

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE 3/31/2022
JOINT MEETING WITH WHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

Meeting held at 8:00am, 3/31/22, in the WHS Science Wing, with access available to the public.

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, Ms. Alyson Muzila and Ms. Danielle Black of the School Committee; as well as Ms. Keitric Johnson, BWMPO Representative; as well as Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; and Dr. J. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; as well as Mr. Paul Peri, WHS Principal; and Ms. Cynthia Brisky, WHS teacher and SAC Advisor. Several SAC members and other student(s) also attended. 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. Caitlyn Bradley (2023), Ms. Keila Jalinous (2024), Mr. William Zhang and Ms. Shania Smith (2025); and others.

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. Dr. Connolly shares some springtime updates including performances, athletics, events, etc.

Ms. Raman invites students to discuss the first item on the agenda, involving school climate and culture. Students discuss how mask optional has gone relatively smoothly, many wearing masks and many not. They discuss masking further, also touching on end of year events, like dances. This leads into discussion of the senior class experience (they are stressed, college admissions decisions in full swing) and how the school can support them throughout the spring. This leads to discussing guidance and some events and initiatives that could be great for students/families. They also discuss recent class trips and events, the student-faculty basketball game, and more. One student adds, it feels like the school is back in action, like the “on-button has been pushed.”

They go on to discuss student organizations and how the system works. Currently there is an activity block during the school day, 30 minutes once every two weeks. They discuss some potential ideas for clubs and student activities, such as increasing time for clubs to meet during the start of the school year and during sports seasons. They also discuss meeting after school, giving 8th graders a chance to preview clubs, and other creative ideas for clubs to thrive more. One suggestion is to help each club plan in the Spring for the following Fall, including elections.

They also discuss senior internships, and ways to improve that system to work for all students. They discuss various opportunities for expanding or revamping that program to serve student needs even more effectively. After further discussion, the time is beginning to approach 8:45am. Minding the time, motion to adjourn to executive session without returning to the open session.

MOTION: Committee members move to adjourn to executive session to discuss collective bargaining strategy. The motion is seconded and unanimously approved with all of the present members voting ‘Aye’ in favor of adjournment to executive session.