

**WESTWOOD REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
DECEMBER 12, 2024**

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Meeting called to order at approximately 6:30 P.M. in the Board of Education conference room, High School.
2. Roll Call
3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion: the Board will recess to meet in Private Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal matters. The Board will reconvene in Public Session at approximately 7:00 p.m. The decisions which emanate from these discussions will be disclosed to the public when action is taken by the Board.
4. Meeting called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. in the Hurley Theater, High School.
5. SALUTE TO THE FLAG
6. Roll Call
7. The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Westwood Regional Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be sent to the following announcing time and place thereof:

Westwood Borough Hall
Westwood Public Library
Township of Washington Administration Building
Township of Washington Free Public Library
The Record
Community Life
Pascack Press
8. **MINUTE APPROVAL**
 - A. Motion: that approval be given to the following meeting minutes:
 - Executive Session Minutes - 111424
 - Regular BoE Meeting - 111424
 - Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting - 112024
 - Curriculum and Instruction - 112124
 - Policy Committee Meeting - 112524
9. Superintendent's Report
10. Board President's Report
11. Business Administrator's Report
12. Student Representative's Report
13. Committee Reports
 - A. Policy & Governance: Chairperson - L. Azzonlina
 - B. Finance & Facilities: Chairperson - J. Pertuz
 - C. Curriculum & Instruction: Chairperson - A. Peck
 - D. Negotiations (Ad Hoc): Chairperson - N. Martin

14. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Westwood Regional School District recognizes that all students who participate in interscholastic competition dedicate tremendous amounts of time and effort; and

WHEREAS, the Westwood Regional School District gives special honor and commendation to rare instances of athletic achievement that they may serve as an example of excellence for the youth of this community; and

WHEREAS, the Westwood Regional High School *Girls Cross Country Team* won the 2024 North I Group 2 State Sectional Championship, the first in school history, and the Bergen County Small School Team of the Year, and

WHEREAS, *Alice Rappazzo* twelfth grade student of Westwood Regional High School, for placing 3rd in Bergen County, 2nd in the state sectionals, 5th in group 2, and 15th in the State of New Jersey, as well as being named as the Bergen Record Female Athlete of the Week; and

WHEREAS, the county and state level achievement of Alice Rappazzo brings great pride and distinction to herself, her team, school and district;

WHEREAS, the Westwood Regional High School Cross Country team, head coach **Bethany Kazimir**, also recently named the Big North Patriot Division Coach of the Year, and coaching staff brings great pride and distinction to themselves and the school district;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Westwood Regional Board of Education hereby congratulates these student athletes and their coach for this accomplishment and directs the Secretary to include this Resolution in the official minutes of the Board of Education.

- B. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education invites public school districts to participate in the *Exemplary Educator Recognition Program* to identify outstanding educators for special recognition, alternating between elementary and secondary annually; and

WHEREAS, for the current 2024 competition round, the NJDOE sought out elementary educators (grades PreK - 5); and

WHEREAS, the Westwood Regional School District would like to applaud and commend **Danielle Sheridan** for being selected as recipient of the Exemplary Elementary Educator award and their commitment to Excellence in Education in our district; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Westwood Regional Board of Education hereby congratulates Danielle Sheridan for this recognition and directs the Secretary to include this resolution in the official minutes of the Board of Education, and directs the Superintendent of Schools to present the staff members with a suitable certificate of recognition as a token of the Board's esteem.

- C. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsors an annual audio-essay contest for high school students called the Voice of Democracy; and

WHEREAS, this year's Voice of Democracy theme was "*Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?*"; and

WHEREAS, Westwood Regional High School 12th grade student, **Mary Affinito**, has been selected as the first place award winner for the *2024-2025 VFW Voice of Democracy Essay contest* by VFW Post 6192 in the Township of Washington; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Westwood Regional Board of Education hereby congratulates Mary Affinito for this accomplishment and directs the Secretary to include this Resolution in the official minutes of the Board of Education.

- D. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsors an annual essay contest for middle school students called Patriot's Pen; and

WHEREAS, this year's Patriot's Pen theme was "*My Voice in America's Democracy*"; and

WHEREAS, ten Westwood Regional Middle School students submitted entries for the *2024-2025 VFW Patriot's Pen Essay contest*; and

WHEREAS, the following three WRMS students were selected as essay contest winners by VFW Post 6192 in the Township of Washington: **1st Place-Nico Santoli, 7th grade; 2nd Place-Emmaline Connelly, 7th grade; and 3rd Place-Maya Dorman, 7th grade;** and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Westwood Regional Board of Education hereby congratulates these students for this accomplishment and directs the Secretary to include this Resolution in the official minutes of the Board of Education.

E. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Kristen Pedersen devoted three years of dedicated service to the Westwood Regional School District as Trustee of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, she has demonstrated a conscientious and rational approach to the decision-making process to a number of difficult Board decisions; and

WHEREAS, she has rendered valuable and dedicated service to the students, staff, and citizens of the Westwood Regional School District; and

WHEREAS, she has given generously of her time, effort, and abilities in the interest of promoting and supporting the best educational opportunities for the children and youth of our School District; and

WHEREAS, in fulfilling her obligation as a member of the Board of Education she was frequently required to do so at a personal sacrifice to herself and to her family; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Westwood Regional Board of Education, on behalf of itself and the District, hereby recognizes Mrs. Pedersen’s dedicated services and directs the Secretary to include this resolution in the Minutes of the Board of Education and that a plaque be presented to Mrs. Pedersen in recognition of her contributions during her tenure with the Westwood Regional School District.

15. **SPECIAL PUBLIC REPORT**

A. None

16. **AGENDA ITEM PUBLIC FORUM** (Pursuant to Board Policy 0167 – Public Participation in Board Meetings)

During this first public forum, district residents and staff are invited to address the Board of Education on agenda items specifically listed on this evening’s agenda. Board Policy 0167 requires that individuals sign the speakers’ list, giving name, municipality of residence, and specific agenda item(s) on which a member of the public plans to speak and asks that all remarks be directed to the Board as a whole (not to individuals). The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking.

Although the Board may not respond to items raised during the public forum, all public comments will be considered and may be discussed tonight under the appropriate agenda items or "new business" at this meeting, at subsequent meetings under "old business," or during a Board committee meeting, if appropriate.

Each speaker’s statement will be limited to three (3) minutes in duration. This first Public Forum will be limited to thirty (30) minutes in duration.

17. **ADMINISTRATIVE / GOVERNANCE**

A. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision on the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying matters as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1S(b)(6)(e) on the following cases:

Incident Number	
1. 270731_WRH_10152024	5. 271753_WRM_10292024
2. 271120_WRM_10212024	6. 271859_WRM_10302024
3. 271679_WRM_10292024	7. 272110_WRH_11052024
4. 271744_WRH_10292024	8. 272141_WRM_11052024

- B. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given to the 2023 Revision of the annual Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between the Westwood Regional Board of Education and the Chief of the Township of Washington Police Department and the Chief of the Borough of Westwood Police Department for the 2024-2025 school year.
- C. Any Administrative/Governance addendum items will be considered at this time.

18. **PERSONNEL**

- A. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the appointment of staff and salaries as per the negotiated agreement between the Westwood Building and Grounds Association and the Westwood Regional Board of Education for the **2023-2024** school year:

NAME	BASE SALARY	STIPEND(S)	STIPEND DESCRIPTION	TOTAL SALARY	UPC CODE
1. Tobin, Ciaran <i>(effective on or about 12/1/2024)</i>	\$38,000	N/A	N/A	\$38,000	CUST/GEORGE/MS/01

- B. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the following *revised* leaves of absence for the **2024-2025** school year:

EMPLOYEE NO.	LOCATION	DATES OF LEAVE
1. 5119	High School	10/28/24 - 12/3/24 (using 23 sick days)
2. 5942	George	10/01/24 - 01/30/25 (using 76 sick days)

- C. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the following *anticipated* leaves of absence for the **2024-2025** school year:

EMPLOYEE NO.	LOCATION	DATES OF LEAVE
1. 6342	High School	05/05/25 - 06/20/25 (using 22 sick days and NJFLA*)

*unpaid with benefits under FMLA/NJFLA

- D. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the following *revised* appointment of leave-replacement staff and salaries for the **2024-2025** school year:

NAME	POSITION	BUILDING	SALARY	ACCOUNT CODE
1. Small, Lori (leave for 6121) <i>(11/25/25 - 1/10/25 and 2 consultant days)</i>	LDTC	Special Services	\$343.63/day (MA+30)	11-000-219-104-40

- E. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for *revised* additional sixth periods for the following staff for the **2024-2025** school year:

NAME	POSITION	DATES	BUILDING	STIPEND
1. Martello, Jessica	Geometry	10/28/24 - 12/3/24	High School	\$2,353.93
2. Moffo, Jeff	Adv. College Algebra	10/28/24 - 12/3/24	High School	\$1,459.69
3. Nelson, Derek	Special Ed Teacher	10/28/24 - 12/3/24	High School	\$2,245.21
4. Rattacasa, Lindsay	Geometry	10/28/24 - 12/3/24	High School	\$2,435.38
5. Thomas, James	Geometry	10/28/24 - 12/3/24	High School	\$2,353.93

- F. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for an additional instructional minutes stipends at the Middle School for the following staff members for the **2024-2025** school year:

NAME	COURSE	DATES	STIPEND
1. Flower, Andrea	Science 8	12/13/24 - 5/16/25	\$1,323
2. Mahoney, Kelly	Math 8	12/13/24 - 5/16/25	\$1,323
3. Proda, Lauren	Algebra 8	12/13/24 - 5/16/25	\$1,323
4. Ziegler, Suzanne	Math 8	12/13/24 - 5/16/25	\$1,323

- G. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the following staff to participate in out-of-district conferences for the **2024-2025** school year

NAME	SCHOOL	CONFERENCE ATTENDING	CONFERENCE SPONSOR	DATES ATTENDING	COSTS (NOT TO EXCEED)
1. Amarai, Jill	Washington	Responding to Misbehavior	Responsive Classroom	01/14/25	\$299.00
2. Amato, Jennifer	Middle School	Northern NJ PE/Health & Coaching Conference	The Physical EDGE	03/07/25	\$149.00
3. Becker, Glen	District	Master Plumbers License Continuing Education 5-Hour Course	Scott Bishop Plumbing Training	02/19/25	\$250.00
4. Cornell, Rebecca	High School	Annual Conference - Navigating Tomorrow Together: Building Bridges with Today's Youth	The Association of Student Assistance Professionals of NJ	03/06/25	\$300.00
5. Hughes, Kelly	Brookside	Bergen County Women in Educational Leadership Meeting	Bergen County Women in Educational Leadership	11/22/24	\$10.34
6. Hughes, Kelly	Brookside	BCPSA Elementary Power Hour	Bergen County Principal Supervisor Association	01/29/25	\$2.82
7. Hughes, Kelly	Brookside	BCPSA Elementary Power Hour	Bergen County Principal Supervisor Association	03/26/25	\$7.52
8. Kramar, Andrew	District	CLON 2025 ClassLink Conference	ClassLink	03/04/25 03/05/25 03/06/25	\$1,288.00
9. McQueeney, Patrick	District	New Administrator Training	Stronge and Associates	01/08/25 01/15/25 01/22/25	\$675.00
10. McQueeney, Patrick	District	NJASA Techspo	NJASA	01/29/25 01/30/25 01/31/25	\$918.44
11. O'Connor, James	High School	Beliefs Behaviors and Outcomes, Conversations to Support Equitable Learning	FEA	12/17/24	\$100.00
12. O'Connor, James	High School	Promoting Inclusion: Recognizing and Addressing Bias	Morris Union Jointure Commission	01/24/25	\$145.00
13. Probert, Rebecca	Washington	Empowering Math Learners	Responsive Classroom	02/05/25	\$249.00
14. Riedel, Kelly	District	Closing Out the I&RS Year, Hybrid Course	SRI & ETTC	04/09/25	\$130.00
15. Suppes, Jonathan	Middle School	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (HIB) Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	01/21/25	\$234.68
16. Tamburri, Luisa	Middle School	Stronge New Administrator Training	Stronge and Associates	01/08/25 01/15/25 01/22/25	\$675.00
17. Vreeland, Lindsay	Washington	Responding to Misbehavior	Responsive Classroom	01/14/25	\$299.00

- H. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the appointment of the following coaches and salaries for the **2024-2025** school year:

NAME	ATHLETIC SPORT	STEP	TOTAL
1. Pregiato, Frank	Assistant Wrestling	1	\$8,280

- I. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the transfer of the following for the **2024-2025** school year:

NAME	FROM	TO
1. Freda, Vera (effective 10/28/24)	Middle School	High School

- J. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the following clinical experience placements for the **2024-2025 and 2025-2026** school years, pending criminal history and health clearance:

NAME	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	BUILDING/SUBJECT
1. Bischer, Patrick	Seton Hall University	Brookside/Grade 5

- K. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the *revised* appointment of substitutes for the **2024-2025** school year at the respective rate of pay:

NAME	POSITION
1. Buchert, Maria	Substitute Teacher with <i>Substitute Credential</i> Substitute Aide
2. Collova, Denise	Substitute Teacher with Substitute Credential Substitute Aide <i>Substitute Secretary</i>
3. Gallina, Maria	Substitute Teacher with <i>Substitute Credential</i> Substitute Aide
4. Schappert, Catherine	Substitute Teacher with <i>Substitute Credential</i> Substitute Aide
5. Scherr, Karen	Substitute Teacher with Substitute Credential Substitute Aide <i>Substitute Secretary</i>

- L. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the appointment of new substitutes for the **2024-2025** school year, at the respective approved rate of pay, pending certificate, criminal history and health clearance:

NAME	POSITION
1. Lustmann, Laura	Substitute Teacher with Substitute Credential Substitute Aide
2. O’Grady, Erin	Substitute Teacher with Substitute Credential Substitute Aide
3. Asfar, Donna	Substitute Teacher with Substitute Credential

- M. Any Personnel addendum items will be considered at this time.

19. **FINANCE / FACILITIES**

- A. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, invoices for materials received and services rendered for the 2024-2025 school year for October 2024 in the amount of \$4,197,401.60 be ratified for payment in accordance with the lists reviewed by the Board.
- B. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Report as of October 31, 2024, of the Treasurer of School Moneys be received.
- C. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, acknowledgment be made of the Secretary’s certification that as of October 31, 2024, no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

Keith A. Rosado
Business Administrator

- D. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:232.11(c)4, we certify that as of October 31, 2024, after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial reports and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- E. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given to the Adjusted Transfer Listing dated November 25, 2024, for the month of October 2024.
- F. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, invoices for materials received and services rendered for the 2023-2024 school year for December in the amount of \$187,108.04 be approved for payment in accordance with the lists reviewed by the Board.
- G. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, invoices for materials received and services rendered for the 2024-2025 school year for December in the amount of \$2,408,217.45 be approved for payment in accordance with the lists reviewed by the Board.
- H. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given to authorize the submission of the amended IDEA Application for Fiscal Year 2025 and accept the grant award of these funds upon the subsequent approval by the New Jersey Department of Education:

IDEA Basic	\$ 969,969
IDEA Preschool	\$ 54,857
TOTAL	\$ 1,024,826
- I. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the purchase and installation of four bus cameras through Gatekeeper at Immaculate Heart Academy (IHA) using 2024-2025 New Jersey Non-Public Security allotment in the amount not to exceed \$11,312.78.
- J. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the replacement of the phone system through Banador Information Systems at Immaculate Heart Academy (IHA) using 2024-2025 New Jersey Non-Public Security allotment in the amount not to exceed \$27,496.00.
- K. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given to the residency settlement agreement in the matter regarding Westwood Regional Board of Education, Docket No. 169-5/24.
- L. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given to the HIB settlement agreement in the matter regarding Westwood Regional Board of Education, Docket No. A-003115-23 T4.

- M. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the following NON PUBLIC staff to attend out-of district conference for the 2023-2024 school year:

NAME/ SCHOOL	CONFERENCE ATTENDING	CONFERENCE SPONSOR	DATES ATTENDING	COSTS (NOT TO EXCEED)	SOURCE OF FUNDS
1. Patrizia Tersigni-IHA	National Art Educators 2025 Convention NAEA	National Art Educators Assoc.	04/01/24-04/05/24	\$1,500.00	20-272-200-500-11
2. Amy Baskin-IHA	Anxiety Subscription Series	NJAIS	01/13/25-02/11/25 Online	\$800.00	20-272-200-500-11

- N. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given to the Bus Evacuation Drill performed as listed below:

DATE	TIME	SCHOOL	LOCATION	ROUTE#	SUPERVISOR OF DRILL
11/14/2024	9:00 a.m.	Westwood Regional HS Pre-K Program	701 Ridgewood Rd., Twp. of Washington	Bus #2	Jessica Gluck, Asst. Dir. Spec. Svcs.

11/25/24	8:46 a.m.	Jessie F. George School	Palm St., Twp. of Washington	Bus #5	Christina Scaduto, Principal
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- O. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given to void and reissue the outstanding check as listed below:

ACCOUNT	DATE	CHECK#	AMOUNT
1. Budget Account	03/18/2024	15169	\$1,165.00
2. Payroll Account	06/21/2024	91180	\$2,218.76
3. Payroll Account	06/21/2024	91638	\$869.25
4. Payroll Account	2/29/2024	90072	\$103.89

- P. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given to out-of-district tuition contracts (Private Schools) for the 2024-2025 school year as per the list below:

SCHOOL NAME	TOWN, STATE	SCHOOL YEAR TUITION 2024-2025	ESY TUITION 2024-2025	ADDITIONAL SERVICIES	NJ ID NUMBER
Windsor Bergen Academy	Ridgewood, NJ	\$44,096.94 Started 11/25/24	N/A	N/A	6919764247

- Q. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the purchase of two (2) softball dugouts, provided by Beacon Athletics, in the amount not to exceed \$29,878.10.
- R. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given to withdraw \$29,878.10 from Capital Reserve for the purchase of two (2) softball dugouts at the High School.
- S. Any Finance addendum items will be considered at this time.

20. **CURRICULUM / PROGRAMS**

- A. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given for the following field trips that are more than 25 miles from the district:

NAME	GRADE(S)	BUILDING	DATE	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	OUT-OF- POCKET EXPENSE (per student)
1. O'Connor, James	10-12	High School	01/16/25	Students will be introduced to careers in medicine	Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ	\$55
2. Druss Fodor, Margie Beth	2	Washington	04/09/25	Observe various plants and animals to compare the diversity of life	The Maritime Aquarium, Norwalk, CT	\$54
3. Hogle, Elizabeth	2	Berkeley	04/04/25	Observe various plants and animals to compare the diversity of life	The Maritime Aquarium, Norwalk, CT	\$26
4. Williams, Kristy	1	George	05/01/25	Study animals and habitat life to help distinguish between living and nonliving things.	Turtle Back Zoo, West Orange NJ	\$55

- B. Any Curriculum/Programs addendum items will be considered at this time.

21. **POLICY** (click [here](#) to view draft policies, if applicable)

A. Motion: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approval be given to adopt the following Policies/Regulations as a **First Reading**:

POLICIES	TITLE
1. P8110	Attendance Areas

B. Any Policy addendum items will be considered at this time.

22. **OPEN PUBLIC FORUM** (Pursuant to Board Policy 0167 – Public Participation in Board Meetings)

During this second public forum, district residents and staff are invited to discuss any area of public concern that may be in respect to the operation of the schools. Board Policy 0167 requires that individuals sign the speakers’ list, giving name and municipality of residence, and asks that all remarks be directed to the Board as a whole (not to individuals). The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking.

Although the Board may not respond to items raised during the public forum, all public comments will be considered and may be discussed tonight under "new business" at this meeting, or at subsequent meetings under "old business," or during a Board committee meeting, if appropriate.

Each speaker’s statement will be limited to three (3) minutes in duration. This second Public Forum will be limited to thirty (30) minutes in duration.

23. Old Business

24. New Business

25. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: that this meeting be adjourned and the Board meet in Private Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel, litigious, and negotiation matters. The decisions which emanate from these discussions will be disclosed to the public when action is taken by the Board.