

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, October 1, 2020
TIME: 6:30 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 Assistant Superintendent / WJSHS Principal, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Kerri McKinnon Assistant Principal JRSRHS, 47 Community Participants

Special Guests and Speakers: Betty Slade and Tim Gillespie Westport CPC Committee, Mike Fernandes resident, Jake McGuigan Conservation Committee and resident, Detective Rob Rebello

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:40 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 - There were none.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Superintendent Report - Mr. Aubin reported that grade 2 at MAC is now full in person. Mr. Aubin thanked the MAC staff and congratulated them on a successful opening.

Other items include:

Mr. Armendo from the BOH did a walkthrough at WES.
Ventilators at the JRSRHS have been disinfected.
Virtual Open House had 25-50% participation, another one is scheduled later in the month.
Filling of the order for 600 Chromebooks has been delayed.
HEPA purifiers have been installed and high touch cleaning is being done.
Ms. Rapoza is working on bus routes and food orders.
Mr. Duarte and Ms. Ouellette are keeping the buildings safe, secure, and clean.
Mr. Tomah is delivering hotspots to homes.
Target back to school dates are October 8 for grades 3 + 4, October 26 grades 5 + 6.

B. WCS Bill Warrant – 10-9-20 - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrant dated 10.9.20 in the amount of \$199,879.40. The bill warrant was emailed to school committee members for review.

C. Discussion of the Campground Property – Betty Slade and Tim Gillespie from the Westport CPC Committee provided information on CPC funding. A recreation project for fields is acceptable under CPA. If the property was transferred or leased this would not create a funding problem for CPA funds. New fields are a capital improvement project. A group puts a proposal together creating a fully developed plan

and a Project Manager is set up. The proposal needs to be in by the December deadline and there is also one in May. They recommend to come in asap to talk to them for assistance. It would be useful to have walking paths around the playing fields to have more access for community use.

Ms. Stanton Cross Chair of the Campground Committee mentioned they lost a field on the original campus. The Town is hiring an engineer to look at the best use for the land. Fields and crush stone walking path following the natural topography of the fields is being considered. They are also looking into basketball courts, bocce, and pickleball. SBC could pay for the study. The area would be used for schools and recreation for the Town. They are also being mindful for the rest of the community and handicapped accessibility will be added.

D. Discussion of Zoning – Ms. Stanton Cross informed everyone that there will be 2 warrant articles dealing with recreational marijuana.

Mike Fernandes resident shared information on the changes to the zoning bylaws. From 2018 prepared by the Planning Board, cultivation was only allowed with setbacks. 50 ft. / 25 ft. / 25 ft. In 2020, bylaws not prepared by the Planning Board changed the setbacks to 25 ft. / 10 ft. / 6 ft. Odor can travel 1,500 sq. yards which is in reach of the new school being built. Westport Elementary School is only 500 ft. away.

Jake Guigan a member of the Conservation Commission and resident mentioned using the campground site for athletic fields and the building of a beautiful new school may be affected. Looking at the contour map, water travels in a downward motion. Town depends on septic systems and wells which could also be affected. He emphasized that the Zoning Board and Planning Board need to work on appropriate zoning, especially from a natural resources point of view. Mr. Guigan added there is an argument about needing more revenue sources, however this is sacrificing rural character.

Detective Rebello informed everyone on the dangers noted in MA on marijuana edibles enticing to children. Use of vaping devices has also become more accessible to the community. He also spoke on air containment and air pollution.

A motion was made to support a yes vote on Articles 3 and 4.

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

E. Discussion of In-Person School Committee Meetings - Discussion was held on logistics of having in-person meetings. Using the Library Media Center with live streaming to allow the public to tune in was mentioned. Additional cleaning would need to take place before people come in to school in the morning. Consulting with John Rezendes to find out what needs to be done, determining the number of people the room holds, as well as communication with the Board of Health will take place.

A motion was made to table this item.

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

F. Discussion of District Strategic/District Improvement Plan 2020-2023 - Mr. Aubin is looking to put together a district strategic plan. NEASC evaluation will be coming up. There will be meetings with faculty and staff on smart goals to provide horizontal alignment. SC members will review this plan.

Ms. McKinnon began explaining the vision, theory of action, strategic objectives, and strategic initiatives of the Westport Community School District /Strategic District Improvement Plan 2020-2023.

G. Subcommittee Updates - Ms. Stanton Cross requested the SBC Design Subcommittee look at colors of the school and make the middle and high school wings different colors. Ms. Stanton Cross is urging town residents to attend Town Meeting on October 3 at 10 am. to support the schools. Funding of \$505,000 for school staff, a debt exclusion for the MAC roof and the marijuana question are items that will be presented.

Chair Viveiros reported there is progress outside and inside of the new school building. The project is moving forward on schedule and under budget. To date \$44 million has been paid, \$19 million has been reimbursed from the MSBA with 51% paid to date. Change orders have amounted to \$789,000 and there is \$2.7 million in contingency funds available for change orders. The project is in a good place.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, September 17, 2020 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, September 17, 2020.

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

B. Review and Act on for Sick Time Payout Request for Mike Duarte, Head of Maintenance and Facilities - Mr. Aubin requested to table this item until the next meeting.

C. Review and Act on Changes in Attendance Requirement for Grades 9-12 in the WJSH Handbook - Ms. McKinnon reported in the Student Parent Handbook for gr. 9-12 if a student reaches 7 absences they lose credit for the class. They have implemented warning letters and actual loss of credit letters. If a student receives a loss of credit letter they would like a policy to give the student an incentive to keep working. If a student loses credit and it improves they could recoup the credit they initially loss.

A motion was made to approve and amend the attendance requirement for grades 9-12 in the WJSH Handbook as written.

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

D. Review and Act on AFSCME MOA Regarding the Reopening of Schools -

A motion was made to approve the AFSCME MOA Regarding the Reopening of Schools.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Stanton Cross 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 -

Mr. Aubin is requesting the committee to move Kerri McKinnon as Acting Principal of the JRSRHS and Assistant Superintendent.

A motion was made to move Kerri McKinnon as Acting Principal of the JRSRHS and Assistant Superintendent.

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

A team meeting on key issues for the new building will take place next week. Technology Committee will also meet.

Future agenda items -

Mr. Aubin announced changes in structure for all 3 schools is planned. A workshop will be posted.

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 Orlando 5/0/0

Roll call vote: Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Meeting Documents

District Strategic/District Improvement Plan 2020-2023
Attendance Requirement for Grades 9-12 in the WJSH Handbook
AFSCME MOA Regarding the Reopening of Schools