



## Public Comment Responses Received During the WPS BOE Meeting on 12/7/2020

Below is the public record of public comment responses received during the 11/16/2020 BOE meeting.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** - Comments are posted exactly as they have been received.

First and Last Name	Address	Please state your comment/question regarding Non-Agenda Items.
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<p>John Horrigan WEA Co-President</p>	<p>60 Easton Road Westport</p>	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>The WEA would like to address the concerns that are arising as we move into our 4th month of this extraordinary school year. This summer we planned for 3 models- hybrid, all-in or full remote- and now we have arrived at a situation that we have not planned for. Currently, the number of students physically in the classroom has been drastically reduced on any given day, while significantly increasing the number of remote learners. We need to revisit our plans so that we can best address the needs of our students.</p> <p>As students move from on-site learning to remote instruction with little to no notice, instructional time is now challenged. Whether it be the choice of distance learning, having to quarantine the days, or middle and high school students opting to attend class remotely instead of attending their scheduled in person is adding to this concern. At the middle and high school the established time at the end of the student day is no longer sufficient due to the significant increase in full distance learners.</p> <p>A typical secondary school day looks nothing like what one would remember from recent years. It now involves logging on to your classroom via a computer, navigating technical issues, and learning that takes place in a solitary setting. Getting questions answered online is more difficult than when physically in the classroom. Due to the nature of this school day, the biggest change that has occurred for students and teachers alike is the increased need for individual attention. With students navigating this new world of learning, the necessity for more individualized attention from their teacher has become critical to their success. That individual attention to clarify misconceptions and explain information is vital to students.</p> <p>At the Middle and High school, in our hybrid model, there are 30 minutes built into the schedule at the end of the day for teachers to address the needs of students because the natural daily discourse of the classroom environment is gone. Therefore, students are seeking the help from their teacher online after class on a more frequent basis. This is exacerbated by the recent increase in students who have moved to full remote learning. Unfortunately, this increase has not allowed teachers to accommodate all requests in a timely fashion. This is frustrating to both the teachers who want to help, as well as the students who are reaching out.</p>
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1. **Milone and MacBroom Enrollment Projections** - No public comments were received on this item.
2. **FY 2022 Preliminary Budget Discussions with Board of Finance, RTM Education Chair, and Finance Committee Chair** - Comments are posted exactly as they have been received.

First and Last Name	Address	Please state your comment/question regarding FY 2022 Preliminary Budget Discussions.
Julie Colotti	8 Gorham Avenue	A year ago during meetings around demographics, enrollment projections, and preliminary budget discussions, I was very nervous about redistricting options that were being proposed. I urge you to keep the elementary learning communities intact, and truly take into consideration the social/emotional wellbeing of our students, staff, and facilities as you discuss long-term, creative solutions for the district. Thank you for all your hard work!

3. **Health Update** - No public comments were received on this item.
4. **Teaching and Learning Update** - Comments are posted exactly as they have been received.
  - **Tri-State Report Update**
  - **Elementary Science and Social Studies Programming**
  - **Student Performance K-8 Reading and Math**

First and Last Name	Address	Please state your comment/question regarding Teaching and Learning Update.

Jaime Bairaktaris	52 Hales Court	Can the Board or Administration speak a bit to what's being done specifically for students' social-emotional health? How are the full-time distant learners receiving services supporting their mental health, specifically those in middle or high school?
Sharone Tate	2 Blue Ribbon Dr	<p>Very pleased with the introduction of science and social studies, however, for the younger students, the amount of time for at-home work is very concerning. This is on top of an already heavy, hands-on amount of time.</p> <p>As you explore full-time for elementary schools in whole, hopefully in January, can you please also explore having Kindergarten a priority for full-time learning -- if capacity continues to be an issue. 4th and 5th graders are likely more capable of handing their own work, understanding and following slide directions and attending zoom meetings. For a 5yo, this is a lot to ask and it falls to the parents.</p> <p>Lastly, to add to an earlier point, we moved to Westport because of the high quality of the schools. Yet here we are with friends back home having their children attend school full-time and ours not.</p> <p>I worry deeply that my child's introduction to school isn't setting him up for a successful education in the long haul.</p> <p>We can't wait to experience the Westport schools truly some day and do THANK YOU ALL for your continued dedication to our children's education and the staff.</p>
Susana De Pinho	12 Daybreak In	The data presented by Dr. Buono for the NWEA results needs to be looked at with caution since only one year was presented and the decline in RIT results may be due to the usual summer decline and may not be COVID related. To evaluate the impact of COVID on learning, the comparison should include at least another year.

brooke petrosino	11 grove point	<p>With transmission rates little to none happening within our schools--not just in Westport, but across the world, has the District looked at the data to see if the social distancing protocols of being 6 feet apart can be lowered or even removed? Daycares and preschools don't have contingency for social distancing and have not seen COVID transmission rates spread in their classrooms or schools with children wearing masks and wonder if public schools allowed less distances between desks then there would be the ability to allow more students to attend school more regularly.</p> <p>Also, agree with Jeannie earlier tonight, parents who feel comfortable and want their children in school full time (Elementary through High School) need to be given that choice. This should have been a consideration in August when I suggested giving all parents a choice for DL, Hybrid, or Full In, when making classes, as the District could have made balanced "social distanced" classes from the parent feed back data.</p> <p>I think it's important to figure this out, because in person learning opportunity for those parents who are comfortable with it, and feel their children need it, should be able to have the opportunity to do so at all grade levels. Ignoring a parent population that wants this seems inconsiderate, which seems to go against what Westport Public Schools have always been about, which has always been finding solutions for the needs of every student and their families.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Best, Brooke Petrosino</p>
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5. **Coleytown Middle School Update** - No public comments were received on this item.
6. **Policy Committee Update and First Reading of the Following Policies:** - No public comments were received on this item.
  - 1331, "Smoke Free Environment" (Revision)
  - 5141.4, "Child Sex Abuse and Assault Response Policy and Reporting" (New)

#### DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. **Second Reading of the Following Policies:** - No public comments were received on this item.
  - 2260, "Policy Regarding Retention of Electronic Records and Information" (New)
  - 4111.3, "Plan for Minority Staff Recruitment" (New)