

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE 1/27/2022
JOINT MEETING WITH WHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

Meeting held at 8:00am, 1/27/22, in the WHS Science Wing. Livestreamed via Zoom webinar.

Call to order & Opening Business

A meeting of the Weston School Committee is called to order by Ms. Anita Raman, Chair. Not all attendees had yet arrived at 8, and some entered during the meeting. Also present were Mr. Ken Newberg, Vice-chair, and Ms. Attia Linnard, and Ms. Danielle Black of the School Committee; as well as Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; and Dr. J. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; and Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and Libraries; as well as Mr. Paul Peri, WHS Principal; and Ms. Cynthia Brisky, WHS teacher and SAC Advisor. Several SAC members and other student(s) were also in attendance. Official Elected SAC Members for 2021-2022 include Mr. Ryan Wims (2022), Ms. Sofia Moukaddem and Mr. Nate Sins (2023), Mr. Arjun Jasuja (2024), as well as Mr. Samuel Hinckley (2025). Unofficial SAC Members include but are not limited to Ms. Tally Zeller, Ms. Emma Scully-Power, Ms. Madison Jenkins (2023), Ms. Zara Nip (2022), Ms. Caitlyn Bradley (2023), Ms. Keila Jalinous (2024), Mr. William Zhang and Ms. Shania Smith (2025).

Ms. Raman welcomes attendees to the meeting and expresses excitement to hear from the students. Committee members reintroduce themselves and invite the students to reintroduce themselves and share more about themselves before getting into various discussion topics.

Ms. Raman and Dr. Connolly contextualize the transition process from mask mandates to a mask-optional environment in schools. Students speak to their experiences and expectations, and engage in discussions with the administrators and school committee members regarding Covid's impact on classes, mask policies and practices from the state and local levels, school culture, and more. This leads into a more general discussion of school morale and community connections, as well as mental health, social and emotional challenges and fatigue, resilience, and steps that the administration can take in the coming months to best support the students.

Administrators and committee members also explain details of how the district receives new information from the state government and communicates that to students and families, and connect with students around their perceptions and preferences for important communications about policy changes.

Ms. Linnard later asks the students "If you could change one thing at school, what would it be?" Responses touched on more class/school-wide activities and opportunities for socializing with peers, changes to classroom layouts, increased audience capacity at events, more flexibility for students, recognition and accommodation of cultural holidays like Lunar New Year, and more.

As the meeting draws to a close, members thank the students before a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Newberg makes a motion to adjourn and Ms. Black seconds. The present members then vote unanimously to adjourn the SAC meeting with each present member voting "aye" in favor of the motion to adjourn.