

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, March 5, 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, Avery Avila and Amy Tran Student Representatives, Paul Joncas Greater F.R. Development Corporation, Jennifer Fitton Teacher and Volunteer for Washington DC trip, Mr. Monast Teacher and Volunteer for the International trip, Donna Bedard and Kathleen Cummings Teaching Assistants, Tracy Priestner FinCom Member

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. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representatives' Report – Avery Avila, Amy Tran, and Mark Allen -

Avery Avila reported she is part of Project 351 and they are collecting pajamas and shoes for children infants through 12 years old from March 22- April 3, there are 2 bins in each school to donate items, she would like to advocate for a girl's golf team next year, students were surveyed a year ago and 16 girls were interested.

Amy Tran reported a Relay for Life Fundraiser to help support the fight on cancer, March 6 will be a Black and White Dance, May 29 there will be a tour of Massachusetts Maritime Academy for interested students.

Mark Allen reported that GSA received a gender-neutral bathroom located next to the library, decorations for St. Patrick's Day brings rainbows to the third floor, school play Once Upon A Mattress will be held March 13, 14 at 7 pm. and March 15 at 2 pm., International Exchange Club will be changing the date of their trip to July or canceling, gym will be open on Tuesday and Thursday, STEEL is working with the Ronald McDonald House for donations to homeless shelters, winter sports have ended and spring sports began with Lacrosse and Baseball tryouts next week.

SC members congratulated Mark Allen for being the first Westport student to get an Associate's Degree before graduating.

IV. Action Agenda (*taken out of order*)

E. Acknowledgement of Paul Joncas - Review and Act on the Greater F.R. Development Corporation Educational Fund Grant of \$29,923.54 for Chromebooks - Guest Mr. Paul Joncas presented a check in the amount of \$29,923.54 for technology. Mr. Viveiros accepted the check on behalf of the district.

A motion was made to accept funds from Greater F.R. Development Corporation Educational Fund Grant in the amount of \$29,923.54.

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

III. Informational Agenda (*continued*)

B. Superintendent Report – Dr. Reese informed the members the attendance report for February 2020 as well as comparisons since last February are in the SC packets. A listing from the Professional Development Day on March 3, 2020 was also made available, showing a comprehensive list of offerings. Dr. Reese has received word from the Governor to cancel any international tours coming up. Dr. Reese would like the SC to review options for the Washington DC trip scheduled in May. Jennifer Fitton came to the microphone and explained the details of the Washington DC trip. SC members would like to wait until the next meeting on March 19 to decide on whether to

proceed with the trip. Mr. Monast came to the microphone and informed the members that the International trip has been postponed to July.

A discussion was held on alternatives for plans if schools are cancelled, as well as monitoring how people are traveling. Dr. Reese is hoping to gather guidance around these issues from a scheduled conference call with the Commissioner of Education tomorrow.

Dr. Reese continued by reporting the Culture and Climate group with 25 in attendance held their first meeting in February, with the next meeting on March 17.

Mr. Aho announced his retirement. A principal vacancy timeline was distributed for review.

C. Bill Warrant Update: 2-28-20 - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrant for 2.28.20 in the amount of \$335,346.29 The bill warrant was emailed to school committee members on February 18 for review.

D. Acknowledgement of WEF \$1500 Grant for Dharma Voyage Boat Building - SC members gratefully acknowledged these funds.

E. Acknowledgement of WEF \$150 Grant for Boat Building Class to go to Herreshoff Museum - SC members gratefully acknowledged these funds.

F. Acknowledgement of WEF \$1944 Grant for DECA Registration - Funds go to student registration for a conference in Boston. SC members appreciate the WEF for all of these funds given to the district.

G. FY21 Proposed Budget Discussion - Dr. Reese reported the committee had a budget work session last week. The Town number has changed to \$19,340,617. Ms. Priestner and Ms. Stanton Cross went over the budget process that evolved over the last few months, especially with the handling of the Chromebooks funding request of \$70,000. At this time the request for the Chromebooks is in the school budget and also as a separate line item warrant article #17.

Ms. Priestner explained if the funds from the School Opportunities Act are part of Chapter 70 it is earmarked for the schools.

Dr. Reese distributed a sheet on SC members rankings of the budget items. Discussion took place on the items.

A motion was made to set the FY20/21 School Budget to match the Town number of \$19,340,617 also to use column 3 to provide the cuts with any further cuts taken from utilities and supplies.

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

H. Subcommittee Updates -
School Building Committee - There was no meeting held other than Steering Committee to approve invoices.

Policy Subcommittee – Ms. Pacheco announced the homework policy is ongoing, a future meeting will be set. Mr. Elwell is gathering more information. They recently reviewed recommended MASC policies.

Town Audit Committee – Ms. Orlando reported a meeting will take place this upcoming Monday.

I. Policies: First Read

1. New - JBB
2. Revised - IGD, IHBEA, IE, IGA, IHAM, IGB, ID, IHB, IC/ICA, JFBB-1, JH, JEB, JF, JC, JB, JHD, JCA, JII, JLCC, JJA, JICFA, JRD, JRA, JICH, JJH-R, BEDH, JFABD, JFABE, JFABF, JIH
3. Remove – JLA, JLD, JP

SC members have reviewed the above policies under First Read. Any edits or comments should be submitted.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on FY21 Proposed Budget - This item was done under the FY21 Proposed Budget Discussion.

B. Review and Act on AFSCME MOA Vote – To Approve MOA for Successor Contract with AFSCME (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023) - Kathleen Cummings and Donna Bedard came forward and SC members acknowledged their hard work with the document.

A motion was made to approve the MOA for Successor Contract with AFSCME (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023).
Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco, all were in favor motion passed 5/0/0

C. Review and Act on 2020-2021 School Choice Program -

A motion was made to table this item to provide additional time for review.

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

D. Review and Act on Minutes of Tuesday, February 4, 2020 Work Session and Thursday, February 6, 2020 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Tuesday, February 4, 2020 Work Session and Thursday, February 6, 2020.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

F. Review and Act on a \$5000 Grant for Project Lead the Way at the WES -

A motion was made to accept \$5000 Grant for Project Lead the Way at the WES.

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

G. Review and Act on a \$7763 Grant for Project Lead the Way at the MAC -

A motion was made to accept \$7763 Grant for Project Lead the Way at the MAC.

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

H. Review and Act on a \$3154.70 WEF Grant for the Jr. Robotics Club at the MAC -

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Orlando 4/0/1 (Tavares abstained)

I. Review and Act on a \$1850 Donation to Create a Scholarships in Honor of Katelyn Rose Pacheco for WJSH Students Class of 2020 -

Ms. Pacheco thanked the school district for providing the opportunity to offer these scholarships.

A motion was made to accept \$1850 Donation to Create a Scholarships in Honor of Katelyn Rose Pacheco for WJSH Students Class of 2020.

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

V. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices - Mr. Viveiros displayed the newspaper showing student Mark Allen in a front-page article about earning an Associate's Degree.

VI. Comments and Statements from the Public - There were none.

VII. Additional Agenda Issues - No additional items.

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

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

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Meeting Documents

FY21 Proposed Budget

Policies

MOA for Successor Contract with AFSCME (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023)

School Choice Program 2010-2021

Greater F.R. Development Corporation Educational Fund Grant of \$29,923.54 for Chromebooks

\$5000 Grant for Project Lead the Way at the WES

\$7763 Grant for Project Lead the Way at the MAC

\$3154.70 WEF Grant for the Jr. Robotics Club at the MAC

\$1850 Donation to Create Scholarships in Honor of Katelyn Rose Pacheco for WJSH Students Class of 2020

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary