

Wethersfield Public Schools
127 Hartford Avenue
Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109

Human Resources & Personnel Committee
Tuesday August 26, 2025
5:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers
505 Silas Deane Highway

MEETING MINUTES

Individuals Present:

Administration

Jeffrey Wihbey
JeanAnn Paddyfote
John Karzar

BOE Members

Bobbie Hughes Granato
Matt Lavacole
Janice DiRoberts
Elizabeth Walters
Christina Hernandez-Williams

1. **Call to Order-** Meeting was called to order at 5:06. Roll call was called for quorum. We did have a quorum.
2. **Previous meeting minutes-** Meeting minutes were not approved at this meeting. They will be printed and available for the Monday September 15, 2025 meeting.

3. Central Office Proposed Changes

a. Superintendent recommendations for Central Office Reorganization

During this meeting Mr. Wihbey provided each BOE member with copies of a very clear and organized document with the explanation and overview of proposed changes. The document included the repurposing of two current vacant positions. The first being the Assistant Superintendent position and the second being the human resources position. The Assistant Superintendent position is seeking a person that is strong and will have constant and positive interactions with students, staff, parents/families, community members and our district's administrative teams. This person's main responsibility would be to hire talented individuals and to ensure they are the best fit for the Wethersfield Public School District. Another responsibility would be to retain staff members and help them to become the best educators they could be.

The position of the Director of Teaching, Learning, & Curriculum would be responsible to create curriculum development that is meaningful and helpful for each staff member to provide the best education practices possible. Creating a "menu" style professional development opportunities. These two positions would work together to support the learning growth of the Wethersfield Public School

Students. A detailed conversation between the board and Mr. Wihbey to discuss the pros and cons of this position took place during the meeting.

- 4. WHS Proposed-**The discussion of this proposed change came about when the Athletic Director resigned in the summer time. Principal O'Connor has recommended during the last two budget sessions that Department Heads be considered to assist in the evaluation process of teachers and for assistance in curriculum development in the main core areas of: ELA, Math and Science. The previous Athletic Director position included evaluation of teachers, student behavior management and all athletic program responsibilities. Principal O'Connor and Mr. Wihbey met and discussed ways that this position could be changed a bit to support student learning at the high school. Especially to support subject areas in which there is state mandated testing attached to them. The Athletic Director is now responsible for solely the athletic program. The cost savings of having this position to only focus on sports allows for three teaching positions to include some administrative responsibilities. Mr. Wihbey discussed these changes with both the teachers bargaining unit and the administrative union. Mr. Wihbey was complimentary of both these unions as they were supportive and helpful with these proposed changes. This will allow for more support in the classroom for teachers and therefore students.
- 5. Consensus of Support-** Mr. Wihbey ensured that the entire committee present during this meeting supported these changes that were to be presented and discussed later on this evening of Tuesday August 28, 2025 during the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting. The committee was fully supportive of the changes to occur for these current vacant positions.
- 6. Other Business-** During Education Week in November the board wrote thank you notes to each staff member. The HR and Personnel Committee would like to do the same thing this year. We will discuss this other business during the September 15, 2025 meeting. A board member reminded everyone that there are other needs in the district such as possibly having assistant principals for the elementary school principals. Also, taking a closer look into the EL staffing in WPS.
- 7. Adjournment-** Meeting was adjourned at 6:03