

**Wellesley Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
June 13, 2023
6:30 PM
Remote Online Meeting**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Those present included Chair Leda Eizenberg, Vice Chair Linda Chow, Secretary Craig Mack, members Christina Horner and Catherine Mirick; Superintendent David Lussier, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Sandy Trach, Director of Student Services Kat Bernklow, Student representative Sophia Dobado and Ivy Wang.

Ms. Eizenberg announced that the meeting is being held remotely and recorded by local media and broadcast live by Wellesley Media.

Public Comments

Reports

School Committee

Ms. Chow updates on Hunnewell Track and Field will meet with the WPC this week to go over the items to amend the conditions of the project. The legal procurement threshold 10,000 does not apply to this .

Ms. Eizenberg met with the Central Council last week and thanked them for their contributions and support to our community. Lots of exciting things to look forward to in the year to come. Niki Ofenloch will continue as Chair.

Superintendent

This is the last week of school, students' last day of school is "Day 180" Thursday, June 15th and staff is Friday, June 16th.

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) is proud to recognize Wellesley Public Schools for excellence in budget presentation with the Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for fiscal year 2023–2024. By participating in this program, Wellesley Public Schools demonstrate a commitment to upholding nationally recognized budget standards. Congratulations to Cindy Mahr and the members of the Business Office who worked so hard to earn this award.

High school class rosters are released today, the name of the teacher will not be listed until later in August.

Dr. Lussier echoes the sincere appreciation for the Central Council board that supports him throughout the year long.

Students

Ivy Wang gives an extra recognition for building a successful culture at the high school after the pandemic, things are feeling normal again. Thank you to the teachers and staff making this possible.

Consent Agenda

Field Trip Approval - German Exchange - June of 2024

Approval of Minutes - August 24, 2022, September 20, 2022, November 15 & 29, 2022, March 27 & 28, 2023, January 12, 2023, February 13, 2023, April 3 & 4, 2023 & May 2, 2023

Motion to Accept Consent Agenda - Eizenberg

Moved - Mack

Seconded - Mirick

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eizenberg - Y

Motion Carried: 5-0

Action/Discussion

Recognition - WOW Grade 5 Equity Project

W.O.W. is a community organization that recognizes and appreciates the WPS core values of Academic Excellence, Commitment to Community, Respect for Human Differences, and Cooperative & Caring Relationships, as well as an assurance of fair and equitable treatment of all regardless of race, religion, skin color, sex, disability, national origin or other similar characteristics.

During grade 5, students have learning opportunities to study different aspects of equity within our society. These include but are not limited to the U.S. Constitution, the history of civil rights, and women's rights.

For the W.O.W. Students took time to reflect on their learning this year. They considered the following questions.

1. What are the important ideas that you've learned about this topic?
2. What questions do you still have about your topic?
3. Do you see examples of how this topic is still an issue today?
4. What can people do to make a difference with this topic?

Ms. Trach read out each of the 80 plus names of participants. [See more.](#)

Star Academy Presentation

Ms. Trach discusses the 10th Grade application process of STAR Academy and goes over a thorough [checklist of requirements](#) that the academy must meet in order to successfully complete their application.

STAR Academy is a K-9 gifted and talented approved private school located at 10 Atwood Street,

Wellesley, MA 02482. STAR Academy was initially approved as a K-8 private school on August 31, 2021 by the Wellesley School Committee.

Grade 9 was added as a second and subsequent approval on September 6, 2022 by the Wellesley School Committee.

On March 14, 2023, STAR Academy submitted a third private school application seeking approval to add grade 10 in Fall 2023. This additional grade has been requested to promote nine students currently enrolled in STAR Academy's grade 9 to a newly approved grade 10. [See more](#)

Enrollment Information

- 2021-2022: K-8, 144 students
- 2022-2023: K-9, 144 students (projected)*
- 2023-2024: K-10, 144 students (projected)
- 2024-2025: K-11, 144 students (projected)
- 2025-2026: K-12, 144 students (projected)

The committee voted a week earlier than anticipated to accommodate STAR Academy's wishes to inform their families before their last day of school.

Motion by Ms. Eizenberg - To approve the adding of grade 10 to STAR Academy as recommended by Wellesley Public Schools.

Moved - Mirick

Seconded - Mack

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eizenberg - Y

Motion Carried: 5-0

Update on Communications/Engagement Work

Dr. Lussier reviews the past year communication goals and recommendations. Sharon Gray, c Coordinator of Community Engagement presents the committee with the [overview](#) with partners from Melwood Global, David Guarino and his team.

Purpose of the Plan

To further the mission of Wellesley Public Schools by ensuring direct, transparent and ongoing engagement with key audiences through a thoughtful, proactive and, when needed, reactive strategic communications and engagement plan.

Overarching Goals of the Plan

To think about how we communicate and engage with audiences to further the strategic goals of Wellesley Public Schools. Focus our actions on when we are engaging and with what purpose we are communicating and engaging.

[See more.](#)

Ms. Eizenberg extends her thanks for all the hard work with this very important engagement work.

Discussion/Vote: Strategic Plan

After the formal presentation at the June 6th School Committee Meeting, Dr. Lussier opens the discussion to prepare the members for their vote on the Strategic Plan moving forward. Based on the communication last week, there have been some changes to the overall framework made from the feedback received by the committee. [See more](#)

Motion by Ms. Eizenberg - to approve the Strategic Plan Framework as presented to the Committee

Moved -Mirick

Seconded - Chow

Roll Call - Horner - N, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eizenberg - Y

Motion Carried: 4-1

Discussion/Vote: Revised Wellness Policy ADF-R

Kat Bernklow, Director of Student Services shares an explanation of the modification that we added to the current policy (*see red*). A la Carte and Competitive Foods In accordance with the Massachusetts School Nutrition Law, all foods sold or provided to students during the school day, outside of the National School Lunch Program, will meet federal and state nutrition standards. Vending machines shall comply with these standards at all times. *Additionally, marketing and advertising will occur for only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.* [See more](#)

Motion by Ms. Eizenberg - to approve the revised Wellness Policy ADF-R

Moved -Mack

Seconded - Mirick

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eizenberg - Y

Motion Carried: 5-0

Non-union Salary Increases

Each year the committee hears in executive session to review proposed non-salary increases. Any action the SC takes must happen in open meeting.

Ms. Mahr shares two memos shared by her of the detailed information of the positions and adjustments to be made by their recommendations. First round is for the FY23 year [See more](#). Second is the next fiscal year of FY24. [See more](#).

Motion by Ms. Eizenberg - That the School Committee vote to approve the FY'23 Non-Union adjustments listed above, retroactive to July 1, 2022.

Moved - Mirick

Seconded - Mack

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eizenberg - Y

Motion Carried: 5-0

Motion by Ms. Eizenberg - To approve a salary increase of 2.75 percent for non-union employees accepting the additional adjustments listed in Ms. Mahr's memos.

Moved - Chow

Seconded - Mirick

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eizenberg - Y

Motion Carried: 5-0

Vote: Superintendent Vacation Carry Over

Dr. Lussier request that the committee approves the for the carryover of ten (10) vacation days to the fiscal 2024 school year.

Motion by Ms. Eizenberg - To approve the request that the committee approves the for the carryover of ten (10) vacation days to the fiscal 23/24 school year.

Moved - Horner

Seconded - Mirick

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eizenberg - Y

Motion Carried: 5-0

MOTION TO ADJOURN - Eizenberg

Moved - Horner

SECOND - Mack

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow -Y and Eizenberg - Y

Motion 5-0

Adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Mack, Secretary

Documents and Exhibits Used:

German Exchange Field Trip Approval
WOW Grade 5 Equity 2023 Project
STAR Academy Application
STAR Academy Checklist
Long Term Communications Plan
Melwood Communication Presentation
WPS Strategic Plan Template
Wellness Implementation Policy ADF-R
FY24 Salary Adjustments & Recommendations