

Board of Education
September 9, 2025

The special session meeting was live streamed on COX channel 16 or Frontier channel 6101 and may also be viewed on: YouTube® Channel, “Wethersfield Government Access TV” at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfuf-C0gYVVxmD5iIfFTnsQ>

The Wethersfield Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was streamed from Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway. The following Board members were present: Ms. Callan-Carson, Mr. Carey, Mrs. Di Roberts, Ms. Hernandez-Williams, Mr. Reilly, Ms. Walters, Mr. Weiner, Vice Chairperson Laccavole, and Chairperson Granato. **Also present were:** Superintendent of Wethersfield Public Schools, Jeff Wihbey; WPS Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote; Business Manager, Matt Kozaka; WPS; WPS Director of Special Education, John Karzar; and WHS Student Representative, Anushka Gandhi. Members of the public were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

WHS Student Representative, Anushka Gandhi led the meeting group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Student/Staff Recognitions/Presentations

Mrs. Granato introduced and welcomed the Board of Education 2025-2026 WHS Student Representative, Anushka Gandhi. Ms. Gandhi thanked the Board for her opportunity to serve and commented on what has been happening since the commencement of this school year in terms of First Day the Eagle Way, senior class privileges (paint parking spot), academic (AP courses), club (Eagle Crew, Changemakers), and sports programs at WHS, the anticipation of events (Tribute Wall), while noting the excitement for this school year.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. August 26, 2025 Board of Education Regular Session Meeting

Ms. Callan Carson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Session Meeting of August 26, 2025, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Weiner and VOTED unanimously.

4. Public Comment

There were no comments made by members of the public during this portion of the meeting.

5. Communications

There were no communications provided.

6. Action Items

a. Recommended Motion: Policies for Second Read and Approval:

i. Mandated Policy 5175, Connecticut School Climate

ii. Mandated Policy 5650, Restorative Practices Response

Mr. Laccavole MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve **Policy # 5175-Connecticut School Climate** and **Policy #5650-Restorative Practices Response**. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Carey and VOTED unanimously.

b. Recommended Motion: Creation of Executive Search Committee for the position of Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Reilly MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education establish the Wethersfield Board of Education as the Assistant Superintendent Search Committee. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Carey and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mr. Carey, Mr. Laccavole, and Ms. Walters commented. Superintendent Wihbey and Interim Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Paddyfote also commented.

7. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Announcements/Information

September 5, 2025 Memo from Jeffrey Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools to Wethersfield Board of Education containing: 1) Board of Education Sub-Committee Schedule, rev. 09.03.2025; 2) Dates to Remember – September 2025

b. District Reports:

i. Facilities Report

The September 4, 2025 communication from Superintendent Wihbey noted Wethersfield Facilities and Physical Services performed health and safety remediation, infrastructure repair, learning environment enhancements, and systems maintenance work in the school buildings over the summer. This work was completed for the start of this academic year. Superintendent Wihbey included comments about what drove this work, reactive maintenance impact on educational quality, and a long-term strategy for the facilities. This communication included a full list of projects in each school building for Board member review and discussion.

ii. Vacancy Report

This September 4, 2025 communication from Superintendent Wihbey provided staff turnover data in response to Board of Education request.

iii. Enrollment Report

This communication from Superintendent Wihbey provided WPS Elementary and Secondary School enrollment numbers as of September 4, 2025.

iv. Board of Education Workflow & Meeting Process

This September 4, 2025 communication from Superintendent Wihbey noted his recommendation to review the current workflow and frequency of BOE and subcommittee meetings. Action steps for Board contemplation were included in this communication. Two options for governance meeting options (created with CT General Assembly guidance pertaining to education boards, Wethersfield BOE Bylaws and policies, and a review of BOE and subcommittee meeting occurrences in neighboring towns, as guidance) were also provided in this communication. Discussion was welcomed with these matters. Additionally, there were recommendations made for Committees (Finance and Operations, Personnel and Negotiations, Curriculum and Student Planning, Policy, Communications and Community Outreach).

8. Board of Education

a. Meetings Held

Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative (WECC) – Annual Meeting (09.08.25 @ 5:30 p.m.- postponed to 09.22.2025)

b. Meetings Scheduled

i. Finance & Operations Committee (09.23.25)

ii. Human Resources & Personnel Committee (09.15.25):

iii. CREC Council (09.17.25)

9. Public Comment

There were no comments made by the Public during this portion of the meeting.

10. Board Comment

Ms. Hernandez-William commented favorably of her experience with becoming involved with the Committee for the Traveling War Memorial Wall. This monument will be at Cove Park from September 10-14, and a schedule of presentations from many perspectives will be offered. She considers this great community event as a field trip opportunity for students and noted that teachers are working to help in that regard. Ms. Hernandez-Williams presented Superintendent Wihbey with books in a camouflage bag given by Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Dorena Federici. Friday, September 12th, Superintendent Wihbey is scheduled to read to kids at this event in the late afternoon. Thursday, September 11th, Mrs. Granato and Ms. Hernandez-Williams are scheduled to read at this event.

Mrs. Granato described the Wall Tribute as a dramatic and moving. She suggested a book called “The Wall” as a good read for younger children to learn about the Vietnam War Memorial, causes of war, and producing peace. She will read the book at the event and asked everyone to join the volunteers in uncovering the moving tale behind the wall and discover how honoring the past shapes our future.

Ms. Callan Carson commented on her and Superintendent Wihbey’s attendance at the first Wethersfield Schools Parent Council (WSPC) meeting of the school year and explained the purpose and focus of the group. There is representation from each school in the district at the meeting that are held at Central Office the first Thursday of every month. Parents are welcome to attend and observe if preferred. During a typical meeting, Superintendent Wihbey provides a report. The group then discusses what is going on at the schools, as well as actions or activities the WSPC is sponsoring. This year, the group plans to schedule guest speakers that will provide parents information, and WSPC representatives from each school will take the information learned back to their individual PTO groups. WPS Director of Security, Mike Baribault is the guest speaker at the next WSPC meeting, and he will speak on the topic of school security.

The WSPC is sponsoring the showing of an animated movie at Cove Park on October 7th from 5:00-9:00 p.m. This movie night will also include a DJ and bounce houses for the crowd to enjoy. There is a fundraising event at Puerto Vallarta scheduled for the evening of October 7th. WSPC is promoting “Walk Bike Roll to School Day” scheduled for October 8th.

Ms. Callan Carson noted the Wethersfield Education Foundation (WEF) is having a fundraiser event at the Pitkin Community Center on Friday, October 3rd called “Trivia Night” and invited

Board Members to join the trivia team she is a part of. Tickets are \$20 per person, and attendees are to bring their own food.

Ms. Walters recently made the acquaintance of CT Science Center's STEM Career and Programs Coordinator and was provided information about STEM internship opportunities for junior and senior high school students. She provided that information to Mrs. Collins at WHS and noted that Career Advisory Board Lead, Mark Danaher has also been provided that information for purposes of learning about possible opportunities for WHS. Ms. Walters looks forward to continuing to report on any CT Science Center opportunities for Wethersfield students.

Mrs. Granato noted the anticipation of WHS Student Representative, Anushka Gandhi's update about what is happening at WHS. She also noted the update will be made at each regular meeting of the Board and that the Board looks forward to the next update in two (2) weeks. Mrs. Granato quoted Gen. Colin Powell, who served as US Secretary of State. "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." She thanked everyone for joining the meeting and wished everyone a good night.

11. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Carey MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Weiner and VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Laccavole, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary