

**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING**

AGENDA *

(Agenda Subject to Modification in Accordance with Law)

SPECIAL NOTICE ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR THIS ELECTRONIC MEETING:

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders No. 7B and 9H, public participation for this meeting will be held electronically and live streamed on westportps.org and shown on Optimum Government Access Channel 78 and Frontier Channel 6021. Emails to BOE members can be sent to BOE@westportps.org. Comments to be read during the public comment period must be submitted to the meeting's Googledoc during the submission period. Please see the following link for instructions and guidelines:

https://www.westportps.org/uploaded/Procedures_and_Guidelines_for

[Public Participation in Remote Board Meetings.pdf](#). We will use our best efforts to read public comments if they are received during the public comment period and if they state your full name and address. Meeting materials will be available at westportps.org along with the meeting notice posted on the Meeting Agenda page.

PUBLIC CALL TO ORDER

6:00 p.m., Held Remotely Via Zoom Pursuant to Executive Orders 7B and 9H

Instructions to listen to call to order:

Phone: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 884 0679 4870

Passcode: 630899

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Non-Union Personnel Compensation 2021-2022

RESUME PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (7:00 p.m.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (15 MINUTES)

MINUTES: May 3, 2021

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Possible Appointment of Long Lots Elementary School Principal Mr. Thomas Scarice
2. Possible Appointment of Kings Highway Elementary School Principal Mr. Thomas Scarice
3. Acceptance of Gifts for the Westport Permanent Art Collection, (Encl.) Mr. Thomas Scarice
pages 3-18 Ms. Kathie Bennewitz
Dr. Ivey Covaci
4. Approval of Pathways Academy as Alternative Education Program (Encl.) Mr. Stafford Thomas
for 2021-2022 School Year, *page 19*
5. Budget Reconciliation 2021-2022 Mr. Elio Longo
6. 2022-2023 School Calendar, *pages 20-23* (Encl.) Mr. John Bayers

DISCUSSION

1. Health Update		Ms. Suzanne Levasseur
2. Teaching and Learning Updates	(Encl.)	Mr. Stafford Thomas Mr. Stefan Porco Ms. Rasha Tarek Ms. Ann Didelot
		• Class of 2023 Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment Proposal, <i>pages 24-39</i>
		• Technology in Mathematics, <i>pages 40-44</i>
3. Teaching and Learning Committee Report		Ms. Jeannie Smith Ms. Youn Su Chao
4. Strategic Plan Timeline Milestones, <i>pages 45-46</i>	(Encl.)	Mr. Thomas Scarice

ADJOURNMENT

* A 2/3 vote is required to go to executive session, to add a topic to the agenda of a regular meeting, or to start a new topic after 10:30 p.m. The meeting can also be viewed on Cablevision on channel 78; Frontier channel 6021 and by video stream @www.westportps.org

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WELCOME USING THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

- Public comment will be accepted via a Google doc and the comments will be read aloud at the meeting. A link will be provided on Monday, prior to the meeting.
- There will be no in-person public comment due to public health concerns.
- A maximum of 15 minutes will be provided for public comments.
- Comments on agenda items are limited to 1 minute each.

It is the policy of the Town of Westport that all Town-sponsored public meetings and events are accessible to people with disabilities. If you need assistance in participating in a meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact Westport's ADA Coordinator at 203-341-1043 or eflug@westportct.gov at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation.



WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THOMAS SCARICE
Superintendent of Schools

110 Myrtle Avenue
Westport, Connecticut 06880
Telephone: (203) 341-1025
Fax: (203) 341-1029
tscarice@westportps.org

To: Westport Board of Education Members
From: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools
Re: May 14, 2021 Board of Education Meeting
Date May 17, 2021

Provided below for Board consideration is an overview of the meeting agenda items for May 17, 2021. As we have done for previous meetings, the meeting will be held remotely with public access through live streaming and public comments and questions submitted electronically.

Discussion/Action

- 1. Possible Appointment of Long Lots Elementary School Principal**
- 2. Possible Appointment of Kings Highway Elementary School Principal**

According to Board policy 4112, ‘Hiring of Certified Staff’, “*All finalists for the positions of building principals and central office administrative positions shall be interviewed by the Board of Education prior to any vote of the Board to approve candidates for these positions. The Board of Education makes such appointments in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 10-151 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreements.*” Additionally, according to Board policy 2000.1, “*The Superintendent of Schools is the chief educational advisor and executive advisor and executive officer of the Board of Education. In all matters coming before the Board it will seek the Superintendent’s recommendations before reaching decisions.*” The policy continues to clarify that, “*For this purpose the Superintendent will, with the assistance of and in consultation with appropriate staff members: 6. Nominate professional staff members for appointment.*” The Board met with the finalists for each school and will cast votes to take action on these positions Monday evening.

- 3. Acceptance of Gifts for the Westport Permanent Art Collection**

In accordance with the BOE Policy on Gifts P3280, the Board is being presented with the following gifts of artworks, please accept the recommendation of the Westport Arts Advisory Committee and Westport Public Art Collections Committee, by seven donors for the Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection, a part of Westport Public Art Collections:

- Anne Chernow: 5 works by Vincent Baldasanno, Isabel Bishop, Christo, Stephen Fredericks, Ann Chernow, valuation of \$6,000.00
- Friends of WestPAC: 2 paintings, by Leonard Everett Fisher and Brooke Maples, valuation of \$9,000.00
- Al Arosco: 1 silkscreen by Victor Vasarely, valuation \$3,500.00
- Bruce McAllister: 1 drawing by Hardie Gramatky, valuation: \$1,500
- Anne Sheffer: 1 lithograph poster by Lorraine Schneider, valuation: \$500
- Leonard Everett Fisher: 1 work by Leonard Fisher, valuation: \$to come
- Naiad Eisel Estate: 16 mixed media works by Naiad and Walter Eisel, valuation: \$15,500

- 4. Approval of Pathways Academy as Alternative Education Program for 2021-2022 School Year**

The Pathways Academy was created based on an assessment of the instructional and social needs identified by the school community. Additionally, this program was the result of recommendations from the last accreditation visit to Staples High School by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges regarding the areas of curriculum, instruction and school culture. The goals of the program are to increase school attendance and overall school success for students who have struggled with consistent school attendance, to increase academic success and learning readiness, and to create a community in which students feel accepted and supported to decrease anxiety levels of identified students. The enrollment in Pathways Academy has exceeded projections the past two years and a similar demand is expected due to the extraordinary times of the past fifteen months. Each year the Board is asked to take action to renew the Pathways program.

5. Budget Reconciliation 2021-2022

The budget item is necessary for the Board to adopt its FY22 budget. Up to this point, the Board has been working with a proposed budget. The board had previously accepted and included in the request to the RTM all the ESSER grants credits to meet the BOF approved budget of 3.0%. On Monday the Board will vote to officially adopt the 3.0% budget increase from the 2020-2021 budget, in the amount of \$ 125,594,582, without further reconciliation.

6. 2022-2023 School Calendar

Please see the recommendation for the 2022-2023 school calendar in the attached memo from Director of Human Resources and General Administration, John Bayers. The recommendation from the administration continues to be “Draft B”, which places the February professional development day on the Monday after the winter vacation. Further rationale and history related to the calendar development is also included in the attached memo.

Discussion

1. Health Update

Sue Levasseur and I will provide a health update on COVID-19 cases, the vaccination clinics, and end of year activities. There have been additional vaccine breakthroughs with 12-15 year olds now eligible. The recent CDC guidance related to masks and social distancing will be discussed. However, I do not foresee any definitive positions taken on masks and social distancing in schools for the 2021-2022 school year until later this summer.

2. Teaching and Learning Updates

Class of 2023 Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment Proposal

Staples High School is required by the State of Connecticut to add a 1 credit mastery-based assessment requirement for students graduating in 2023 (the current sophomore class). This requirement provides our students with a capstone experience related to the Westport “Vision of a Graduate”, “Contributing Citizens”. Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, along with members of the Staples team, will provide a presentation on the background of this program, and the variety of methods that students can access to meet this requirement. Please see the attached slide deck.

Technology in Mathematics

Continuing with the series of presentations in teaching and learning, Secondary Math Coordinator, Stefan Porco, and Staples Math teachers, Rasha Tarek and Ann Didelot, will share specific technologies that have enabled faculty to enhance video conferencing for both remote and in person learners. Additionally, the team will share how these technologies support professional development to enable teachers to continually grow as they adapt their practice to meet student needs. This presentation will share a few of the many technologies that the mathematics department uses to enhance the classroom experience, even more crucial as we navigated the current school year.

3. Teaching and Learning Committee Report

Among the many areas that were reconsidered during the pandemic was our school schedules. School schedules were adjusted throughout the school year to accommodate the learning model (i.e. hybrid, remote, in person) to maximize student learning. There have been active discussions of which approaches were necessary during the pandemic that the district might want to consider maintaining when the school experience returns to “pre-pandemic” status. One area under serious consideration is the daily school schedule. The Teaching and Learning Committee were presented with modifications for next year’s school schedule at each level. Dr. Buono, K-5 Curriculum Coordinator, Ali Moran, and members of the elementary administrative team, will share the plans for daily school schedules for the 2021-2022 school year to the full Board. This is an informational item and not an action item for the Board. A slide deck for this presentation will be ready for distribution on Monday.

4. Strategic Plan Timeline Milestones

I have enclosed a memo to the Board for this agenda item with a potential timeline for the initial tasks of strategic planning this summer. I have also provided the Board with a range of focus group questions that I will ask stakeholder groups in all 8 of our schools, along with parents and students across the system in an initial inquiry stage. The dates and timelines in this document are subject to change based on access to in person meetings.

I have adjusted some of the timelines from my initial presentation to the Board at the last meeting to accommodate for increased participation and development over the summer following the initial inquiry and subsequent synthesis. There are two primary points of opportunity for Board reflection, feedback and input: the first week of July and approximately August 15.

2020-2021 May 12, 2021

Nancy Diamond, Chair

Kathie Bennewitz

Miggs Burroughs

Eric Chiang

Frederic Chiu

John Dodig

Lee Goldstein

Jerri Graham

Deirdre Kelly

Diane Lowman

Charles Rosoff

Carole Schweid

Douglas Tirola

Kimberly Wilson

Honorary Members

Ann Chernow

Ann Sheffer

The Honorable

James S. Marpe

Dear Superintendent of Schools Tom Scarice and Candice Savin,

In accordance with the *BOE Policy on Gifts P3280*, please accept the recommendation of the Westport Public Art Collections Committee and Westport Arts Advisory Committee on August 7, 2018 and March 19, 2020 that the gift from Ann Chernow of five works of art, by Christo and Jean-Claude, Vincent Baldassano, Stephen Fredericks, Isabel Bishop, and Ann Chernow, valued collectively at \$6,000.00, be accepted by the Board of Education for the Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection, a part of Westport Public Art Collections. Please see illustrated list for details.

About the artworks:

View of the Reichstag Project from the Brandenburg Gate



Christo and Jeanne-Claude created environmental works of art. Their works include the wrapping of the Reichstag in Berlin as seen here, the Pont-Neuf bridge in Paris, the 24-mile Running Fence in Sonoma and Marin counties in California, and The Gates in Central Park. The wrapping of the Reichstag was completed on June 24, 1995 by a work force of 90 professional climbers and 120 installation workers. The Reichstag remained wrapped for 14 days and all materials were recycled. Although Jeanne-Claude and Christo worked as creative equals on all their art projects, only Christo's name appeared on the finished products. This was a conscious decision by both Jeanne-Claude and Christo because of the prejudices against female artists in the art world. Jeanne-Claude said, "The decision to use only the name Christo was made deliberately when we were young because it was difficult for one artist to be established and we wanted to put all the chances on our side." Therefore, Jeanne-Claude took on the role as Christo's manager to advance their success. The pair did not reveal Jeanne-Claude as the second half in the creative process until 1994.

Diamonds on the Soul's of Her Shoes



Vincent Baldassano, a graduate of Wagner College who holds a Master of Fine Arts from University of Oregon, has taught painting, watercolor, and mixed media at universities, colleges,

and art schools throughout the US, including UCONN; National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts, Silvermine School of Art, and Gateway Community College in New Haven, CT, where he is currently Associate Professor of Art. His work has been featured in national and international exhibitions totaling over 50 solo shows and 100 group exhibitions, including American Academy in Rome, National Academy School, Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, Butler Museum of American Art, Ohio and Aldrich and Stamford museums. In addition, his art is in private and public collections in the United States, Europe, and Asia, including Pepsi Corporation, Pfizer Corporation, the New York Federal Building, Housatonic Museum of Art, and the Savannah College of Art & Design. In his mixed-media work, he builds his narratives through shallow vistas and breaks up the picture plane in jagged ways. He believes very strongly that all people should get involved with art, as it equips one to be flexible in thinking both about art and survival, and even in life.

Frozen Bird



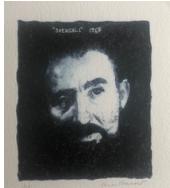
Stephen A. Fredericks focuses his energy on the medium of printmaking, and a large portion of his work involves wildlife and natural history themes using the soft ground etching technique to document the world we live in. In 1998 Stephen founded The New York Society of Etchers which is dedicated to creating opportunities for printmakers to showcase their work and forge relationships with others worldwide.

Woman with a Hat



Isabel Bishop (1902-1988), hoping to become an illustrator, came to New York in 1918 and enrolled in the School of Applied Design for Women. In the early 1920s she transferred to the Art Students League to study painting with Kenneth Hayes Miller and Guy Pène du Bois. In 1934 she leased a studio at Union Square, where she observed and recorded the everyday activities of poor and working-class people of the city. Her impeccably drawn figures brought Bishop recognition as one of the outstanding urban realists of the "Fourteenth Street School," a loosely affiliated group named for the area where Bishop, Reginald Marsh, and Raphael Soyer, among others, lived and portrayed the local scene. Ann Chernow was friends with Bishop whose paintings and etchings inspired the strong feminist figures in Ann's own body of work.

Svengali 1968 (Portrait of Burt Chernow), 2020



A 1968 portrait of Ann Chernow's late husband Burt Chernow, the founder of the Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection, is the basis of this contemporary lithograph. Ann titled after Svengali, a male character in the novel *Trilby* (1894) by George du Maurier who seduces, dominates, and exploits Trilby, a young Irish girl, and makes her into a famous singer. The artist chose this title not to evoke a negative connotation about her and Burt's long and close relationship. Instead, it focused on his strident encouragement for her to strive for, and find success, as a serious and highly regarded artist within the male dominated art world and while balancing societal expectations as a wife and mother.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Motes Bennewitz
Town Curator

cc: Nancy Diamond, WAAC chair; Randa Trivisonno, WestPAC chair



View of the Reichstag Project from the Brandenburg Gate

Object media representation (thumbnail):
Object identifier: ANA2017.1
Object titles: View of the Reichstag Project from the Brandenburg Gate
Dates: circa 1995
Medium: Photograph
Dimensions: 24 1/2 inches; 30 1/8 inches
Related entities: Christo and Jeanne-Claude; Ann Chernow ()
Valuation: \$ 1,500.00



Diamonds on the Soul's of Her Shoes

Object media representation (thumbnail):
Object identifier: ANA2017.2
Object titles: Diamonds on the Soul's of Her Shoes
Dates:; Date manufactured/created
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 20 inches; 24 inches
Related entities: Vincent Baldassano; Ann Chernow
Valuation: \$ 2,000.00



Frozen Bird

Object media representation (thumbnail):
Object identifier: ANA2017.3
Object titles: Frozen Bird
Dates: 2001; Date manufactured/created
Medium: Etching and aquatint
Dimensions: 16 1/4 inches; 15 5/8 inches
Related entities: Stephen A. Fredericks; Ann Chernow
Valuation: \$ 500.00



Woman with a Hat

Object media representation (thumbnail):

Object identifier: ANA2017.4

Object titles: Woman with a Hat

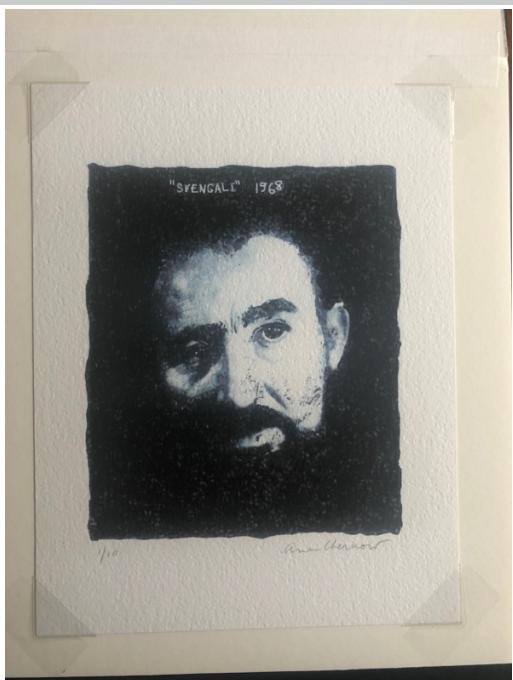
Dates: circa 1930; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Etching

Dimensions: 15 1/4 inches; 12 1/4 inches

Related entities: Isabel Bishop; Ann Chernow

Valuation: \$ 1,500.00



Svengali 1968 (Burt Chernow)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

Object identifier: ANA2020.8

Dates: 2019

Medium: Digital Lithograph

Dimensions: 7 inches; 6 inches (image)

Related entities: Ann Chernow

Valuation: \$ 500.00

2020-2021 May 12, 2021

Nancy Diamond, Chair

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Kimberly Wilson

Honorary Members

Ann Chernow

Ann Sheffer

The Honorable

James S. Marpe

Dear Superintendent of Schools Tom Scarice and BOE Chair Candice Savin,

In accordance with the *BOE Policy on Gifts P3280*, please accept the recommendation of the Westport Public Art Collections Committee and Westport Arts Advisory Committee on August 7, 2018 that the gift from Friends of WestPAC of two paintings, an illustration by Leonard Everett Fisher and a flora still life by Brook Maples, valued at \$9,000.00 be accepted by the Board of Education for the Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection, a part of Westport Public Art Collections.



Red Carnation

Object media representation (thumbnail):

Object identifier: ANA2017.17

Object titles: Red Carnation

Dates: 2015 – 2017; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Oil, acrylic, and pen on canvas

Dimensions: 48 inches; 36 inches;

Related entities: Brooke Werhane Maples;

Value: \$4,500.00

DONOR: Friends of WestPAC

This work is on loan and installed in the SHS teacher lounge.

About the artwork:

Brooke Werhane Maples (b. 1980), formerly of Westport now lives and works in Charlotte, NC. She is an artist whose work is marked by fluid brushwork, flat planes, expressive color and at the same time fragile yet strong subjects, whether of people or still lifes. She says her “flowers drip of friskiness and the figures in her paintings manifest themselves to the viewer playfully and strong while at the same time revealing their vulnerability,” and that “Alice Neel and Frida Kahlo come to mind when thinking about the context and the place of raw feminine emotion that triggers her work.” She adds: “As I moved through my studies in art history and environmental design I continued drawing and painting, I was inspired by the works of Frank Lloyd Wright, Phillip Johnson, Willem de Kooning and John Singer Sargent.’ It is both architects and artists that continued to influence her work. ‘The body, movement, energy and translating human emotion through painting is a constant goal in my practice.’



Celebrations: Thanksgiving

Object media representation (thumbnail):

Object identifier: ANA2017.14

Object titles: Thanksgiving

Dates: 1985

Medium: Oil and acrylic on canvas

Dimensions: 11 inches; 17 inches

Related entities: Leonard Everett Fisher

Value: \$4,500.00

DONOR: Friends of WestPAC

About the artwork

Leonard Everett Fisher (b. 1924) is an American artist best known for illustrating children's books. Since 1955 he has illustrated over 250 books for young readers including about eighty-eight that he authored. This small painting illustrated the page for Thanksgiving in "Celebrations" by Myra C. Livingston, published by Holiday House, 1985.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Motes Bennewitz
Town Curator

cc: Nancy Diamond, WAAC chair; Randa Trivisonno, WestPAC chair

2020-2021 May 12, 2021

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The Juggler

Object media representation (thumbnail):

Object identifier: ANA2018.1

Object titles: The Juggler

Dates: 1983

Medium: Silkscreen on wove paper mounted on silv

Dimensions: 38 inches; 28 inches

Related entities: Victor Vasarely;

Donor: Al Orozco

About the artwork:

The Hungarian/French artist Victor Vasarely (1908-1997) is considered one of the progenitors of “Op Art” for his optically complex and illusionistic paintings and original prints. After studying medicine in Budapest, he refocused his energies on traditional academic painting. He then became a graphic designer and poster artist who found his own style by combining patterns and organic images. “Every form is a base for color every color is the attribute of a form,” he wrote. Vasarely transposed natural shapes into purely abstract elements, and with precise combinations of lines, geometric shapes, colors, and shading created images embracing illusion of depth, movement, and three-dimensionality.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Motes Bennewitz
Town Curator

cc: Nancy Diamond, WAAC chair; Randa Trivisonno, WestPAC chair

2020-2021 May 12, 2021

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The Honorable

James S. Marpe

Dear Superintendent of Schools Tom Scarice and Candice Savin,

In accordance with the *BOE Policy on Gifts P3280*, please accept the recommendation of the Westport Public Art Collections Committee and Westport Arts Advisory Committee on August 7, 2018 for the gift from Bruce McAllister of a “Little Toot” chalk drawing by Hardie Gramatky valued at \$1,500.00 be accepted by the Board of Education for the Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection, a part of Westport Public Art Collections



Little Toot

Object media representation (thumbnail):

Object identifier: ANA2017.15

Object titles: Little Toot

Medium: Chalk on paper

Dimensions: 17 1/2 inches; 23 1/2 inches; 208

Related entities: Hardie Gramatky;

Donor: Bruce McAllister

Valuation: \$ 1,500.00

About the artwork:

The donor’s grandparents were Westport neighbors of Hardie Gramatky. Bruce’s mother returned to Westport to live with her parents while getting her master’s in education. After teaching nursery school locally, she began work as a first-grade teacher at Monroe Elementary. The family asked Gramatky to create a picture of Little Toot for her daughter’s classroom. He happily agreed and sketched this chalk picture in about 5 minutes on basic paper and dedicated it to her class, where it hung from 1967 to 1970 when she moved to Maine. The painting followed her to Maine and ended up adorning Bruce’s bedroom where she continued reading *Little Toot* books to her children just as she had with her students. The donor thought it fitting to return it to Westport and share it with Westport students today.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Motes Bennewitz
Town Curator

cc: Nancy Diamond, WAAC chair; Randa Trivisonno, WestPAC chair

2020-2021 May 12, 2021

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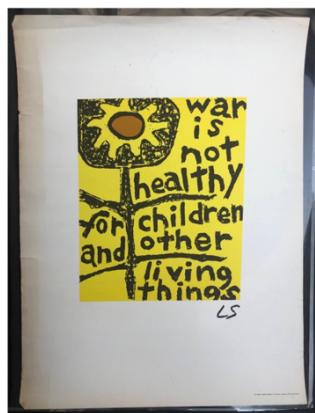
Ann Sheffer

The Honorable

James S. Marpe

Dear Superintendent of Schools Tom Scarice and Candice Savin,

In accordance with the *BOE Policy on Gifts P3280*, please accept the recommendation of the Westport Public Art Collections Committee and Westport Arts Advisory Committee on October 13, 2020 of the gift from Ann Sheffer of a Vietnam Era lithograph poster by Lorraine Schneider valued at \$500.00 be accepted by the Board of Education for the Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection, a part of Westport Public Art Collections.



"War is not healthy for children and other living things"

Object media representation (thumbnail):

Object identifier: ANA2020.9

Dates: 1968, published by Another Mother for Peace, Beverly Hills, CA

Medium: Offset lithograph poster

Dimensions: 24 in x 18 in

Related entities: Lorraine Schneider; Donor: Ann Sheffer

Valuation: \$500.00

About the artwork:

Lorraine Schneider created one of the most emotionally charged posters of the Vietnam War era out of concern that her eldest son would be drafted into the US Army. Originally started by fifteen women in California, “Another Mother for Peace” (AMP) was founded in 1967 “to educate women to take an active role in eliminating war as a means of solving disputes between nations, people and ideologies.” AMP’s first action was a Mother’s Day campaign in opposition to the Vietnam War in which then-President Lyndon B. Johnson and members of Congress were sent thousands of Mother’s Day cards expressing their yearning for peace. The organization’s vision is embodied in the AMP logo created by Schneider, a sunflower with the words, “War is not healthy for children and other living things” This irrefutable statement with its brilliant, childlike design appeared on posters, bumper stickers, note cards, letter seals, t-shirts, and of course, the distinctive gold medallions worn by AMP supporters all over the world. The non-profit, non-partisan association still exists today. *This work was exhibited at MoCA Westport, “World Peace” exhibition (2020) as a loan and intended gift of Ann Sheffer.*

Sincerely,

Kathleen Motes Bennewitz
Town Curator

cc: Nancy Diamond, WAAC chair; Randa Trivisonno, WestPAC chair

2020-2021 May 12, 2021

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The Honorable

James S. Marpe

Dear Superintendent of Schools Tom Scarice and BOE Chair Candice Savin,

In accordance with the *BOE Policy on Gifts P3280*, please accept the recommendation of the Westport Public Art Collections Committee and Westport Arts Advisory Committee on August 7, 2018 for the gift from Leonard Everett Fisher of his ink and graphite transfer sketch for the “Netters” valued at **TO COME** be accepted by the Board of Education for the Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection, a part of Westport Public Art Collections.



Transfer Sketch for “Netters”

Object identifier: ANA2019.30

Medium: India ink and graphite on tracing paper

Dated: 1949

Dimensions: 8 x 10 1/8 (sheet)

Related entities: Leonard Everett Fisher

Donor: Leonard Everett Fisher

Valuation: \$ to come

About the artwork:

Leonard Everett Fisher (born in 1924) of Westport is a revered painter and illustrator who created many book, stamp, and commemorative illustrations. When he returned from WWII, Fisher entered Yale University where he earned his Bachelors and Master of Fine art. While at Yale he received the Joseph Pulitzer scholarship in 1950 and the Winchester traveling fellowship, which allowed him to study art as he traveled through Italy.

This gridded drawing was used by the artist in 1949 to transfer his compositional drawing to a much larger (48 x 72 inch) prepared Masonite panel. The final work was painted over the course of two days in May 1949 as his final degree project at Yale. *Netters* (1949), oil on gessoed Masonite, is in the Westport Public Art Collections (no. 929) and was donated by the artist. The subject is men repairing fishing nets, laborers whom he observed on the docks in his native NYC.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Motes Bennewitz

Town Curator

cc: Nancy Diamond, WAAC chair; Randa Trivisonno, WestPAC chair

2020-2021 May 12, 2021

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Dear Superintendent of Schools Tom Scarice and Candice Savin,

In accordance with the BOE Policy on Gifts P3280, please accept the recommendation of the Westport Public Art Collections Committee and Westport Arts Advisory Committee on August 7, 2018 and March 19, 2020 that the gift from the Eisel estate of sixteen mixed media works by Naiad and Walter Eisel valued at \$15,500.00 be accepted by the Board of Education for the Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection, a part of Westport Public Art Collections. Please see illustrated list for details.



Selections of proposed donated works by Walter and Naiad Eisel, both of whom were inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame. The kinetic sculpture by Walter (lower left) is on loan and on view in SES's Stem lab.

About the artists:

Naiad June Giblan Eisel was born in 1927 in Philadelphia and died in 2016 in Westport after residing for decades in Greens Farms. Naiad was an American commercial illustrator and artist, well known for her highly creative artwork for magazines and newspapers. She married Walter Eisel in 1953 and they worked



collaboratively on many projects. Naiad's involvement in local issues included the "Save Cockenoe" campaign for which she designed the iconic poster.

Walter Einsel was born in 1926 in New York and died 1998 in Westport. He studied at the New York Parsons School for Design before taking on assignments from The New York Times. He became the art director for NBC and met Naiad June while applying for a similar position with CBS. Together they created a U.S. Postal Service stamp and an exhibit for the AT&T Age of Information Centre, producing fifty-five figures in Disney World's EPCOT Center. From his studio, he constructed many three-dimensional commercial advertising works, kinetic sculptures and even large format copper cookie cutters (before Martha Stewart!).

Sincerely,

Kathleen Motes Bennewitz
Town Curator

cc: Nancy Diamond, WAAC chair; Randa Trivisonno, WestPAC chair



Flight (ANA2016.2)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/3/72588_ca_object_representations_media_2328_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.2

Object titles: Flight

Dates: ; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Watercolor with ink on paper

Dimensions: 16 inches; 13 inches; 210; ; ; ; ; Frames

Related entities: [Naiad Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 900.00



Education, Photograph, Movies, Clothing, Washing Machine, Vacuum Cleaner (ANA2016.3)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/22409_ca_object_representations_media_2001_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.3

Object titles: Education, Photograph, Movies, Clothing, Washing Machine, Vacuum Cleaner

Dates: ; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Watercolor with ink on paper

Dimensions: 33 1/2 inches; 26 1/2 inches; 210; ; ; ; ; Frames

Related entities: [Naiad Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 1,800.00



This Land is Mine (ANA2016.4)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/56012_ca_object_representations_media_2002_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.4

Object titles: This Land is Mine

Dates: ; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Mixed media in wooden box with compartments, covered with clear acrylic

Dimensions: 24 inches; 28 inches; ; ; ; ; Frames

Related entities: [Walter Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 2,000.00



(Yellow brick road, rainbow in background) (ANA2016.5)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/3/80044_ca_object_representations_media_2329_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.5

Object titles: (Yellow brick road, rainbow in background)

Dates: ; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Watercolor with ink on paper

Dimensions: 19 3/4 inches; 16 1/2 inches; 210; ; ; ; ; Frames

Related entities: [Naiad Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 750.00



(Japanese figure) (ANA2016.6)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/3/48106_ca_object_representations_media_2330_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.6

Object titles: (Japanese figure)

Dates: ; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Watercolor on paper

Dimensions: 19 3/4 inches; 16 1/2 inches; 210; ; ; ; ; Frames

Related entities: [Naiad Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 950.00



New York, New York/The Big Apple (ANA2016.11)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/90003_ca_object_representations_media_2009_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.11

Object titles: New York, New York/The Big Apple

Dates: ; Date manufactured/created

Dimensions: 27 inches; 18 inches; ; ; ; ; Sculpture: 27 x 18 inches Base height: 9 1/2 inches; Other (see measurement notes)

Related entities: [Walter Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 3,800.00



Kinetic Sculpture (ANA2016.12)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/8936_ca_object_representations_media_2010_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.12

Object titles: Kinetic Sculpture

Dates: ; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Mixed media

Related entities: [Walter Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 2,000.00



(Elephant carrying three people) (ANA2016.13)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/24521_ca_object_representations_media_2011_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.13

Object titles: (Elephant carrying three people)

Dates: ; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Ink on tracing paper

Dimensions: 17 1/2 inches; 14 1/2 inches; 210; ; ; ; ; Frames

Related entities: [Naiad Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 850.00



Theatre/Shakespeare (ANA2016.14)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/33936_ca_object_representations_media_2012_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.14

Object titles: Theatre/Shakespeare

Dates: ; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Watercolor and ink on paper

Dimensions: 13 1/2 inches; 15 1/2 inches; 210; ; ; ; ; Frames

Related entities: [Naiad Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 900.00



Soup's on! (ANA2016.15)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/75511_ca_object_representations_media_2013_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.15

Object titles: Soup's on!

Dates: 1981; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Watercolor on paper

Dimensions: 27 1/2 inches; 8 1/2 inches; 210; ; ; ; ; Papers

Related entities: [Naiad Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 900.00



Compliments of the Chef (ANA2016.16)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/49267_ca_object_representations_media_2014_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.16

Object titles: Compliments of the Chef

Dates: ; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Watercolor on paper

Dimensions: 27 1/2 inches; 18 1/2 inches; 210; ; ; ; ; Frames

Related entities: [Naiad Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 900.00



Cinnamon (ANA2016.17)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/5315_ca_object_representations_media_2015_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.17

Object titles: Cinnamon

Dates: 1981; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Watercolor on paper

Dimensions: 28 3/4 inches; 21 inches; 210; ; ; ; ; Frames

Related entities: [Naiad Einstel; The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 900.00



The Monthly Magazine of Food & Wine/A Modern American Sampler (ANA2016.18)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/96210_ca_object_representations_media_2016_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.18

Object titles: The Monthly Magazine of Food & Wine/A Modern American Sampler

Dates: 1981; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Needlepoint and petit point

Dimensions: 19 inches; 16 inches; 210; ; ; ; ; Frames

Related entities: [Naiad Einsel](#); [The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 1,800.00



(Female figure) (ANA2016.31)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/48138_ca_object_representations_media_2030_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.31

Object titles: (Female figure)

Dates: ; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Wood sculpture on wood base

Dimensions: ; ; ; ; ;

Related entities: [Walter Einstel](#); [The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 1,800.00



Shadowbox (Architectural Study) (ANA2016.32)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/64876_ca_object_representations_media_2031_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.32

Object titles: Shadowbox (Architectural Study)

Dates: 1968; Date manufactured/created

Medium: Mixed media with wood and copper

Dimensions: 22 1/4 inches; 16 3/4 inches; ; ; ; ;

Related entities: [Walter Einstel](#); [The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()

Valuation: \$ 1,200.00



Cookie Cutters (ANA2016.33)

Object media representation (thumbnail):

/var/www/html/media/ctco_westpac/images/2/0/93086_ca_object_representations_media_2037_thumbnail.jpg

Object identifier: ANA2016.33

Object titles: Cookie Cutters

Medium: Copper and brass

Dimensions: ; ; ; ; ; Various dimensions; Other (see measurement notes)

Related entities: [Naiad and Walter Einstel](#); [The Estate of Naiad and Walter Einstel](#) ()



Pathways Academy

Pathways is a safe, warm, and welcoming place where there are goals toward graduation and preparation for the future. This journey towards the future is one guided by the importance of community, acceptance, flexibility, fun, and individualization so that everyone is seen.

The Pathways Academy was created based on our assessment of the instructional and social needs identified by our school community as well as three recommendations from our last NEASC Visit regarding the areas of curriculum, instruction and school culture. The enrollment in Pathways Academy has exceeded projections the past two years and we expect a similar demand due to the extraordinary times of the past fifteen months.

Goals:

- To increase school attendance and overall school success for students who have struggled with consistent school attendance.
- To increase academic success resulting in increased work production, learning readiness and ability to demonstrate what the student knows and is able to do.
- To create a community in which students feel accepted, supported and listened to thus decreasing the anxiety students feel toward school.

2020-2021 Data

Enrollment=23 students

School Faculty FTE=2.2

.6 Social Studies

.6 Math

.5 English

.5 Science



WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JOHN BAYERS

Director of Human Resources & General Administration

110 MYRTLE AVENUE
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880
TELEPHONE: (203) 341-1004
Fax: (203) 341-1024
JBAYERS@WESTPORTPS.ORG

To: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent

From: John Bayers, Director of Human Resources

Subject: Draft Westport Public Schools 2022-2023 School Calendars Update

Date: May 13, 2021

Back on February 17, 2021, I shared a memorandum with you about school calendar options for the 2022-2023 school year. (See Page 2) The memorandum shared two draft calendars with the main difference between them being the placement of the professional development day in February 2023. The recommendation then and now is to go with Draft B which places the February professional development day on the Monday after the winter vacation.

During the Board's review of the 2022-2023 draft calendars in February, concerns were raised about the use of two early dismissal days for professional development in place of one full professional development day. The concerns centered on teacher contract language, which specifically calls for teachers to work six days beyond the student calendar. While these concerns are valid ones, it is important to review the Board's decision in adopting the 2021-2022 school calendar.

On June 1, 2020, the Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the 2021-2022 school calendar, which includes five full professional development days and two half day professional development days. At that meeting Dr. Abbey, then Interim Superintendent, spoke about the "out of the box" thinking with the proposed calendar. He noted that the calendar was shared with the PTA who had no concerns. Board members noted that the change to half professional development days had a net loss to a portion of one full professional development day teachers are currently scheduled to work under the WEA contract. Dr. Abbey acknowledged this fact and said that the combined half professional development days accounted for approximately 75% of one full day but noted extending professional development days slightly may mitigate the small difference. Despite this concern the Board also discussed the potential benefits of piloting this approach to professional development days.

Suggestions in support of using two half day professional development days by members of the Board centered on the systemic utilization plan for the days and for measuring the efficacy of the work. Specifically, it was suggested that such a plan could work if there was a holistic approach to planning the days with a common focus linking them. Dr. Abbey and Dr. Buono, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, agreed that a robust plan for the days was necessary and also suggested that the Board be given an update later in the 2021-2022 school year about the efficacy of the professional development days. Members of the Board also suggested that you, as the incoming Superintendent, have a say in this approach to calendar development.

Given the Board's discussion about the 2021-2022 school calendar back in June 2020, it is my recommendation that the Board adopt the 2022-2023 calendar as suggested by the administration and teachers with two additional recommendations. The first is that the Board allow the pilot to extend for two years as it is important to review multiple years when determining the efficacy of a new approach. If for some reason the administration or the Board has concerns after the update in the Spring of 2022, the 2022-2023 calendar could be modified at that time. The second recommendation is that the Board takes up the issue of half professional development days during negotiations with the WEA this summer. It is the opportune time to address concerns Board members have with the number of contracted professional development days. The outcome of those discussions could better inform the Board and the administration about calendar design moving forward.

Finally, the administration acknowledges that the upcoming strategic plan work may influence the layout of professional development days in future years. While that work has yet to be completed, it does not prevent us from adding a second pilot year to the half professional development day approach. Should outcomes from the strategic plan work cause us to rethink the new approach to calendar design, the Board will have sufficient time to revise the 2022-2023 calendar as it deems appropriate.

February 17, 2021 Memorandum

A meeting was held with the co-presidents of the Westport Education Association (WEA) and the president of the Westport Intermediate Administrators Association (WIAA) to review a draft calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. The draft calendar was also shared with the president of the Westport Educational Association Paraprofessionals (WEAP).

Draft A was used to start discussions. All parties agreed that the calendar worked in practical terms, but questions arose about whether to place the professional development day tied to the February vacation on the Friday before or the Monday after. Draft A lists a professional development day for Friday February 17, 2023. Draft B places a professional development day on Monday February 27, 2023. Other than this difference in the placement of the February professional development day, the remainder of both calendars is identical.

The parties discussed Draft B as option because of the belief that the Monday after February vacation provides more opportunities for professional growth leading into the Spring. Teachers and administrators would be able to apply this new learning immediately to their work with students. It is believed that this approach better serves the needs of the District.

For historical context, the placement of the February professional development day on the Monday after vacation had been the practice in the district for many years. In fact, with a few exceptions, including a mid-year calendar adjustment during the year of Hurricane Sandy, the February professional development day occurred on the Monday after vacation until February 2016. Since that year, it has been placed on the Friday before February vacation with the exception of this past school year. (The district front loaded PD days to help with the transition to one middle school.)

We have provided the two drafts for the 2022-2023 school year to the Board of education for consideration, but the preferred option by both the administration and teachers is Draft B.



WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

DRAFT A

- School in Session
- Teacher Professional Development
- Snow Dates

KEY DATES

Aug 25-26, 29	Professional Development
Aug 30	First Day of School
Sept 5	Labor Day
Sept 26	Rosh Hashanah
Oct 5	Yom Kippur
Oct 12	Early Release/Professional Development
Nov 8	Election Day – Professional Development
Nov 23	Early Dismissal
Nov 24-25	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec 26-Dec 30	Winter Recess
Jan 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Feb 20	Presidents' Day
Feb 17	Professional Development
Feb 20-24	February Recess
March 22	Early Release/Professional Development
Apr 7	Good Friday
April 7-14	Spring Recess
May 29	Memorial Day
June 14	Last Day of School/Graduation (Early Release)

Students: 182 days

Teachers: 188 days

There are 5 snow days built into the calendar. If there are no snow days students' last day will be June 14. In the event that additional make-up days are needed, District schools will use, in the following order: Monday, April 10; Tuesday, April 11; Wednesday, April 12; Thursday, April 13; Friday, April 14.

*Approved by the Board of Education on: _____

July 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

DRAFT B

- School in Session
- Teacher Professional Development
- Snow Dates

KEY DATES

Aug 25-26, 29	Professional Development
Aug 30	First Day of School
Sept 5	Labor Day
Sept 26	Rosh Hashanah
Oct 5	Yom Kippur
Oct 12	Early Release/Professional Development
Nov 8	Election Day – Professional Development
Nov 23	Early Dismissal
Nov 24-25	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec 26-Dec 30	Winter Recess
Jan 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Feb 20	Presidents' Day
Feb 17	Professional Development
Feb 20-24	February Recess
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*Approved by the Board of Education on: _____

July 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
August 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
September 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
October 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
November 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
December 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
February 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				
March 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
April 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
June 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Vision of a Graduate

Class of 2023 Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment Proposal



Staples High School



Vision of a Graduate

Origins



- **State of Connecticut Public Act No. 17-42**
 - *“Through a demonstration of mastery based on competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.”*

We have commenced working on a Mastery-Based Diploma for the Class of 2023. What we are doing now is identifying artifacts, learning activities/experiences within our respective curriculum that students experience across disciplines, over the course of their four years with us. As you examine this document, we are going to ask you to think of and identify a couple of the aforementioned artifacts/experiences that your students enjoy in your classes for any/all of the four domains (Collaborators, Communicators, Critical Thinkers, & Creators).
- Staples High School is required by the State of Connecticut to add a 1 credit Mastery-Based Assessment requirement for students graduating in 2023(our current sophomore class).
- Our Vision of a Graduate, “Contributing Citizens”, will serve as the basis for this assessment experience for Staples High School graduates. May 17, 2021 Page 25

NEASC Visit (2015) Recommendations met with this proposal.



A.

- Identify and define 21st century learning expectations in the areas of civic and social competencies.
- Create school-wide analytic rubrics for each of the school's 21st century learning expectations.
- Identify acceptable levels of achievement for each of the school's 21st century learning expectations.
- Collect and use data to review and revise further the core values, beliefs, and 21st century learning expectations.

B.

- Create and implement a formal process to systematically review student work and data from both formative and summative assessments to improve instructional practices.

Vision of a Graduate

Foundational Work



- Alignment of the Westport Schools Mission and Vision with the skills necessary to be a Contributing Global Citizen.
- Essential skills our students need to ensure they are Contributing Citizen of our Global Society: **Collaborators, Communicators, Critical Thinkers, & Creators.**
- Established a criteria for student mastery under each essential skill.



Contributing Citizens



The Mission of the Westport Public Schools is to prepare all students to reach their full potential as lifelong learners and socially responsible contributors to our global community.

We strive to help all students become contributing citizens who possess the necessary skills and mindset to work toward the betterment of themselves and the society in which they live.

Contributing Citizens are emotionally and socially aware, principled in thought and action, kind with sincerity, and always learning.



Collaborators:

- Actively listen and respond to the ideas of others
- Engage in thoughtful discussion with peers in multiple settings
- Work with others toward a common goal
- Demonstrate flexibility and experiment with a variety of roles and responsibilities within a group



Communicators:

- Identify purpose and audience
- Use and interpret non-verbal cues
- Advocate, debate, and negotiate respectfully
- Utilize varied media to communicate ideas



Critical Thinkers:

- Analyze and question ideas and experiences to reach deeper understanding
- Evaluate different sources of information and perspectives to inform learning
- Synthesize new learning and prior knowledge to make new interpretations and solve complex problems
- Reflect on their learning and demonstrate persistence to either continue with a plan or change course



Creators:

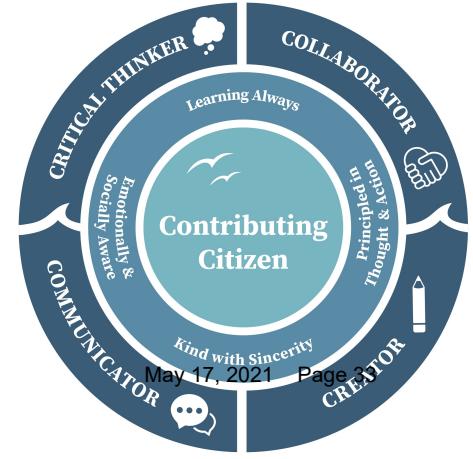
- Pursue interests and curiosities
- Take risks and thinking divergently
- Seek new and original solutions and products
- Utilize resources in practical and innovative ways

Vision of a Graduate

Alignment of **State of Connecticut Public Act No. 17-42** with Westport Public Schools
Contributing Citizen work



- As a school community, we embedded skill assessment into our school learning activities, experiences, and projects to capture student mastery of critical skills—Collaboration, Creator, Communicator and Critical Thinker.
- Over the course of a students academic career at Staples students are guaranteed to participate in experiences through their classes, which will allow them to demonstrate mastery within their core academic and elective classes



Vision of a Graduate

A Strong Connection to Connections



- Starting in 2019, as a school community, we embarked on the inaugural year of successfully implementing an advisory program known as Connections.
- Each year we establish themes for Connections and four of those themes would be in precise alignment with the four domains of these mastery-based domains [Collaboration, Creator, Communicator and Critical Thinker].



Vision of a Graduate

Audit learning opportunities for examples of Contributing Citizen Essential Skills.



- A comprehensive audit across all core and elective subjects and courses was conducted to identify lessons and student outputs (papers, labs, presentations, papers, etc.) that are evidence of a students Contributing Citizen (CC) essential skills acquisition and development.
- Artifacts were aligned with the CC domains: Collaborator, Critical Thinker, Creator and Communicator
- The Domain of Reflection was added as a final component for students to complete looking back on their work as evidence of their skill acquisition.

Additional Methods Available To Meet The Credit Requirement



Additional student experiences/artifacts that students could use to meet the state requirement:

- Service Learning/Volunteer Work
- Participation in Clubs and Activities
- Academic Competitions or Programs
- ILE
- Link Crew Mentor
- Possible seminars(NYU DEI work)

Vision of a Graduate

Student portfolio



- Students will create a [Google Site](#) to house the artifacts of their CCEC skill development.
- Students will select from a menu of artifacts across classes to upload to their site as evidence. Students will add artifacts over their academic career at Staples to demonstrate growth over time.
- Students portfolios will be evaluated in their senior year. Portfolios that have artifacts under each domain that demonstrate mastery of the CCEC skills will be awarded 1 credit towards graduation.

Vision of a Graduate

Next Step



- Please upload artifacts/student outputs that fit the 4-Domains to the [Staples Vision of the Graduate Mastery Based Diploma Assessment](#) for the 2023 roll out.
- Please include artifacts across all levels and courses in your subject area including Pathways, co-taught, singletons, etc.

Needs (both financial and time) for the MBDA



- Two(2) stipend positions to track the progress of the students' portfolios over their junior and senior years.
- Part of the PD week in August to be dedicated to roll out of the MBDA program.
- Without the funding for the positions we would probably be looking at a combination of Senior Internship and Connections.

Technology in Mathematics

Stefan Porco, Rasha Tarek, Ann Didelot

Professional Development

- Professional development time is essential to the growth of our development to become engaging teachers for students of the 21st century.
 - November Professional Development Days
- Math teachers have been able to share and expand upon these platforms
 - Desmos
 - Geogebra
 - Nearpod
 - Schoology
 - Equatio
- These technologies have allowed us to strengthen conceptual understandings and create interactive visuals for student. These dynamic interactions are beneficial for all students.

Desmos

Desmos is a powerful graphing calculator that works in a web browser or on Apple iOS devices. Desmos can graph color coded functions, plot tables of data, transformations, and more.

Geogebra

GeoGebra is dynamic mathematics software for all levels of education that brings together geometry, algebra, spreadsheets, graphing, statistics and calculus in one easy-to-use package.

[Demonstration Link](#)

Closure

- These technologies allowed us to enhance video conferencing for both remote and in person learners students
- Professional Development allows teachers to continue to grow as lifelong learners to adapt to students needs.



WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THOMAS SCARICE
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To: Westport Board of Education Members
From: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools
Re: Strategic Plan Milestones Timeline Draft
Date May 13, 2021

Provided below for Board consideration is a potential timeline for the initial tasks of strategic planning this summer, with a range of focus group questions that I will ask stakeholder groups in all 8 of our schools, along with parents and students across the system. These dates and timelines are subject to change based on access to in person meetings.

Although the original intention of my initial entry plan entailed small group meetings with various stakeholders over the course of the fall and winter, the pandemic interrupted that timeline. As a result, I will take advantage of the loosening of COVID restrictions and hold in person meetings over the next month and beyond. The information gathered will be synthesized and reported back to the Board for consideration in framing the primary areas of focus (i.e. pillars) and initial strategic objectives to comprise the first iteration of a strategy map for a long-term plan.

I have adjusted some of the timelines from my initial presentation to the Board at the last meeting to accommodate for increased participation and development over the summer following the initial inquiry and subsequent synthesis. There are two primary points of opportunity for Board reflection, feedback and input: the first week of July and approximately August 15.

Here are the intended milestones and points of opportunity for Board reflection, feedback and input:

- May 10- June 25 - Inquiry:
 - Conduct a deep inquiry into the various stakeholder groups (i.e. faculty, support staff, administrators, parents, students) identifying patterns, themes, observations and findings.
- First week of July - Synthesis:
 - provide a synthesis document to the Board of patterns, themes, observations and findings.
 - point of opportunity for Board reflection, feedback and input.
- July 1- August 15 - Strategy Map Development:
 - Identification of (elements of “strategy map”):
 - 3 to 4 primary pillars of the plan based on information gathered during inquiry
 - primary stakeholder groups (i.e. Parents/Students, Board of Education, Westport Community) for accountability in the Balanced Scorecard and potential outcome measures
 - draft strategic objectives with operational definitions (1-3 year overarching objectives)
- August 15 -
 - point of opportunity for Board reflection, feedback and input on first iteration of strategy map:
 - pillars
 - stakeholder groups and outcome measures
 - strategic objectives

In addition to the list of action items above, I intend to secure professional services outside of the system to test and verify the findings of the inquiry and synthesis, and the first iteration of the strategy map, while also revisiting the beliefs and guiding principles of the recently expired strategic plan. Ideally this effort will take place over the summer, yet access to various stakeholders could delay this part of the process.

Below are the range of questions for the inquiry stage (May 10-June 25) that I will ask each stakeholder group and synthesize into a summary document for the Board and school community:

Faculty:

How long have you worked in the district?

If you were to converse with a teacher from a neighboring district, what would you point to as points of pride for Westport?

What does the school do especially well?

What does the district do especially well?
How would you describe the culture of our school district?
If you could make one significant change in the system/organization that would have a positive impact on your work with students and colleagues, what would it be?
What concerns you as an educator here in Westport in 2021....covid issues aside?
What two top -priority areas/bodies of work should we address together in the next 3-5 years?
How can the district better support your professional growth?
Summarize your expectations for school/district leadership in one statement.
What should I never make changes to.....?

Support staff:

How long have you worked for the district?
Do you live in the community?
What does the school do especially well?
What does the district do especially well?
How would you describe the culture of our school district?
Are you included in the daily communications, the goals of the school, the celebrations and the lifeblood of the school?
What change or improvement in how we do things could make your work more impactful, meaningful, or productive?
Summarize your expectations for school/district leadership in one statement.
What should I never make changes to.....?

Administrators:

How long have you served Westport in this role and what /where was your previous role?
What does the school do especially well?
What does the district do especially well? Do we act as a system or as silos?
How would you describe the culture of our school district?
What is the organizational or systemic hole that we should work to fill ASAP?
What concerns you as an educator here in Westport in 2021....covid issues aside?
What two top -priority areas/bodies of work should we address together in the next 3-5 years?
How can the district better support your leadership growth?
What should I never make changes to.....?
Summarize your expectations for central office leadership in one statement.
What do you think I need to know or tuck away in my thoughts as I make observations throughout the district?

Students:

Grade level? In Westport since what grade?
Best thing(s) about the school for you? Why?
What do you wish we offered in the curriculum or co-curricular that we don't yet?
Is the school a warm and welcoming place? Do you feel like it's "yours"? Do you feel connected to at least one trusted adult and to peers?
What two changes could we work toward that would make a big difference for most students?
What needs to be addressed but is ignored?
If you were to give an overall grade to the teachers you've had, what would it be?
What causes the most stress or pressure for you as a student here?
Do you think we are as good at connecting with and understanding students as we are at knowing our content/subjects?
What do you think I need to know?

Parents:

Grade level(s)/school(s) of your child/children? In Westport since what grade?
Best thing(s) about the school for your child? Why?
What do you wish we offered in the curriculum or co-curricular that we don't yet?
Do you believe that your child's school is a warm and welcoming place? Do you believe that your child feels connected to at least one trusted adult and to peers?
What two changes could we work toward that would make a big difference for most students?
What needs to be addressed but is ignored?
If you were to give an overall grade to your child's school, what would it be?
What causes the most stress or pressure for your child?
Do you think we are as good at connecting with and understanding your child as we are at knowing our content/subjects?
Summarize your expectations for our school system in one statement.
What do you think I need to know?