Communication Committee Meeting
Friday, January 9, 2026
10:00 AM
Zoom Webinar

I. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum
II. Approval of minutes from the December 5, 2025 Communication Committee Meeting.
III. Discussion regarding the Board of Education Meeting (Facilities) summary for distribution
IV. Discussion on website updates/changes with regard to the facilities project
V. The next scheduled meeting of the Communication Committee: February 6, 2026, 9:00 AM, via Zoom.
VI. Adjournment

Communications Committee Meeting
Friday, December 5, 2025
9:00 AM
Zoom Webinar

Absent: Sharon Ferraro, **Present:** David Felton, Nicole Wallach. Present: 2, Absent: 1.

I. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum
Additional Attendees:
Erica Forti, Superintendent of Schools; Daniel DiVito, Director of Digital Learning and Technology

A quorum was met and the meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM
Move that the Communications Committee begin the December 5, 2025 committee meeting Unseconded with a motion by Felton, David.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of minutes from the March 1, 2024 Communication Committee Meeting
David Felton was the only member of the current committee present for the March 1, 2024 meeting. Therefore, the minutes were approved unseconded.
Move that the Communication Committee approve the minutes from the March 1, 2024 meeting. Unseconded with a motion by Felton, David.

III. Reconfirm the committee's mission and goals; introduce members and roles.

The committee's job is to improve how WPS and the Board connect with the community. Not just parents: "the community at large," including residents without students in schools. Focus areas include keeping the website current, explaining Board work clearly, and making district information easier to find and understand.

IV. Review current communication channels and identify ways to better connect with the WPS community and the broader town

WPS website as the "hub." Social platforms: Facebook and Instagram. Email blasts (historically via Town Hall / e-blast systems). Board/committee meeting notices are posted online and shared socially. The content area focusing on the building project will be reviewed, and design enhancements will be made, so people find and access the information.

V. The next scheduled meeting of the Communication Committee is January 9, 2026

VI. Adjournment
Move that the Communications Committee adjourn the December 5, 2025 meeting Carried with a motion by Felton, David and a second by Wallach, Nicole.
David Felton: Yea, Nicole Wallach: Yea
Yea: 2, Nay: 0

Respectfully submitted by:
Jodi Sacchetta

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Bricks and Mortar Update: Board of Education Special Meetings, December 1, 2025 and January 7, 2026

A meeting summary for Weston residents prepared by the Board of Education Communications Committee.

Background

The Weston Board of Education (BOE) is holding special monthly meetings to plan how to update and improve Weston Public Schools' (District) buildings.

The December 1, 2025 meeting gave BOE members and the public a shared understanding of what the BOE has done so far to examine the conditions of all District buildings and consider how to update the middle school. School construction and design professionals also joined the meeting to explain the state reimbursement process.

At the January 6, 2026 meeting, First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor joined the meeting to share information about the Town's capital projects so that BOE members and the public could better additional upcoming projects in addition to a new middle school.

To learn more, you can watch the meetings here and review what's already been done here.

Where We've Been So Far

Past Studies and Actions

- Studies conducted between 2017 and 2022 assessed the condition of all District buildings, recommended capital projects, and looked at whether the District should have three or four school buildings.
- In 2024, an architecture firm completed an educational specification for a middle school (grades 6-8), because the middle school needs the most immediate work.
- In December 2024, the BOE voted to keep four school buildings.
- In May 2024, the BOE voted to recommend that the town build a new middle school.
- In February 2025, SLAM Collaborative (SLAM), an architecture firm that specializes in school construction and design, confirmed that the middle school is structurally sound and can be renovated.

What We Learned at the Meetings

Who Does What? BOE, Town, and State Roles

- **BOE:** decides what building project the District needs, and, if the town votes to approve it, prepares a grant application and applies for state reimbursement.
- **Board of Finance:** recommends that the Board of Selectmen approve a referendum to authorize funding for the BOE's project.
- **Board of Selectmen:** approves a referendum (town vote) to fund the project.

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- **Town voters:** vote whether to fund the project in the town referendum.
- **Board of Selectmen:** if the town approves the referendum, passes required resolutions so the BOE can apply for state reimbursement money.
- **State:** reimburses the town for a portion of the building project cost.

How the State Grant Process Works

- If the town votes to fund the building project, then the BOE can file a state grant application by June 30 of any given year.
- The state usually authorizes the reimbursement funding one year later.
- The state decides the size of the building it will reimburse based on:
    - The highest expected enrollment within eight years of the grant application.
    - A state formula that sets the appropriate building size.
- State reimbursement rates for Weston in 2026:
    - Up to 12.5% for eligible work in a new construction.
    - Up to 22.14% for eligible work in a renovation.

The Town's Future Capital Projects

- Town office facilities are deteriorating and employees need to move to new facilities.
- The Town is upgrading the Town and District water treatment system.
- The Town's existing septic facility is at capacity, which limits expansion plans.
- Town Hall requires an HVAC upgrade within the next five years.
- The Town must comply with the state's electric-bus mandate by 2040.

The District's Future Capital Projects

- Over the next ten years, the District requires $33 million in capital improvements.
    - Of that, the District requires $20 million in capital improvements within the next five years due to age of old equipment.

Additional Notes

- Renovating a building while students are in it can take 1-1.5 years longer than building a new building while the students learn in the existing building.

What's Next?

- SLAM recommended a more detailed study of the middle school to determine needs and cost estimates associated with renovating or constructing a new building.
    - The BOE later voted to approve this study in the December 15, 2025 regular meeting.
- BOE members made no decisions regarding what was discussed, but they brainstormed additional ideas and topics that they want to consider next:
    - Financial impact to the town.
    - Explore options for space: grade configurations, space use across all District buildings, creation of magnet school (receives higher reimbursement), etc.
    - How to make sure all District buildings get the care they need.
    - How to work closely with the Boards of Finance and Selectmen.
    - Ways to communicate with the public.
- BOE members also brainstormed criteria to evaluate options for a new facility:

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    - Affordability, flexibility to accommodate unforeseen changes.
    - Will it be a wise investment, serve students well, and stand the test of time.
    - Maximization of educational delivery, town reputation, housing prices.
- District administration will consider the educational impact of various grade configurations housed within a school:
    - Grades PK-1, grades 1-4, grades 2-5, grades 3-6, grades 5-8, grades 7-8, one school that houses grades 2-4 and grades 5-8 separately.
- The BOE wants to submit a proposal for a referendum in November 2026.
- The BOE will apply for a state reimbursement grant in June 2026 or June 2027.

The BOE Communications Committee will continue to issue summaries of the special meetings on this topic. You can also watch our next special meeting on January 7, 2026 at 7:00 pm here or find the link in the District Calendar at www.westonps.org.

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