

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, March 11, 2021
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84980519124?pwd=R283Nkd4NHNzdDlyZUNwSHV2SHpiQT09>
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Webinar ID: 849 8051 9124
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MINUTES

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

Also Present: Kevin Aguiar JRSRHS Assistant Principal, Thomas Aubin Interim Superintendent, Laura Charette JRSRHS Assistant Principal, Jennifer Chaves Extended Day Director, Leah Chesney WES Assistant Principal, Steve DiGiacomo Energy Management Associates, Inc., Mike Duarte Facilities Management Director, Stacey Duquette WES Principal, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Cheryl Greeson MAC Principal, Kristin Mc Daniel HR Coordinator, Kerri McKinnon Interim Assistant Superintendent / WJSHS Principal, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Kim Ouellette Custodial Department, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, Tyler Simonin Student Representative, Anthony Tomah Director Technology, 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. COVID Update: District Air Quality Testing Results - Mr. DiGiacomo from Energy Management Associates was hired to spot checked 10 rooms that were at the MAC, WES, and WHS. Per Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, total ACH (air changes per hour) should be at 5 ACH or higher and no less than 4. These numbers were reached in all 10 rooms. Mr. DiGiacomo made 2 recommendations; 1. Keep windows closed 2. Purchase 1 more portable HEPA air cleaner for each classroom, these do not need all the fancy additions. He also verified that the district numbers are meeting the guidelines in a pandemic.

A question was asked about opening windows in the warmer weather. Mr. DiGiacomo said if you open windows keep the classroom door closed. This will avoid the air flow from going across and down the hall. When windows are open, HEPA purifiers have an 83% reduction in 30 minutes. There is more dust outside than inside unless you have a carpet.

B. Superintendent Report - Superintendent Aubin informed everyone for the safety of staff and students they will be air testing random rooms throughout the buildings and will continue to monitor this. The SC was thanked for putting this all in place to safely allow students to be in person.

Commissioner of Education held a meeting on March 10. Some highlights include requiring districts to be full in person. In Westport, Pre-K-6 have been in school at MAC and WES. Slides from the Commissioner's presentation slides were displayed and include; Plan for a Phased to IP Learning, 2

million vaccines administered to educators, and over 300 doctors have signed on supporting 3 ft. versus 6 ft. for distancing. There is a 3-phase approach to bringing students back. Phase 1 April 5 for elementary, Phase 2 April 28 for middle school, Phase 3 in April TBA for high school. Parents can allow their children to remain in a remote setting. In SY 2022, remote learning will not be allowed. School districts can apply for a waiver by April 12. Schools will be subject to a visit to ensure their right to a waiver.

A question on whether the reason for applying for a waiver was not having enough room. Mr. Aubin explained there are 4 criteria in order to apply for a waiver. Reasons can be schools are fully remote, K-4 schools that have grade 5 in another building, operational constraints, and feasibility.

Ms. McKinnon informed everyone they are reaching out to each remote family to get confirmation instead of sending out surveys. This method will be faster. The district has 243 full remote with 75 of them in 7th or 8th grade.

Mr. Aubin explained with pool testing they are working with Mr. Armendo from the BOH. There is a workshop on Friday for more logistical information.

Ms. Pacheco asked about the use of tents. Mr. Aubin is looking at strategies from Fall River.

The Leadership from MAC and WES explained what they are doing:

MAC - Ms. Greeson shared in first grade they have 16 students per classroom and could increase up to 20 students. The new guidance on desks can be middle of the seat to the middle of the seat. Grade K almost at max capacity, 12 students are still remote. Pods are small and currently have 16 students in them, could increase to 17. Ms. Greeson would like the BOH to walk through for guidance. Outdoor classrooms are good for a short period of time. It is a wind tunnel out there, so all day learning would be challenging.

WES - Ms. Duquette reported they had 8 students come back in since the February vacation. There is a wait list. March 22 trimester 3 starts. They are following protocols and working together. The BOH came in February for a spot check. They added seating in the cafeteria. Ms. Chesney is doing calls and they want students back in full.

C. Student Representative: Tyler Simonin reported fall sports began on March 10th. The following events will take place; Wildcat Wednesdays, March Madness with college gear, March 17 St. Patrick's Day, March 18 Save the Bees Day, May - June MCAS testing and 10 AP exams.

D. WCS Bill Warrant: 3-12-21 - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrant dated 3-12-21 in the amount of \$185,960.91. The bill warrant was emailed to school committee members for review.

E. Asynchronous Monday Discussion - Chair Viveiros reported there has been discussion on revising Mondays to make them more like other days of the week. Mr. Aubin mentioned this will be a moot point if students are back full in person before April 28, 2021. The JRSRHS Leadership Team has discussed various ideas and the Commissioner of Education is moving to get students back. Half day Mondays will be changing.

F. Acknowledgement of The Greater Fall River Development Grant for \$25,000 for the Purchase of an Artificial Intelligence Lab at the New Westport Middle High School Media Center - Members thanked Chris LaFrance president of the organization for their generous donation. This is the 2nd grant of \$25,000 making the total reach \$50,000. AI and augmented reality are the trends of the future.

Ms. Stanton Cross would like to see information on how the district will be implementing this program. Mr. Aubin shared the JRSRHS Leadership Team is in discussion with BCC for an early college program and a certificate program for wind power.

G. Subcommittee Updates - Chair Viveiros reported the weekly Construction and Steering Committees are meeting on a regular basis with items on schedule.

Ms. Orlando reported on a CIPC Meeting held yesterday where they prioritized the wish list. There are 5 items considered "high priority" that include telephone replacement, cruiser replacement, Fire Department extraction equipment, fiber optic system and a heavy truck. These items have been forwarded for Town Meeting for approval. "Medium priority" did not meet approval at this time.

Ms. Orlando reported the Audit Committee met on Monday, they are waiting for a management letter from the Auditor. They received an update from the Treasurer.

Ms. Tavares reported the Scheduling Committee has not met yet to discuss the new high school schedule. Meeting in the afternoon at 2:15 pm. is not the best time. Ms. McKinnon will look into adjusting the time on a rotating basis. It was noted that it is important that a SC member be on this committee.

Mr. Aubin reported they are meeting on technology infrastructure for specialized programming. JRSRHS Leadership Team met with Mr. Tomah for room locations. The Leadership Team needs to have a walkthrough of the new school to check out rooms for programming.

IV. Special Agenda – School Choice Public Hearing

A. School Choice for 2021-2022 School Year -

A motion was made to open up a School Choice Public Hearing at 7:38 pm.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco

5/0/0

Chair Viveiros asked if there were any comments/Public Comments on School Choice. There were none at this time.

1. School Choice Law and Policies - Chair Viveiros explained that every year school district needs to decide what to do concerning whether to participate in School Choice or opt out.
2. School Attending Children Report - Ms. Rapoza gave a report on School Attending Children. This report is required from each city and town and shows the number of children that live in Westport attending other school districts. There is a cost per student. This list includes homeschool children.

Ms. Stanton Cross requested to have a 3-year chart to show data over a period of time. Ms. Stanton Cross would also like the number of students added to the district by staff members. Ms. Rapoza will get this information together.

B. General Discussion and Public Input - Chair Viveiros mentioned last year SY 20/21 the district did not participate in the School Choice Program. In SY 19/20 the district participated and allowed 10 slots to open in grades 9 and 10, and 11.

Superintendent Aubin recommends that based on the reconfiguration of the district and the uncertainties of the pandemic School Choice for the FY21/22 SY for Westport should be voted down.

Chair Viveiros asked if there were any comments/Public Comments? There were none.

The School Choice Public Hearing will remain open.

V. Action Agenda

B. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, February 25, 2021 and Tuesday, March 2, 2021 Work Session -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, February 25, 2021 and Tuesday, March 2, 2021 Work Session.

Motion by Orlando, seconded by Stanton Cross

5/0/0

C. Review and Act on FY22 Proposed Budget - Chair Viveiros reported there was a Budget Work Session held last week. Ms. Rapoza shared her screen on the district budget.

FY21 Approved Budget	\$19,096,102
Total Proposed (level service)	\$20,299,930
Town Proposed Budget	\$19,478,024

Superintendent Aubin suggested to approve the total proposed budget in order to maintain staffing levels and district program changes.

A motion was made to approve the Proposed FY22 Budget in the amount of \$20,299,930.
Motion by Orlando, seconded by Stanton Cross 5/0/0

D. Review and Act on WCS Policy JLCB – Immunization of Students - Chair Viveiros reported at the last meeting a first read of this policy took place.

A motion was made to approve WCS Policy JLCB Immunization of Students.
Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Stanton Cross 5/0/0

E. Review and Act on Revised 2020-2021 District Calendar - Chair Viveiros mentioned the last day of school will be June 18, 2021.

A motion was made to approve a change in the 2020-2021 District Calendar.
Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Orlando 5/0/0

A. Review and Act on School Choice for 2021-2022 - *(taken out of order)*

Chair Viveiros asked if there were any final comments/Public Comments? There were none.

A motion was made to not participate in School Choice for the SY21/22.
Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

A motion was made to close the Public Hearing on School Choice at 8:09 pm.
Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Tavares 5/0/0

Chair Viveiros announced the Public Hearing on School Choice is now closed.

VI. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices - There were none.

VII. Topics the Chair could not Reasonably Anticipate Forty-eight (48) Hours in Advance of the Meeting - There were none.

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 5/0/0

Roll call vote: Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

COVID Update: District Air Quality Testing Results
Acknowledgement of The Greater Fall River Development Grant for \$25,000 for the Purchase of an Artificial Intelligence Lab at the New Westport Middle High School Media Center
School Choice for 2021-2022 School Year
FY22 Proposed Budget
WCS Policy JLCB – Immunization of Students
Revised 2020-2021 District Calendar