

**Westport School Committee
Work Session
DATE: Monday, May 17, 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: Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Michelle Orlando

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

I. **Call to Order** - Chair Tavares opened the Virtual School Committee Work Session at 6:05 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

II. FY21 EOY Savings & Purchases -

Ms. Rapoza shared her screen with the document entitled ***EOY Savings-Purchases May 17, 2021.***

Discussion was held on spending from funds remaining in the FY20/21 budget in the amount of \$323,200. Ms. Rapoza went line by line through each specific item.

Some of the items include air purifiers, CNA program, Surface Pros and other technology for new hires and staff, all in one touch screens for special education students, athletic uniforms, custodial and instructional supplies and 87 step stools to be able to reach their high cabinets, Information Technology program, remote access, lunch program, chairs, hardware for MAC and WES, Virtual Web Master, interactive tv's at WES and MAC pods classroom removal.

Ms. Rapoza shared these figures:

\$273,700 total purchase
\$323,200 projected balance
\$ 49,500. estimated unallocated balance

The items being considered for purchase is now up for discussion.

Mr. Viveiros shared that the purchase of step stools due to the cabinets being too tall should come out of the School Building Committee budget for the new school.

Mr. Viveiros asked about the interactive TV's. Ms. Rapoza shared these will be used instead of smart boards at WES only.

Mr. Viveiros asked about the timeline on budget spending. Ms. Rapoza explained the items have to be received or be invoiced by June 30, 2021.

Ms. Stanton Cross asked about how the money can be used. Ms. Rapoza said funds can be used for anything as long as the school committee approves the transfers. Ms. Stanton Cross asked if the furlough money of \$200,000 could be paid.

Ms. Rapoza explained that this year's budget had been reduced, however the 2 days were added back into the school year. To make next year whole, FY22 needs to include the 2 days for both unions.

Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned receiving \$150,000 at Town Meeting and in October receiving \$500,000 and asked Ms. Rapoza how that money was spent. Ms. Rapoza said late hires were added that included a Reading Specialist, 2 Special Education teachers, School Adjustment Counselor for WES. Only a guidance position did not get filled.

Ms. Pacheco asked if any funds could be used for student field trips, outings at school or extra celebrations for all students. Ms. Rapoza mentioned Mr. Aubin is working with the building principals. She also explained there are limits due to COVID guidelines, however these are changing. Ms. Rapoza announced they will be having a cookout on Friday and they want to see how this event turns out. Mr. Aubin has a call with DESE on Wednesday.

Mr. Aubin has contacted Greater Fall River Development Corp. to ask if they could transfer the \$50,000 grant earmarked for artificial intelligence to other technologies. They agreed to this transfer. An additional grant was submitted for \$50,000 of which they will get \$25,000. These funds will be for interactive televisions so WES will have the same technology as the new school.

Mr. Aubin reported they will be taking a look at the 2 school buildings with an eye on maintaining them in best of conditions, both physically and with infrastructure.

Other items discussed included having a LB (Language Based) instructor for Gr. 9 at the high school for the start of the FY22 year. They can use 10% of Esser 2 and 3 funds for SEL learning. There will be band and drama for summer.

Discussion took place on the colors and styles of uniforms and the use of the different Wildcat logos.

Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned the school budget is \$804,000 over from town's number. She tried to have the town meet this number halfway. The town will be receiving \$1.58 million dollars from the American Relief Fund. Instead of the town using this money for capital improvements they should fund the schools by at least \$400,000. The school shortfall means staff will be cut to meet the budget.

FINCOM is recommending to the BOS they go to a proposition 2 ½ override. It was noted that parent and community support for the schools is needed at Town Meeting in order to vote. Funds for the school are needed from free cash.

Ms. Rapoza will share the document **EOY Savings-Purchases** with the members. Ms. Rapoza asked if anyone is opposed to any of the spending, quotes or information on this list?

Ms. Tavares requested to prioritize this list.

There was a question on the number of 40 interactive TV's. Mr. Aubin will verify this number with Mr. Tomah.

III. Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Pacheco	Yes	Stanton Cross	Yes	Tavares	Yes	Viveiros	Yes
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The Virtual School Committee Work Session adjourned at 7:14 pm.