

**Westport School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
DATE: Thursday, May 20, 2021  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83752049267?pwd=eEcrdlVWRDBXZklxYXBwdi90Y2h6UT09>  
Passcode: CmKn4K  
Or One tap mobile: US: +13126266799  
Or Telephone: US: +1 312 626 6799  
Webinar ID: 837 5204 9267  
Passcode: 443742

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Michelle Orlando, Melissa Pacheco (*arrived at 6:40 pm.*), Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares (*arrived at 6:56 pm.*), Antonio Viveiros

**Also Present:** Thomas Aubin Interim Superintendent, Nathaniel Brown Teacher, Laura Charette JRSRHS Assistant Principal, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, Tyler Simonin Student Representative, Anthony Tomah Director Technology, 13 Community Participants

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** - Vice Chair Stanton Cross opened the Virtual School Committee at 6:30 pm. with a quorum of the members present, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Vice Chair Stanton Cross 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.

**III. Informational Agenda**

A. Student Representative: Tyler Simonin reported events are happening with the sophomore's raffle basket fundraiser and there is a Ronald McDonald fundraiser. Senior dinner is May 27, June 4 there is a celebration, and graduation takes place on June 12. Spring sports started up.

*(Tyler Simonin left here at 6:35 pm.)*

B. Superintendent Report - Mr. Aubin reported a total of 4 bidders submitted bids for the repair of the WES roof. The winner is a local company called Capeway out of Westport. Project cost is over 2 million dollars. All 4 bidders could not meet the substantial completion date of September 23. They will be working on the project after 3:30 pm.

New England Association of schools and colleges for the 2023 school year has been postponed till the 2024-2025 year. Self-reflections work will need to take place during the 2022-2023 year.

MIAA has new mandates for athletics and face coverings.

A note was sent to school and town concerning the company doing flooring at the new school was cited for fringe benefits.

During Summer there will be an active schedule of events.

2-week Art Camp for grades 7-12 week 1 Photography July 19-23, week 2 Sculpture July 26 - 30.

Summer Athletics June - August Volleyball, Wrestling, Self Defense, Fitness, Baseball, Infinite Fitness and Sports Performance.

Summer School held at current JRSRHS from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

June 21 - July 12 Monday - Friday Grades 7-12

June 28 - July 29 Monday - Thursday MAC and WES PreK - 6

Save the Bees Event is happening today at the MAC.

Ms. Stanton Cross asked if there will be middle school sports at the new school. Ms. Charette reported there will be a robust athletic program for grades 5-8. She is working with the Assistant Principal and the Athletic Director for activities. Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned the need to get this information out to parents.

*(Ms. Pacheco arrived here at 6:40 pm.)*

F. DESE 2021 Special Education Determination - (taken out of order)

Elaine Santos reported the Special Education Department received the determination of Meets Requirements. This is good news for the district. There will be no targeted intervention they need to complete. Ms. Santos asked if there were any questions? There were none at this time.

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 5-21-21 - Vice Chair Stanton Cross acknowledged that Mr. Viveiros signed the bill warrant dated 5-21-21 in the amount of \$223,723.08. The bill warrant was emailed to school committee members for review.

D. Discussion of the EF STEM Trip to Include Grades 8 and 9 - Panama trip - Mr. Brown requested to open up the Panama trip to include both grade 8 and 9. This trip has been approved for current 8<sup>th</sup> graders going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

A motion was made to approve opening up the Panama trip to include 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Motion by Orlando, seconded by Pacheco

4/0/0

E. Discussion of Property Transfer Articles on the Town Warrant - There are 3 articles that pertain to district transfers. The Selectboard has sent an invitation for a meeting on Monday to discuss property transfers.

Article 31 concerns the transfer of ownership back to the Town of the old high school, then the BOS will be in charge of what happens with the property. Mr. Viveiros mentioned if the new school is not ready they may need to occupy the old building. Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned it should be contingent upon occupancy of the new school.

*(Ms. Tavares arrived here at 6:56pm.)*

Article 32 concerns the Town authorize the BOS to transfer the new school on Old County Rd. to the School Committee. There is a concern that once this transfer takes place and something is not completed it will fall in the hands of the school to fix. Also, unknown expenses, for example what took place with the denitrification system. Mr. Viveiros verified it will take about a year to close out the School Building Committee, they will still be around to wrap things up.

Article 33 concerns providing authorization to the BOS to transfer the care and maintenance of the campground property to the School Committee. It was mentioned that if the SC has ownership and control of the property things like decisions about the fields can be better expedited.

Chair Tavares picked up running the meeting at this point.

G. Acknowledgement of the WEF Donation of \$1000 Towards the Staff Appreciation Luncheon - Chair Tavares thanked the WEF in behalf of the committee for their generous donation.

H. Acknowledgement of the Westport High School Parent Association Donation of \$500 Towards the Staff Appreciation Luncheon - Chair Tavares thanked the Westport High School Parent Association in behalf of the committee for their generous donation.

I. Acknowledgement of the WES-MAC PTO Donation of \$1000 Towards the Staff Appreciation Luncheon - Chair Tavares thanked the WES-MAC PTO in behalf of the committee for their generous donation.

J. Discussion of FY22 Budget - Mr. Aubin reported there is a discrepancy on what the FY22 school budget looks like for the schools and what the Town is allocating. Mr. Aubin made it clear this budget is a level service budget with additional costs for the new school.

Ms. Rapoza shared her screen to show the budget figures in a document entitled: ***FINCOM Request of FY22 Budget Scenarios***

**\$20,299,930** proposed school budget - 6.30% increase  
\$804,247 difference of schools vs. town  
-\$592,477 10 staff cuts  
-\$225,000 transportation/bussing  
-\$817,477

After cuts - **\$19,482,453** - 2.02% increase - \$13,230 difference  
This reduction will have an affect in providing quality service to students.

Discussion took place on the importance of the community taking part in the Town Meeting on June 5, 2021 to support the schools. The Town will be receiving \$1.58 million dollars from the American Relief Funds and should add additional support to the school with these funds.

K. Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation - Chair Tavares verified that all members received the Superintendent goals, reflection and action plan. Chair Tavares explained the ratings indicators, areas, rubric and the process to everyone. Members were instructed to submit their individual packet to Karen Augusto by Friday May 28. Chair Tavares will compile and summarize the evaluation information and have it ready for the next SC Meeting on June 3, 2021. Ms. Augusto will send a reminder 3 days before it is due. If there are any questions on the goals and action plan submitted ask Mr. Aubin.

L. Subcommittee Updates -

Ms. Stanton Cross reported participating in a tour with SC members of the new school. They will continue to set up another tour.

Chair Tavares reported there has been no Policy Subcommittee Meeting.

Chair Tavares is working with WEF. They are providing a volunteer database for the schools. She is encouraged by their enthusiasm.

Ms. Pacheco reported the Cable Advisory Board is working on an ascertainment process. Using students to operate cameras, MC events, etc as paid interns was mentioned. Ms. Pacheco reached out with this opportunity for students and Melissa Sousa is looking into this as part of the cable budget.

Ms. Orlando reported the Audit Committee did not meet recently. They are delayed on single audits and extended the deadline.

Mr. Aubin reported DESE will be running webinars on ESSER monies next week.

## **VI. Action Agenda**

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, May 6, 2021 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, May 6, 2021.

Motion by Viveiros, seconded by Stanton Cross

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B. Review and Act on Retirement Incentive - Mr. Aubin mentioned there was a language change to add the incentive is for employees with 10 years of service in Westport Community Schools.

A motion was made to approve the retirement incentive for AFSCME as presented.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Orlando

5/0/0

C. Review and Act on FY20 Transportation Settlement - Mr. Aubin is requesting school committee approval to act on the FY20 Transportation settlement.

A motion was made to act on the FY20 Transportation settlement.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco

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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** -

Ms. Pacheco mentioned the Memorial Day parade and ceremony at the cemetery. Members of the band from JRSRHS will be participating in this eventful and important moment in town.

Mr. Viveiros met at WES. They are doing work on cutting down old trees, showing care about the school building and property.

Mr. Aubin reported he continues to get requests to use tennis courts, or tour the schools. He emphasized the need to get the school finished by the substantial completion date of August 2 and not get in the way of this work. Mr. Aubin thanked the community for their interest.

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

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Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

## MEETING DOCUMENTS

Discussion of the EF STEM Trip to Include Grades 8 and 9 - Panama trip

Discussion of Property Transfer Articles on the Town Warrant

DESE 2021 Special Education Determination

Acknowledgement WEF Donation of \$1000 Towards Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Acknowledgement Westport High School Parent Association Donation \$500 Towards Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Acknowledgement WES-MAC PTO Donation \$1000 Towards Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Discussion of FY22 Budget

Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation

Review and Act on Retirement Incentive

Review and Act on FY20 Transportation Settlement

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*

