

Board of Education
October 28, 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-C0gYVVxmD5ilFTnsQ>

The Wethersfield Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was streamed from Silas Deane Middle School Auditorium, 551 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 Administrator, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote; WPS Director of Finance and Operations, Matt Kozaka; WPS Director of Special Education, John Karzar; WPS PK-6 Instructional Supervisor for Special Education, Liz Freitas; WHS Athletic Director, Sterling Scanlon; SDMS Assistant Principal, Scott Voisine; WPS Instructional Supervisor for Secondary Curriculum, Dr. Christina Zlatin and WPS Instructional Supervisor for Elementary Education, Dawn Campbell; WHS Boys Varsity Golf Coach, Brian Turner; WPS Executive Secretary-Superintendent’s Office, Kristin Underhill; WHS Boys Varsity Golf Team members Justin Crossen, Ryan Ribeiro, Gavin Struk, Nolan Mattatall, Jack Berube; and WHS Student Representative, Anushka Gandhi. Members of the public were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

WPS Instructional Supervisor for Elementary Education, Dawn Campbell led the meeting group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Student/Staff Recognitions/Presentations

a. WHS CCC Boys Golf Team Champions

- WHS All Conference Golf Team- Justin Crossen and Ryan Ribeiro
- WHS CCC Golf Tournament Medalist- Justin Crossen

WHS Athletic Director, Sterling Scanlon; and WHS Boys Varsity Golf Coach, Brian Turner commented on the team’s season (17-4) and provided details of how the team progressed during tournament play. WHS Boys Golf Team members Justin Crossen, Ryan Ribeiro, Gavin Struk, Nolan Mattatall, and Jack Berube played and won the CCC tournament.

WHS Senior, Justin Crossen earned the title of CIAC Boys Golf Division II State Co-Champion

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. October 14, 2025 - Board of Education Regular Session Meeting

Mr. Weiner MOVED to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Session Meeting of October 14, 2025, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Walters and VOTED unanimously.

b. October 20, 2025 - Board of Education Special Session Meeting

Mrs. Di Roberts MOVED to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Special Session Meeting of October 20, 2025, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Hernandez-Williams and VOTED unanimously, with Mr. Carey and Mr. Reilly abstaining.

4. Public Comment

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

5. Communications

a. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wihbey referred to his October 2025 Informational Update provided to Board Members. Board Comments: Mrs. Granato, Mr. Laccavole, Mrs. Di Roberts, Ms. Walters, Ms. Callan Carson and Mr. Reilly commented.

6. Action Items

a. Presentation of the District Continuous Improvement Plan (DCIP)

Superintendent Wihbey referred to his October 24, 2025, communication to Wethersfield Board of Education and explained the DCIP as a product of the work stemming from the Leadership Workshop held in August. In his presentation, he explained the DCIP reflects utilization of the Performance Management System, which aligns with the BOE's Strategic Operating Plan (SOP), for district coherence, accountability, and student growth. He noted strategies for three (3) key priorities of the SOP: Student Achievement, Civil and Family Engagement, and Management/Operations/ Finance.

WPS Instructional Supervisor for Secondary Curriculum, Dr. Christina Zlatin and WPS Instructional Supervisor for Elementary Education, Dawn Campbell, discussed how the district will use its goals, strategies, and data analysis to support student achievement as well as training and learning opportunities for staff. Superintendent Wihbey thanked Board members for their continued support and partnership in this regard.

a.1. Recommended Motion: Approval of District Continuous Improvement Plan (DCIP)

Ms. Hernandez-Williams MOVED that the Board of Education accept and adopt the 2025-2026 District Continuous Improvement Plan (DCIP) as presented. Adoption of the DCIP affirms the Board's commitment to the Strategic Operation Plan and the district's Performance Management System and authorizes the Superintendent to:

- Implement the actions, timelines, and metrics contained in the DCIP.
- Monitor progress and provide periodic reports to the Board as outlined in the plan.
- Submit the DCIP and any required documentation to state or external agencies; and
- Make ministerial or technical edits that do not materially change goals or resource commitments, provided the Superintendent notifies the Board of such edits.

This motion shall take effect immediately upon approval.

The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Laccavole and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Granato, Mr. Carey, Ms. Hernandez-Williams, and Ms. Walters commented.

b. Recommended Motion: Approval of Curriculum, Items 1-9

WHS Curriculum - AP US History	WHS Curriculum - Painting
WHS Curriculum - AP Psychology	WHS Curriculum - Percussion Ensemble
WHS Curriculum - Construction Technology	WHS Curriculum - Physics I
WHS Curriculum - Honors Biology	SDMS Curriculum - General Music B
WHS Curriculum - Fashion Design II	

b.1. Recommended Motion: Approval of WHS Curriculum: AP US History

Ms. Walters MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve WHS Curriculum: AP US History. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Di Roberts and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Di Roberts commented.

b.2. Recommended Motion: Approval of WHS Curriculum: AP Psychology

Ms. Hernandez-Williams MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve WHS Curriculum: AP Psychology. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Weiner and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Di Roberts commented.

b.3. Recommended Motion: Approval of WHS Curriculum: Construction Technology

Mr. Weiner MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve WHS Curriculum: Construction Technology. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Walters and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Di Roberts commented.

b.4. Recommended Motion: Approval of WHS Curriculum: Honors Biology

Mrs. Di Roberts MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve WHS Curriculum: Honors Biology. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Walters and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Di Roberts commented.

b.5. Recommended Motion: Approval of WHS Curriculum: Fashion Design II

Mrs. Granato MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve WHS Curriculum: Fashion Design II. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Callan Carson and VOTED unanimously.

b.6. Recommended Motion: Approval of WHS Curriculum: Painting

Mr. Laccavole MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve WHS Curriculum: Painting. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Carey and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Di Roberts commented.

b.7. Recommended Motion: Approval of WHS Curriculum: Percussion Ensemble

Mr. Carey MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve WHS Curriculum: Percussion Ensemble. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Laccavole and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Di Roberts commented.

b.8. Recommended Motion: Approval of WHS Curriculum: Physics I

Mr. Reilly MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve WHS Curriculum: Physics I. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Carey and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Di Roberts commented.

b.9. Recommended Motion: Approval of SDMS Curriculum: General Music B

Ms. Callan Carson MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve SDMS Curriculum: General Music B. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Laccavole and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Di Roberts commented.

Board Comments: Mrs. Granato and Mr. Laccavole commented favorably of the curriculum adoptions and thanked WPS staff, Student Programs & Services Committee members (including BOE members Mrs. Di Roberts, Ms. Hernandez-Williams, Ms. Walters, and Mr. Carey) for all their work in that process.

7. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Announcements/Information

Memo dated October 24, 2025, from Jeffrey Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools to Wethersfield Board of Education containing: 1) Board of Education Sub-Committee Schedule, rev. 10.20.2025; 2) Dates to Remember – October 2025, and 3) Dates to Remember – November 2025

8. Board of Education

a. Meetings Held

i. CREC Council (10.15.25)

Mrs. Granato reported the council heard the most recent Finance and Audit Committee report. CREC Executive Director, Dr. Greg Florio commented on 1) CREC's DEI work and about conversations he had with Governor Lamont about impacts resulting from the Federal Government shutdown; 2) CREC's commitment to working with the State; and 3) maintaining CREC staff and programs. The Legislative update revealed that there is no Special Session currently planned for the General Assembly. Mrs. Granato noted CREC continues to work with State government representatives towards full funding for magnet school tuition. She also noted the meeting concluded with board members discussing consequences of the government shutdown. She mentioned that aside from the lunch program reimbursement impact on WPS, there are no additional impacts at this time for WPS. The meeting observed that tutors could encounter further staffing difficulties next year if there are reductions in title grants. She noted other school district representatives at the meeting had similar comments and that everyone is awaiting funding information for their individual school districts.

ii. Special Meeting of the Board of Education (10.20.25)

Mrs. Granato reported that the meeting pertained to a confidential student matter.

iii. Student Programs & Services (10.21.25)

Mrs. Di Roberts explained that the courses approved by the Board earlier this evening complement each other with support and deeper learning in making inter-disciplinary connections. She noted the courses as notable for their rigor, hands-on activities, and standards-based learning, with emphasis on collaboration, discussion, and skill building. She also noted the courses help spark curiosity and make room for students of various experience levels, providing equitable opportunities for students to explore future areas of study and career choices.

iv. Special Meeting of the Board of Education (10.28.25)

Ms. Walters reported that the meeting was a Request for Proposal (RFP) session, held in accordance with BOE bylaws, to select a legal services firm who will provide the desired legal services inclusive of special education. She noted the Committee participated in the RFP procedure, which included interviews, discussion, and scoring, and that the Committee reached unanimous consensus vote for recommendation.

v. Finance & Operations Committee (10.28.25)

Mr. Laccavole reported that as of today, the district remains under budget for the current school year. He noted the Committee continues to monitor potential budget impacts, such as outplacements. He also noted discussions continue about what to do with last year's excess funds. Despite their limitations, the updated State Two Percent Fund rules allow two uses. He mentioned that a decision about the bonds from last school year is still pending.

b. Meetings Scheduled

i. WECC Annual Meeting (10.29.25)

ii. Human Resources & Personnel Committee (11.03.25)

iii. WECC Meeting (11.10.25)

9. Public Comment

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

10. Board Comment

Mr. Laccavole thanked Superintendent Wihbey and WHS Athletic Director, Sterling Scanlon for their collaborative work in responding to/producing a solution for a public comment made during

the Board Comment portion of the October 14, 2025, Board of Education Regular Session Meeting. He commented favorably of working the concession stand with fellow Board Members during a recent WHS Varsity Football Game and that they enjoyed interacting with the public. He commented favorably in meeting members of the WHS Safe Grad Committee during an event at Max Bibos restaurant.

Mr. Reilly recognized and thanked Ms. Walters, Ms. Hernandez-Williams, and Mr. Weiner, who will be ending their terms with Wethersfield Board of Education. He praised their work on the Board during a period of momentous change in the WPS district. These projects included: 1) work associated with the hiring of a new Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Wihbey; and 2) work on the building project for the elementary schools.

Ms. Walters thanked Mr. Reilly for his comments, expressed that it was an honor to serve as a Board member, and wished everyone the best. She expressed enthusiasm about following the progress of the ongoing work of WPS administration, staff, and the Wethersfield BOE.

Mrs. Di Roberts expressed her anticipation of Ms. Hernandez-Williams, Ms. Walters, and Mr. Weiner attending the Board of Education Meeting on November 11th so that she can have the opportunity to recognize their board member service at the BOE Members Induction Ceremony.

Mr. Weiner acknowledged and congratulated the WHS Boys Golf Team for their success this season and for the CCC Title win. He noted that winning a seat on the Town Council could bring his time on the Board to a close; he also reflected fondly on his service and the sense of camaraderie with other members. He thanked WPS teachers, staff, administrators, and students while noting his time commitment to WPS was worth it. While acknowledging major accomplishments, he also described the other tasks required of board members as critical to the job. He noted that regardless of what happens next Tuesday, a new BOE will be ready to serve. He encouraged new BOE members to use their voices and listen to the community. He reminded students that they all have something to offer and thanked his family for their continued support of his public service.

Mrs. Granato reminded everyone that early voting was going on right now at Wethersfield Town Hall in Council Chambers. She noted that voting on Tuesday, November 4th is at local voting district sites. She suggested parents/caregivers bring their children with them to vote as a

hands-on learning experience. She noted a great public concern is the issue of food insecurity as we all experience a shutdown in DC. She asked everyone to please try to contribute to the Wethersfield Food Bank located in Wethersfield Town Hall. Mrs. Granato encouraged contributions in support of Wethersfield families, ensuring that every child has sufficient access to food.

Anushka Ghandi provided an update on what has been occurring at WHS over the past few weeks. Last week, WHS juniors took the PSAT. WHS Music Department had its fall honors concert. She noted students enjoyed their trip to Harford Stage to see the play, "Rope." WHS seniors are attending visits from college representatives actively visiting WHS. She noted WHS fall sports teams had significant achievements this season. WHS Girls Swim and Dive Team continued their incredible legacy by winning their 17th consecutive CCC North Championship title. WHS Junior, Alexa Nunez of WHS Girls Cross Country Team, placed seventh at the Class L State Championship and earned herself a spot at the State Open Meet this Friday. The WHS Boys Golf team enjoyed remarkable success, with senior Justin Crossen earning the title of CIAC Boys Golf Division II State Co-Champion. The WHS sports teams aim to achieve notable success in state tournaments as they enter the postseason.

11. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

12. Proposed for Executive Session

Ms. Walters MOVED to leave public session and enter into an Executive Session at approximately 8:29 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Evaluation Process.

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

Present for executive session:

Wethersfield Board of Education Members:

M. Callan Carson, C. Carey, J. Di Roberts, B. Granato,
C. Hernandez-Williams, M. Laccavole, J. Reilly, E. Walters, J. Weiner

Administrators: J. Wihbey

Mrs. Granato MOVED to leave executive session and re-enter public session at 9:37 p.m.

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

13. Adjournment

Mrs. Granato MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Hernandez-Williams and VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Laccavole, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary