

**Westport School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2020  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

**Join video call** - [meet.google.com/sqh-skrs-xry](https://meet.google.com/sqh-skrs-xry)  
**Join by phone** +1 224-970-0566 PIN: 430 524 590#

**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

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance-** Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee Special Meeting at 6:44 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 they are finishing the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of remote learning, with everyone working hard. This situation has been challenging for students and staff, everyone's work is appreciated. Regular monitoring will take place with adjustments. Parents are asked to share feedback with teachers, it is helpful to share directly with the schools.

The Commissioner has suspended MCAS and is looking at competency determination as part of the graduation requirement.

The written plan associated with the Student Opportunity Act is now due on May 15, 2020. A plan will be drafted, then will be presented to the school committee.

The district will start the Grab n Go Meals Program again for 2 days a week. A one call will be sent out to promote the program.

EFT Tours has canceled the student's Germany trip that was rescheduled for July 2020. Possibly this trip maybe moved to February 2021.

The school website maybe updated by a company. Dr. Reese presented a sample of a school website that displayed a good fit for Westport.

A 2-minute video recently produced, presented students with positive messages to their teachers saying how they are missed and cared for.

B. Bill Warrant Update: 4-24-20- Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrant for 4.24.20 in the amount of \$119,298.06. Bill warrant was emailed to school committee members for review on April 18, 2020.

C. Subcommittee Updates - Chair Viveiros reported that the School Building Committee met last night. They are beginning to see some of the work slowdown due to the union carpenters not working. Agostini

is doing a great job. Mr. Gilchrist Construction Manager feels the project will be on time by making up work on Saturdays or doing extra hours each day. They also discussed that the subcontractor's supply chains are being slowed down, however everyone is hopeful.

Well testing has concluded with the testing of abutter's wells. They are exploring drilling another well on the campground property. Discussion took place concerning the fields, which depends on the outcome of the wells. They are working on safety measures dealing with COVID19 and working with the Board of Health in their request to monitor worker's temperatures.

#### **IV. Action Agenda**

##### **A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, April 2, 2020 Virtual Meeting -**

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, April 2, 2020 Virtual Meeting.

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

##### **B. Review and Act on Continuation of Remote Learning from Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> until Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and for the Last Day of School to be Determined at a Later Date - Approval is needed to have teachers working next week, previously scheduled as school vacation week.**

A motion was made to continue Remote Learning from Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> until Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and for the Last Day of School to be Determined at a Later Date.

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

##### **C. Review and Act on FY20 Line Item Budget Transfers - Ms. Rapoza went over requests for transfers from the FY20 budget.**

1. Transfer \$29,736 from various line items in Regular Ed. Salaries to various line items in Regular Ed. Expenses.

2. Transfer \$11,802 from various line items in SPED Salaries to various line items in SPED Expenses.

A motion was made to transfer \$29,736 from various line items in Regular Ed. Salaries to various line items in Regular Ed. Expenses and \$11,802 from various line items in SPED Salaries to various line items in SPED Expenses.

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

##### **D. Review and Act on FY21 Budget - Dr. Reese explained the timeline of the budget process. On March 6, 2020 the school committee discussed proposed adjustments and voted on a figure of \$19,340,617. On April 8, 2020, the district was notified by the Town to further reduce the budget and the proposed figure was reduced to \$18,996,102.**

Discussion took place on meeting with the Town and the BOS next week, then a Work Session will be scheduled for the members to review the budget.

##### **E. Review and Act on WJSHS 2020-2021 Program of Studies - Mr. Aho highlighted the FY21 key changes from the Program of Studies. Math and English full year of support, changing AP to 3 quarters, Foreign Language 2 years, and replaced Tech Fluency with Computer Design 101.**

Guidance placed forms into Google Classroom and they are due on April 27 for review, then to build the master schedule by May 1. Mr. Aho recommends getting this process moving in order to get everything aligned and in place. Mr. Aho clarified these offerings reflect what we have now, the current budget does not support more staffing that is needed to offer the new and expanded schedule.

Discussion took place on having the expanded schedule and being able to provide the best educational opportunities to the students of Westport. In addition, staff needs to know if they are going with a schedule change.

Class selections have already gone out to students. Both a 4 by 4 or a 6-period schedule will be looked at when selections come back with student choices.

Mr. Aho has a Program of Studies for the other expanded schedule with the higher budget and will send this schedule to the members for consideration. A meeting will be planned for further discussion on the budget and schedule.

**V. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** - Chair Viveiros reported that he received a call asking about the Grab n Go Food Program.

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

**VII. Additional Agenda Issues** - Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned reading an article about schools after COVID19. Mentioned was having the nurses work on a plan of what re-entry looks like transitioning students back to school for the "new normal", process for taking temperatures in school by purchase of head thermometers and staggering times for student entry.

Bus companies - Ms. Rapoza reported that a group of districts have been able to negotiate contracts by providing resources for businesses to use, for example applying for loans. She will be attending a meeting next week for more information and will be using a similar procedure for contract negotiations. It was mentioned to get figures from Dartmouth and Swansea, towns that are similar to Westport.

Ms. Priestner recommended using the DESE comparison chart when looking at comparable towns.

**VIII. Adjourn to executive session in accordance with MGL 30A:21a (2) to conduct collective bargaining sessions (WFT Arbitration). Not to return to open session.**

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Orlando

5/0/0

The Virtual School Committee Meeting ended at 7:55 pm.

Roll Call vote:

Orlando Yes      Pacheco Yes      Stanton Cross Yes      Tavares Yes      Viveiros Yes

**Meeting Documents**

FY20 Budget Transfers

FY21 Budget

WJSHS 2020-2021 Program of Studies

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*