, when most likely quarantine will be ramping up rapidly by then. With that being said, a quarantine in November equates to a full year of online school for seniors and freshmen who deserve to be in the school most. Freshmen need some sort of early in school connection or else their future high school career will become very uncertain. And while remote learning is inevitable at some time, if every staff member and student could get at least 1 month in the school it would benefit the district and the wellbeing of everyone. As someone who has done 30 days of Zoom meetings for the R.M.V, I know how soulless online learning can be and it should not be given for an entire year.

With great thanks to the board for their hard work during these unsure times, I once more ask that Seniors and freshmen may have the building during the second semester. This action would benefit the students who need the building most and aid the district as a whole.

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: Comments for 8/24 meeting

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:11 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kim Bembenek** <kimbembenek@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 6:16 PM

Subject: Comments for 8/24 meeting

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

I have already asked you to open the schools in September for our children so they can get back to living their life and learning. Tonight I'm writing on behalf of my 3 kids and all those who play sports or take part in any other extracurricular activities.

We all know academics is the most important part of school. What drives many of our students to do the best they can academically is having the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities.

School is not a choice, extracurricular activities are. The committee will be taking away student choice if you do not allow the WRSD students to participate in sports this fall season and school year. If parents and students are uncomfortable with their child participating, they can opt out, let it be a family choice.

There have been many safety measures put in place, and the positive benefits of sports and other extra curricular activities outweigh the risks.

Please approve sports for our high school students tonight.

Kim Bembenek  
Jefferson, MA

Sent from my iPhone

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: Fall sports/extra curricular activities

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:11 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **celia barton** <bartonc12268@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 6:15 PM

Subject: Fall sports/extra curricular activities

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

I would like to know how the School Committee and WRSD are allowing practices for contact and non-contact sports to take place during the shut down, especially if the program has been canceled or postponed. Why are coaches allowed to call fall practices when school is forced to function remotely?

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

**Fwd: Remote Start to the 2020-2021 Concerns**

1 message

**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:11 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted]  
Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 3:19 PM  
Subject: Remote Start to the 2020-2021 Concerns  
To: questions@wrsd.net <questions@wrsd.net>

Dear Dr. McCall and School Committee Members,

I am a graduate of WRHS and am writing to thank you for voting to have a fully remote return to school this fall. Please do not change this.

My sister is a student in the district and my mother is a district educator with underlying health issues, so this decision is of great concern to me. Having watched many meetings on this topic of return to learning, I agree that a remote start is the only way to keep students, staff, and the community as a whole safe during this everchanging COVID-19 time.

Though Governor Baker and DESE are pushing for in-person starts in places where the incidence of the virus is "low," we have seen over and over again how rapidly the virus spreads when we put so many people together for extended periods. All it takes is one case, and the domino effect begins.

=====

On a separate note, regarding a time when all can return to school, I want to ask Dr. McCall why he changed his mind from his former stance of having staff and students 6 feet apart as the CDC advises for safety? Lives depend on this decision. The new Wachusett plan states 3 - 6 feet apart. Students and staff MUST be 6 feet apart for mask breaks, snack time, and lunch (the reasoning behind Dr. McCall's comments a few meetings back when he recommended 6 feet at all times). With the 6-foot rule applied to everyday life (grocery stores, restaurants, etc.), I wonder why can't we side with the CDC and why students and staff are an exception to this widely accepted, and state-enforced rule? Boston public schools have planned for 6 feet apart at all times. We all know that young children may remove masks on their own for any number of



# Wachusett Regional School District

## School Calendar 2020-2021

### First and Last Days of School

First Day of School	Sep 16
First Day of Kindergarten	Sep 16
Last Day of Kindergarten*	June 11
170th Day of school (Gr 1-12)**	June 17
175th Day of School (Gr 1-12)**	June 24

\*Pending snow days

\*\* The district is required to provide a school calendar with 175 days of school scheduled. The last day of school will be a half-day whenever it occurs.

### Staff Development Days / Meetings

Full Day	TBD
Full Day	Nov 3
Full Day	May 10
Half-Day	Every Wednesday*
Half-Day	Last Day of School

\*See Wednesday Exceptions

### Holidays and Vacations

Labor Day	Sep 7
Columbus Day	Oct 12
Veterans' Day	Nov 11
Thanksgiving Recess	Nov 25 - 27
Winter Recess	Dec 24 - Jan 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan 18
February Recess	Feb 15 - 19
April Recess	Apr 19 - 23
Memorial Day	May 31

### Wednesday Exceptions

Due to scheduled holidays or Staff Development days in the same week, full school days will be held on:

Oct 14, Nov 4, Jan 20, May 12, June 2

DRAFT - Amended 8/18/2020

**JULY**

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

**AUGUST**

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

**SEPTEMBER**

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

**OCTOBER**

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

**NOVEMBER**

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

**DECEMBER**

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

**JANUARY**

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

**FEBRUARY**

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

**MARCH**

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

**APRIL**

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

**MAY**

M	T	W	T	F
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10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

**JUNE**

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Office of the Attorney General  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

## OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

### Instructions for completing the Open Meeting Law Complaint Form

The Attorney General's Division of Open Government interprets and enforces the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws, Sections 18-25. Below is the procedure for filing and responding to an Open Meeting Law complaint.

#### Instructions for filing a complaint:

- o Fill out the attached two-page form completely. Sign and date the second page. File the complaint with the public body within 30 days of the alleged violation. If the violation was not reasonably discoverable at the time it occurred, you must file the complaint within 30 days of the date the violation was reasonably discoverable. A violation that occurs during an open session of a meeting is reasonably discoverable on the date of the meeting.
- o To file the complaint:
  - o For a local or municipal public body, you must submit a copy of the complaint to the chair of the public body AND to the municipal clerk.
  - o For all other public bodies, you must submit a copy of the complaint to the chair of the public body.
  - o Complaints may be filed by mail, by email, or by hand. Please retain a copy for your records.
- o If the public body does not respond within 14 business days and does not request an extension to respond, contact the Division for further assistance.

#### Instructions for a public body that receives a complaint:

- o The chair must disseminate the complaint to the members of the public body.
- o The public body must meet to review the complaint within 14 business days (usually 20-22 calendar days).
- o After review, but within 14 business days, the public body must respond to the complaint in writing and must send the complainant a response and a description of any action the public body has taken to address the allegations in the complaint. At the same time, the body must send the Attorney General a copy of the complaint and a copy of the response. The public body may delegate this responsibility to an individual member of the public body, its counsel, or a staff member, but only after the public body has met to review the complaint.
- o If a public body requires more time to review the complaint and respond, it may request an extension of time for good cause by contacting the Division of Open Government.

#### Once the public body has responded to the complaint:

- o If you are not satisfied with the public body's response to your complaint, you may file a copy of the complaint with the Division by mail, by email, or by hand, but only once you have waited for 30 days after filing the complaint with the public body. Mail may be sent to: The Division of Open Government, Office of the Attorney General, One Ashburton Place - 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02108. Emails may be sent to: [openmeeting@state.ma.us](mailto:openmeeting@state.ma.us).
- o When you file your complaint with the Division, please include the complaint form and all documentation relevant to the alleged violation. You may wish to attach a cover letter explaining why the public body's response does not adequately address your complaint.
- o The Division will not review complaints filed with us more than 90 days after the violation, unless we granted an extension to the public body or you can demonstrate good cause for the delay.

If you have questions concerning the Open Meeting Law complaint process, we encourage you to contact the Division of Open Government by phone at (617) 963-2540 or by email at [openmeeting@state.ma.us](mailto:openmeeting@state.ma.us).



## OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Office of the Attorney General  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

Please note that all fields are required unless otherwise noted.

### Your Contact Information:

First Name: Matthew Last Name: Lavoie

Address: 28 Grizzly Drive

City: Rutland State: MA Zip Code: 01543

Phone Number: 857.891.6164 Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Email: matthew\_lavoie@wrsd.net

Organization or Media Affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you filing the complaint in your capacity as an individual, representative of an organization, or media?

(For statistical purposes only)

Individual  Organization  Media

### Public Body that is the subject of this complaint:

City/Town  County  Regional/District  State

Name of Public Body (including city/town, county or region, if applicable): Wachusett Regional School District School Committee

Specific person(s), if any, you allege committed the violation: Krista Bennett

Date of alleged violation: August 11, 2020

## Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Note: This text field has a maximum of 3000 characters.

The Wachusett Regional School District School Committee (WRSDSC) met in Open Session on August 10, 2020. During deliberation, the Superintendent of WRSD was asked about feedback on a plan submitted to DESE.

The Superintendent indicated his conversation with DESE would not take place until the following day, and after that conversation, the Superintendent would email the full School Committee details of that conversation. The Superintendent sent an email to the School Committee on August 11, 2020.

DESE and Commissioner Jeff Riley indicated feedback was essential for School Committees to receive to eventually vote. Per the Worcester Telegram and Gazette: 'Speaking during a Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce panel on school reopenings, Riley said his department will return feedback to districts on their plans this week so school committees can vote on reopening plans.'

The information in the email from the Superintendent can be deliberated in a future scheduled open meeting of the WRSDSC.

The MGL Open Meeting Law Guide states: 'Note that the expression of an opinion on matters within the body's jurisdiction to a quorum of a public body is a deliberation, even if no other public body member responds. If a member of a public body sends an email to a quorum of a public body expressing their opinion on a matter that could come before that body, this communication violated the law, even if none of the recipients respond.'

Rather than wait for that meeting to share a deliberating opinion, a member of the deliberating body, Member Krista Bennett, replied to all members of the school committee with a deliberating opinion on the initial email. The email stated: 'This is great'.

While some members may have differing deliberating opinions, the action of replying all has violated Open Meeting Law by preventing the public body and deliberating body from hearing this during a scheduled legal open meeting.

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

Note: This text field has a maximum of 500 characters.

The Chair of WRSDSC has warned the deliberating body multiple times (both in writing and verbally in open meetings, including a warning on August 10, 2010 about violating the open meeting law. Member Bennett may benefit from undergoing in depth OML training and MASC training for newly elected School Committee members

## Review, sign, and submit your complaint

### I. Disclosure of Your Complaint.

**Public Record.** Under most circumstances, your complaint, and any documents submitted with your complaint, is considered a public record and will be available to any member of the public upon request.

**Publication to Website.** As part of the Open Data Initiative, the AGO will publish to its website certain information regarding your complaint, including your name and the name of the public body. The AGO will not publish your contact information.

### II. Consulting With a Private Attorney.

The AGO cannot give you legal advice and is not able to be your private attorney, but represents the public interest. If you have any questions concerning your individual legal rights or responsibilities you should contact a private attorney.

### III. Submit Your Complaint to the Public Body.

The complaint must be filed first with the public body. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Open Government by calling (617) 963-2540 or by email to [openmeeting@state.ma.us](mailto:openmeeting@state.ma.us).

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the provisions above and certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: Matthew Lavoie

Date: August 12, 2020

For Use By Public Body

Date Received by Public Body:

For Use By AGO

Date Received by AGO:



Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: In person music

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:10 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 7:33 PM  
Subject: In person music  
To: questions@wrsd.net <questions@wrsd.net>

Anonymous

If we can vote on sports

What about in-person band?

Just as kids need their sports

A lot of kids need their musical connection

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: Survey

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:10 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **S&M Lagana** <teamlagana@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 7:35 PM

Subject: Survey

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Can you please ask the question in the survey in a way as to not promote bias.

How do you want you child to be educated in the fall?

In person, hybrid, remote learning.

Please list the hours children will have time on learning that is accurate.

In person 4-5 hours a day for 5 days

Hybrid 4-5 hours a day for 2 days and 3 hours a day for 3 days

Remote 3 hours a day only

Thank you,  
Michelle

Sent from my iPhone

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: Question

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:10 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **S&M Lagana** <teamlagana@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 7:33 PM

Subject: Question

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

With the positive numbers being almost 0 in our district and the Governor putting us in the "White" category. What is the district waiting for? A vaccine? That could take years. Do the kids not attend in person learning for 2-3 years? What is the districts end goal? Is this all political?

Sent from my iPhone

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: Comment

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:10 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shannon Simpson** <shannonlorelisimpson@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 8:03 PM

Subject: Comment

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Good evening,

I cannot tell you how furious I am about this seemingly self-serving school committee. How dare you sit there in your ZOOM MEETING and tell teachers and staff to accelerate hybrid? Your overreach is astounding. You go meet in person. Sit in a small room with sneezing and coughing kids and then decide if it's safe. Why are you causing all of this grief? It's all set! The families on the common, stomping their feet trying to get their way shouldn't change a five town community decision!! Leave it alone and stop thinking parents ever had a choice. The directive was that parents could choose remote if we went hybrid, not that they could pick and choose what they wanted. It's important that you can understand written documents. Leave it remote. Leave it alone and stop trying to get your way from the safety of your own home.

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: Sports

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:10 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jennifer Lefferts** <jflefferts@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 9:24 PM

Subject: Sports

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Hello,

Does the sports plan call for freshmen and JV teams as well as varsity?

Thank you,  
Jennifer Lefferts

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: Question

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:10 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kim Bembenek** <kimbembenek@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 9:33 PM

Subject: Question

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Please consider allowing at least 2 parents(some children have more) attend games, especially the sports being held outdoors. Parents of seniors, like myself, would really love to see our seniors play their last year of sports. Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: Questions

1 message

---

**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:10 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
Chair WRSD School Committee  
Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Catherine Kiernan** <conchteacher1@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 9:47 PM

Subject: Questions

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Hello,

I have two questions. My daughter was taking strings at Chocksett Middle School. She enjoyed this very much, and was doing well. I understand that strings and band have been cut. Is there a reason for this? Does the district continue to operate on a 1/12th budget? It's my understanding that chapter 70 funding has come through and is more than last year. If so, why have these programs been cut and why haven't the teachers in tier 2 cuts been called back?

Thank you,

Catherine and Brian Kiernan  
11 Ridgewood Drive Sterling

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

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## Fwd: Question/comment for school committee mtg - 8/24

1 message

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**Megan Weeks** <megan\_weeks@wrsd.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 8:09 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca\_petersen@wrsd.net>

Megan K Weeks, M.Ed  
 Chair WRSD School Committee  
 Assistant Principal, Murdock High School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Aileen Thurber** <aileenw@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 9:51 PM

Subject: Fwd: Question/comment for school committee mtg - 8/24

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Good evening, my name is Aileen Thurber, and I'm a speech-language pathologist in the district. I will be entering my 14th year working at the Early Childhood Center in Jefferson.

Year after year, the ECC continuously gets omitted from any public discussions that the staff who work there and the families of children who attend there would find pertinent. For example, just this year, when the district presented their re-opening plan a few weeks ago, the ECC was not once mentioned, nor was one sentence on a slide dedicated to us. Even tonight, when administration was discussing working on developing the PD for the first 10 days, the high school, middle schools, and elementary schools were briefly named. The ECC again was not mentioned. On the school calendar presented tonight, it lists the first and last days for kindergarten and grades 1-12. But nothing for preschool.

The ECC has 16 WREA members, roughly 35 paraprofessionals and staff members and, by the end of a typical year, 170 children that participate in our program. Not only does omitting us from public discussions make us feel unimportant, but disrespected, especially if you hope and expect us to be the first staff to re-enter your schools and work in-person with children.