

**Westport School Committee  
Work Session  
DATE: Thursday, September 9, 2021  
Time 6:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88336403005?pwd=L2lDdDE1YkNaUnAzazV1cDhqTk9Ldz09>  
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**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Michelle Orlando, Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Tavares

**Members Absent:** Nancy Stanton Cross, Antonio Viveiros

**Also Present:** Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Director of Special Education, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 6 Community Participants

**I. Call to Order** - Chair Tavares opened the Virtual School Committee Work Session at 6:02 pm. with a quorum of the members present.

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.**

**II. Discussion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ESSER III)** - Mr. Aubin welcomed everyone to this special Work Session concerning the American Rescue Plan Act/ESSER III which deals with federal and state government providing funding to schools. This Work Session gives the public the opportunity to make comments on how the Westport School District will be spending the money.

Ms. Rapoza shared her screen with a presentation entitled "**Westport Community Schools Special School Committee Work Session American Rescue Plan Act**". Information was provided on how Westport is spending these funds from the ESSER I and ESSER II allocations. Westport Community Schools will be receiving a total of \$1,607,934.

Mr. Aubin explained details of the spending based on these priorities.

**Slide 1 - Listed Priorities**

Priority 1 - Protecting the health & safety of our students and staff

Priority 2 - Ensure continuity of educational mission, regardless of teaching mode

Priority 3 - Social and emotional needs

Priority 4 - Student engagement PreK-4

Priority 5 - Invest in long-term initiatives to increase quality and quantity of communications with stakeholders

**Slide 2 - FY20-FY21 Covid-19 Expenditures**

Technology - Chromebooks and laptops, fiber optics, purifiers, cleaning products, school lunch (decrease in school lunch revenue), substitute costs, instructional software, PPE & supplies, tents, nursing costs, attorney fees, Professional Development, maintenance/custodial costs     **Total costs \$1,519,522.**

**Slide 3 - ESSER II Approved Allocations FY22**

Technology - Wi-Fi for MAC and WES, interactive TV's, social emotional learning, student enrichment & engagement, online systems to minimize in-person contact (DocuSign, Aspen, etc.), instructional software I-Ready, tents-storage rental (outdoor mask space), nursing costs, Professional Development - Ruler Training, maintenance and custodian costs. **Total costs \$698,000.**

**Slide 4 - COVID 19 Positive Cases Students and Staff SY 2020-2021**

Total cases 116

**Slide 5 - Thank you for support**

Mr. Aubin asked if there were any questions?

Ms. Pacheco requested to have detailed information on the Summer program. For example, number of students, cost per student and overall costs. In addition, Ms. Pacheco asked what will be offered next year? Will programs continue based on past participation and will other programs be identified? Mr. Elwell reported there were over 120 participants for core academics. They also offered Art Camp, Serve Safe OSHA, and Adobe Photoshop.

Ms. Rapoza informed everyone they will have numbers and costs for the summer programs at the next meeting on September 16.

Chair Tavares asked what are the next steps? There have been lots of conversations about the spending. The community was given the opportunity to share input with the two forums. The committee will approve the expenditures at the next SC meeting and the grant will be finalized for submission. Grant deadline is October 4, 2021.

Mr. Aubin shared there is a large punch list of needs to be fixed. The district has a year to settle all the items that need repair. Part of ESSER I and ESSER II funding paid for the UV filtration. The new school has UV and MERV14 filtration. Air quality testing will continue in all schools during the year.

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

	Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Orlando		3/0/0	
<u>Roll call vote:</u>	Orlando	Yes	Pacheco	Yes
			Tavares	Yes

The Virtual School Committee Work Session adjourned at 6:28 pm.