

**Westport School Committee
Special Meeting
DATE: Thursday, March 26, 2020
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual**

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A sec. 20, the meeting was held via an online Google Hangouts Meeting Join Hangouts Meet at meet.google.com/nkp-wwhi-axt
Meeting ID meet.google.com/nkp-wwhi-axt Phone Numbers (US)+1 929-200-8399 PIN: 171 772 843#

MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Orlando, Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Melissa Pacheco

Also Present: Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent, Melissa Sousa Business Office, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance- Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee Special Meeting at 4:33 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. **Bus Contract Discussion** - Dr. Reese informed everyone the district has 2 main contracts for buses that include Whaling City Transit and Amaral's Bus Company.

Amaral's Bus Company contract was reviewed. Part of the contract states the bus routes can be deleted. The district can increase or decrease bus routes with no cost increase. Dr. Reese referred to pages 33 and 39 termination can be done by giving them 30 days' notice.

Ms. Rapoza mentioned with the notification of removing the routes it was not certain if this was effective immediately or after the 30 days of notification. Ms. Rapoza recommended to reduce the bus routes to zero then later it could be decided to open them up again by going out for an emergency bid. This option is better than canceling the bid.

Ms. Rapoza mentioned there are cost concerns about the current bus contract bidding for the next school year. They moved the bid opening from March 31, 2020 to April 14, 2020 and added language to the addendum. Bids can be dropped off, mailed, or emailed.

Discussion took place on what can be done with the unused bus route funds. Money needs to be turned into the Town if not used and cannot be used for negotiating a savings for the next school year. Transferring the money into another account was mentioned for the purchase of Chromebooks or technology items. Melissa Sousa was consulted about using the money for significant out-of-district placements by pre-paying, however this option cannot be done. A prepayment of \$200,000 for Special Education is already done. Dr. Reese mentioned having a conversation with the Town about the money could be an option.

Other service contracts mentioned were the lease on copy machines and dumpster pickup.

A motion was made to notify Amaral Bus Company Westport Community Schools will be deleting all bus routes to zero, going along with Governor Baker's State of Emergency and the closure of all schools, effective retroactively from March 13, 2020 through May 4, 2020.

Motion Stanton Cross, seconded by Orlando

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Dr. Reese will draft the proposal for Amaral Bus Company and will send it to Nancy Stanton Cross.

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

V. Adjourn to executive session in accordance with MGL 30A:21a (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (WFT Negotiations – MOA). Not to return to open session.

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Orlando

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The Virtual School Committee Special Meeting ended at 4:57 pm.