

**Westport School Committee
Special Meeting
DATE: Monday, July 6, 2020
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Join video call - meet.google.com/pgn-vvhs-jze

Join by phone - (US)+1 530-517-5295 PIN: 716 831 998#

MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Orlando, Melissa Pacheco (*arrived at 5:39 pm.*), Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros

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

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Viveiros called the Virtual School Committee Special Meeting to order at 5:02 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.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Discuss CARES Act Funds -

Dr. Reese explained that some COVID19 related monies go directly to the Town. CARES Act Funds go to the school through a grant program based on Title I funds.

The Town is receiving \$1.4 million, of that total \$920,000 is from the School Department with costs for re-entry to school. For example, purchase of plexiglass installed throughout school to comply with social distancing. Expenses dated after March 1 was sent into the Town.

Discussion took place on additional enrichment programs that could be offered to keep students engaged.

There was a question on when funds would be made available. The Town did not have a timeline.

There was a June 5 deadline submission that the Town needed to fill out paperwork. Dr. Reese will follow up to find out when funds will be released.

Dr. Reese acknowledges receipt of a Statewide Purchasing Program to save money on supplies. This will be shared with the Business Office.

B. Discuss Potential Salary Budgetary Adjustments Due to Town Proposed Budget Figure -

Dr. Reese provided a summary of the school budget beginning with the original budget figure set in February 2020. Since that time there have been proposed reductions. They looked at a variety of ways to get the budget down, however not enough to be able to get to the town number without layoffs. Dr. Reese is recommending \$18,671,131 which represents a decrease of \$100,000 or \$230,000 decrease from the Town's figure.

(Ms. Pacheco arrived here at 5:39 pm.)

Discussion took place on how there are so many “unknowns” as to what school will look like in the Fall. Receiving any additional funds in January 2021 does not help with the hiring of teachers because this needs to happen at the start of school.

Doing a staff very soon survey was suggested to help figure out resources.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Potential Salary Budgetary Adjustments Due to Town Proposed Budget Figure -

A motion was made to accept the new proposed budget figure of \$18,671,131.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Stanton Cross, all were in favor, motion passed 5/0/0

Discussion took place on an upcoming Town meeting event on school grounds with no official notification to the school. As directed by the committee, Dr. Reese will send a letter to the Town requesting to see a plan for the event on July 25 and expressing the school would like to be supportive and work together.

Mr. Aubin reported that he is working on standardized scheduling and will soon be moving to create a virtual schedule.

Mr. Aubin gave an update to the committee on the August 8, 2020 Senior Graduation. The time has been adjusted to 4 pm., subject to change. Mr. Aubin explained many specific details in the event planning.

V. Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn the Virtual School Committee Special Meeting.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

The Virtual School Committee Special Meeting ended at 6:09 pm.