

Town of Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission

2021 SPECIAL Town Meeting
Warrant Articles - Summaries Notice

Schedule of Public Hearing:
Monday, September 20, 2021
and
Tuesday, September 21, 2021 (if needed)

Community Meeting Room Westwood Public Library and/or by
Zoom Webinar

(Also Available for viewing on Westwood Media Center)

(Date, Time & Location subject to change if necessary)



In the event of severe weather, please check the Town of Westwood web site
for weather related postponement information.

www.townhall.westwood.ma.us



SAVE THESE DATES:

• **FINCOM 2021 PUBLIC HEARING**

**Monday, September 20, 2021
Community Meeting Room/Zoom Webinar
(Also available on Westwood Media Center)
Tuesday, September 21, 2021 (if needed)
6:00PM**

• **2021 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING:**

**Monday, October 18, 2021
Westwood High School
Check-in begins 4:00PM
Meeting starts at 5:00PM**

• **2021 SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION:**

**Tuesday, October 26, 2021
All Precincts
7:00AM -8:00PM**

☎(781)314-1994

Email: jodonnell@Townhall.Westwood.MA.US

Please Note:

The Town of Westwood accommodates the needs of all physically challenged or disabled people by reasonable means in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact the Finance and Warrant Commission office at (781)314-1994 to make your request known.



Finance and Warrant Commission

Dianne McCarthy, Chair
George Hertz, Vice-Chair
William C. Bruce, Jr.
James Ferraro
Lauren FitzPatrick
Michael Gay
Angeila Hughes
Peter Ittig
Caitlyn Jurczak
Thomas Kilgarriff
George Laham
Nadine Moujahed
Kristina Patyewicz
Christopher Peroda
Alexander Yale

Jane O'Donnell, Administrator

A Message from the Chair – Dianne McCarthy

As the Finance and Warrant Commission (FinCom) prepares for the 2021 Special Town Meeting to be held on October 18, 2021, I would like to invite Westwood residents to learn more about the role of the Commission and participate in our upcoming public hearing, scheduled for September 20, 2021.

The FinCom is a fifteen members Commission whose members are appointed by the Town Moderator to serve three-year overlapping terms. In accordance with the Town Charter, the Commission:

- ❖ Considers all articles in Town Meeting Warrants and reports in print its advice, estimates, and recommendations to residents.
- ❖ Studies the financial and other affairs of the Town and advises with officers of the Town as to expenditures and recommendations for appropriations.

Preparations to address the Special Town Meeting warrant article(s) commenced in January of 2018 when the School Committee first came before FinCom with a warrant article to request funding for the initial MSBA feasibility study for the Paul Hanlon Elementary School grant eligibility process. (Please see Page 5 for more details on the Elementary School Building Project Timeline.) As a Commission, we educate members through workshops and presentations made by various representatives in Town; monitor budgets approved at the previous Town Meeting; and receive information on possible articles for the upcoming Town Meetings. Members of the Commission engage in a thorough review of the Town Meeting warrant articles. Each article sponsor comes before the Commission to discuss their article at least once.

For the Special Town Meeting, the FinCom has scheduled one public hearing on September 20 which is devoted to discussing the important issues on which residents will vote at the October 18, 2021 Special Town Meeting. The hearing is intended to provide residents the opportunity for public participation and input into matters facing our Town. At this meeting and during additional FinCom meetings, members of the Commission are apprised of the intent, background and details of each article. Through sponsor presentations, member questions and input received from the public, Commission members determine their position and formulate recommendations on the article(s). Following public input, the FinCom will vote their recommendation(s) at the public hearing on September 20.

The FinCom urges your participation at our **upcoming public hearing on September 20** and at the Special Town Meeting on October 18, 2021.



FINCOM Special Town Meeting Public Hearing Schedule:
Monday, September 20, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
Community Meeting Room – Westwood Public Library
Or join by Zoom Webinar
(and also available for viewing on Westwood Media Center)
If business is not finalized on September 20, the hearing will continue to
Tuesday, September 21, at 6:00 P.M.

DISCLAIMER: *Articles may be added or removed prior to the Finance and Warrant Commission's Public Hearings. Updated list of articles will be posted on the website. Please check the website for the most up to date information related to articles that will be presented to the Finance and Warrant Commission at its hearings. *Article numbers are draft only and are subject to change.*

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ARTICLE

School Committee-1: Elementary Schools Building Project

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee to pay costs of design, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a new Paul R. Hanlon Elementary School, which will consolidate the current Hanlon Elementary School and the Deerfield Elementary School, to be located at 790 Gay Street, in Westwood, Massachusetts, including costs of site work and all other costs incidental and related thereto.

Elementary School Building Project Timeline to 2021 Special Town Meeting

2015	
	Master Capital Needs Study conducted, which determined Deerfield, Hanlon, and Sheehan schools in need of modernization.
2017	
Mar.	Statement of Interest submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).
Dec.	Westwood is accepted in the MSBA program eligibility phase for the Hanlon School Project.
2018	
Jan. 22	Finance and Warrant Commission (FinCom) Meeting: Presentation by School Committee (SC) of proposed warrant article to request funding for the MSBA feasibility study for the Hanlon School grant eligibility process.
Mar. 3 & 4	School district hosted weekend tours for the community to view the conditions of school facilities.
Mar. 5	FinCom Public Hearing: To discuss school borrowing for funding the MSBA feasibility study.
Mar. 20 & Apr. 12	School Committee (SC) Community Forum: To present elementary building project purpose and process
Mar. 26	FinCom Meeting: By unanimous vote, the FinCom recommended that the Town appropriate \$1.75M to the feasibility study.
May 30	Annual Town Meeting: Motion on school borrowing for funding for the MSBA Eligibility Process passed by a $\frac{2}{3}$ voice vote.
July 24	School Committee (SC) appointed the School Building Committee (SBC) to oversee the project.
2019	
Jan 8	FinCom Meeting: School district provided update on MSBA process
Feb. through Oct.	During 8 open SBC Meetings , SBC completed the process to interview and hire Owner's Project Manager and Project Designers.

Oct. 3 & Nov. 4	SC Community Forum: Provided updates to the community about the project process.
Dec. 9 & 12	SC Community Forum: Gathered input from the community about the educational vision and planning for the project.
2020	
Jan. 9, 16, & 17	During 3 open SBC Meetings , SBC developed the evaluation criteria for assessing project options.
Jan. 21	Select Board Meeting: SC provided an update on the project process.
Jan. 23	SC Community Forum: Presented project options and gathered community feedback.
Jan. through Nov.	During 12 open SBC Meetings , SBC discussed priorities for sustainable design.
Feb. through May	During 7 open SBC Meetings , SBC evaluated project options and determined the recommended option of a newly constructed Hanlon/Deerfield consolidation for 560 students situated at the Hanlon site.
Feb. 11	FinCom Meeting: School Committee provided an update on the project.
Mar.	Preliminary Design Plan submitted to the MSBA .
Mar. 2	SC Community Forum: Presented the evaluation criteria for “short listing” project options and got community feedback.
Apr. 30	SC Community Forum: Presented the report of the redistricting consultant and discussed school consolidation.
Jun. 4	SC Community Forum: Reviewed the evaluation of the project options and presented the recommended option.
Jul.	Preferred Schematic Report submitted to the MSBA .
Oct. 13	SC Community Forum: Presented the design approach and received feedback from the community on “design inspiration boards.”
Nov. 9	FinCom Meeting: Dianne McCarthy, FinCom Education Subcommittee Chair and SBC liaison, presented a project update and FinCom discusses the project.
Dec. 14	School Committee hosted the Select Board and FinCom at a public meeting to discuss the project status.
Dec. 15	SC Community Forum: Updated the community on the project status and answered questions from residents.

2021	
Jan. 26	FinCom Meeting: Discussed the School Committee’s borrowing article for \$1.46M in project bridge funding.
Feb. and Mar.	During 4 open SBC Meetings , SBC discussed the project budget and bridge funding request.
Feb.	Final Schematic Design report submitted to the MSBA .
Mar. 8	FinCom Public Hearing: First public hearing on bridge funding borrowing article.
Mar. 18	SC Community Forum: Provided a comprehensive overview of the building project process to date, provided information about potential tax impact, and answered questions from the community.
Mar. 29	FinCom Public Hearing: Final public hearing on bridge funding article. The FinCom recommended, by a vote of 12 in favor to 2 opposed, that the Town appropriate \$1.46M in bridge funding.
Apr.	MSBA approved submission, committed to grant of up to \$18.2M to reimburse Westwood for eligible project costs
Apr. through Aug.	During 8 open SBC Meetings , SBC discussed designs of the school’s interior and exterior.
May 3	Annual Town Meeting: Motion on bridge funding passed by a $\frac{2}{3}$ voice vote.
Aug. 9	Select Board opened warrant for Special Town Meeting
Aug. 30	Select Board closed warrant for Special Town Meeting