

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, February 3, 2022
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
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MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Orlando, Melissa Pacheco (*arrived at 6:39 pm.*), Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros

Also Present: Kevin Aguiar Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal Westport Middle School, Jennifer Chaves Extended Day Director, Stacey Duquette PreK-Gr. 4 Principal, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Michael Grandfield Assistant Principal Westport High School, John Jack Keane Student Representative, Kerri McKinnon Principal Westport High School, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Sean Persico Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Tracy Priestner Finance Committee, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 21 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Tavares opened the Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:33 pm. with a quorum of the members present, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Chair Tavares announced:

This meeting is being held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, Section 20 and on June 16, 2021 Governor Baker signed an Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency.

Comments and Statements from the Public - There were none.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representative – John (Jack) Keane reported on high school athletics. Varsity girls' basketball team are 8 and 6 with a 3/1 record and varsity boys are 13 and 1 with a 3/1 record. Both teams will play West Bridgewater. Student names were read for the Westport Scholastic Student Athletes Teams covering field hockey, golf, girls soccer, boys soccer, and volleyball.

Westport Athletic Boosters is partnering with Cozy Nook on February 15 with a fundraiser called "Make Your Meal Matter" with a 15% donation of the proceeds from all orders. National Honor Society is selling carnations for Valentine's Day. Class of 2023 are selling tickets to win a Nintendo Switch. Class of 2025 are selling raffle tickets for a movie theme basket and will host a dine out night at Chipotle on March 1 with a portion of the bills donated back to the class. New program of studies for the high school were sent to students and families to plan their courses.

For the middle school: A dance for grades 5 and 6 will take dance tomorrow night from 6-8:30 pm. with 208 out of 250 students attending. Student Council is collecting funds for blood cancer research with a program called "Pennies for Patients". Drama production of Matilda Junior will be February 10,11,12.

The high school is rehearsing for the drama program Pippin to be held March 18,19,20.

(Ms. Pacheco arrived here at 6:39 pm.)

B. Superintendent Report - Mr. Persico began by providing an update on the district's implementation of ALICE training. On January 21st the high school held a drill in conjunction with the Fire and Police Departments. Students were safely evacuated within 2 minutes.

Ms. Orlando asked how often are drills being done in the school year? Ms. McKinnon reported there are a minimum of 4 drills per year.

Mr. Aubin thanked everyone involved including maintenance and custodial staff for getting the school ready on Monday after the major snowstorm.

Mr. Aubin will be submitting recommendations to the Building Re-Use Committee as part of their request for information.

The district is implementing the new testing requirements. Ms. Santos and the nursing staff were thanked for their efforts.

Mr. Aubin asked if there were any questions on the testing protocols? There were none.

C. Acknowledgement of a \$865 WEF Grant for the Integrated Arts Projects at the MAC - Chair Tavares extended gratitude to the WEF for their support to the schools.

D. Discussion of the WES / MAC Reconfiguration - Superintendent Aubin requested to table this item since this depends on the final budget allocation.

E. Discussion of Revised Chromebook Policy – Mr. Tomah reported they now have 2 student interns working with the Technology Department. Work on the Wi-Fi wiring is finishing up tonight.

Mr. Tomah explained the Chromebook policy sets expectations of paying when a device gets broken. Fees are as follows; Chromebook \$250, charger \$30, screen \$40, case \$25.

Chair Tavares mentioned the policy outlines responsibility and care. This is the committee's first view of the policy. Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions?

Mr. Viveiros asked how the one-to-one Chromebook initiative is going now that it has been established for a few years? Mr. Tomah explained they have experienced a lot of breakage for the most part due to accidents. Mr. Tomah is looking into insurance for the Chromebooks that would include an upfront fee and costs that parents could purchase. Possibly \$30 - \$40 per device annually with carry over funds that would reduce costs the following year.

Mr. Viveiros asked if there are enough Chromebooks? Mr. Tomah explained there are enough devices and 300 new Chromebooks were received from a grant with the expectation of receiving another 1,000.

Ms. Pacheco asked if costs remain the same when Chromebooks get older? Mr. Tomah explained the cost of replacing a screen is the cost no matter how old the device. The insurance program he is looking at would cover accidental replacement.

Ms. Pacheco asked if there are any regards to intention for accidents and if there is a problem with breakage? Mr. Tomah said yes and at this time it has not affected the budget but this will not last. Ms. Pacheco mentioned the fact about students with heavy backpacks and screens cracking.

Ms. Pacheco asked what if parents/students cannot afford to pay? Mr. Tomah mentioned having vouchers/waivers for parents.

Chair Tavares mentioned past discussion on e-subscriptions for textbooks. This was one of the cases for one to one Chromebook implementation. This needs to be looked into to see what is currently available.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions? There were none.

F. FY23 Budget Discussion - Chair Tavares reported they have been working with the Town on the budget.

Ms. Rapoza shared her screen with the following budget figures:

FY22 School Approved Budget	\$19,935,683
	(\$440,000 free cash taken out)
Contractual increases	\$ 511,799
Level services expenses	\$ 251,838
Contractual increase and level service expenses	\$ 763,637
Total FY23 School Proposed Level Service Budget	\$20,699,320
Difference of FY23 School Proposed Budget compared to Town Proposed Budget	\$ 907,643
FY23 Town Proposed Budget	\$19,791,677

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions?

Ms. Priestner asked if the cuts of 12 staff and bussing are represented in the numbers? Ms. Rapoza said yes both cuts are reflected in the numbers.

Ms. Stanton Cross shared that she would like to make an agreement with the Town to use free cash. Other option is a 2 1/2 override.

Ms. Pacheco shared at the last CIPC meeting free cash was mentioned to be used to fund projects. Ms. Pacheco asked if the School Department has identified an amount to be used from free cash? Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned the Town has not reached a number with the schools. It has been made abundantly clear funds are needed. Ms. Stanton Cross requested a Work Session next week to talk about reaching a number.

Mr. Aubin shared Chapter 70 funding will be increasing by 8.8% statewide, however this will only bring \$46,290 to Westport.

Mr. Viveiros reminded everyone dealing with the pandemic and the way it is affecting student education means many students will need help moving forward.

G. Subcommittee Updates - Chair Tavares mentioned the Policy Subcommittee can't meet this week. They might meet next week.

Mr. Viveiros reported the school building project is nearing the end. They just had a meeting with the architect and walked through the building checking on items. They are doing their due diligence and listening to concerns about temperatures in the building. People are on site working on cell phone booster, floors, and fence.

Mr. Viveiros reported the Campground Committee met last week. Mr. Pacheco will let the committee know about the playing fields.

Mr. Viveiros reported the Building Re-Use Committee is continuing to look at uses of the old high school building.

Ms. Stanton Cross explained as part of the budget process they need to provide a wish list to the Town of what the schools would do if funds from a 2 1/2 override were received. At this time the Town does not know the number for a proposition 2 1/2 override request.

VI. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, January 20, 2022 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, January 20, 2022.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Orlando

5/0/0

B. Review and Act on the Extended Day Handbook - Chair Tavares asked the members if everyone received a copy of the handbook?

A motion was made to approve the Extended Day Handbook.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Orlando

5/0/0

Discussion took place on the Extended Day Handbook.

Ms. Chaves informed everyone they received their state license for 2 years. They are adding more information on reasonable accommodations for children with special needs so everyone understands what this means. Ms. Chaves explained there are no policy changes.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions or input? There was nothing further.

C. Review and Act on a \$7500 Grant from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation for the Westport High School Students - Chair Tavares thanked them for the scholarship. The funds are not specified for anything particular other than a scholarship.

A motion was made to accept a \$7500 Grant from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation for the Westport High School Students.

Motion by Viveiros, seconded by Pacheco

5/0/0

D. Review and Act on FY23 Proposed Budget -

A motion was made to approve the FY23 School Proposed Budget in the amount of \$20,699,320.
Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Orlando 5/0/0

Chair Tavares asked if there were any discussion, questions, or comments?

Mr. Aubin explained this is a level service budget based on the new school with no new additions.

V. **Routine Matters** - Correspondence and Notices - Chair Tavares has nothing new to report.

VI. **Topics the Chair could not Reasonably Anticipate Forty-eight (48) Hours in Advance of the Meeting -**

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

The committee requests:

- To look into the district's E-Subscriptions / E-Textbooks to be used with Chromebooks.

VII. **Adjourn** - A motion was made to adjourn. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by Orlando, seconded by Viveiros 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando	Yes	Pacheco	Yes	Stanton Cross	Yes	Tavares	Yes	Viveiros	Yes
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The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

- \$865 WEF Grant for the Integrated Arts Projects at the MAC
- Chromebook Policy
- School Building Committee Minutes January 19, 2022
- Extended Day Handbook
- \$7500 Grant from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation for the Westport High School Students
- FY23 Proposed Budget

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary

