

Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, February 4, 2021
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87970792828?pwd=cFlEaXJTSjNQcnNQQUtyR1dmeIF2UT09>
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Webinar ID: 879 7079 2828
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MINUTES

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

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Interim Superintendent, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Kerri McKinnon Interim Assistant Superintendent / WJSHS Principal, Laura Charette JRSRHS Assistant Principal, Cheryl Greeson MAC Principal, Stacey Duquette WES Principal, Leah Chesney WES Assistant Principal, Kevin Aguiar JRSRHS Assistant Principal, Anthony Tomah Director Technology, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Kristin Mc Daniel HR Coordinator, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, 26 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee at 6:30 pm., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Chair Viveiros 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

Comments and Statements from the Public - There were none at this time.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Superintendent Report -

Superintendent Aubin reported starting with the next meeting student Tyler Simonin from grade 10 will be attending the meetings as the Student Representative.

Superintendent Aubin is sending out a plea for people to adhere to COVID protocols as far as travel. Information has been posted on the website. If any child is experiencing symptoms keep them home in order to avoid detrimental effects to others.

Superintendent Aubin cautioned that the end of the school year is fast approaching with FY22 coming up. The committee will need a decision relating to the pandemic and the mode of education to participate in. There is no more spacing available in the new school. They will be looking at spacing in relation to going in full or participating in hybrid and will report back to the committee. Occupying the old high school may be an option. Mr. Aubin is requesting to table the educational budget tonight in order to make an educated determination on what school will look like. Send an email to Mr. Aubin if you have any ideas.

Mr. Elwell gave an update on MCAS testing. For grades 3-8 students will be taking one session in each subject area covering Math, ELA, Science and Technology. For the high school, the Commissioner will be waiving the competency determination. Students will be able to earn a diploma by having a modified competency determination. More guidance will be available concerning remote students and the MCAS. Students will be allowed to come into the building safely, following all protocols to take the test.

Ms. Charette reported the hybrid schedule at JRSRHS has been going well. Cohort A had 50 students and Cohort B had 60 students.

B. WCS Bill Warrant: 2-12-21 - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrant dated 2-12-21 in the amount of \$73,636.73. The bill warrant was emailed to school committee members for review.

C. Acknowledgement of a WEF \$820.45 Grant for the MAC Math Manipulatives for Whole/Small Group Instruction - Members acknowledged receiving this grant and thanked the WEF for their support.

D. Acknowledgement of a WEF \$636.00 Grant for WES to Purchase Phonic Readers - Members acknowledged receiving this grant and thanked the WEF for their support. Ms. Duquette explained low level high interest readers were purchased so students could have separate clean books.

E. Policies: First Read – Policy JB Equal Educational Opportunities
Policy JFABD Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services

Ms. Santos explained the district went through an audit and these policies deal with foster care and the McKinney Vento Act. Ms. Santos reported children awaiting foster care are no longer considered homeless students.

Ms. Stanton Cross asked for the percentage of students that fall into this area. This has an impact on the budget. Information will be provided at the next meeting.

F. Subcommittee Updates - Chair Viveiros explained at the last SBC meeting it was noted the FF&E (Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment) was \$226,000 over budget. They are spending \$1900 per student. For some unknown reason, gym equipment on the original list was missing. This has been corrected and quotes on these items are being determined. Cuts may need to be made. As far as the school building everything is mostly on schedule. They are waiting on some materials.

Mr. Tomah gave a technology update. He will be soliciting quotes on the same brands and is looking to save money by getting the best prices from vendors using educational discounts.

Ms. Stanton Cross requested for Mr. Tomah to go over the fiber optic plan and how it will be set up. Mr. Tomah explained the district is currently leasing fiber to provide transportation data between buildings for the Internet and files costing around \$40,000 per year. Mr. Tomah is in the process of having the district own the fiber optic backbone. This will provide a perpetual cost savings by owning district fiber opposed to leasing it. Members thanked Mr. Tomah for the amazing effort with this initiative.

Ms. Duquette reported they are working with the police on the traffic flow and traffic has been better. Even though there are less students in the building, more cars are dropping them off. Everyone is cooperating.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, January 21, 2021 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, January 21, 2021.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Stanton Cross

5/0/0

B. Review and Act on BinaxNOW COVID ag Card Testing – Grades K-12 -

Superintendent Aubin reported the nursing staff have attended workshops on this initiative. The district does not have the financial resources or human capital needed to successfully run this program at this time.

Mr. Aubin recommends to table this item until there is a change in protocols.

Mr. Aubin reported they are working with Mr. Armendo from the BOH and the fire chief to open a vaccination center in Westport.

C. Review and Act on Extended Day Benefits - Chair Viveiros reported at the last meeting members voted to give the Extended Day employees a 1-week vacation in August 2021 and 5 holidays for the remainder of the school year, then a more formalized tiered model will be developed.

D. Review and Act on the Continuation after January 1, 2021 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) - Item tabled at this time.

E. Review and Act on a School Committee Representative for the Campground Development Committee - Ms. Stanton Cross will find out if the Board of Selectmen appointed anyone and will provide more information at the next meeting. The Town put together this committee to look at the campground site for additional fields for the schools.

F. Review and Act on FY22 Educational Budget - Superintendent Aubin requested to table this item. The Budget Subcommittee continues to meet and there will be another meeting with town leaders. More information will be reported at the next meeting.

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 -

It was reported that the men's and women's team beat Connolly. Friday the girls are playing at 5:30 pm. Games can be watched by livestreaming.

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 7:23 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WEF \$820.45 Grant for the MAC Math Manipulatives for Whole/Small Group Instruction

WEF \$636.00 Grant for WES to Purchase Phonic Readers

Policies: First Read – Policy JB Equal Educational Opportunities

Policy JFABD Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services

BinaxNOW COVID ag Card Testing – Grades K-12

Extended Day Benefits

Continuation after January 1, 2021 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

School Committee Representative for the Campground Development Committee

FY22 Educational Budget

OPM Progress Report and Westport School Building Committee Minutes January 27, 2021

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary