

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

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82311599240?pwd=Y2I1SUNLNFpGM3lmT25BSEhEWjJnUT09>
Passcode: Uy5kXz
Or One tap mobile: US: +13126266799
Or Telephone: US: +1 312 626 6799
Webinar ID: 823 1159 9240
Passcode: 451891

MINUTES

Members Present: Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Michelle Orlando

Also Present: Kevin Aguiar Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Jennifer Chaves Extended Day Director, Stacey Duquette PreK-Gr. 4 Principal, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Mike Fernandes Start Em Young Program Director, Michael Grandfield Assistant Principal Westport High School, John Jack Keane Student Representative, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Coordinator, Kerri McKinnon Principal Westport High School, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 33 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Tavares opened the Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:30 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 high school students are meeting with guidance counselors to select course offerings for next school year. Virtual Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences are March 9 from 2:15 - 4:15 pm. Virtual High School Parent Teacher Conferences are March 10 from 2:15 - 4:15 pm. please make an appointment. March 10 will be an early release day dismissal at 11 am. High School Drama Club's production of Pippin will be March 18-20, March 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. and March 20 at 2 pm.

B. Superintendent Report - Mr. Fernandes gave an update on the Start Em Young Program. Mr. Fernandes reported they wrapped up winter activities. Two remote sessions were on CAD 3 D modeling and in-home fitness. Each program ran twice a week with 30 students attending. They are rolling out new programs with 5 activities that include Gamm Theatre, Success Camp focusing on management and functioning skills, volleyball, track and field, and 3 D modeling. Programs are almost filled to capacity with a total of 96 students signed up to date. Mr. Fernandes is working with Leslie and Dan Marques. There is a high school intern to help with volleyball and 2 more students are interested. Students will receive volunteer hours to run these activities. Doing this allows to increase capacity for the program and not turn students away. Mr. Fernandes mentioned the program is on task with their vision to make this a community school in Westport.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions?

Ms. Stanton Cross asked how long is the sessions? Mr. Fernandes said twice a week for 6 weeks. Ms. Stanton Cross asked if the program is still K-4 or is this branching in with the high school? Mr. Fernandes said high school students are helping with the programs.

Dr. McKinnon has met with Mike and Leslie Ruel. The program has been posted on Google classrooms, on announcements and students have been coming in to sign up.

Ms. Stanton Cross shared that a mass email should be sent out to increase the numbers.

Ms. Pacheco shared a concern that with a mass email they may have too many volunteers and not enough with certain skill sets. Mr. Fernandes said he can teach students to be leaders and they can develop this into a leadership program. Having a lot of volunteers would not be a problem.

Mr. Aubin announced they will be holding a first series of lectures on cyber security to assist the community in protecting themselves and provide helpful hints. Program will be last week of March with details at the next SC meeting.

Mr. Aguiar is working to host a Job Fair in April.

Mr. Aubin informed everyone that Assistant Principal Mr. Persico and Principal Ms. Charette are chaperoning for the fan bus going to the girls' basketball game along with Officer Davis, so they are not in attendance. Boys' team is playing on Friday at 6:30 pm. here at school.

Ms. Duquette reported a fundraiser will be held for MAC and WES on Saturday called Casino Night. Tickets are \$50 and the event will be held at the Fall River Cultural Club.

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 2-25-22 - Chair Tavares reported a Bill Warrant dated 2.25.22 in the amount of \$325,410.92 was emailed to school committee members for review.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions regarding the bill warrant? There were none.

D. Discussion of the Westport High School Schedule for the 2022-23 School Year - Ms. McKinnon reported recently 2 schedules were reviewed which include a "6 drop one" schedule and a "modified block" schedule.

Ms. McKinnon discussed the current schedule and compared it with the "modified block" schedule.

Highlights of the current block schedule:

4 courses at a time, 6-10 courses over school year
Block schedule can double up on the core courses / work studies / dual enrollment
Teaching 3 out of 4 periods
1/2 prep / 1/2 duty / teaching 75% of school day
Core teachers 6 core sections in school year
12 sections for elective teachers
Class length 85 minutes

Ms. McKinnon reviewed School Committee concerns and how they are addressed with the schedule.

School Committee concerns:

Increase the number of electives
PE not 5 days a week
Robust college and career readiness
Need for educational support
Need effective utilizations of instructional time
Greatest need for teaching

Highlights of proposed "modified block" schedule:

Maximum of 5 courses / 9-10 per school year
Class duration is 85 minutes
No additional staff needed
Twice as many elective opportunities
PE could be twice per week
Retains 2 semesters of part time electives for college and career readiness
Demonstrates effective utilization of instructional time by providing professional development

"6 drop one" schedule has teachers teaching 66% of the time. To run this full schedule more teachers are needed.

Ms. McKinnon reviewed Grades 9,10,11 and 12 sample schedules for semester 1 and semester 2.

Ms. McKinnon asked if there were any questions on the schedules?

Discussion took place on how dual enrollment and internship opportunities fit within the schedule for grades 11 and 12.

Discussion took place on the ability to have more offerings.

Ms. McKinnon showed a sample schedule for core teachers and elective teachers.

Ms. McKinnon reviewed the WHS graduation requirements versus the MassCore requirements.

Ms. McKinnon showed the Master Schedule comparison summary which displayed current schedule /proposed schedule /full-year schedule.

Ms. McKinnon recommended going with the “modified block” schedule. This schedule is the best in offering a career and college readiness pathway for students.

Chair Tavares announced that the presentation is now completed.

Discussion took place on advantages and disadvantages of the schedules. Class length was mentioned as well as providing tools and professional development. It was recommended to pilot the “modified block” for a year.

Mr. Aguiar mentioned the need for a static schedule so that internships can fit in. He recommended to bring in other people to see what this kind of schedule will look like. Mr. Aguiar requested a timely agreement to decide on a schedule so they can begin making a schedule for next school year to lock things in and get student needs met.

E. Proposed Changes to the WMS Student Handbook - Mr. Aubin explained that Principal Charette would like approval on a change to add into the student handbook. During passing periods student using the bathroom must sign in and out. Presently this is done when leaving the classroom and now they would like to expand this for passing period as well.

Everyone shared their thoughts. Although this is a change in the handbook, this is seen as a protocol not a policy. It was decided to remove this from the agenda.

F. FY23 Proposed Budget Discussion – Ms. Rapoza reported the budget figures have not changed and recommends passing on it now and on the Action Agenda. They will meet with FinCom next Tuesday and will know more at that time. Budget Hearing is scheduled for March 31 at the new middle high school.

G. Subcommittee Updates - Mr. Viveiros reported everyone working hard to wrap things up for the new school building project.

VI. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Tuesday, February 8, 2022 Budget Work Session, Tuesday, February 15, 2022 Budget Work Session, and Thursday, February 17, 2022 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Tuesday, February 8, 2022 Budget Work Session, Tuesday, February 15, 2022 Budget Work Session, and Thursday, February 17, 2022.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Viveiros 4/0/0

B. Review and Act on Westport High School Schedule for the 2022-23 School Year -

A motion was made to approve the schedule as recommended by Dr. McKinnon. Also get additional information at the next meeting on a static block and invite anyone else to come in to explain college and career and dual enrollment to inform the committee on what it would look like given either scenario.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

C. Review and Act on FY23 Proposed Budget - Ms. Rapoza recommends to pass over until receiving more information.

D. Review and Act on a \$2000 Grant from Project Bread to Assist Students to Receive Free Meals -

Ms. Rapoza informed everyone they have been generous through the pandemic assisting with breakfast and lunch, summer programs and Extended Day. Assistance was received with food, supplies and salaries during COVID times.

A motion was made to approve a \$2000 Grant from Project Bread to Assist Students to Receive Free Meals.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Viveiros 4/0/0

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** - Chair Tavares reported there were none.

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

Ms. Stanton Cross requested to review the committee's meeting schedule to set up some of these meetings virtual and in-person. The next SC meeting will be at the new school in person.

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

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WCS Bill Warrant: 2-25-22

Westport High School Schedule for the 2022-23 School Year / Option 6 Drop 1 /Option Modified Block
Changes to the WMS Student Handbook

\$2000 Grant from Project Bread to Assist Students to Receive Free Meals

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary