

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Friday, May 15, 2020
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Join video call - meet.google.com/pdh-msks-uxy

Join by phone - +1 513-788-1963 PIN: 911 881 762

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, 51 Public Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee at 5:05 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 -

Ann Pimental Hathaway asked about the process and steps taken for the creation of the position of Assistant Superintendent and how that came to be.

Norman Abrahamson questioned why the position of Assistant Superintendent came about. He asked if plans are in place if there is another closing. Teacher input should be part of the plans.

Melissa Avila mentioned that many staff have questions and concerns about the staff furloughs. Staffing and additional funding are a problem, then a creation of a new position happens.

Katie Roies voiced concern on creating new positions while furloughing workers in the district. She also questioned the posting of the position.

John Alden mentioned having a problem with logging into the virtual session on the computer, he will try again.

Erin Connors asked if there will be plans to train teachers for online learning. She feels that compared to other towns, Westport was not set up to use Google Classroom. She recently spent her own money, (\$60) purchasing things for her classroom to keep students engaged.

Tracy Priestner mentioned after listening to Westport staff, she hopes their questions are answered. She requested the School Committee allow anyone the opportunity to ask their questions at the end of the meeting and to make sure they receive answers.

Chair Viveiros mentioned there is a learning curve and a learning process with remote instruction. From what he has experienced Westport is doing well.

Dr. Reese said more training began at the high school level, going into a remote learning structure there were teachers that did not have training. Staff were told if they have questions reach out to Mr. Elwell for group training based on the suggestions received.

III. Action Agenda

A. Creation of Assistant Superintendent position -

Dr. Reese explained that he recommended this position due to the unforeseen school reentry plans and structure looking different for the upcoming year. In addition, the School Building Project is going into its last year. The Assistant Superintendent will work in these areas and focus on this piece, as well as support the high school as the Principal.

B. Appointment of Thomas Aubin to the position of Assistant Superintendent with such duties to be held in conjunction with his responsibilities as High School Principal - Dr. Reese reported they received 30 applications with 4 candidates interviewed. Mr. Aubin rose to the top with his skills and experience. This position is a dual position at the Administrative level with central office duties, school building responsibilities, and high school Principal duties.

Ms. Tavares gave a timeline of events. The posting for Principal took place, resumes were collected, then COVID 19 happened. During past searches interviews were conducted and feedback was received from previous forums on qualities to look for in a Principal. Interviews were conducted virtually. This candidate was seasoned and unique, having dual certification as a Principal and Superintendent and could bring a lot to the Westport community. This upcoming year dealing with supporting the reentry to school, COVID 19 issues, final phase of the School Building Project, and making sure grades 5 and 6 have a smooth transition additional assistance with all these changes was needed.

Ms. Stanton Cross noted this position is a 1-year contract.

C. Approval of Employment Contract for Assistant Superintendent / Junior-Senior High School Principal -

A motion was made to appoint Thomas Aubin to Assistant Superintendent in conjunction with responsibilities as WJSHS Principal.

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

A motion was made to approve the contract of Thomas Aubin for Assistant Superintendent / WJSHS Principal.

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

Chair Viveiros asked if there were any further questions.

A public member asked where is the money coming for the Assistant Superintendent position? Chair Viveiros stated funds are coming from the budget.

Chair Viveiros clarified that the district is working and moving forward with plans.

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

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco

5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 5:33 pm.