

**WESTFIELD ACADEMY AND CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Board of Education**

**Special Meeting Agenda**

**Monday, May 24, 2021  
6:30 pm**

**Addendum**

3.0 Information and Discussion Items

3.1 Discussion Items

- a. Draft Letter to SED Regarding Further Relief on Graduation Attendance Requirements (Enclosure #2)

4.1 New Business

- a. Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Westfield Academy and Central School Board of Education hereby authorizes prepayment of the District's 2009 bond purchase in the amount of \$315,000.00 to be paid from the General Fund during the 2021-22 school year.

Letterhead

May DRAFT, 2021

NY SED  
NY DOH

### **Graduation Attendance Limits**

Based on the CDC's recent changes in mask requirements, and New York State's subsequent changes to other attendance limits in other venues, the Westfield Academy and Central School (WACS) requests that the NY State Education Department and NY Department of Health further modify their restrictions on graduation ceremonies to be more in line with businesses and other public gathering requirements. We believe the double limits of a percent of capacity and a cap on total people in attendance excessively reduces the number of students and their families that can safely attend one of the most important rites of passage in a young person's life. **WACS requests a simple six foot spacing for outdoor graduations.**

To maximize our graduation attendance we are hoping for good weather so we can hold an outdoor celebration and we have two rain dates already set up. Like most schools, WACS has a football field. Many of those football fields, like ours, are ringed with a track. Football fields generally have a sound system that is good enough to be heard throughout the athletic complex. Our complex is about 150 yards long and about 150 ft wide. This means that with a six foot spacing, this area could hold 1,875 people, more if family groups are included together. This is a huge number of attendees, but the State's recent graduation regulations further limit attendance to 20%, 33%, or 50% of that capacity, depending on the graduation size. The new NYS limits effective May 19 state that (1) businesses can have operate with the six foot social separation, and (2) other outdoor activities can have 500 people attending. We believe the six foot social separation would provide appropriate safety for graduation ceremonies.

We know that a graduation ceremony will be a mix of vaccinated and non-vaccinated people, so masking and social separation, along with prescribed routes of entry/ egress are integral parts of safety. So is ensuring that speakers or musicians have 6/ 12 ft of distance, as per current recommendation. WACS would prefer to have the same limits as business have, which is the 6 ft limit, with masks available if people unavoidably come closer. We request no arbitrary percentage of capacity number. This needs to be changed immediately so our graduate's plans can be finalized with their families.

Sincerely,

WACS

Data, not for final letter:

**School Graduation Outdoor events:**

- Large-scale ceremonies of more than 500 people will be limited to 20% of capacity.
- Medium-scale ceremonies of 201 to 500 people will be limited to 33% of capacity.
- Small-scale ceremonies of up to 200 people or two attendees per student will be limited to 50% of capacity. Proof of recent negative test result or proof of completed immunization is optional.

### **School Graduation Indoor events:**

- Large-scale ceremonies of more than 150 people will be limited to 10% of capacity.
- Medium-scale ceremonies of 101 to 150 people at indoor venues will be limited to 33% of capacity.
- Small-scale ceremonies of up to 100 people or two attendees per student at indoor venues will be limited to 50% of capacity. Proof of recent negative test result or proof of completed immunization is optional.

### **NYS New limits:**

New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to Lift Most Industry Capacity Restrictions Beginning May 19 Given Vaccination Progress and COVID-19 Case Decline

Business Capacity Limits to Be Replaced with Space Available to Maintain Six Feet of Social Distancing on May 19 in New York and New Jersey

Outdoor Social Gathering Limit Increases to 500 on May 10 in New York; Indoor Social Gathering Limit Increases to 250 on May 19 in New York

Outdoor Residential Gathering Limit is Removed and Indoor Residential Gathering Limit Increases to 50 on May 19 in New York

Large-Scale Indoor Venue Capacity Increases to 30% and Large-Scale Outdoor Venue Capacity Increases to 33% on May 19, Proof of Vaccination or Recent Negative Test Still Required in New York

### **Movie theaters:**

Effective Monday, April 26, 2021, ensure that the workforce and patron presence in any movie theater is limited to no more than 33% of the maximum capacity, inclusive of employees and patrons, both of whom must only be permitted entry into the movie theater if they wear an acceptable face covering at all times (except while eating or drinking, during which time they must be seated), provided that they are over age 2 and able to medically tolerate such covering.

Limit the capacity of any individual movie showing or screening to the lesser of 33% of the maximum occupancy or the State's maximum social gathering limit, which is 100 people indoors as of April 26, 2021.

Ensure at least 6 ft. of distance among all individuals, with the exception of patrons who are members of the same immediate party/household/family, at all times, unless safety or core activity requires a shorter distance.

Where 6 ft. of distance is not possible between employees and patrons, enact physical barriers (e.g., cash registers, concessions, ticket-taker stations).

Ensure theater seating allows for at least 6 ft. distance between patrons and groups of patrons not in the same immediate party/household/family, specifically:

### **Malls:**

In coordination with any tenants, ensure that workforce and customer presence is limited to no more than 50% of the maximum occupancy, inclusive of customers, who must maintain 6 ft. of

separation from individuals who are not in their immediate party/household/family and, in all cases, must only be permitted entry into the mall and businesses within the mall if they wear an acceptable face covering; provided that they are over age 2 and able to medically tolerate one. Ensure 6 ft. distance between employees and customers, unless safety or the core activity requires a shorter distance (e.g. operating cash registers, moving merchandise). Employees must wear face coverings when they're within 6 ft. of another person and any time they interact with customers.

#### Religious services:

In coordination with any tenants, ensure that workforce and customer presence is limited to no more than 50% of the maximum occupancy, inclusive of customers, who must maintain 6 ft. of separation from individuals who are not in their immediate party/household/family and, in all cases, must only be permitted entry into the mall and businesses within the mall if they wear an acceptable face covering; provided that they are over age 2 and able to medically tolerate one. Ensure 6 ft. distance between employees and customers, unless safety or the core activity requires a shorter distance (e.g. operating cash registers, moving merchandise). Employees must wear face coverings when they're within 6 ft. of another person and any time they interact with customers.