

# WEST MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

46 Highlander Drive, West Milford, New Jersey 07480  
Phone: 973-697-1700    www.wmtps.org    Fax: 973-697-8351

Alex Anemone, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Barbara Francisco  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Daniel Novak  
Director of Education

Elizabeth McQuaid, OTD  
Director of Special Services

**“Success Starts Here”**

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## Restructuring Committee - Building Usage Subcommittee Agenda

**Meeting 3 - Thursday, October 20 6:30pm Westbrook School Media Center**

**Meeting Attendees:** Alex Anemone, Lynda Van Dyk, Claire Lockwood, Tara Racano, Melissa Welch, Meghan Donegan, Don Dougherty, JT Bolger, Christine Price, Dean Monti

- 1. Status Review:** *Dr. Anemone began the meeting by asking for committee feedback. Different members shared their concerns as well as what they have heard from their colleagues and friends. The Westbrook School staff is, understandably, upset and wishes to continue to be part of the conversation and planning after the final vote in November. Dr. Anemone assured the group that the staff would be part of a thoughtful planning process that takes into consideration multiple factors when staffing for 23/24. Staff members' current grade assignment, commuting distance, personal preferences, etc. will be factored in to this process. Other committee members indicated that the sooner this could happen, the better it would be for all. Dr. Anemone agreed but reminded the group that staff retirements or resignations in the spring/summer might alter the plans, even after they are finalized. Moreover, student IEPs, typically finalized in the spring, might have an effect as well.*
  
- 2. Ross Haber Associates update:** *Dr. Haber has been working with our Transportation Dept. and our Central Office staff to better understand our different neighborhoods and their history as it pertains to redistricting. He presented a draft copy of the new enrollment boundaries. These were shared at the October Board of Education meeting earlier this week. This document will be posted on our website as a .pdf so parents and community members can zoom in on specific streets. Moreover, Dr. Anemone will share a document with the Board and with the community that lists every address that will realize a school change. Specific elements of this process were:*
  - 1. All students geo-coded on a map*
  - 2. AP, MR, MH, PK, and UGL all will have increased enrollment*
  - 3. Maintain space for Gen. Ed., Sp. Ed., specials, etc.*
  - 4. Coordinate changes with Transportation Dept.*
  - 5. Keep neighborhoods together, to the greatest extent possible*
  - 6. Class sizes will remain small*
  - 7. Some special education program locations may change*
  
- 3. Elementary Building Usage - Classrooms:** *Westbrook currently has 12 sections (2 per grade, K-5). Of these 12 sections, 6 would most likely be needed to help absorb the addition of students to the other 5 schools.*

*Potential schools/grades for added personnel: Maple Road grades 3 and 5; Marshall Hill grades 1, 2 and 5; Paradise Knoll grade 4. Adding a teacher/section to these classes for 23/24 would, most likely, eliminate all the single section grades districtwide. A brief look at past enrollment reports revealed that all schools would remain within capacity. It is important to note that the presentation shared by Dr. Haber utilizes current K-5 enrollment. After this school year, we will exit our grade 5 students and welcome a new class of kindergartners. This may have an additional effect on class sizes, staffing, etc. Kindergarten registration for 2023-2024 will begin after the new year.*

**4. Next Steps:** *The final report will be presented at the November 29 BOE meeting. If it is approved, planning will begin shortly thereafter.*

**On behalf of the Board of Education, Dr. Anemone thanked all committee members for their efforts.**