

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2020
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Join video call - meet.google.com/tim-qrxo-syv
Join by phone - +1 484-784-9327 (PIN: 107130539)

MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Michelle Orlando

Also Present: Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent, Mitchell Aho WJSHS Principal, Karen Archambault Vice Principal WJSHS, Laura Honohan, Vice Principal WJSHS, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Richard Monast Teacher

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. 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 - There were none.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Superintendent Report – Dr. Reese reported that the Governor announced Massachusetts schools to be closed for the remainder of the school year. Initial guidance to districts was to provide students with going deeper with the standards and not teach anything new. Now it has shifted to going further with essential standards during the remaining weeks of remote learning. What do students need to know going into their next grade level. State has provided flexibility in looking at student's course work in order to be able to pass.

Ms. Greeson is preparing a memo for Pre and K students with information about the Fall. Given the uncertainty about budgets and getting back in school, Ms. Greeson is proposing to start the school year by having screenings and orientations first, then start a few days later.

Boston put out a funding resolution to increase stimulus funding for Public Education. Dr. Reese will share additional information at the next meeting on voting for this resolution.

Dr. Reese acknowledged and thanked all staff during Staff Appreciation Week.

Dr. Reese announced staff adjustments for FY20. Memos were sent out today announcing the furlough of various workers including custodians, food service, TA's, LPN, and Extended Day staff.

B. Bill Warrant Update: 5-8-20 - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrant dated 5.8.20 in the amount of \$86,174.31. Bill warrant was emailed to school committee members for review on April 27, 2020.

C. Discuss Transportation Negotiations – Ms. Rapoza met with 5 out of 6 towns concerning transportation negotiations. These districts are proposing to do a funding range between 0% - 70%.

Westport has not received any financials from the bus company other than percentages of costs. Ms. Rapoza would like to request Attorney Coleman send Amaral's Bus Company a letter requesting to have their financial information and whether they have applied for any state grants or loans due to COVID 19.

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

F. Review and Act on International Trip – Germany – February 2021 - Mr. Monast reported on the status of the Germany trip. EF Tours is not traveling during the entire summer, so he is requesting to move the trip to February 2021 vacation break week. Accounts would be transferred over, students can take other options up to 110 days before the trip date to either cancel get a refund less \$1,000 or change out the trip.

A motion was made to give pending approve to move the Germany International Trip to February 2021 vacation break.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Viveiros 4/0/0

D. Subcommittee Updates - Chair Viveiros reported that the School Building Committee met on May 6, 2020. The project is at 24% completion, they are working on brick façade, wearing masks on site and complying with state regulations. Carpenters have returned and there are 90-100 workers on site. The project is moving along and on schedule. Exploring the new well at the campground property is ongoing.

Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned there is miscommunication about sending Mr. Hartnett to the campground property to look for where fields could be located. She mentioned when on the Campground Committee an RFP was approved by the BOS to have a surveyor look at the campground and it was noted 2 large fields could be located on the site. There is a concern about having enough fields.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, April 16, 2020 Virtual Meeting and Thursday, April 23, 2020 Virtual Work Session -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, April 16, 2020 Virtual Meeting and Thursday, April 23, 2020 Virtual Work Session.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

B. Review and Act on 2020-2021 Bus Contract - Ms. Rapoza reported that the Regular Transportation bid opening for the 2020-2021 school year took place on April 14, 2020. Amaral's Bus Company was the only bidder, coming in at \$990,900 for 15 buses running two tiers for 180 school days at \$367 per bus. This rate reflects an increase of \$67,500 or 7% over the last previous 3-year bid. Age of buses went down to 2 years. There is an addendum to terminate the contract and not pay if there was a problem similar to what happened this year. Plus, a 1year roll over.

Discussion was held on what might happen when school resumes. A split shift schedule for social distancing, having less students on a bus and the need to build in more flexibility in the schedule may be needed and should be reflected within this new contract. It was requested to have Attorney Coleman add language to reflect these possible future needs.

A motion was made to approve awarding the bus contract for the 2020-2021 school year to Amaral's Bus Company in the amount of \$990,900 and to add language to the contract based on the additional items discussed.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

C. Review and Act on Westport Senior High Graduation - Mr. Aho reported that they are looking at a variety of activities. A survey was sent out. There are 2 sets of signs with Senior student's pictures. These signs will be delivered to each of their homes. Signs are located around Town congratulating the class. June 5 is the last day of school for the Senior class. Monday June 15, will be a Virtual Scholarship Night, August 5 Senior Prom at Rachel's from 6-9 pm., Friday Aug. 7 Senior Breakfast and yearbook distribution, Senior barbecue in August, Saturday August 8 is Senior Graduation in auditorium. Mr. Aho will send a document with all the dates and events to the committee. A letter to seniors has been prepared for distribution.

D. Review and Act on the Student Opportunity Act - Dr. Reese explained that the town will be receiving an additional \$45,120 in Chapter 70 funds in the FY21 budget. Every district is required to do a plan using evidenced based programs aimed at closing disparities in achievement among student subgroups. Areas of focus are providing high quality instruction and decreasing the dropout rate.

A motion was made to approve the plan for the Student Opportunity Act as presented.
Motion by Tavares, seconded by Pacheco 4/0/0

E. Review and Act on WJSHS 2020-2021 Program of Studies - Dr. Reese informed members the WJSHS 2020-2021 Program of Studies was presented a few meetings ago by Mr. Aho.

A motion was made to approve the WJSHS 2020-2021 Program of Studies as presented.
Motion by Tavares, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** - Mr. Viveiros reported there were none.

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

VII. **Additional Agenda Issues** - Chair Viveiros asked about students being able to gather their belongings from school. Dr. Reese reported that the Governor's orders say that no students can enter the building. They are waiting to see if after May 18, 2020 the stay at home order will be lifted and then plans will proceed according to the guidelines.

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

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The School Committee Virtual meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Meeting Documents

2020-2021 Bus Contract
Westport Senior High Graduation
Student Opportunity Act
WJSHS 2020-2021 Program of Studies
International Trip – Germany – February 2021

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary