

**WEST BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
West Bridgewater, Massachusetts

**Regular School Committee Meeting**  
**March 2, 2026**

**Members Present:**

Mrs. Robyn Dragonetti  
Mrs. Christine Myaskovsky  
Mrs. Kara Lizardi  
Mr. John Waller  
Mrs. Perry Weich

**Also Present:**

Mr. Mark Bodwell  
Mrs. Deb Llanes  
Mrs. Kathy Grant  
Mrs. Keitha Goulet  
Mrs. Christine Page  
Mrs. Mary Guiffre  
Mrs. Maureen Ellis  
Mrs. Nancy Maloney  
Mr. James DuPont  
Mr. Matt Despier

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**CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR OPEN MEETING**

At 6:02 PM Chair Robyn Dragonetti called the Regular School Committee Meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Mrs. Dragonetti read the following statement:

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

The meeting was livestreamed and recorded by West Bridgewater Community Access Media and will be available at [www.wb-cam.org](http://www.wb-cam.org).

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**AGENDA REORDER**

Robyn Dragonetti requested a motion to reorder the agenda in order to move the National History Day recognitions to the beginning of the meeting prior to the Budget Hearing.

Motion: To reorder the agenda to move National History Day recognitions to the beginning of the meeting.

**Moved by:** Mrs. Lizardi

**Seconded by:** Mr. Waller

**Vote:** Unanimous

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## **RECOGNITION – NATIONAL HISTORY DAY WINNERS & HONORABLE MENTIONS**

Mr. Despier, seventh grade social studies teacher at the Middle/Senior High School, recognized students for their work on this year's National History Day projects. The Committee congratulated the students on their accomplishments and thanked staff for their support and guidance.

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## **CALL TO ORDER OF BUDGET MEETING**

At 6:12 PM, Chair Robyn Dragonetti called the FY27 School Committee Budget Hearing to order.

## **FY27 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

The Superintendent began by thanking the DPW, school maintenance and custodial staff, families, students, and staff for their efforts during the Blizzard of 2026 and the delayed return from February break.

The budget presentation reviewed the positive effects of staffing additions over recent years, including sub-separate programs, related service providers, multilingual learner staff, and mental health supports. School contributions were reviewed, including school choice, circuit breaker funds, revolving accounts, and special education grants.

Discussion also addressed the continuing decline in school choice revenue, the financial impact of out-of-district placements, uncertainty related to vocational school lottery admissions, potential reductions in federal grant funding, and building maintenance needs. Proposed FY27 staff additions included:

- MSHS Library Media Specialist / Instructional Technology
- .5 Floating Nurse
- .4 Related Service Provider • .6 Howard School Reading Specialist
- Elementary Instructional Assistant
- .2 MSHS Music Teacher

The proposed FY27 School Committee Budget totaled **\$22,566,341**, with school contributions of **\$3,039,475** and a town appropriation request of **\$19,526,865**, representing a **\$916,949 increase (4.93%)** over FY26.

Superintendent Bodwell and Mrs. Grant presented the FY27 School Committee Budget line by line.

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## **BUDGET DISCUSSION BY THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee engaged in a detailed review of the proposed FY27 School Department Budget.

Mr. Waller raised several questions regarding staffing growth over the past several years and requested additional documentation showing the relationship between staffing increases and student needs. He also asked for clarification regarding several line item increases and suggested that future budget materials include clearer explanations of year-to-year changes.

Superintendent Bodwell and Mrs. Grant explained that some fluctuations in salary accounts reflect contractual step increases, negotiated agreements, and shifts between grant funding and the general fund. They also noted that several accounts vary year to year based on operational needs, including substitute costs, utilities, transportation, and maintenance.

The Committee reviewed proposed FY27 staffing additions, including a Library Media Specialist/Instructional Technology position at the Middle/Senior High School, a .5 nurse position, related service support, a Howard School reading specialist, an elementary instructional assistant, and additional music staffing. Committee members discussed the instructional and operational needs associated with these positions and requested additional data regarding enrollment, course demand, and student support needs.

Additional discussion included special education costs, out-of-district tuition, transportation expenses, technology services, maintenance and custodial costs, and athletic program expenses.

Mrs. Dragonetti noted that the questions raised would help inform the Committee's review and that additional supporting information would be helpful prior to the budget vote. Superintendent Bodwell indicated that further documentation regarding several proposed positions and program needs would be provided.

Mrs. Myaskovsky also suggested that the Committee consider reviewing athletic participation fees in the future as a potential way to offset rising program costs while maintaining affordability for families.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to postpone the FY27 School Budget vote until the next scheduled meeting in order to allow additional time for review.

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT – BUDGET HEARING**

Ms. Nancy Maloney asked about the difference between the per-pupil revenue received for school choice students and the actual cost to educate those students. Superintendent Bodwell explained that school choice students generally add revenue without requiring additional classroom staffing when seats are available, but acknowledged that the district loses school contribution revenue as school choice seats decline.

Mr. James Dupont of East Raynham addressed the Committee regarding what he described as long-term underfunding of Chapter 70 and other local aid categories by the Massachusetts Legislature. He urged the Committee to advocate more strongly for full state funding of education so that local taxpayers are not required to make up continuing shortfalls. He also submitted a copy of his remarks for the minutes.

No additional public comment was made.

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## **ADJOURNMENT OF BUDGET HEARING**

At 7:32 PM, Mrs. Lizardi made a motion to adjourn the FY27 Budget Hearing and return to the Regular School Committee Meeting

**Seconded by:** Mrs. Myaskovsky

**Vote:** Unanimous

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## **CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR OPEN MEETING**

At 7:32 PM, Mrs. Dragonetti reconvened the Regular School Committee Meeting.

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## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Lizardi made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2026 School Committee Meeting

**Seconded by:** Mrs. Myaskovsky

**Vote:** Unanimous

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## **WARRANTS REPORT**

Mrs. Lizardi presented the following warrants for Fiscal Year 2026:

## Bill Warrants

- February 5, 2026 – Warrant #28 – \$54,025.17
- February 12, 2026 – Warrant #29 – \$150,339.29
- February 19, 2026 – Warrant #30 – \$106,367.38

## Payroll Warrants

- February 13, 2026 – \$628,512.44
- February 27, 2026 – \$686,073.97

All warrants are public record and available for review in the Selectmen's Office.

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## **INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE**

The Student Advisory Committee Representative was not in attendance.

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Nancy Maloney addressed the Committee and expressed concern about safety issues identified at the Rose L MacDonald and Howard Schools following the failed elementary school vote. She asked whether the district's Safe Schools plan remains active and whether the safety concerns identified in prior building materials are included in current planning.

Mrs. Dragonetti responded that the district does have an active Safe Schools Committee that meets regularly and indicated that an update from that committee could be placed on a future agenda. Superintendent Bodwell noted that safety-related capital priorities would be addressed in his upcoming update.

No additional public comment was made.

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## **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

### **Time-Out Practices Grant**

Superintendent Bodwell reviewed a newly awarded DESE grant in the amount of \$43,000 to support updated time-out and seclusion regulations. Funds will be used for improved data systems, educator professional development, and classroom sensory supports. Committee members requested a future update on implementation prior to the start of the next school year.

## **READS Collaborative Quarterly Report**

The quarterly report was provided in the School Committee packet.

## **Capital Budget and Improvement Plan FY27–FY31**

Superintendent Bodwell reviewed the revised five-year Capital Budget and Improvement Plan. Due to the failed elementary school project vote, FY27 priorities were restructured to focus on safety and operational needs.

Projects discussed included:

- Sallyport systems at Rose L MacDonald and Spring Street
- Paving and sidewalk improvements
- Intercom systems and lockdown controls
- Fire alarm panels and controls
- Middle Senior High School computer lab
- Spring Street flooring
- MSHS clearstory windows

The Committee discussed the importance of prioritizing safety-related needs and requested continued collaboration with police, fire, and DPW. Questions were also raised regarding modular classrooms, emergency access, and delivery/security concerns at Howard School.

## **Superintendent's Annual Report to Town**

The Superintendent's Annual Report to Town was presented to the Committee prior to submission to the town report.

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## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **2026–2027 School Calendar**

Mrs. Dragonetti requested one modification to the calendar, moving the June School Committee meeting from June 7 to June 14 to avoid conflict with athletic awards.

**Motion:** To approve the 2026–2027 School Calendar as amended

**Moved by:** Mrs. Lizardi

**Seconded by:** Mrs. Myaskovsky

**Vote:** Unanimous

### **Chromebook Blocking Issues Update**

Superintendent Bodwell provided an update regarding Chromebook blocking issues. He reported that the Technology Director has tested student accounts and found that Google

searches are only blocked when restricted terms are used. YouTube access remains limited unless videos are embedded by teachers into Google Slides or Google Classroom.

Discussion occurred regarding student concerns, digital responsibility, and the balance between access and safety controls. Committee members expressed interest in continued monitoring and additional student feedback.

### **Curriculum Discussion – Middle School Physical Education**

Superintendent Bodwell reviewed information from neighboring districts regarding middle school physical education schedules and minutes. Discussion also included potential additions of SEL and mindfulness units, cyber safety instruction, and the value of student movement and socialization during the school day.

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FY27 School Budget**

The Committee agreed to postpone the FY27 School Budget vote until the next meeting in order to allow time for further review and receipt of additional supporting information.

Mrs. Lizardi discussed the potential increase in athletic fees to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **WB SEPAC UPDATE**

An update was provided regarding upcoming SEPAC activities, including Autism Acceptance Month spirit week, the Grant of Gratitude, and the graduation seat raffle. The next meeting will be held on March 17 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM in the Learning Commons.

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## **REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **Policy Subcommittee**

Motion made by Mrs. Dragonetti to open the following policies for review: DA, DB, DBC, DBD, DBG, DBJ, DD, DEC, DGA, DH, DI, DIE, DJ, DJA, DJE, DK, DKC

**Seconded by:** Mrs. Myaskovsky

**Vote:** Unanimous

Motion made by Mrs. Dragonetti To approve the following policies as written: CA, CB, CBD, CBI, CCB, CE, CH, CHA/CHC, CHCA, CHD, CM, JKAA

**Seconded by:** Mrs. Myaskovsky

**Vote:** Unanimous

Mrs. Dragonetti reviewed several minor edits and compliance checks completed during the policy review process, including annual handbook review requirements and annual review/training requirements for restraint procedures.

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#### **QUESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE**

There were none.

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#### **NEXT REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 9, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Middle Senior High School Learning Commons

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#### **ADJOURNMENT / EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:22 PM, Mrs. Dragonetti made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining with union personnel, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(2), and to not reconvene in open session.

**Moved by:** Mrs. Lizardi

**Seconded by:** Mrs. Myaskovsky

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mrs. Dragonetti – Yes

Mrs. Myaskovsky – Yes

Mrs. Lizardi – Yes

Mr. Waller – Yes

Mrs. Weich - Yes