

**Westport School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
DATE: Thursday, April 2, 2020  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

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 video call – [meet.google.com/xbf-pcoc-eng](https://meet.google.com/xbf-pcoc-eng)

Join by phone – (US) +1 530-421-8798 PIN: 571 122 192#

**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, 49 people were in attendance

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance-** Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee Special Meeting at 6:33 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. Superintendent Report** – Dr. Reese mentioned the Governor extended school closures until May 4. There has been additional guidance in supporting families and students at home. Dr. Reese commends everyone for doing an incredible job, the district has lent out over 100 Chomebooks, making sure they are connecting to families, looking at hot spots and shared this is a continued work in progress. A shift of providing resources and how to make students accountable has taken place with a focus on providing equitable access.

Dr. Reese will be meeting with the teacher's union this week. There have been two video segments called "Week In Reviews", with a third one tomorrow morning that updates the state of the schools.

Chair Viveiros reported Westport is doing a good job in trying to contact families and keeping up with communication between staff and students.

In Dr. Reese's message to families the "Goldilocks Syndrome" was mentioned. Some families will want more, some families will be overwhelmed because it is too much for them, and some families will say it is just the right amount. If families feel that the work is too much, reach out to the guidance staff and teachers for resources to access. During this time, it will be hard to meet everyone's, needs due to different challenges.

**B. Transportation Update** – Ms. Rapoza sent out letters concerning transportation to SC members for review today. A letter from Amaral's Bus Company was received requesting \$107,730 based on 21-22 days, \$342 per day per bus for 15 routes. The district has 14 days to respond to their request. DESE recommends making a fair agreement by negotiating to pay something to help vendors with their overhead costs. Whaling City Transit is looking at 65% monthly. Ms. Rapoza expressed concerns with the transportation bid opening for next year and the possible increase in daily bus rates.

Discussion took place on requesting the number of employees at Whaling City Transit and whether they are going to be a recipient of financial assistance being offered. Members want to be supportive, however knowing actual expenses will help in deciding a fair agreement.

C. Bill Warrant Update: 3-27-20 and 4-10-20 - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrants for 3.27.20 in the amount of \$288,579.90 and bill warrant 4.10.20 in the amount of \$84,020.40. Bill warrants were emailed to school committee members for review

D. Subcommittee Updates - Chair Viveiros reported there have been ongoing construction meetings. Construction continues and is on track and on schedule. A Design Subcommittee Meeting was held and they have been rethinking about bringing back some value management items such as granite curbing, different floor finishes, tile, polished concrete and an outside sign to post messages. They are working on alternative plans to possibly drill a well on the campground property after receiving news from the DEP about their decision about not being able to build on the area around the existing wells. The architect is working on sketches and plans. The School Building Committee meet on 4.1.20. Dr. Reese reported there was a meeting to discuss FF&E (furniture, fixtures and equipment).

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

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Monday, March 16, 2020 Emergency Virtual Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 2020 Virtual Meeting, and Thursday, March 26, 2020 Virtual Meeting -

A motion was made to accept the Minutes of Monday, March 16, 2020 Emergency Virtual Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 2020 Virtual Meeting, and Thursday, March 26, 2020 Virtual Meeting.

Motion by Orlando, seconded by Tavares	3.16.2020	5/0/0
	3.19.2020	5/0/0
	3.26.2020	4/0/1 (Pacheco abstained)

B. Review and Act on the Student Opportunity Act - Dr. Reese announced there has been an extension given for these plans at this time. They will be working on the plan soon.

C. Review and Act on the WCS Internal Control Manual for Federal Grants - Dr. Reese mentioned Melissa Sousa worked on this manual. It needs to be sent to the auditor for approval.

A motion was made to approve the WCS Internal Control Manual for Federal Grants.  
Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Orlando 5/0/0

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** - Chair Viveiros mentioned it has been very busy on the phone and online.

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

VII. **Additional Agenda Issues** - Any issues to add to the next agenda can be forwarded to Chair Viveiros.

VIII. **Adjourn to executive session in accordance with MGL 30A:21a (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with all non-union personnel and (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (AFSCME & WFT Contracts) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. Not to return to open session.**

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Orlando

The Virtual School Committee Meeting ended at 6:56 pm.

Roll Call vote:

Orlando Yes      Pacheco Yes      Stanton Cross Yes      Tavares Yes      Viveiros Yes

#### **Meeting Documents**

WCS Internal Control Manual for Federal Grants

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*