

**Westport School Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**DATE: Thursday, September 17, 2020**  
**TIME: 6:30 p.m.**  
**PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Webinar ID: 884 4702 6088

**MINUTES**

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

**Also Present:** Thomas Aubin Assistant Superintendent / WJSHS Principal, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Laura Charette Assistant Principal JRSRHS, Stacey Duquette WES Principal, Cheryl Greeson MAC Principal, Kerri McKinnon Assistant Principal JRSRHS, Jason Pacheco Athletic Director, 84 Community Participants

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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** - A statement was made from the new union president Norm Abrahamson about concerns facing the faculty.

A comment was received in the chat from Melissa Matais-Avila about using her child as a shield.

Chair Viveiros made a request to amend the agenda.

A motion was made to amend tonight's agenda per request of the Chair.  
Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Tavares all were in favor, motion passed 5/0/0

Chair Viveiros announced that Superintendent Dr. Reese made a request for a leave of absence effective September 18, 2020.

A motion was made to accept Dr. Reese's request for a leave of absence.  
Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

A motion was made to appoint Thomas Aubin as Acting Superintendent.  
Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

**III. Informational Agenda**

A. Superintendent Report - Mr. Aubin acknowledged police support. He requested an update from the schools.

Ms. Greeson reported that students came in smiling and are thrilled to be back. They have the first 2 days completed.

Ms. Duquette reported 4 parent forums with lots of parent involvement. On Monday and Tuesday, they had a Meet and Greet.

Ms. McKinnon from the JRSRHS reported 2 student and parent forums. She also developed a Google form technology survey.

Laura Charette from the JRSRHS reported an 80% attendance rate and a 97% attendance rate for remote learning. They are reaching out to students not engaging. If anyone is having logon problems email the teacher and include guidance counselor. The front end is trained to find Google Classroom links.

B. Bill Warrant Update: 9-25-20 - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrant dated 9.25.20 in the amount of **\$426,049.49**. The bill warrant was emailed to school committee members for review.

C. Re-Entry Update - Mr. Aubin mentioned the goal is to get students into school. He asked Ms. Greeson to look at second grade as far as bringing them full in-person. Ms. Greeson said they are working on freeing up space and should have this in place by Tuesday. There are 117 grade 2 students with 18 remote and 9 home schooled. A total of 14-15 students will be in a classroom. The Board of Health has approved the rooms.

Ms. Rapoza reported buses at 30% capacity.

D. Progress on Safety Initiatives - Mr. Aubin reported MAC filter replacements are completed. They are checking exhaust systems and monitoring air quality. Purchased CO2 detectors and air purifiers

Mr. Aubin is working with Ms. Duquette to move someone over from WES to MAC for a remote teacher.

A motion was made to allow Grade 2 for in person learning on Tuesday.

Motion by Viveiros, seconded by Stanton Cross

Discussion was held on the logistics of this happening. Concerns were raised about giving enough time for parents to prepare as well as not rushing.

Ms. Greeson suggested to postpone the decision. Parents may have already paid for childcare. Ms. Greeson recommends to stay hybrid 1 more week and wait until the following Monday to go all in person for Grade 2.

Chair Viveiros withdrew his previous motion.

A motion was made to allow Grade 2 for in person learning as soon as possible.

Motion by Viveiros, seconded by Stanton Cross

5/0/0

E. Clubs and Activities Update - Mr. Pacheco reported that the following clubs and activities were added eSports/Gaming Club, Medical Club, Intramural Field Hockey Club, Intramural Flag Football Club, Intramural Soccer Club, and Intramural Outdoor Volleyball Club. There will also be a strength and conditioning camp with Infinite Fitness on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for 1-hour sessions. There will be COVID screening survey. Mr. Pacheco estimated the cost of running these clubs would be between \$7,000 - \$8,000. He will need funds since there is no room in his budget. A question was raised on if COVID funds could be used for this purpose.

Mr. Aubin received a request for women's field hockey, chess club, and book club. Possible funding source maybe WEF or PTO.

It was recommended that Ms. Duquette and Ms. Greeson send out a survey about activities.

Afterschool or weekend activities could be run if proper guidelines are followed.

F. Subcommittee Updates - Ms. Stanton Cross reported there will be a FinCom meeting on October 2. The Campground Committee voted to have a survey done to see how many fields can fit at the campground site. The SBC can be part of funding this survey.

School Building Committee - Mr. Aubin reported additional parking was added to the Library parking lot. Tennis court lights and fence posts have been installed and lines painted. Auditorium and gym are in good shape with the last of concrete being installed. Drywall and painting are being worked on as well as progress on the front of the building. Paint selection for the high school was discussed. There was concern about having the same colors in the middle school and high school. Furniture selection is almost done as well as technology. Mr. Levi donated a 5-panel mural to allow students to paint on. The history of Westport will be the theme.

**IV. Action Agenda**

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, September 3, 2020 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, September 3, 2020.

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

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. Stanton Cross brought up the issue of the existing zoning laws. The way they are written someone can cultivate marijuana close to schools at 500 feet. Vapor could be a danger with fumes spreading over 1,500 feet. This could potentially affect fields located at the campground. The second issue is the roof project had to go on a ballot for the September primary to go on a debt exclusion. Finally, the third issue is free cash.

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

Motion by Orlando, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

