

**Westport School Committee**  
**Budget Public Hearing**  
**DATE: Thursday, January 30, 2020**  
**TIME: 6:30 p.m.**  
**PLACE: Westport Jr./Sr. High School Media Center**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Melissa Pacheco, Michelle Orlando, Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros  
**Also Present:** Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent, Michelle Rapoza, School Business Manager  
**Special Guests and Presenters:** Mark Allen and Avery Avila Student Representatives, Mitchel Aho Principal JRSRHS, Karen Archambault, Assistant Principal SRHS, Stacy Duquette WES Principal, Cheryl Greeson MAC Principal, Administrators and Department Heads

**I. Call to Order** - A quorum being present, Chair Viveiros called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Notice of Recording of Meeting (M.G.L. 30A:20f)** - Chair Viveiros announced the meeting was being recorded. **Comments and Statements from the Public** – There were none.

**III. Special Agenda – FY21 Education Budget Public Hearing**

A. Proposed FY21 School Committee Education Budget (Separate Cover) – Chair Viveiros opened the FY21 Educational Budget Public Hearing at 6:31 pm. and announced that if anyone would like to speak or ask questions they have the opportunity to come up to the microphone. The Budget Public Hearing will remain open at this time.

B. General Discussion of FY21 Proposed Budget – Dr. Reese explained his memorandum dated January 28, 2020 FY21 Proposed Budget Adjustments. The initial budget presented was at \$19,477,288 representing a 3.7% increase over the prior year's budget. The budget was reviewed again looking at every line item in the context of the last 4 years for the amount of funds allocated and what was expended. Adjustments were made reducing the Campus Supervisor and lunch monitors, increase to legal services and \$9,300 added to HS athletics for spring rental and transportation for the offsite tennis program. Other items were adjusted for a total reduction of \$135,376 to make the total FY21 Budget \$19,341,912 representing a 3.0% increase over the current budget. There are concerns that the reductions leave no flexibility for unanticipated increases. There is uncertainty around the general education transportation contract.

Dr. Reese announced that the principals and department heads are present to answer any questions.

Discussion was held on the .5 positions, School Adjustment Counselors locations and the number of students, increasing band and music instruction and cost of utilities.

Dr. Reese explained funding from the Student Opportunities Act will be approximately \$30 per student or \$45,000 and will be lumped together with Chapter 70 funds going directly to the Town and not separated out. Districts need to complete an SOA Plan on how the funds will be used. Dr. Reese will be getting more information.

Dr. Reese received notification from the state on funding from the Chapter 142 Rural Communities Act. About \$24,000 is coming in February 2020 to be spent by June 30. This focuses on how to consolidate services.

Chair Viveiros asked at this time if any administrators want to come up to speak and advocate for their department's budget.

Mr. Aho explained that the additional three .5 (1.5 FTE) positions proposed with the new schedules will help them to offer deep rich electives. The .5 Computer Science position will help expand technology. He shares his concerns with the budget and would like to expand music and School Adjustment Counselors. He is concerned that the new schedule will not run effectively if these .5 positions are not added.

Student to teacher ratio and doubling up classes was mentioned. Ms. Karen Archambault analyzed the average class size to be 11 to 17.6 keeping them at a reasonable level.

A list of any proposed changes in class offerings was requested. What classes students sign up for will drive what is offered, so this is not a finalized,

Chair Viveiros announced the Budget Public Hearing will officially close at this time 7:13 pm.

#### **IV. Informational Agenda**

##### **A. Student Representatives' Report – Avery Avila and Mark Allen**

Avery Avila announced the production of Frozen Junior drama show will take place in the HS auditorium Thursday and Friday at 6 pm. and Saturday at 2 pm.

Mark Allen announced the Pit Band meeting for the upcoming musical will begin on Monday and will continue to meet on Mondays, Art Club has opened an Instagram page to share some of their work, they are decorating for Valentine's Day and made a mural dedicated to the video game character Luigi from Mario Brothers, Exchange Club is selling sing-o-grams from February 3-12, boys basketball stands at 10-3, girls basketball stands at 11-2 and both will be facing Sacred Heart tomorrow.

Discussion on the FY21 Budget continued.

Stacy Duquette WES Principal spoke on implementing some changes in scheduling to remedy the band schedule. She is advocating for more special education positions needed with the loss of interventionists. Any guidance support for social emotional needs or any school adjustment piece would also be helpful. She is aware that the budget is tight.

Cheryl Greeson MAC Principal is advocating for special education teachers. One for autism spectrum area and 1 for other services. She said the social emotional piece is also important in order to give students support.

SC members would like to schedule another budget workshop.

SC members requested a teacher to student ratio. A suggestion was made to have a planned presentation going forward that has a list of what is needed and what is not being requested in the budget. Include schedule changes, offerings at the new school and needs of the district in the area of special services. This will give the community opportunity to understand the budget number. Another suggestion was made to send a packet ahead of time to FinCom. FinCom is meeting on February 25, 2020.

B. Superintendent Report – Dr. Reese reported the incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade Orientation for 8<sup>th</sup> graders had a great turnout. Parents and students were introduced to programs, athletics and extracurriculars. Dr. Reese thanked all the organizers, students and staff. Culture and Climate Committee will meet the first week in February. They will focus on defining culture and climate, goals and vision.

C. Bill Warrant Update: 1-17-20 and 1-31-20 – Chair Viveiros reviewed and signed the bill warrants, all bill warrants were emailed to school committee members for review. Bill warrant dated 1-17-20 was in the amount of \$75,386.35. Bill warrant dated 1-31-20 was in the amount of \$225,904.57.

E. WJSHS Student/Teacher Schedule 2020-2021 Update – Ms. Archambault reported they are finalizing School Brains work this month. In March, students will meet with guidance counselors about their individualized plans. April-June a schedule will be built before students leave at the end of the year.

F. WJSHS Graduation Requirements – Mr. Aho reported during the School Council meeting today they reviewed MassCore. Mr. Aho went over the WJSHS 2020-2021 Program of Studies Updates list. Discussion took place on the graduation requirements. Students will have more room in their schedules to have an opportunity to take other related classes within their schedule.

#### **V. Action Agenda**

D. Acknowledgement of a \$7,500 Grant from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation for WSHS Student Scholarships – (moved from Informational Agenda to Action Agenda) – Dr. Reese explained this is an annual contribution for students in post-secondary educational programs.

A motion was made to accept the \$7,500 Grant from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation for WSHS Student Scholarships.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Orlando

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A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, January 9, 2020 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, January 9, 2020.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Tavares.

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B. Review and Act on a \$7,500 BATB Implementation Grant on behalf of Project Bread for MAC, WES, and the

WJRSRHS - Mrs. Rapoza explained these funds are coming from a grant entitled Breakfast After the Bell. This initiative supports the importance of eating breakfast. They will be receiving three breakfast carts and one IPAD. Food will be brought closer to entryways so students can have a grab and go breakfast to take back to class. This will be an adjustment and they are hoping to increase the school lunch revenue.

A motion was made to accept funds of \$7,500 BATB Implementation Grant on behalf of Project Bread for MAC, WES, and the WJRSRHS

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco

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C. Review and Act on a Field Trip for Grades 9-12 for a DECA State Conference in Boston, MA – February 27 –

29, 2020 – Dr. Reese informed members there were a number of students that qualified to go on to the state conference in Boston.

A motion was made to approve the Field Trip for Grades 9-12 for a DECA State Conference in Boston, MA – February 27- 29, 2020.

Motion by Orlando, seconded by Stanton Cross

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**VI. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** – Chair Viveiros reported receiving the MAC newsletter. A letter was received from a town person with questions about the new school project. Chair Viveiros sent an email response to the letter. Chair Viveiros noticed his response letter was printed in the Shorelines.

An update on the WES roof was requested. Dr. Reese mentioned the designer is completing the feasibility study, next it will be sent to the MSBA for review. MSBA will vote, then it will be placed as a warrant item for approval at the May Town Meeting.

**VII. Comments and Statements from the Public** – There were none.

**VIII. Additional Agenda Issues** - There were none.

**IX. Adjourn** - A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Orlando

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The School Committee Budget Public Hearing adjourned at 7:57 pm.

**Meeting Documents**

Proposed FY21 School Committee Education Budget

FY21 Proposed Budget Adjustments Memorandum dated January 28, 2020

\$7,500 Grant from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation for WSHS Student Scholarships

\$7,500 BATB Implementation Grant on behalf of Project Bread for MAC, WES, and the WJRSRHS

Field Trip for Grades 9-12 DECA State Conference in Boston, MA – February 27 – 29, 2020

WJSHS 2020-2021 Program of Studies Updates

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*