# Westport School Committee Work Session

DATE: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 Time 6:00 p.m.

**PLACE: Virtual Meeting** 

#### **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 Acting Assistant Superintendent/Principal

**I.** Call to Order - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee Work Session at 6:03 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. FY22 Budget Discussion -

The committee reviewed the following documents:

Additional Increases FY22 - Positions, Supplies, Services Summary

### FY22 Proposed Budget with Additional Increases for New School

This budget information reflects \$500,000 and \$150,000 received from the Town, contract obligations are steps and lanes only with no increase in salaries, and implementation of a 2 day furlough.

Budget figures for: Level Service--services remain the same

Level Funded-- no increases

FY22 Town Proposed \$19,478,024 FY22 WCS Schools Proposed \$19,905,501 Difference school vs. town \$427,477

Ms. Rapoza explained there is a bus savings of \$44,000 per month. This money has to be spent in the FY21 budget. There will be a food service shortfall. The decision to issue a furlough will either save money or cost the district \$155,042 by adding the 2 days back into the schedule.

Ms. Rapoza gave an update on COVID funds. They are ordering 100 Chromebooks, 80 bulbs, 10 laptops, and power strips. A temporary carport for MAC to provide an area for student recess will also be purchased.

Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned there is funds from the new school building project for technology. By using COVID funds now, the building project will have money to spend in other places. Mr. Aubin mentioned the school building project was over by \$300,000 in technology and will verify with Mr. Marks exactly what was included with this item.

Ms. Stanton Cross updated the members on the Cable Advisory Board and their role concerning the Cable budget. Cable PEG monies could be available for the new school Media Center/TV Room Studio.

A list of new school positions and custodial services was reviewed by the committee.

FY22 Proposed Level Services Budget Plus New School Positions would bring the total budget to \$20,289,681.

FY22 Town Proposed \$19,478,024 FY22 School Proposed with additions \$20,289,681 Overage \$811,657

Discussion was held on the role of the Behavior Teacher Assistant.

Campus Supervisor position has been added. The building will be having activities during the after-school hours, this position would be monitoring this activity. It was mentioned that funds would be better spent on hiring special people to provide programs, for example a CNA program.

Discussion was held on Contracted Services for the athletic fields. The new school is not ready for fields to be used. The fields located at the old high school will be needed. In addition, the new school needs an eye on the outside of the school's landscape.

Ms. Ouellette suggested 2 new custodial positions for the high school. Mr. Aubin mentioned using an outside company to get an unbiased review of custodial services. Pros and cons of privatization was also discussed.

Discussion on staff sharing, certifications, and having the exact same schedule were mentioned. Ms. Rapoza reported there could be a possible savings with 5 remote teacher positions.

How furloughs are handled was under discussion. There was a question on whether this issue needs to be negotiated with the WFT. It was mentioned that Attorney Coleman drafted a letter to give the union notice of a furlough. The district can move forward with implementing a furlough if they choose, the union only has input on the way it is done.

### Schedule-

Ms. McKinnon updated the members about the decision for the JRSRHS schedule. After holding several meetings, they decided changes need to be done incrementally, so they will be going into the new building with a slightly modified schedule adding a Wildcat block.

Phasing in a new schedule was discussed. Going into a new union contract, implementation of an incremental schedule change could be a point for negotiation. There was discussion on reducing the graduation requirements.

Ms. Stanton Cross requested to see the number of teachers needed in a proposed incremental plan for a new schedule.

Mr. Aubin plans to bring what is needed to move the district forward to FinCom.

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

Motion by Stanton Cross Pacheco, seconded by Pacheco

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 8:19 pm.