

**Westport School Committee
Work Session
DATE: Thursday, October 8, 2020
Time 6:00 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 Acting Superintendent, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Kerri McKinnon Assistant Superintendent / WJSHS Principal

I. Call to Order - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee Work Session at 6:07 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

II. District Strategic Plan Discussion -

Mr. Aubin explained that the District Strategic Plan encompasses a wide spectrum. This plan is a 3-year plan that guides the district into the future. It impacts the School Improvement Plan and is aligned to the district with Smart Goals.

Kerri McKinnon shared her screen and began explaining the details of the *Westport Community School District Strategic Improvement Plan 2020 -2023*.

Teaching and Learning initiative #1 - Align the curriculum to UbD (Understanding by Design)

This incorporates a backwards design philosophy where lessons are designed with the end first focusing on what will students know and be able to do? Action steps- 1. Training done in small chunks. 2. Create PLC (Professional Learning Community) teams. (These are groups of teachers working toward a common goal /same content area.) 3. Develop curriculum.

Teaching and Learning initiative #2 - Multi-module - Using auditory, reading, and hands on for students to understand the content and to master material. Training and examples were provided.

Teaching and Learning initiative #3 - Assessment - In the remote platform, project-based assessments are encouraged. In-person settings, project-based assessments are also

encouraged, however there is still a need for traditional assessments. Utilizing data to analyze where the gaps are.

Family and Community Engagement initiative #1 - Monthly Student/Parent forums will take place, they will have one on October 19, 2020. General weekly social media posts, provide weekly communication for example check in with students not participating.

Wildcat Student of the Month - Will be looking for students that serve as a role model in the remote learning environment.

Family and Community Engagement initiative #2 - Community Service - Looking to have a Community Service graduation requirement. Students will experience volunteer work. Build a nexus between community and schools.

Discussion took place on providing enrichment activities after the school day ends. The idea of having advisory block with adults having advisory groups for remediation support, enrichment, and establishing a rapport and connection with students was mentioned.

Sustainable Funding Access and Equity - 1. Pursue revenue sources.

Improve Community Perceptions - Improving academic performance, implement new programming, improve communication by using social media, principal newsletters.

A question was raised on acceptance and buy-in of this plan. Ms. McKinnon mentioned it is important to plan time into the school schedule. Mondays are a completely remote day with ½ day asynchronous work for students. 1. Time needs to be provided. 2. Roll out in chunks, work on one section at a time. Also important, this work needs to be useful in the classroom and be a guide for daily lessons.

Discussion on programming both academics and technical took place. Mr. Aubin mentioned offering technical trades, providing early college, IT Cyber Security, Women in STEM, as well as build athletics and music programs. Medical Club was added and they are now exploring a CNA program with the American Red Cross. Mr. Aubin has been in touch with Dr. Douglass from BCC and the Dean of STEM and Engineering at UMD. Westport students would be able to earn college credits and pursue a college pathway. Students pursuing a career pathway could have the opportunity for a paid internship with businesses or with NGO (non-government organizations). Also being explored is having a bank to sponsor financial literacy.

Looking at stage 1 sometime in October 2020.

NEASC visit is upcoming and they will be looking for a rigorous curriculum.

Approval is needed by the members for the District Strategic Plan. This will be added to the next meeting.

III. Changes in Structure for MAC / WES / and the WJSHS -

Mr. Aubin informed everyone it is time to take a look at structural and personnel changes now that moving into the new grades 5-12 school is coming up soon. This will change WES into grades 1-4 and MAC into Pre-K, K. Mr. Aubin is working on a preliminary structure.

Discussion on what happens with the pods took place. Ms. Rapoza reported the cost would be \$325,000 to purchase the pods. This could be added to CIPC funds. If the decision is to return the pods the cost would be \$166,000. This does not include a price for removal of the pods. The lease runs out end of June 2021. Ms. Rapoza gave her opinion that by purchasing the pods there is more advantages. Administration offices, Special Education, Superintendent's Office, Business Office, etc. could move there. MAC could expand the K and Pre-school programs to increase student enrollment. Ms. Rapoza will send an email inquiring about a removal quote.

Ms. Pacheco requested a listing of the decrease of students and where they went. Decrease could be due to Covid19. Mr. Aubin mentioned there is data from last year. Conducting exit interviews needs to be done.

Discussion took place on the EI Program and its rolling admissions.

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

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Viveiros

5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Work Session adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary