

Westport School Committee
Work Session
DATE: Wednesday, September 22, 2021
Time 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting

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MINUTES

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

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 0 Community Participants

I. Call to Order - Chair Tavares opened the Virtual School Committee Work Session at 6:12 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) - Ms. Rapoza shared her screen and showed a document entitled: ***“ESSER Funding FY22-FY23 American Relief Act (ESSER III)”***

Chair Tavares announced she would like to entertain questions from the committee.

The committee expressed they would like to go through the list item by item.

Technology infrastructure MAC and WES - Ms. Rapoza explained this item does not qualify under Emergency Connectivity Funds. Other funding for this in the amount of \$220,000 was received. This item is not being submitted through the Emergency Connectivity Fund. This will be submitted through ESSER III funds. Ms. Rapoza explained this goes for upgrading infrastructure to have technology run the way it needs to run.

Mr. Tomah gave an update on the MAC/WES infrastructure. Servers are 7-9 years old, rule of thumb for lifespan is 5 years. Switches are old and need to be replaced, wiring needs to be cleaned up and wires need to be replaced. New wiring is needed for the Interactive TV's. Mr. Tomah needs the funds to get the buildings up to par and working appropriately. All committee members are good on this item.

Social Emotional Learning Director - 2 year only - \$80,000 -need new job description ADMIN position (N.T. to help) -1 yr. ESSER II, 1 yr. ESSER III

Discussion was held on this position. Duties would include Professional Development for staff, support person to Guidance Department, conduct surveys, work with data, and seek out grant opportunities. It was noted to add training and programming to the job description.

A question was raised on what happens to this position after the 2 years? Mr. Aubin mentioned this position would be evaluated to see if it is still needed.

After further discussion, it was decided to change this position to hire another School Adjustment Counselor (SAC) with a focus on social emotional learning and working with Ruler Programming.

Mr. Aubin informed everyone the grant can be amended if needed for up to 2 years with 2024 as the deadline.

MTRS for SEL Director - \$7,200 - Social Emotional Learning Director changed to School Adjustment Counselor (SAC) - District needs to pay for their retirement. Committee agrees to this item.

Student Enrichment and networking program (contracted) - consultant - \$40,000

Mr. Mike Fernandes is involved with an after-school program called "**Start Them Young**" working with grades K-4 to get enrichment programs to engage younger students. Programs being explored include cross country, soccer, drama (Game theatre), and music.

Ms. Pacheco raised a concern that we are paying \$40,000 on a consultant when district staff should be doing this. Also, programs are done by the Music Boosters and PTO. Mr. Aubin mentioned that when depending on funding, sometimes programs fall through. The district needs sustainability. Mr. Aubin mentioned they met with the PTO from MAC and WES yesterday and they were excited about this idea.

Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned Mr. Fernandes is a motivational speaker and on the forefront concerning nutrition. Mr. Fernandes will talk to parents, getting kids involved, write grants and is very connected to the community.

Programs will be no charge. The position will be re-assessed after 1 year. Committee is ok with this item.

Discussion was held on the grant balance of **\$65,797**. Committee members would like these funds to be directed to student enrichment and be place in Student Enrichment Programming.

Student Enrichment - Nurse Coverage - \$5,000 - Nurse on duty with after school programming.

Student Enrichment - Stipends - \$25,000 (1,000 x 25 clubs)

Student Enrichment - Daily Bus - \$55,000. \$306 per day- WES to MAC
Committee is all set with the enrichment items above.

Stonewall repair for WES-Outdoor Learning Center - \$25,000 - po signed

Mr. Aubin explained the wall is falling apart. Placing limestone to stop water seepage. Fixing the wall will create a learning environment to allow teachers to take kids outside.

Digital Sign - WES Communication - \$28,700 - po signed - Sign will be located where parents pull into WES.

Committee approved all of the above items.

Summer Programs - balance needed to support 2021 & FY22 Summer \$50,000. Remaining \$25,000 to cover 2021 summer / another \$25,000 for upcoming Summer 2022.

Reading Specialist specialized in OG - \$70,000 - High School Only - Mr. Elwell reported we now have a Reading Specialist at the middles school and WES.

Tent Rental - \$2,000 x 12 only at WES. months - \$16,000 - one tent

Committee approved all of the above items.

Pre-K Teacher - 3 day/2 day program - \$60,000 - Mr. Aubin explained the committee asked to do a survey and make calls to poll parents. Based on the results another class is needed.

Pre-K Teaching Assistant - \$35,000 - Goes together with the Pre-K teacher listed above. Ms. Rapoza added that 30% pays for the program from the tuition received. Moving forward this amount will be less. There are about 15 children. Mr. Aubin will get the correct figures.

PPE Filters and Chemicals - \$25,000 - Kim is getting quotes - move to ESSER II - add LED lights, etc. INCREASE

Committee approved all of the above items.

Custodian 1.5 - \$60,000 continuation of additional custodial staff FY22 & FY23
Mr. Aubin informed everyone the standard is 1 custodian for every 30,000 sq. feet. The new building is larger.

Zoom Year - \$3,300 - Includes 500 participant Mtg.

WES Playground 15K landscaping upgrade - \$400,000 - Pre-approval needed over 30K Ms. Rapoza reported that companies met with Ms. Duquette and Mr. Grandfield. The companies gave quotes on different variables on costs for playground sets ranging from \$360,000, \$370,000, and \$390,000. Also improving the aesthetics was looked into. Due to the construction certain areas were damaged. It was noted to make sure equipment purchased is age appropriate. Ms. Pacheco suggested looking into obstacle courses for all ages. Ms. Pacheco would also like to expand on the strength and conditioning room. Ms. Rapoza will provide more information on this for the next SC meeting.

Go-Guardian-Security for students - \$35,000 - 2 years 17,500 x 2 (FY22 & FY23)

Committee approved all of the above items.

COVID Cleaning for Extended Day - (30 min per day x 5 staff) 4,950 - 5.0 hours week x 19.00 hour x 52 weeks (POD cleaning)

Bell covers are flexible screen-type items that reduce spittle - Middle School \$1,400 - Music Department mouth pieces.

Badge System MAC and WES - \$40,000 - Mr. Tomah explained there are more door entrances that have card readers in the new MHS.

Building Substitutes - \$150,000. - 2 at each building based on an hourly rate (fill rate averaged 68% and 40%)

Committee approved all of the above items.

Cleaning windows WES - \$1,595

Repair windows and screens - MAC & WES - \$9,802

Committee all set on window items.

Part time HR - \$15,200 - \$20-hour x 19 hours x 40weeks - Committee all set on this item.

Extended Day Bus Students WES to MAC/MS to MAC one-way transportation - \$54,000 - \$300 x180 days - This item would need to be sustained in the future.

Campus Security - \$25,000 - Mr. Aubin mentioned this position is for after school supervision. We want students to stay around. They can be used where needed, for example the walking track.

Committee approved all of the above items.

Total - 1,542,137

Student Enrichment Program - \$65,797

Additional Needs:

New Driveway CIPC - WES

Removal of MAC Pods- MAC-Remove June 2022

New VAN for athletics field trips? Can be used for athletics, Extended Day. Driver cannot be paid extra.

Cost is \$55,000 - 14 passenger van

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

The committee requests:

- Ms. Rapoza will provide more information on WES Playground for the next SC meeting.
- Mr. Aubin will get the student numbers for the additional PreK program.

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

Motion by Orlando, seconded by Stanton Cross

5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Work Session adjourned at 8:05 pm.