

**Westport School Committee
Work Session
DATE: Thursday, July 30, 2020
Time 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Join video call - meet.google.com/gji-bgqf-nxf

Join by phone (US)+1 231-742-8063 PIN: 415 149 982#

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Assistant Superintendent / WJSHS Principal, Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager

I. Call to Order - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee Work Session at 6:33 pm.

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

Chair Viveiros reported on many items under consideration for the start of the school year during the walkthrough that took place on Wednesday.

II. Fall Re-Entry Planning Update - Dr. Reese began a PowerPoint presentation on Back To School Fall Re-Entry Planning. Some of the guiding principles for planning emphasize the health and wellbeing of the students, having student's and parent's input, look at things learned from the Spring, recognize that the plan be flexible and sustainable, and use experts. With state guidance, the goal is to get students back in the buildings using at least 3 feet distancing, grades 2-12 will wear masks, create cohorts, and reexam the schedule.

A video produced by DESE on reopening schools and getting students back into school was shown. The video addresses concerns about getting back into the buildings.

The state asked for 3 plans. 1. full return 2. full remote 3. hybrid. By tomorrow, the plans need to be submitted describing all 3 options. By August 10, all districts need to submit a full plan on how they will proceed. Being able to transition smoothly between these plans will be expected.

a. Facilities (UV for HVAC) - Ms. Rapoza mentioned they are waiting on the purchase of these items at a cost of \$200,000. More information is needed.

Ms. Rapoza went through the list of \$990,000 worth of PPE materials, orders have been placed.

b. School Calendar - On July 27, 2020, Commissioner Riley released a statement indicating that in order to provide sufficient training and preparation time for educators and staff prior to the

start of the new school year, he has reduced the 180 day and student learning time requirements for the 2020-2021. School year will be 170 days.

c. Proposed Learning Models -

FULL IN PERSON LEARNING - Students will follow a regular schedule adjusted for mask breaks and cleaning at MAC and WES. JRSRHS - Class time changed from 56 minutes to 40 minutes to allow for mask breaks with social distance practicing, lunch time reduced to 20 minutes. A proposed schedule in blocks was shown.

A demonstration of what physical distancing looks like at 3 feet, 4 feet, and 6 feet with movement in the classroom was shown. Three feet could fit 20 desks, four feet 10-12 desks (also working with fire department on egress), and 6 feet 9 desks (3 rows of 3).

REMOTE LEARNING - Everyone home completely, schedule would be morning meeting led by teacher, shift into mini-lesson, followed by small group time, mini-lesson, small flexible groups, specialist mini-lesson, day end with a closing meeting. There would be a teacher office hour period where teacher would be available online. End of day is teacher prep period. At the JRSRHS Mr. Aubin explained on Monday's teachers set out the objectives and expectations for the week.

HYBRID COMBINATION OF IN PERSON AND REMOTE LEARNING - Under consideration is an A/B schedule week on week off. It was noted that the A/B rotation one whole week without being with a teacher may be challenging. Mondays would be remote for everyone. Classes split in 2 cohorts Tuesday/ Wednesday and Thursday/Friday. Holiday weeks would be looked at differently and divided evenly.

Dr. Reese mentioned there were parent concerns with remote learning due to lack of structure and rigorous instruction. There was an emphasis on keeping kids connected and providing social emotional support. This time more robust learning will be provided.

Dr. Reese is leaning towards a hybrid approach for students and is not comfortable with the 3 ft. option. Not fully remote but hybrid, provides opportunity for good instruction and minimizes some of the risk. Dr. Reese wants to get feedback from all stakeholders. There will be a survey going out on Monday asking parents which model would they select and also asks about transportation and riding the bus.

Discussion took place on the logistics of developing cohorts, having older students do remote learning with younger students attend in school with physical distancing.

Dr. Reese mentioned they are in the process of surveying classrooms and rating them with a rubric of 1,2, or 3. They are working with the custodians to do these assessments.

Ms. Tavares will work with Elaine Santos and consult on the process of handling at risk students, IEP meetings and ensuring equity.

Dr. Reese will have a condensed version of the protocol manual for parents and students. It will also be available in Portuguese, English and Spanish languages.

Dr. Reese mentioned 3 tiers for Professional Development

1. health and safety/ social emotional learning
2. technology using tech tools
3. curriculum content specific

Also having a parent and student component for families to learn technology support.

Discussion on the availability of offering sports took place. Mr. Aubin will look into sports.

Dr. Reese will be sending out a survey next week for staff to respond by the end of the week concerning their intentions on returning to school.

Dr. Reese reported grades 7-12 are covered for Chromebooks. In addition, teachers in grades 5-12 have technology with surface pros. Any additional Chromebook purchases made today would not come in until December. IT is exploring the use of other devices.

Dr. Reese will gather feedback from all the meetings, report any adjustments to the plans, as well as report on survey results for the next scheduled School Committee Meeting.

III. Adjourn -

The School Committee Virtual Work Session ended at 8:21 pm.