

**Woburn School Committee
Woburn Public Schools
55 Locust Street
Woburn, MA 01801**

A regular meeting of the Woburn School Committee was held on June 9, 2026, in the Conference Room of the Joyce Middle School located at 55 Locust Street, Woburn, Massachusetts, starting at 7:00 p.m. For the purposes of simultaneous viewing, the School Committee arranged for the live stream of the meeting via the Woburn Public Media YouTube Channel.

Mr. Mulrenan observed a moment of silence for former staff member Mike Higgins.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mrs. Chisholm- Present, Ms. Crowley-Present, Mr. Mulrenan-Present, Ms. Nagel-Present, Mr. Oliveira-Present, Ms. Wetzel-Present, Chair Cormier-Present

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachel Kuberry spoke about busing. She asked the committee to implement the bus policy across the city in a way that the city can afford.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of 5.12.26 SC Minutes.

Vice Chair Crowley made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ms. Nagel seconded the motion; all in favor. The motion passed 7-0.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Amara was not in attendance.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

Linscott Gardening Program

Amy Maynes, elementary STEM coordinator, and Sarah Maggio, content specialist, presented.

Ms. Maynes and Ms. Maggio have been working on this project for a couple of years. They wanted to make an outdoor learning program for kids—taking them out of classrooms, outside, where they can learn by doing hands-on activities while covering the same topics taught in school. They wanted to create something that was an outdoor learning experience for kids—getting kids out of classrooms, outside, getting their hands dirty while learning about all the standards that are already being taught.

They saw this opportunity for kids to develop a stronger understanding of where food comes from, but also to understand the hard work, the collaboration, and the teamwork that goes into taking care of a garden and producing that food.

Ms. Maynes and Ms. Maggio had the vision of getting a school garden up and running, but the missing piece was Ms. Maggio. She has a lot of gardening experience and a lot of knowledge. Ms. Maggio was enthusiastic and willing to take on this project.

Ms. Maynes and Ms. Maggio took a class together, Growing Your School Garden, through Framingham State. This course gave them the basics of how to implement a school garden, what resources they need, and a budget. As part of the course, they had to develop a proposal, and part of that proposal was outlining every step of the way. That proposal lent itself to the WCEF grant. Ms. Maggio and two other teachers from Linscott applied for the grant and were very fortunate to receive it.

Ms. Maggio told the committee that Mahoney's sourced the plants for the garden. They coordinated with Mr. Burnham about tree placement, water lines, Dig Safe, and all the logistical stuff. He was very helpful and generous with his time and resources.

None of this would be possible without Principal Kessariss for saying yes to allowing a garden to grow.

The garden itself is a perennial fruit and pollinator garden. The plants grow back every year, and once it's established, it requires minimal care. They have apple trees, pear trees, strawberries, blueberries, and

raspberries. That is the perennial fruit part. The other part is a pollinator garden and has echinacea, black-eyed susans, bee balm, and flocks. Those plants attract pollinators. Pollinators are needed to pollinate the flowers on the fruit plant, so we have fruit. Already in the garden, they have ladybugs, which are beneficial bugs because they eat the bad bugs, and there was a monarch butterfly yesterday.

They are collaborating with the wider Linscott community to establish a watering program over the summer.

The fourth and fifth grades did all the heavy lifting. They moved the soil in wheelbarrows, and they planted all the plants in garden beds. Second grade, as part of their science lesson, sprouted bean seeds, and they planted the sprouts and the strawberries. Kindergarten planted wildflower seeds, and they have butterflies in their classroom right now, and they're releasing them later this week.

Ms. Maynes noted the garden isn't just an extra thing that happens at school. So many standards already taught in K-5 are met in this garden. It's so meaningful because kids are able to go outside to the garden and actually see what they are learning about.

Moving forward, Ms. Maynes and Ms. Maggio are now taking an agriculture class. They are taking this class from two different perspectives. Ms. Maggio is taking this class with the Linscott in mind and how this can apply to that garden. Ms. Maynes' project in the class has not been just to create lesson plans, but to think about how they can bring this to the wider Woburn community and how any school can start a school garden. Ms. Maynes has started putting together a manual of all the basics to start a school garden, so another school would not have to do all the groundwork they're doing now if this is something they want to bring to other schools.

In the fall, they are hoping to enjoy a harvest of apples and pears. The kids will pick the fruit from the trees and have a little piece of it.

On a wider scale, they are starting to look at a compost partnership with Black Earth to compost food waste from the cafeteria. They provide a compost bin that you put out to the curb, and they pick it up weekly for a small fee, and in turn, they give you a bag of compost. Change is Simple comes to the school, and Change is Simple partners with Black Earth. Black Earth offers the school a lot of opportunities. They are currently looking into funding for that.

Ms. Maynes told the committee that there are so many resources available in different grants throughout the state.

WMHS Sustainable Development Club

Students from the Sustainable Club began their presentation with a short video.

Below is a link to the video:

 [JosephLaurence_WoburnMemorialHighSchool_Grade11.mp4](#)

Student representatives from the club told the committee that they took first place for their video. The statewide video contest focused on what people can and cannot flush down the toilet.

The club started in September with a conversation by co-presidents of the Sustainable Development Club, Joseph Laurence and Lia Mofienki-Ramos, on how they could get more high schoolers to join Ms. Marcus' environmental science class. They felt it was important to educate their generation on sustainable development. There was an immediate interest from students to join.

This has been a kickoff year, and they want to do community outreach, fundraising, and local projects next year to make a positive impact on our community.

One of the projects that they started this year and will continue next year is a seed library. There are programs with seed companies where they give excess seeds or seeds that are off season to organizations that will then use them for different purposes. The club has a few letters ready to send. That seed library will be accessible to anyone within the WPS. Anyone who wants to come and take seeds can do so for free. The club is going to do some more community outreach to plant your own seeds and learn about where your food is coming from.

The co-presidents told the committee that one of their main concerns going in was the amount of plastic that was being used for school lunches. That was a big issue, and they're still tackling the logistics of that because it is a much larger issue in terms of how they can make a positive change with that.

What they want to promote in general is sustainable development. They want to inspire people to continue educating themselves on the topic. Ms. Marcus has inspired all of them to look for more information and educate themselves further so they can inspire others.

The club has looked at grants available to help them further with alternatives to plastic. This is going to be a big issue they want to try to tackle next year.

FY 27 adjustments - (vote anticipated)

Dr. Crowley told the committee that the city council passed its budget for the schools last night, requiring the school department to adjust by \$205,000. The budget adjustment is a \$205,000 adjustment from the committee vote.

Mr. DiZio presented scenarios for committee members to consider. He looked at scenarios that would have the least impact on the budget, trying to find line items or movement of salaries where possible.

Scenario 1

Reducing the ask for an Assistant Facilities Director	\$130,000
Reducing homeless transportation	\$ 50,000
Reducing the electricity line	\$ 25,000

Scenario 2

Promote at HS and replace Day Time Custodian	\$ 50,000
Move some of the salary of the Reeves AP into pre-k revolving	\$ 80,000
Reducing homeless transportation	\$ 50,000
Reducing the electricity line	\$ 25,000

Early in the process of discussing the facilities director, there was a discussion about the possibility of promoting the current person at the high school who is in a facilities role to assistant director there, and backfilling with a daytime head custodian.

In talking with the facility's director at the high school, that scenario, compared to perhaps not having an assistant facilities director for a year, was less preferable. Part of the logic is that they have a lot of work that they're going to be doing in July and August.

There was a lot of discussion about the maintenance people who are retiring. One of them is going to stay with us for the summer months. This will partly fill the void of a facilities director, taking on a program manager role and helping Lenny.

Scenario 3

Move the entire salary of the Reeves AP into pre-k revolving	\$125,000
Reducing homeless transportation	\$ 50,000
Reducing the electricity line	\$ 25,000

Scenario 5

Placing the lunch monitors into the lunch revolving account	\$159,000
Reducing homeless transportation	\$ 46,000

Chair Cormier did a recap of each scenario.

Scenario 1 would remove the assistant facilities director position.

Scenario 2 would promote from within the high school and pull from the pre-k revolving a partial position.

Scenario 4 would pull from the pre-k revolving completely for that position.

Scenario 5 would be moving the lunch monitors.

Vice Chair Crowley asked if this vote could wait until the next meeting.

Dr. Crowley responded, yes, the committee could table this until the next school meeting. However, operationally, he is waiting to post positions.

Vice Chair Crowley asked if it would hinder any operations severely if they tabled for more thought processes.

Dr. Crowley told her no.

Ms. Wetzel said they did talk about this in Finance with Mrs. Chisholm. One question from Ms. Nagel in the Finance meeting was, "What does the administration think is the best course of action based on operations?" Their response was Scenario 1 because they had already talked with Director Burnham. Mr. Burnham said the timing of this position isn't really a great add at this time. He also has help this summer from someone who was initially going to retire but plans to stay on through the summer. Director Burnham is confident in his ability to get through the summer.

Ms. Wetzel commented on the revolving account. The committee has tried so hard to get positions out of there, and to put them back in would be confusing.

Mr. Oliveira commented that extensive research preceded the development of these scenarios. Given the current state, to him, it does not make sense to promote somebody and have to backfill. The cleanest scenario to him seems to be #1.

Ms. Nagel said putting things back into the revolving budget is not a sustainable solution. Revolving budgets and stabilization funds do not sustain positions.

Mrs. Chisholm reminded the committee that we need backup for Mr. Burnham. The city added this exact position last June. We need assurance that this position will be filled at some point during the year. We need to make sure Mr. Burnham gets the help that he needs. This is a position that has been needed for a long time.

Vice Chair Crowley is hesitant on this vote because the district needs the Assistant Facilities Director. She is going to think deeply about this and also asks the committee to do so. We have some aging buildings, but most of all we have new old buildings. Reeves is now 25 years old. We are no longer in the zone where we have all these great new schools that don't need maintenance.

Chair Crowley disclosed that her mother is a lunch monitor. If that comes up for discussion, she will abstain.

Vice Chair Crowley made a motion to table this vote until the next school committee meeting on June 24, 2026. Mrs. Chisholm seconded the motion; all in favor. The motion passed 7-0.

Policies for Action (vote anticipated)

BDFA - SCHOOL COUNCILS
BDFA-E - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS
JLCD - ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS
KCD - PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS
CA - ADMINISTRATION GOALS
CB - SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT
CBE - SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT
CBI - EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Chair Cormier noted that MASC changed policy CBE to CBD.

Ms. Nagel made a motion to adopt the following policies:

BDFA - SCHOOL COUNCILS
BDFA-E - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS
JLCD - ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS
KCD - PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS
CA - ADMINISTRATION GOALS
CB - SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT
CBD - SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT
CBI - EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Chisholm seconded the motion; all in favor. The motion passed 7-0

BDFA-E - School Improvement Plans

Ms. Nagel told the public that they wanted to make sure the school improvement plan schedule was in alignment operationally with what we're actually able to deliver as a district. As per Massachusetts General Law regulations, not DESE, the superintendent must submit the school improvement plans no later than July 1st. Before this was brought to the committee's attention, this deadline was placed to November, since this was more in line with what we typically do. After realizing that the Massachusetts General Law has this as one of the regulations, it was moved to July 1st.

Ms. Nagel noted the importance of the distinction between Massachusetts General Law having this and DESE requiring us to implement it because DESE sets the guidelines for us to implement Massachusetts General Law and that is not set up by DESE to have it on July 1st.

What is being done differently instead of both being in compliance with regulations but also being able to actually deliver upon that with the necessary data. One of the biggest concerns that was being brought up, that we didn't have a chance to meet our kindergarteners by then. We didn't have a lot of information and understanding where our students were, or scores.

We are going to move towards a biannual school improvement plan.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Personnel Subcommittee

Mrs. Chisholm said they met this evening.

A vote is needed to approve the list of warrants that the subcommittee approved tonight.

Ms. Wetzel made a motion to approve the list of warrants.

Ms. Nagel seconded the motion; all in favor. The motion passed 7-0.

A vote is needed to approve the balance of accounts that the subcommittee discussed tonight.

Ms. Wetzel made a motion to approve the balance of accounts.

Ms. Nagel seconded the motion; all in favor. The motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Chisholm made a motion that the committee authorize the subcommittee to pay the bills during the summer. Vice Chair seconded the motion; all in favor. The motion passed 7-0.

Community Relations Subcommittee

Mr. Mulrenan said they met on May 27, 2026.

Brian Ouellette from Woburn Public Media attended the meeting. They offer classes to our students.

They run a summer camp for middle school students.

Curriculum and Data Trends Subcommittee

Mr. Oliveira said they met on May 20, 2026.

Public Comment:

Virtual meetings - check into the inequities of not holding virtual meetings

Technology - the need for an AI policy

Wellness Committee - making these meetings more accessible to the public

Math K-12:

A lot of work has gone into Reveal Math.

Elementary: Finishing up year 1, entering year 2 of implementation.

Middle School: This will be year 1 of implementation.

Post-COVID reality is that a lot of students still have needs coming out of this time

This curriculum helps align with fixing the opportunity gap.

Health and Wellness K-12:

High School and Middle School Health & Wellness department heads are aligning curriculum with

DESE standards.

- This has been great vertical teamwork in the district.

Multilingual (ML) Department

Staffing consideration

ML staffing isn't solely based on current ML student enrollment (it's a starting point).

The district uses additional data to make the best estimate of who may need services. Some of the additional data pieces considered are trends and program structures. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recently approved our current program structure.

- Proficiency levels for students. More services are generally needed for newer students.
- Overall percentages of ML students in a school.
- Information gathered through collaboration, progress monitoring, IST meetings, and data meetings.

The district had a lot of shifts based on the recent Tiered Focus Monitor (TFM) findings.

Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Nagel said they met on May 29, 2026

Topics:

1. Action on previous subcommittee business

a. [BDFA-E](#) - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Recommendation: Review and discuss.

Action taken: Members and Superintendent reviewed last edits

Discussion: Superintendent to ask the principals if they want to continue the existing plan into next year with updates made during the year including updating information. Then a new plan could be generated for the next 2 years. This will also allow for the school improvement plan to be aligned with the district's strategic plan.

Vote taken: Unanimously, the Subcommittee voted to send to the full Committee for tabling.

b. [CCB](#) - LINE AND STAFF RELATIONS

Recommendation: Review and discuss.

Action taken: Members and Superintendent reviewed

Discussion: The goal of this policy is specifically laid out in the Collective Bargaining Agreement, therefore, this should be removed from the policy manual.

Vote taken: Unanimously, the Subcommittee voted to send to the full Committee for tabling.

2. Policy Updates

a. [BBBE](#) - UNEXPIRED TERM FULFILLMENT

Recommendation: Review and discuss.

Action taken: Members and Superintendent reviewed last edits

Discussion: Members will review City charter further to check for any conflicting language.

Vote taken: Unanimously, the Subcommittee voted to keep in Policy subcommittee to review.

b. [ECA](#) - BUILDINGS AND GROUND SECURITY

Recommendation: Review and discuss.

Action taken: Members and Superintendent reviewed last edits

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote taken: Unanimously, the Subcommittee voted to send to the full Committee for tabling.

c. [JFBB](#) - SCHOOL CHOICE

Recommendation: Adoption with edits

Action taken: Members and Superintendent reviewed last edits

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote taken: Unanimously, the Subcommittee voted to send to the full Committee for tabling.

Resources & Capital Planning Subcommittee

Vice Chair Crowley said they will be meeting on June 22nd.

Student Services & Achievement Subcommittee

Ms. Wetzel said they will be meeting on June 14th.

Negotiations Subcommittee

Ms. Wetzels said they met on June 1st.

You can find Ms. Wetzel's minutes under the negotiations tab on the WPS website.

One of the big things they talked about was the compensation, specifically the COLA increase. Both teams shared information and proposals related to wages and comparable communities, salary schedules, and the financial impact of the different models proposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Brian Gilbertie re: WMHS Music Banquet 6/10

Liz Howland re: WTA Retirement Party 6/11

SEPAC re: Summer Kickoff 6/2

Allison Van Deventer: ALEKS

Rachel Kuberry: Capital Budget

Elizabeth Connolly: Civics Showcase 6/9

Brian Provencher: cell phone policy

Bernice Friedman: Capital Budget

Richard Haggerty: Eos Foundation's work on food insecurity

Loren Baccari: WMHS Denim Day 06/10

Christine Murphy: Skatepark

Launch Program - Invitation to the full committee

Remind is a communication tool at the district and school levels. Remind was acquired by ParentSquare. The district is transitioning to ParentSquare effective next year. We are in the process of transitioning. Some teachers at the Joyce are piloting because the tech department is downstairs and they can help each other.

Dr. Crowley told the committee that Interim Director Kim Myles has formally accepted the position of Director of Technology.

Dr. Crowley - this coming Monday night we are hosting a visual session at the Malcolm White. We are updating our strategic plan. Malcolm White 6:00 - 7:30 PM.

Dr. Crowley told the committee that Lenny Burnham and his staff did an incredible job at graduation, and that the high school looked beautiful

Ms. Wetzel made a motion to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Burnham and his team.

Mrs. Chisholm seconded the motion; all in favor. The motion passed 7-0.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

School Committee Calendar

WMHS Handbook

Adjustment for FY 27

DC students from Kennedy

Friday night drop-off program

Vice Chair Crowley made a motion to enter into executive session.

Mr. Oliveira seconded the motion; all in favor. The motion passed 6-0.

Roll Call

Mrs. Chisholm-abstained, Ms. Crowley-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Ms. Nagel-yes, Mr. Oliveira-yes, Ms. Wetzel-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes

Chair Cormier announced that we are entering into executive session and will not be returning to the regular order of business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Woburn Teachers' Association if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the public body and the chair so declares

Entered into executive session at 8:38 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mulrenan made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Nagel seconded the motion; all in favor. The motion passed 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean MacLeod

Jean MacLeod

Recording Secretary

Documents provided

-  Linscott Learning Garden.pdf
-  BDFA - SCHOOL COUNCILS (1).pdf
-  BDFA-E - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (1).pdf
-  JLCD - ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS.docx.pdf
-  KCD - PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS.docx.pdf
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