

**Westport School Committee
Special Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, August 26, 2020
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting

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MINUTES

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

Also Present: Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent, Thomas Aubin Assistant Superintendent / WJSHS Principal, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Cheryl Greeson MAC Principal, 181 Community Participants

I. Call to Order - Chair Viveiros opened the Special Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:36 pm.

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 -

Chair Viveiros announced comments will be 3 minutes or less.

Robin Morin is a member of the Health and Safety Committee. She mentioned schools are not ready for teachers, there is not proper ventilation systems and safety protocols. She questioned how can teachers teach without proper technology? Hybrid model is asking for teachers to do more. She is requesting to start remotely and set expectations for an October start. She asked members to vote for the remote model for the safety of students and staff.

Sandra DaCosta asked what is the plan to inform parents about having their children immunized for the flu vaccination? Dr. Reese stated the deadline is by December 31, 2020. Mr. Aubin mentioned the directive just came out last week.

III. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Re-Entry Plan - Chair Viveiros mentioned that parents and teachers want students back in school. This is not an easy decision. After last night's meeting Dr. Reese was asked to consider a change to the re-entry plan.

Dr. Reese stated at the request of the committee he was asked about getting younger grades in the buildings. They looked at class sizes and classroom sizes for either a hybrid model or bringing in fully.

Ms. Greeson MAC Principal explained Grade 1 classroom fits 22 students at 5 feet distance including teacher work desk and learning space. Grade 2 class has increased to 117 students. They could not fit more than 15-16 desks. For Pre-K, the numbers are 12 students in one class and 7-8 students in another class. There will be some families that choose remote or home schooling.

Dr. Reese recommends Pre-K, K, Grade 1 in person fully, Grade 2 hybrid, remaining grades start remote and pivot to hybrid.

Discussion took place on HVAC cleaning and HEPA purifiers.

Discussion took place on how a phased in approach would work.

Ms. Pacheco mentioned that everybody has the health and safety of students and staff as a priority, however she does not feel comfortable after viewing the rooms and wants to see a hybrid start for all.

A motion was made to have K - Grade 1 in-person full time, Grade 2 hybrid model, remote start for the other grades, with the School Committee to meet weekly to discuss a phased in approach.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Orlando

Discussion took place on the motion.

Motion was amended to include Pre-K in person full time. 4/1/0 Pacheco NO

Mr. Aubin informed everyone they are going to be continuously monitoring guidelines. This situation is incredibly fluid and things will change. They will maintain open communication with stakeholders.

B. Review and Act on Transportation Fees for the 2020-2021 School Year - Ms. Rapoza requested to table this item.

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

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

The Special Virtual School Committee Meeting ended at 7:19 pm.