

**Westport School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
DATE: Thursday, February 25, 2021  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:  
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**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares (*arrived at 6:50 pm.*), Antonio Viveiros

**Members Absent:** Michelle Orlando

**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, Tyler Simonin Student Representative, 22 Community Participants

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee at 6:33 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** - Mr. Aubin reported on items from the Commissioner of Education's update. They are putting together a comprehensive plan. The Student Opportunities Act for FY21 is on hold, update for FY22 remains at \$44,000 / \$30 per student. There will be a huge emphasis on learning loss with running multiple year programs and having summer school focusing on math interventions. They are back to the drawing board with resuming chorus indoors. They are gathering ideas to work out kinks in Spring to have all kids back in Fall for a traditional school year. Remote learning is staying for now, but looking at the idea of not continuing remote learning next year. MCAS testing with reduced time will take place.

**B. Student Representative:** Tyler Simonin introduced himself to everyone and mentioned he is thankful to be the student representative. He is President of the sophomore class, on the Student Council, member of the Drama Club and participates in other activities. Tyler reported they are half way through the school year with progress reports coming out in 2 weeks. The hybrid experience is good for communication and the social aspect of school. The Student Council is working on fundraisers. Tyler gave an update on sports activities.

**C. WCS Bill Warrant: 2-26-21** - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrant dated 2-26-21 in the amount of \$240,202.02 The bill warrant was emailed to school committee members for review.

D. Acknowledgement of a WEF Grant for \$518.16 for the WJSH Boat Building Class - Members acknowledged receiving the grant and thanked the WEF for their support.

E. Acknowledgement of a \$4000 Meals Support Grant from Project Bread for the WCS Students - Ms. Rapoza mentioned this grant supports feeding families. The funds pay for someone to stay after school on Wednesday for the Grab n Go Program to supply meals.

F. COVID Update - Superintendent Aubin reported since the start of school there have been the following positive cases: MAC - 23, WES - 31, JRSRHS - 17, Staff - 19 staff.

There are 159 districts that signed up for pool testing. These districts are having difficulty handling costs and logistics. Nurse leaders would like to see if things improve before committing to provide this service. There is ongoing communication with the Westport BOH. They continue to try to get vaccines locally and quickly as possible for teachers.

G. Discussion of Budget Hearing Timeline – M. Rapoza - This item was tabled.

H. Policy First Read – WCS Policy JLCB – Immunization of Students - This policy is a MASC recommendation and a replacement of a previous policy. It involves a word change from inoculations to immunization. Ms. Pacheco mentioned the note at the bottom of this policy on the requirement of the influenza vaccine should also be removed because it no longer is required.

Ms. Stanton Cross inquired about the Policy Committee meeting before the new school opens. Ms. Pacheco and Ms. Tavares will assess where the policies stand and will be finalizing policies within the upcoming months. Mr. Aubin mentioned the Leadership Team is working on alignment to policies. They are also working on an Emergency Plan.

Ms. Stanton Cross asked if the new school will be an evacuation site. Mr. Aubin will verify this with the Town.

I. Subcommittee Updates - Chair Viveiros reported there have been weekly construction meetings and the project is still on schedule. There are waiting on a few items. Classroom areas are almost done. They are working on the gym, cafeteria, and auditorium. Chair Viveiros reported the Steering Committee has been dealing with change orders and the Design Subcommittee determined color choices for furniture, tabletops, and chairs last night.

Mr. Aubin reported the technology budget needs to be paired down about \$100,000. Mr. Tomah is working with the MSBA and the builders to get it reduced.

Ms. Stanton Cross questioned Mr. Tomah's request for additional computers. Mr. Tomah explained that some classrooms were missed and the rooms are not hardwired for desktop computers, so they are looking at laptops. Ms. Stanton Cross requested to get a punch list of the technology that was missed and also information on the rooms that were not wired correctly.

Mr. Tomah is working on a 3-5-year Technology Plan for the district that will be presented to the School Committee at a future date.

*(Ms. Tavares arrived here at 6:50 pm.)*

## **VI. Action Agenda**

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, February 4, 2021 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, February 4, 2021.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Stanton Cross

4/0/0

B. Review and Act on a Donation of a (used) Pony Gait Trainer Valued at \$375 and a (used) Buffalo Board Stander Valued at \$250 by a Westport Parent - Ms. Santos reported this is a donation of medical equipment to the school district from the parent of a previous student. A thank you letter will be sent out.  
Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Tavares 4/0/0

C. Review and Act on Policies:

1. Policy JB Equal Educational Opportunities

2. Policy JFABD Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services

Ms. Santos explained the district went through an audit in 2019 and these 2 policies needed to be updated. They deal with foster care and the McKinney Vento Act.

A motion was made to update Policy JB Equal Educational Opportunities and Policy JFABD Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Stanton Cross

4/0/0

D. Review and Act on Registrar Job Description - Item tabled.

E. Review and Act on Revised 2020-2021 District Calendar - Mr. Aubin explained there is a change to the 2020-2021 school year calendar making the last day for staff June 17, 2021.

A motion was made to approve the change to the 2020-2021 school year calendar.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Tavares

4/0/0

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** - There were none.

Staff presented updates:

Ms. Greeson reported things are going well at the MAC although they had to quarantine a class. They are coming to the 100<sup>th</sup> school day on Monday and have special activities planned. March 2 is Read Across America Day and they also are having a Cereal Box Run. Staff is fantastic and they are meeting the needs of the students who are very excited to be in school. IReady tests are showing good progress in grades K,1 and 2.

Ms. Duquette reported everyone is rejuvenated from the vacation break. They will be hosting a Decades Day tomorrow. Staff and students collected 492 pairs of socks for Homeless Heart led by the Student Council. They are having a food drive collecting all types of food boxes. They are also doing IReady testing and discussing MCAS.

Ms. McKinnon reported things are going well. They are working on getting students in person. Next week progress reports go out. There is Go Guardian training next week. This software helps teachers with monitoring student work progress. They are searching out venues for prom and 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance.

Mr. Elwell explained the school and district accountability designations based on MCAS achievement, course work completion, attendance, and other factors. DESE rolled over the 2019 designation "*requiring targeted/focused support*" due to missed state reporting deadlines. After speaking with DESE's Office of Accountability, they have agreed to remove this designation. The current district designation reflects "*substantial progress toward targets*" which is a more accurate representation of teaching and learning conditions in Westport. Mr. Elwell acknowledged Ms. Rapoza for her efforts in remedying reporting procedure requirements.

Ms. Santos reported most students are in person with substantially separate classrooms and just a few are remote. Remote services are being done in Google Classroom breakout rooms. Students are receiving the services they deserve.

Ms. Charette reported the remote to hybrid numbers since vacation. Gr. 7 - 79%, Gr. 8 - 65%, Gr. 9 - 40%, Gr. 10 - 63%, Gr. 11 - 59%, Gr. 12 - 40%.

Mr. Aguiar reported they are doing the best they can to get kids services at the JRSRHS. The highest needs students are coming in person, they are getting full.

Ms. Chesney reported students are coming back in at the WES. They are getting tight; however, they are coming up with some creative solutions.

Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned concern about re-entry for fall with the possibility they still might have COVID restrictions. Utilizing the old high school building could be possible. Ms. Stanton Cross would like to start working on a plan before school ends in June. Parents/guardians should have an idea where their children may need to go in the fall.

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

Ms. Pacheco would like information on the district's current use of dual enrollment. Ms. Pacheco would like to look into benefits as well as working collaboratively with other districts. Ms. Charette shared that Leslie Ruel in Guidance would be the contact person for dual enrollment information. Ms. Charette reported this year there are only 3 students. In a typical year there are many more students.

**VIII. 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

4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

**MEETING DOCUMENTS**

Acknowledgement of a WEF Grant for \$518.16 for the WJSH Boat Building Class

Acknowledgement of a \$4000 Meals Support Grant from Project Bread for the WCS Students

Policy First Read – WCS Policy JLCB – Immunization of Students

Review and Act on a Donation of a (used) Pony Gait Trainer Valued at \$375 and a (used) Buffalo Board Stander Valued at \$250 by a Westport Parent

Policy JB Equal Educational Opportunities

Policy JFABD Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services.

Revised 2020-2021 District Calendar

2020 District Accountability Designation

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*