

Westerly School Committee Meeting
June 17, 2026
Westerly Town Hall
Regular Session

School Committee Members:

Leslie Dunn, Chair
Michael Ober, Vice Chair
Timothy Killam, Clerk
Angela Goethals
Seth Logan
Peter Nero
Lori Wycall

Also in Attendance:

Steven Morrone, Assistant Superintendent
William Nardone, Esquire
Rose Falcone, Recording Secretary

1. Leslie Dunn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
Roll Call: Leslie Dunn, Michael Ober, Timothy Killam, Seth Logan, Angela Goethals, Peter Nero, and Lori Wycall.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
L. Dunn led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Westerly Public Schools Mission
T. Killam read: "To create an inspiring, challenging and supportive environment where students are encouraged and assisted in reaching their highest potential."
4. Student's Report
Student Representative Abby Champlin introduced herself, sharing her athletic participation in volleyball and basketball alongside her leadership roles as Class Vice President, National Honor Society President, and VASSA Co-President. Her report concluded with an overview of the successful spring sports season, final exams, and the Class of 2026 graduation.
5. Presentations
 - a. Retiree Recognition
Retirees were recognized for their years of service.
 - b. Westerly USA 250 Committee Essay Contest Winners
Steve Morrone introduced Westerly USA 250 Committee member James Wolfe who recognized students Mikenlee Santos and Samantha Giorno for their winning essays, which will be included in the Westerly time capsule. In recognition of their achievement, both students received a celebratory certificate and a U.S. flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol.
 - c. Westerly High School 2025-2026 Rhode Island Interscholastic League Division II Girls Lacrosse Championship Team
Coaches and members of the Girls Basketball Championship Team were congratulated and recognized for their undefeated season.
6. Open Forum: Comments shall be limited to School Committee agenda items only.
 - No one came forward.
 - a. Committee Members' Response

7. Assistant Superintendent's Report: District Curriculum and Instructional Updates
Steve Morrone gave an update on the Strategic Plan implementation and reminded all that the district will be serving free grab and go meals to all children age 18 and younger on Mondays-Fridays (July 6-31, 2026 from 11 a.m. to noon) at the Northend Community Center/Substation (68 Pierce St.).
8. Superintendent's Report: District Priorities, Staff and Student Recognition
Unable to attend.
9. Financial Report: Discussion/Action/Potential Vote
Cindy Kirchhoff gave an overview of the May 31, 2026 Financial Report variances.
 - a. FY2027 Budget
Cindy Kirchhoff gave an overview of the proposed FY2027 updated revenue and expense summary and proposed changes. Discussion ensued.
Leslie Dunn entertained a motion to approve the FY2027 budget as presented. L. Wycall so moved, seconded by T. Killam. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
 - b. Budget Transfer
 - i. Funds from WHS Repairs Culinary (\$2,085.01); WHS Professional Fees Culinary (\$220.00) to WHS Supply/Material Culinary (\$2,305.01)
Leslie Dunn entertained a motion to approve the Budget Transfer. L. Wycall so moved, seconded by T. Killam. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
10. Consent Agenda: Action/Vote
 - a. Approval of Minutes (06/03/26)
 - b. Home School Approvals
 - c. Field Trip approval in accordance with WPS Policy 6170
 - i. Westerly High School to Quebec City Winter Carnival (February 5-8, 2027)

Leslie Dunn entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. T. Killam so moved, seconded by M. Ober. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
11. New Business: Discussion/Action/Potential Vote
 - a. Food Service Management Company Contract Renewal FY2027
Cindy Kirchhoff provided an overview of the food service contract, noting that it is currently in the third year of a five-year agreement. Discussion ensued regarding food quality, the potential for handling food services in-house, and strategies for offering healthier meals. The committee discussed creating a dedicated study group to explore improvements and alternative options. Moving forward, the committee requested more frequent updates and slated further discussion for the Health and Wellness Subcommittee meeting.

Leslie Dunn entertained a motion to approve the Food Service Management Company Contract Renewal FY2027. M. Ober so moved, seconded by A. Goethals. The motion passed 6-1. (T. Killam opposed)
 - b. Field Trip-Student Travel Policy 6170 Discussion
Discussion ensued on ensuring equity across the district by mandating at least one inclusive, grade-wide field trip per year for all K-8 classrooms and focusing on a shift toward off campus/extended learning opportunities. The feeling is that these experiences are an

educational necessity and should not be denied to students based on disciplinary issues. Administrative oversight should be required to ensure compliance. The policy will be updated to reflect these directives for future review.

12. Old Business: Discussion/Action/Potential Vote
 - a. Elimination of Early Entry to Kindergarten Policy 2513
Peter Nero made a motion to approve the Elimination of Early Entry to Kindergarten Policy 2513, seconded by A. Goethals. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
 - b. Westerly School Committee By-Laws: Article X: Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Checks
Discussion ensued regarding eliminating some of the wording and the requirement of annual BCI checks for volunteers.
A. Goethals made a motion to approve the updated Westerly School Committee By-Laws with elimination of the first proposed line of wording, seconded by T. Killam. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
13. Correspondence
 - Correspondence was received requesting clarification on the selection and award process for Baccalaureate scholarships. (Wycall/Dunn)
14. Committee/Liaison Reports
 - M. Ober reported that the Building Subcommittee is working on the issues recently raised including the correction of the signage, visitor parking and the window concerns.
15. Future Agenda Items
 - Baccalaureate Process (Wycall)
16. Open Forum: Non-agenda item comments allowed.
 - No one came forward.
 - a. Committee Members' Response
17. Adjournment
Leslie Dunn entertained a motion to adjourn at 6:39 p.m. A. Goethals so moved, seconded by T. Killam. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

These are the minutes of the School Committee meeting identified above as approved and adopted by the School Committee on July 15, 2026.



Timothy Killam
Clerk

Details of the aforesaid proceedings are available on the website video.