

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, December 16, 2021
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86199483257?pwd=RndrTTI3QVdSeUFNSGZ4aERHVVR6dz09>
Passcode: H6385U
Or One tap mobile: US: +13126266799
Or Telephone: US: +1 312 626 6799
Webinar ID: 861 9948 3257
Passcode: 996700

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, Laura Charette Principal Westport Middle School, Stacey Duquette PreK-Gr. 4 Principal, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Mike Fernandes Start Em Young Program, Coordinator, John Jack Keane Student Representative, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Director, Kerri McKinnon Principal Westport High School, Jason Pacheco Athletic Director, Sean Persico Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, 17 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

B. Student Representative – (taken out of order) - John (Jack) Keane gave a recap on school events. On December 1, 26 students were inducted into the National Honor Society, there were two successful performances, Breakfast with Santa will be this Saturday in the cafeteria, Westport's Got Talent Show will be December 22 at 6 pm., Student Council wrapped up the toy drive yesterday, and a Pep Rally will take place Thursday December 23.

There was a question on what times games start tomorrow? Mr. Pacheco verified 3:30, 5:00 and 6:30 pm.

There was a question on who is eligible to participate in the talent show? They already had auditions and have been preparing after school. Send an email to Rick Monast event coordinator.

A. Superintendent Report - Mr. Aubin thanked advisors, parents, and guests for the choral presentations. Mr. Aubin met with the Commissioner yesterday. The mask mandate remains for all schools, in early January it will be looked at again. The Commissioner is asking not to do remote days and take snow days instead. Special Education services are difficult to deliver in remote learning and students need to be in school. Emergency licensures will be extended to 2023 not to include Special Education and ESL.

There is talk about a grant to incentivize boosters for adults.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions? There were none.

C. Bill Warrant: 12-17-21 - Chair Tavares reported a Bill Warrant dated 12-17-21 in the amount of \$318,801.54 was emailed to school committee members for review.

D. WMHS Basketball Update and Middle School Intramural Plan - Mr. Pacheco reported the middle high school

boys' basketball game opens tomorrow at home with Fairhaven in the gym. Girls basketball games were postponed and will be played in the upcoming weeks. There are 6 basketball teams. Middle school intramurals plan to start in January 2 times per week from 2 - 4 pm. They are looking for an advisor.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions?

Ms. Pacheco asked how many players are in varsity, junior varsity, and freshman? Mr. Pacheco said there are 15 freshmen students on the boys' basketball team, 13 on the junior varsity team and 12 on the varsity team. For the girl's teams there are 10 on the freshmen team, 11 on junior varsity, and 11 on varsity.

Discussion took place on students not making the team. Some members felt they did not have enough information at the last meeting about the sports team makeup and did not realize students would be cut off when they allowed 7th and 8th graders to play high school sports. Denying the opportunity for some freshmen students to play sports was not the intention. In the future members would like information sooner.

Mr. Pacheco mentioned at the time if there was only a freshman team, they may not have reached the numbers needed to make up a team.

It was suggested to look at each of the sports season by season.

Ms. Pacheco asked for tryout numbers. Mr. Pacheco shared there were 53 boys registered and eligible and 41 of those were kept. Ms. Pacheco asked if coaches have guidance. Mr. Pacheco said he works closely with coaches and the goal is to keep as many freshmen as possible. Mr. Pacheco added that boys' basketball creates competition and this was not the case with soccer. Ms. Pacheco wants to see something done with the students that were cut.

Mr. Aguiar shared this was not an easy decision at any time. They wanted to be sure to have high school teams and it is important to have all the teams they now have. When they held a meeting, the numbers were low and signups were last minute. Mr. Aguiar shared they are trying to provide opportunities to the girls. For 8th graders, having a positive experience may keep them here at this school. They are working on a robust intramurals program trying to help all kids.

F. Start 'Em Young Program Update – *(taken out of order)* Mr. Fernandes just wrapped up the Fall programs with a great enrollment for grades K-4. Now he will be rolling out the next phase called "Winter One" that will start in January. Programs will cover track, volleyball, self-defense, and the Gam Theatre will run a drama program. They will be doing a "success camp" focusing on executive functioning skills for success in school, sports and life. Goals are to create successful adults that will work with the whole community.

He met staff to discuss the opportunity to create a partnership with the high school students. Having the older students working with the younger students to develop a positive collaboration. Goal is to keep kids in the district.

They are looking into 3 D modeling, using the video production room, and flag football for this Spring. Mr. Fernandes will be doing an interview with John Rezendes for Westport Community TV and is in contact with WPRI. It was suggested to have the 9th grade students that did not get into sports help with the younger kids in this program and to send an email to their parents to check on their interest.

E. MAC Modulare Update - Ms. Rapoza contacted the company and they will provide a number for removal of the modulare in a few weeks. Members will be updated.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions? There were none.

G. Plans for the Old Jr/Sr High School - Mr. Aubin attended a meeting where discussion was held on options for the old high school. He was told the current offices for the school department should be able to stay for FY22-23.

Ms. Rapoza mentioned there will be an in-person meeting on Monday at 11 am. and she has a list of questions.

H. Subcommittee Updates - Mr. Viveiros reported there was a School Building Committee meeting last night. The project is getting towards the end and has reached 90%. They are tying up loose ends. The Steering Committee meets next week for outstanding change orders. There is more sod on the fields and interior issues as well as the controls issue is being figured out and getting remedied.

Ms. Pacheco shared she attended a concert on Monday and each of the chairs only have 2 bolts. Mr. Viveiros confirmed the chairs are bolted correctly and this was brought up at the SBC meeting.

Ms. Pacheco reported at the CIPC meeting Town requests were reviewed. During the first week in January they will be going through the requests from different departments and ranking them. Ms. Pacheco attended the Cable Advisory Committee and the Chair Irene Buck asked the schools to identify projects that could be done using cable funds. There was a video showing a Westport student sharing that she will go on with a video career after working in this area during school.

Mr. Aubin requested a list from the architects and OPM showing start dates for warranties. Typical warranties are for 1 year, however not everything was ready when the building was open.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions? There were none.

VI. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, December 2, 2021 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, December 2, 2021.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Viveiros

4/0/0

B. Review and Act on to ask the Town to Transfer the Campground Property to the School District - Mr. Viveiros reported he had a meeting last week with the ongoing committee discussing best use of the campground property. It was noted the schools are to use the athletic fields. There was discussion on who would manage this moving forward and funding sources. The school committee should ask the Select Board to transfer the property to the School Department. The committee still wants to be involved. There was discussion on who this committee should report to, at the present time they are part of the BOS.

A motion was made to request that the Select Board transfer the campground property to the Westport Community Schools.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Viveiros

4/0/0

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** - Chair Tavares had none. Mr. Aubin received a letter from a parent requesting for additional staffing to reduce the size of primary school classes. Ms. Duquette confirmed the largest class has 23 students with a teacher and a teaching assistant. Mr. Aubin appreciates the input; however, the budget situation does not have the liquidity to do this right now. Ms. Stanton Cross reminded parents to support the school's budget at town meeting.

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

Chair Tavares mentioned if there are any "Follow Up" items send them to her or Mr. Aubin.

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

Motion by Viveiros, seconded by Pacheco

4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

Bill Warrant: 12-17-21

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary