

**Westport School Committee
Work Session
DATE: Tuesday, June 29, 2021
Time 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
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MINUTES

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

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager

I. Call to Order - Chair Tavares opened the Virtual School Committee Work Session at 6:03 pm.

Chair Tavares 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 and on June 16, 2021 Governor Baker signed an Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency.

II. Discussion of FY22 Budget -

Ms. Rapoza shared a spreadsheet with the members that showed the Original SC FY22 Proposed Budget and the New Town approved FY22 Budget as of 6.5.21 with budget amendments showing a total budget of \$19,935,683. This document did not have changes except the addition of a TA for the new Language Based Program.

Discussion took place on the certification and training needed for this new LBL program. Mr. Aubin updated the committee on training that has taken place to date and the number of staff involved. Ms. Santos can attend the next meeting to answer any questions.

Concerns were raised about not enough guidance support for the social emotional needs of students and the inclusion of the arts. Having a mentoring program for support would be helpful as well as the importance of providing coping skills to students.

Mr. Aubin stressed the need "to build capacity", be ongoing and sustainable moving forward. Mr. Aubin is supportive of the arts. They will be participating in a program by Yale University and will be looking into other social emotional programs.

Using the trained to trainer model was mentioned.

Mr. Aubin shared the 4 pillars of education: Curriculum, Instruction, Assessments and Relationship Building.

III. Discussion of ARP / ESSER - Use of Funds -

Ms. Rapoza shared her screen with a document entitled: **ESSER II Grant & ARRA Grant.**

Ms. Rapoza would like to focus on the *ESSER II grant* since it is due by July 31, 2021. The ARRA Grant is due in October 2021 and a task force with stakeholder groups need to be formed.

Items covered under the discussion included:

Wi-Fi MAC and WES, 40 Interactive TV's, WES Playground, 50 laptops, social emotional Ruler Training, stipends for Ruler Training, tent rental, Valtran storage container, Verizon cell phones, PPE supplies, data team stipends IReady Rev, Diagnostic Software IReady, DocuSign Forms Online Zoom, ASPEN software, custodians 1.5, nurses COVID tracing, outdoor furniture new middle HS, WES landscaping upgrade, and transportation hazard pay.

Items to be looked at after discussion took place:

Purchasing laptops under a pre-pay agreement as well as rolling the purchase of laptops out over several years instead of buying them all at once.

Checking on a music storage container in lieu of Valtran storage.

Using ESSER III funds for certain items such as nurses cell phones instead of ESSER II funds.

Confirm the amount of funds used for nurse's phones and phone lease plans.

Consolidate a line item for contact tracing COVID related health issues and place items such as cell phone use by nurses, cell plans, Verizon, contact tracing.

Create a line item budget for PPE supplies in the amount of \$50,000 - Ms. Ouellette.

Get additional information on data team stipends and diagnostic software.

Going to the School Building Committee to use funds from the school building project for outdoor courtyard furniture in two locations.

Get an estimate for cameras from Mr. Tomah.

3 items were listed under notes:

1. New Driveway - CIPC - \$750,000

2. Removal of MAC Pods \$200,000 - Mr. Aubin informed everyone the pods cost \$80,000 per year. Pods cost \$375,000 to purchase outright and this item could be put on a CIPC funding request. No CIPC funds can be used for pod removal. It was noted the pods need work.

Discussion on using these pods for another program, for district administration and having them as a fall back plan took place. Removing the pods to make room for additional healthy learning space/multi-use space by building a modular building instead was mentioned as an alternative.

3. New signage for WES/HR Documents Online

(Ms. Pacheco left here at 7:50 pm.)

ESSER III funds - Mr. Aubin will begin working on communication in the form of an FAQ to gather community input on ESSER III funding so they can be ready for the October deadline. Ms. Stanton Cross and Ms. Orlando will organize some dates to hold public hearings.

Next Meeting: July 8, 2021 at 7:30 am. Closing of the books and approval of Superintendent evaluation.

IV. 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 Orlando

4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes

Stanton Cross Yes

Tavares Yes

Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Work Session adjourned at 7:59 pm.