

Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, November 18, 2021
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84932444164?pwd=aENueUo2UTJ0OTN1VXlsZnlwbnowdz09>
Passcode: 2D6NAW
Or One tap mobile: US: +16468769923
Or Telephone: US: +1 646 876 9923
Webinar ID: 849 3244 4164
Passcode: 848051

MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Orlando, Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Tavares, Nancy Stanton Cross (*arrived at 6:40 pm.*), Antonio Viveiros

Also Present: Kevin Aguiar Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal Westport Middle School, Stacey Duquette PreK-Gr. 4 Principal, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Michael Grandfield Assistant Principal Westport High School, John Jack Keane Student Representative, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Director, 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 Director of Technology, 13 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Tavares opened the Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:36 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 reported on the following items:

- There was a meeting with a representative from Prima Care. The district is looking into partnering with their PC Institute for Medical Education. Mr. Aguiar also attended and reported they were given a tour and are beginning to lay the groundwork for future relations.
- Westport School had a number of events for Veteran's Day.
- Last Friday November 12, 2021 a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held for the new Middle High School.
- Budget is being reviewed and looking for further revenue sources.
- Universal Pre-K may be coming.
- Seeking alternative locations for the district offices.
- Attended Westport Business to Business meeting. Had discussion on the expansion of businesses on Rt. 6 as well as solar paneling.
- ARPA requests will be submitted this week.
- Vaccination Clinic was held last week with over 100 vaccinations given, next one planned for December 3 in the gym.
- Homecoming took place last Friday.
- New website was launched.

(Ms. Stanton Cross arrived here at 6:40 pm.)

B. Student Representative – John (Jack) Keane reported students at Westport are busy participating in many events including Fall athletics, tryouts were held for students grades 7-12 and students grades 9-12 for Co-Op ice hockey, 266 students attended Homecoming, Medical Club is holding a pet supplies drive to benefit Forever Paws, a

collection for the food pantry is taking place, there is a toy drive November 29 - December 15, National Honor Society event is Wednesday December 1 at 6 pm., Drama Club is performing Pippin in March.

C. Bill Warrant: - Chair Tavares reported a Bill Warrant dated 11-5-21 in the amount of \$375,648.25 and a Bill Warrant dated 11-19-21 in the amount of \$226,069.68 were emailed to school committee members for review.

D. MCAS Update – Mr. Elwell began his presentation with a document entitled “**Westport Community Schools 2021 School and District Accountability**”. MCAS is one of many performance indicators, other measures are overlooked. Annual state assessments are required by state and federal law and is the reason why DESE went forward with Spring MCAS. Spring 2021 looked different due to pandemic. Grades 3-8 did a “sampling approach” taking half the test they typically take. For high school students, all test sessions were completed. Grade 10, Class of 2023 is required to pass ELA and Math tests with the exception of Biology.

In the area of school and district accountability, districts are being held harmless, thus carrying over their previous designation. Westport’s designation remains at “making substantial progress toward targets”.

Mr. Elwell reviewed several charts and graphs including student data Grades 3-8 ELA for 2018, 2019, 2021, Grades 3-8 Math for 2018, 2019, 2021 (none for 2020), Grade 5 and Grade 8 Science Technology/Engineering showing percentages exceeding state’s percentage in some areas, Grade 10 ELA for 2018, 2019, 2021, Grade 10 Math decreased significantly, High School Biology for 2018, 2019, 2021. Area Comparisons were given for Grades 3-8 ELA, Math, and Science and Area Comparisons at High School for ELA and Math as well as Area Comparisons Subgroup Performances.

Ms. Duquette reported on addressing the challenges for WES Grade 3 and 4 ELA and WES Grade 4 Math, pointing out areas of focus and actions in each area.

Ms. Charette reviewed 3 areas of focus for Grades 5-8 pointing out areas of focus and actions in each area.

Ms. McKinnon reviewed 3 areas of focus for the High School pointing out areas of focus and actions in each area.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions or comments?

Ms. Orlando asked by looking at the data, as well as planning and setting goals between now and MCAS administration do you have an idea on where you will land? Ms. McKinnon mentioned the IREADY data gives an indication. They also use former MCAS questions, data analysis and data assessments. In addition, they are preparing students to use the computer-based test tools.

Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned Mr. Elwell told them 3 ½ years ago that vertical alignment was necessary to move ahead. Ms. Stanton Cross asked, what are we looking for to be tracking the trajectory? Mr. Elwell mentioned there are 2 things to consider. 1. Achievement levels meets or exceeds and 2. Student Growth. Mr. Elwell said we are now seeing high rates of growth. Ms. Stanton Cross requested to see overall growth since 2017 since the implementation with vertical alignment. Mr. Elwell explained when he refers to vertical alignment it is looking at content and strategies, meaning the instructional strategies and the curriculum piece meeting the content. Mr. Elwell explained he has a report ready for K-8 and grades 9-12 will be ready next Wednesday showing IREADY data in Reading and Math.

Ms. Tavares asked Mr. Elwell if data teams will be established and what kind of strategies can be identified? Mr. Elwell explained there are multiple tiered systems of supports. Data teams are formed and leadership teams are meeting for monthly workshops during the school day. ESSER funds will provide stipends to cover for substitutes.

Mr. Viveiros commented that we need to go higher than the state average. Rather than compare us with the neighbors we should be compared to the state average.

Ms. Pacheco commented that she liked seeing the neighbor comparison charts and also liked detailed reports looking at data and actions. Also, an important piece is dealing with the social emotional.

E. Discussion of WMS Athletics – Mr. Jason Pacheco gave a middle school athletic update. They met as a team to discuss MS sports and recognized it was great to see middle school sports back. Grade 7 and 8 teams were not on an equal playing field. Mr. Pacheco recommends with the grades 5-8 and 9-12 sports structure, it would be best to continue with grades 7 and 8 playing high school sports. They are looking into having an in-house intramural program that will be competitive as well.

Mr. Pacheco went over the Fall soccer games for the middle school teams.

Ms. Stanton Cross requested a timeline for intramural sports and asked if a decision is needed tonight. Mr. Pacheco mentioned he needs approval ASAP.

Mr. Pacheco explained Winter Sports includes basketball, hockey and cheerleading. Waivers are needed because there are 2 separate principals. Student athletes for grades 7-12 totaled 142, grades 5 and 6 totaled 31.

Mr. Pacheco explained they are limited on the numbers of games with some limits getting better with careful scheduling. Some sports are more difficult. Basketball varsity has 20 games played, JV could play between 20 -16 games, freshmen games are 14-16. Most students get play time; however, the number of team members depends on the coaching staff.

It was noted a motion to approve athletics is needed and will be placed under Topics the Chair could not Reasonably Anticipate Forty-eight (48) Hours in Advance of the Meeting.

F. Discuss Additional Food Staff at the Middle-High School – Ms. Rapoza requests to add a food staff member at the Middle High School. Ms. Rapoza explained the industry standards and the meals per labor hours with data. There has been an increase in the numbers of meals served due to all meals being free. The staff cannot do anything extra other than serve meals and the manager cannot properly train. Other items are planned but cannot be done now. They include getting a chef in, and start a cooking class.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions?

Ms. Orlando asked if this issue is happening at other schools like WES or MAC? Ms. Rapoza showed data to demonstrate other schools are holding their own. Ms. Orlando also asked if the revenue pays for staff? Ms. Rapoza said yes it does.

G. Discuss 2 Year Enrollment Comparison – Ms. Rapoza would like to bring this item forward after the school attending statistics are out in January 2022. These numbers will show students enrolled in schools outside their home towns and will give a more accurate picture.

H. DESE/DCF Mandated Reporter Update - Mr. Aubin asked to table this item.

I. Appointment of School Committee Member to the CIPC - Melissa Pacheco expressed interest to be on this committee. Members were in favor of the appointment of Ms. Pacheco to the CIPC.

J. Mask Mandate Update - Mr. Aubin reported the mask mandate goes through January 15, 2022. The Commission of Education will issue further guidance.

K. Subcommittee Updates - Ms. Pacheco reported yesterday the Cable Advisory Board had a Public Open Meeting to gather feedback from the community on their cable needs. This is a way for residents to come out and share their thoughts to help in the Town's cable contract renewal. Mr. Rezendes did a video providing information on what cable provides for the Town. Irene Buck is the Chair of the committee. Additional forums will be coming up.

Mr. Viveiros reported there was a School Building Committee meeting yesterday November 17, 2021. The committee decided to go with VCT on the floor as the more cost-effective alternative, and go ahead with the purchase of fountains that provide chilled water. They are still working on dugouts and a few other things. Final grading of softball fields, sod for softball fields, and working on punch lists. Curtains in auditorium are being looked at. Everything is moving along well.

VI. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, October 21, 2021 and Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Work Session -
A motion was made to approve the Minutes for Thursday, October 21, 2021 and Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Work Session.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Orlando

5/0/0

B. Review and Act on Substitute Rates – Ms. McDaniel made a request to table this item until the next meeting in order to look at categories of sub rates.

C. Review and Act on Additional Food Staff at the Middle-High School –

A motion was made to approve Ms. Rapoza's request to hire an additional food service worker for the Middle-High School.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Viveiros

5/0/0

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 -

A motion was made to approve the Athletic Director’s recommendation for Grades 7 and 8 to play at the High School level, for the Winter season of basketball and Spring sports for SY2021-2022.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Viveiros 5/0/0

It was suggested to have a sports informational outline in the committee packet prior to the meeting for clearer understanding.

A recommendation was made to celebrate all the sports team’s accomplishments.

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 Pacheco 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

- Westport Community Schools 2021 School and District Accountability November 18, 2021
- Westport Middle School Soccer Schedule
- WCS Meals Per Labor Hours September 2021
- Lunch Revenue FY22
- 2020-2022 School Enrollment
- Joint DESE/DCF Advisory Regarding Mandated Reporting Responsibilities of School Personnel in Cases of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect October 27, 2021

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary

