

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, August 5, 2021
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Jr./Sr. High School Media Center/Virtual Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82425349084?pwd=TIBoVkr3MDdMQXpsaGNkSWx6VldkUT09>
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Webinar ID: 824 2534 9084
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MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Orlando, Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Melissa Pacheco

Also Present: Kevin Aguiar Assistant Principal Westport High School, Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal Westport Middle School, Jennifer Chaves Extended Day Director, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Kerri McKinnon Principal Westport High School, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Jason Pacheco Athletic Director, Sean Persico Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 3 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. Superintendent Report - Mr. Aubin began by introducing and welcoming the new Assistant Principal for the Westport Middle School Sean Persico.

This week summer programs include fitness fundamentals and volleyball.

Mr. Aubin gave a COVID update. There was a meeting with Matt Armendo from the BOH regarding the Governor's latest release. There will be a statement on procedures released soon. Leadership team met and toured the new building to determine isolation protocols.

Mr. Aubin shared information concerning the National Threat Assessment which compiles information on threats that did not take place during 2006-2018. There were 67 averted attacks most in high schools. Westport will have an anonymous link to report behaviors using a multimodal system on the school website. Ensuring a safe school environment when students return in September is a priority.

Negotiations with the Westport Federation of Teachers is ongoing.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions?

Ms. Stanton Cross requested to get information out soon on a policy for wearing masks. Although guidance may change, information should be sent out to parents. Mr. Aubin is working on a re-entry plan and can have information ready next week.

Discussion took place on the timing and it was agreed information can be given at the next school committee meeting on August 19.

Mr. Aubin announced there will be 2 forums held on ESSER Funding with stakeholders using Zoom. They will take place on August 23 and another will be before the SC meeting on the 19th. Information with details will be disseminated on the website, Facebook and We the People Town of Westport.

B. WCS Bill Warrant: 7-16-21 \$574,699.69 and 7-30-21 \$111,931.74 - Chair Tavares acknowledged that the bill warrants were signed. The bill warrant dated 7-16-21 was in the amount of \$574,699.69 and 7-30-21 was in the amount of \$111,931.74. Both bill warrants were emailed to school committee members for review.

C. Acknowledgement of a \$1000 Scholarship to Blaine Shea from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Foundation- Chair Tavares thanked the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Foundation for their generous donation and wished good luck to the recipient.

D. Presentation of Athletic Budget - A request to Mr. Pacheco was made to list sports programs with costs to get a better understanding on what programs were going to run and be offered.

Ms. Rapoza shared her screen to present the Athletic Programs for School Year 2020-2021. The breakdown covered programs offered, how many students participated including gender, coaches' stipends, transportation, officials, equipment and net costs. Ms. Rapoza emailed this document to committee members.

Mr. Pacheco reported sports will be back to a regular schedule with seasons running normal Fall, Winter and Spring. Two weeks from Monday Fall sports begin. There is a total of 99 student athletes registered to date. Information is being sent out in all avenues including emails to students and parents.

Mr. Viveiros asked about the status of middle school coaches. Mr. Pacheco will be doing official hiring and will be holding a meeting next Monday with applicants.

Mr. Viveiros asked about the use of the current high school gym. Fall sports will start before anything is transferred to the new school. Mr. Pacheco explained a daily shuttle bus will be needed to transport students from the new school to old school for practices and to get to the fields. They will also use Sanford Rd. for soccer.

E. Discussion of Athletic Plan for New WMHS Including Transportation - Pricing has not been determined by Amaral's Bus for transportation costs for sports. It was suggested using figures from 2019 may give a better idea on costs.

A question on scheduling was brought up. Mr. Pacheco explained the schedules are created by the league and he is in regular contact with the leagues. Middle School sports start when school starts. Last year's 7th graders are now going into grade 8. Since now there is a separation, 8th graders are not automatically playing. We must prove need and get an 8th grade waiver, may also need a 7th grade waiver. It was asked if the school van could be used to transport students. Mr. Pacheco said the golf team uses the van. A bus is used only for away games. A suggestion was made that possibly students could walk the distance (new school to old school) with a police detail to save costs.

F. Discussion of 5-Day Pre-K Program -

There will be a 5-day Pre-School Program for 3 and 4-year-old children. The classroom will comprise of students with and without disabilities, cap at 15 students, takes place from 9:00 am. - 2:20 pm. and cost is \$42.00 per day. Ms. Rapoza verified there will be no additional cost to the program and no new hires.

Discussion took place on what happens if more than 15 students are interested. Ms. Rapoza mentioned they will go on a waiting list. A request was made to look into setting up another class if are more than 15 students. The school committee would like to be notified if more than 5 students are on the waiting list.

Mr. Aubin wants to meet community needs and will look into costs for an additional second class.

G. Approval of the Summer Food Service Program Application - Ms. Rapoza gave an update on the summer food school lunch program. The program was a success and a grant for \$5,000 was received. They averaged 76 school lunch meals, 113 per day with Grab and Go and served 210 meals per day for the Extended Day and other programs. Program data will be shared when the books close in August. The district is committed to providing this program for the next 3 years.

Discussion took place on the idea of having a collaborative bid with local farmers for fresh and healthy food. Mr. Aubin met with Business to Business and talked about a farm to school initiative. He will keep the committee posted and Ms. Rapoza will look into this idea further.

H. Subcommittee Updates - Mr. Viveiros reported there was a School Building Committee meeting on July 28. Things are moving along they are laying the floor in gym and working on the auditorium flooring. There is a control panel that is out of stock so they are trying to find a replacement unit. Mr. Tomah explained there is a delivery delay on the new Wi-Fi access equipment with dates in September and December. This effects the entire infrastructure. Purchasing additional equipment to get one per room and be ready for the start of school will take place.

The playing fields will not be done and tennis courts will not be available until after school opens. WES will get a makeover in the front; roof project is delayed a year and sign should be up soon.

Mr. Aubin added the Leadership Team toured the building today. Window retrofit supplies came in and there is still a punch list. Construction will still be going on when school starts.

VI. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, July 8, 2021 Work Session and Thursday, July 8, 2021 -
A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, July 8, 2021 Work Session and Thursday, July 8, 2021.

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

B. Review and Act on a \$500 Donation for Golf Attire in Memory of David Servies from Lucy Hassey, WCS Business Services Assistant - Chair Tavares thanked Lucy Hassey for her generous donation for the golf team.

A motion was made to accept the donation of \$500 for Golf Attire in Memory of David Servies.

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

C. Review and Act on FY22 Golf Fees - This item was previously presented before but did not get approved. It was requested to get a breakdown on costs per player, and green time. Mr. Pacheco recommends to maintain the \$175 golf fee.

A motion was made to keep the golf fee at \$175.

Motion by Stanton Cross seconded by Viveiros 4/0/0

D. Review and Act on Revised 2021-2022 School Year Calendar - Chair Tavares mentioned the school calendar was adjusted for Pre-K and Preschool as well as a change in Election Day from April 13 to April 12.

A motion was made to approve the revised 2021-2022 School Year Calendar as presented.

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

V. **Routine Matters** - Correspondence and Notices - There were none.

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

Ms. Stanton Cross inquired about who is responsible in creating the List for Summer Reading. Ms. McKinnon informed everyone a meeting was held about summer reading sharing thoughts and ideas on what they wanted to do. Selection is done by respective teachers in grades 9,10, and 11. Guidance is not included but Special Education teachers are.

Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned many parents were disappointed for Grade 9 selections. There were no classics on the reading selections and no descriptions about the book topics. Many books need to be discussed further, topics were dark and gloomy and did not include any enjoyment reading. To have something like this after a pandemic is not good and was a disappointment.

Mr. Viveiros asked who monitors books assigned? Mr. Aubin mentioned there is a level of freedom for teacher to assign books. Other districts have Academic Chairs or Department Heads. Further conversations about what to expect with Summer Reading need to take place, including what is the function of Summer Reading and is it working or not. Mr. Aubin will get some data to present at the next SC meeting.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

The committee requests:

- Look into costs for an additional second class for a 5-day Pre-School Program.
- Look into a collaborative bid with local farmers to provide fresh and healthy food.
- Data on Summer Reading to present at the next SC meeting.

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

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Orlando

4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes

Stanton Cross Yes

Tavares Yes

Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

\$1000 Scholarship to Blaine Shea from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Foundation

\$500 Donation for Golf Attire in Memory of David Servies from Lucy Hassey, WCS Business Services Assistant

FY22 Golf Fees

Revised 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary