

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, January 7, 2021
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84706726721?pwd=ZE9OajdOOUFwK0tqQ2xlZWZNSk1qdz09>
Passcode: F39CEg
Or iPhone one-tap: US: +13126266799, 84706726721
Or Telephone: US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923
Webinar ID: 847 0672 6721
Passcode: 741810

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, Stacey Duquette WES Principal, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, 40 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee at 6:32 pm., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 during the Commissioner's update the submissions for FAFSA college application for financial aid is down significantly, 20% statewide with some districts down by 70%-80%. Mr. Aubin is looking to see the numbers for the district and would like to take the opportunity to strategize how to remediate if needed.

Mr. Elwell reported Commissioner Riley outlined changes to the MCAS schedule. January 2021 MCAS administration has been postponed. Current seniors will be modified by passing an approved course in Math, Biology, and English. For grades 3-8 use of "session sampling" by taking a portion only will be used. This will mean a reduction in time, but will preserve the viability of the test. School and district accountability will not include the status of underperforming or chronically underperforming. District's performance would be measured diagnostically only.

Grade 9 Biology, in June will have no assessment on science standards. ACCESS testing for ELL's will still occur. There is lobbying to forego testing taking place. It appears they are hearing concerns, so we may see more changes in the future.

Members expressed they would like to see a vigorous plan to fill in the gaps that have been lost since March 2020.

Mr. Elwell mentioned that diagnostic testing is taking place district wide. They are using i-Ready for K-6. Also used are pretests, posttests, assessments and other diagnostic measures to gauge students.

Ms. Charette explained the use of IXL that extends all the way to K and tracks student's progress with many subjects.

Ms. Stanton Cross requested to have recommendations and costs for the district's use of IXL.

Ms. Pacheco mentioned to be mindful of how this all will affect college submissions and scholarships. Mr. Elwell mentioned advanced placement courses may be considered and 10th graders still have a way to go before graduation.

Superintendent Aubin announced the district is officially a 1 to 1 district with availability of Chromebooks to all students. Ms. Duquette added this makes a big difference and offers everyone equal opportunity. Ms. Duquette thanked all the SC members for pushing this initiative. Discussion took place on how it is easier if students are using the same device. The software Go Guardian has been purchased to monitor these devices. Mr. Elwell is also looking for online eBooks to be used in conjunction with Chromebooks.

Superintendent Aubin reported out of the \$69,725 funds for COVID purchases there is \$37,000 remaining.

B. WCS Bill Warrants: 12-31-20 and 1-15-21 - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrants dated 12.31.20 in the amount of \$256,358.15 and 1.15.21 in the amount of \$242,505.92. The bill warrants were emailed to school committee members for review.

C. Acknowledgement of a \$7,500 Grant from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation for WSHS Student Scholarships -

A motion was made to accept the grant from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation for WSHS Student Scholarships in the amount of \$7,500 as presented.

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

D. Graduation Requirements - Ms. Charette reported the only addition to the graduation requirements includes the requirement to take 1 unit equaling half a year of Visual/Performing Arts.

E. WJSH Hybrid Transition Plan - Ms. McKinnon reported they will be flipping on the hybrid switch. They will be bringing in grades 7 and 8 first, beginning January 18, 2021 under a cohort model. Grades 9-12 will transition to the cohort hybrid model on February 1, 2021.

Cohort A - Last names A-K in person on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Cohort B - Last names L-Z in person on Thursdays and Fridays

Ms. McKinnon reported they have reached out to families to identify a learning model for their children. Students with no learning model identified will count as full remote.

Updates have been posted on the school website and in School Brains. It was recommended for parents to check their junk mail folders for communications and add Westport Schools to their contacts.

They will be having an assembly on Monday to discuss scheduling logistics for grades 7 and 8 and will have another assembly on January 25th for the higher grades.

F. Quarantined Student Learning Model - Ms. Duquette reported they are having ongoing communication with families and explained how they are handling remote learning. There are currently 21 students requesting to take extra time learning in a remote setting due to various reasons. These students are placed in a Google Classroom separate from the already remote students, so the number of students are not continuously added to the original remote classroom. Teachers are reaching out to parents and students on a regular basis. Ms. Duquette mentioned if families need more support give them a call.

Ms. Santos provided an update on student's transition for Special Education. Ms. Santos reported high needs students are in person, with just a few remote. Tele-therapy consent forms have been sent to parents to request services remotely, rather than in person. Special Education students have breakout rooms for sessions with their teachers.

G. Parent Communications - This item was discussed above.

H. Subcommittee Updates - Chair Viveiros reported that weekly construction meetings continue. The school building project continues on schedule.

Ms. Orlando reported that the CPIC had a meeting. People are in the process of presenting their wish lists.

Ms. Stanton Cross reported representation on the Campground Development Committee will be discussed under the action agenda.

Superintendent Aubin is in the process of creating a MOA on moving forward with the Town on the accommodations for the transition of the high school. This will include a 1-year contract for the modular units and the use of the high school for administration.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Tuesday, December 15, 2020 Work Session and Thursday, December 17, 2020.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Tuesday, December 15, 2020 Work Session and Thursday, December 17, 2020.

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

B. Review and Act on Extended Day Benefits - Superintendent Aubin is recommending to offer paid holidays and up to 5 sick days to the Extended Day staff. A request to see a forecast of revenue was made. Discussion took place on whether this should be done in a contract or an agreement. Further information will be provided at the next meeting.

C. Review and Act on a School Committee Representative for the Campground Development Committee - Discussion took place on the protocol for placing members on the Campground Development Committee. Both Chair Viveiros and Ms. Stanton Cross expressed their interest in serving on this committee. This committee will be working on field site plan development on the campground property. It has already been determined that the fields will be used for the schools and recreational fields for the Town. In addition, the importance of informing the community about details associated with field usage was mentioned. Chair Viveiros will check with the BOS for a status on appointments.

D. Review and Act on Appointing Two Members for a Budget Subcommittee -

A motion was made to nominate Nancy Stanton Cross and Michelle Orlando to serve on the Budget Subcommittee.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

E. Review and Act on FY22 Educational Budget - Superintendent Aubin requested to table this item.

F. Review and Act on WJSH Recommended Handbook Policy Changes for Cell Phones and Mask Protocol - Ms. McKinnon is requesting a cell phone policy change for the JRSRHS. It is easier for students to use their cell phones to access the QR codes in the cafeteria than to use Chromebooks. Discussion was held on changing the cell phone policy for this year, then revisit the policy at a later date.

A motion was made to approve the change in the cell phone policy.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

Discussion took place on the WJSHS Mask Protocol. It was suggested to include the mask protocol in the Student Handbook.

A motion was made to approve including the WJSHS Mask Protocol in the Student Handbook.

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

G. Review and Act on Building Substitutes - Superintendent Aubin explained the situation on the shortage of substitutes. Working with the WFT on a MOA to provide for substitute coverage as well as having a permanent substitute is being considered. Ms. Rapoza will provide information to the members on numbers and costs.

Ms. Stanton Cross would like to reach out to political representatives to have the Westport staff be first in line to receive the vaccine as a recognition for all the efforts that the Westport district has put in place concerning the pandemic. Stage 2 vaccine rollout will take place between February 2021 - April 2021.

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 - Nothing additional at this time.

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 8:13 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

Acknowledgement of \$7,500 Grant from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation for WSHS Student Scholarships
2021-2022 Bell Schedule and Noted Changes
January 2021 Hybrid Transition Plan
Graduation Requirements
Cell Phone Policy
WJSHS Mask Protocol
Extended Day Benefits
School Committee Representative for the Campground Development Committee
Appointing Two Members for a Budget Subcommittee

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary