

**Westport School Committee
Work Session
DATE: Tuesday, March 2, 2021
Time 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
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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, Tracy Priestner

I. Call to Order - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee at 6:03 pm., with a quorum of the members present.

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

II. FY22 Budget Discussion -

Ms. Rapoza shared her screen and went over the budget line by line including the following:

“Westport Community Schools FY22 Proposed Budget Analysis”

FY21 Approved Budget

FY22 Proposed Level Service Budget

FY22 Town Proposed

FY22 WCS Schools Proposed

“FY22 Proposed Budget with Additional Increase for the New School - Positions, Supplies and Services”

Possible Cost Savings

FY22 Budget Considerations

Ms. Rapoza explained the logistics concerning the 2-day furlough.

Discussion on the transportation part of the budget took place. For the FY21 school year, the transportation contract will be rolled over for 1 year. Ms. Rapoza reported they are in contact with legal counsel about transportation payments and are paying for services rendered. Special Education transportation will cost \$50,000. There will be 3 additional routes to cover with the district transporting grades 5-12. Costs are being explored with the possibility that ESSA II grant funding may cover this portion for \$225,000.

It was mentioned if distance requirements remain in place, the district may need to operate in the old high school building in addition to the new school.

Discussion took place on a reduction of TA's and Guidance. Ms. Pacheco has a concern with student's social emotional issues. Mr. Aubin will provide a ratio of students to guidance counselors.

Discussion took place on the use of tuition. It was suggested to look at this for future contract negotiations. Teachers should be required to stay in the district for a certain length of time when using these funds.

Ms. Rapoza will be adjusting the budget document. Next, the SC will vote on the bottom line number. After the number is approved, Ms. Sousa will place all the line items in a budget book format. A Budget Hearing will be scheduled to present the approved dollar amount. Next step is to request participation at a FinCom budget presentation meeting where Ms. Rapoza will introduce a budget PowerPoint line by line.

Discussion took place on adding a Summary Page. Ms. Rapoza will be adding this into the budget book. This is very helpful to determine differences from last year.

When presenting the budget, it should be mentioned that these numbers do not include any WFT increases.

Dates were set for upcoming meetings:

June 5 is the Town meeting.

Next School Committee meeting will be March 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm. to approve the bottom line budget number. After the budget number is finalized the budget book will be made.

Budget Hearing will take place on March 25, 2021 at 6:30 during the School Committee meeting.

FinCom budget presentation meeting will be April 6, 2021 at 7 pm.

Ms. Priestner will send these dates to FinCom. Ms. Priestner asked if the budget timeline is known at the state level. Ms. Rapoza said it is not known yet. It was mentioned that the Town is paying only \$150,000 for school assessments from Diman and Bristol Aggie instead of the \$300,000 that was originally budgeted.

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

Motion by Tavares, 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 7:20 pm.