

# WEST MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**“Success Starts Here”**

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## Restructuring Committee - Building Usage Subcommittee Agenda

Meeting 1 - Thursday, June 23 6:30pm Westbrook School Media Center

**1. Introductions** - *The Subcommittee members introduced themselves and their roles in the district/community.*

*Persons in attendance:*

- *Dr. Alex Anemone, Superintendent of Schools*
- *Lynda Van Dyk, Board of Education President*
- *Dr. Elissa Scillieri, Principal, Apshawa School*
- *Melissa Welch, Teacher*
- *Dean Monti, Head Custodian*
- *Meghan Donegan, Teacher*
- *Jaclyn Becker, Teacher*
- *Lori Eckhardt, Parent*
- *Christine Price, Parent*
- *Tara Racano, Parent*
- *JT Bolger, Parent*
- *Christine Duffy, Parent*
- *Kerry Metzger, Parent*
- *Inga Koeppe, Community Member*

**2. Purpose of the Restructuring Committee** - *Dr. Anemone reviewed the purpose of the Restructuring Committee. Essentially, the district is facing significant financial difficulties and is examining the feasibility of continuing to operate 8 schools plus its alternate high school (Highlander Academy @ Our Lady Queen of Peace). First and foremost, the new state funding formula (S-2) is crippling approximately 20% of the districts in the state, West Milford being one of the most prominent. Over the past five budget years (2018/19 - 2022/23), West Milford has lost approximately \$8M in state aid. These reductions will continue for two additional years (2023/24 and 2024/25) and will most likely total around \$10M. Until very recently, state aid was approximately 25% of the district's budget. By the 2024/25 school year, state aid will be closer to only 5% of the district's budget. This places extreme pressure on the district to adjust its budget. Secondly, Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI) has expanded its enrollment from ~2,400 students to a projected ~5,400. During this expansion, the Passaic County Commissioners have not increased their funding of PCTI. These massive enrollment and cost increases have been pushed onto local school districts. For example, the Passaic County Commissioners support of PCTI is only ~\$7M and has not increased since 2006. Lastly, rising health care costs, increases in transportation costs, and generally higher than expected inflationary costs have*

*placed the district in a position whereby it needs to analyze its organization and structure.*

**3. Purpose of the Building Usage Subcommittee** *Dr. Anemone explained that there were five subcommittees (Instruction/Personnel, Special Services, Operations/Transportations, Fiscal, Building Usage) working concurrently. Though there might be some overlap, each group has a specific focus.*

**4. Timeline** *The subcommittees will work through the summer months and Dr. Anemone will present an interim report to the Board of Education and to the community in September. Subcommittees will continue to work through the autumn and a final report and recommendation will be made by November/December 2022.*

**5. Demographic Study (Ross Haber Associates)** *The Demographic Study has not been completed yet. It should be finished shortly. Current (2021-2022) enrollment by grade.*

- *Kindergarten = 211 (Class of 2034)*
- *Grade 1 = 210 (Class of 2033)*
- *Grade 2 = 189 (Class of 2032)*
- *Grade 3 = 213 (Class of 2031)*
- *Grade 4 = 202 (Class of 2030)*
- *Grade 5 = 234 (Class of 2029)*
- *Grade 6 = 242 (Class of 2028)*
- *Grade 7 = 264 (Class of 2027)*
- *Grade 8 = 275 (Class of 2026)*
- *Grade 9 = 214 (Class of 2025)*
- *Grade 10 = 234 (Class of 2024)*
- *Grade 11 = 238 (Class of 2023)*
- *Grade 12 = 251 (Class of 2022)*

*As of June 23, there are 193 students enrolled for Kindergarten for September 2022. During the discussion portion of the meeting, various suggestions were made. These included:*

- *Creating “Partner Schools” for K-2 and 3-5 enrollment*
- *Making one school a “Central 4-5 School”*
- *Adding Pre-K classrooms to multiple elementary schools (presently, our Pre-K classes are housed in Maple Road).*
- *General discussions about the State school funding formula.*
- *Examining the State School Choice Program*

**6. Building Utilization Study (Ross Haber Associates)** *The Building Utilization Study has not been completed yet. It should be finished shortly*

**7. Next Meeting - Tuesday, August 9 4:00pm Westbrook School Media Center**