Westport School Committee
Work Session
DATE: Monday, May 11, 2020
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting

Join video call – meet.google.com/hzu-qrdv-see

Join by phone – +1 631-621-7446 (PIN: 888137650)

MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Orlando, Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares*,* Antonio Viveiros
Also Present: Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Melissa Sousa Business Office

I.   Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee Work Session at 5:04 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 -

<u>**Budget Discussion**</u> -
Dr. Reese received an email from Mr. King today stating that the Town will be working on a monthly budget. The Town will not have an approved budget by June 30. He asked the School Department to present a budget that reflects one month or 1/12 of the budget by May 26, 2020. These figures are to include personnel payroll, one-time payments and other expenses that will occur during the first month of the new fiscal year FY21 for the month of July 2020. Dr. Reese read the letter from Mr. King to the members.

Dr. Reese mentioned there could be additional expenses for safety and a reentry plan once school begins to open again. In addition, costs for summer school whether it be live or remote and students with disabilities or IEP's should also be considered.

Dr. Reese shared numerous cutbacks reducing the budget by $500,000 and also by $700,000.

Dr. Reese will create a document reflecting impacts from the budget cuts and include an overall summary of the number of positions affected in preparation for budget

discussion with the Town. Class size will most certainly be affected. He will send this to the committee tomorrow.

Discussion about asking the WFT Union to possibly forgo salary percentage increases next year, or not adding steps and lanes which would cost the district $530,000. If needed, Dr. Reese can do a letter to open negotiations pertaining to salaries and Attorney McNulty could work on the negotiating process. Early retirement incentives are also a possibility.

A question to ask at the meeting tomorrow. Are all town employees going to participate in the decrease in salary reduction?

Dr. Reese will present the budget impacts at tomorrow's meeting. Approaching the WFT concerning cuts will depend on the outcome of the meeting with the Town.

FY20 Furloughs
Discussion was held on the FY20 furloughs. There has been a concern on TA's positions and roles. Some of the TAs that were furloughed were working with individual students previewing material and reinforcing instruction.

These TA's will be identified and the principals will be consulted as to how much time they were spending with students. Further clarification on how TA's have been assisting students and whether there is a critical need will also be explored. If Principals feel that these individuals are needed, it may be possible to recall them back to work.

Dr. Reese will work with the Principals about staffing and will inform the members about the process they will use.

Custodians 1 Day Schedule
Dr. Reese mentioned an issue with the 1 day a week schedule for the custodians. Some employees want to use the 1 day as a vacation day. This could impact access to the buildings and in some cases leaves a skeleton crew. Dr. Reese will work with Ms. Ouellette on this issue.

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

        Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Stanton Cross   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 5:50 pm.