

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, June 4, 2020
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Join video call - meet.google.com/cwj-bfhf-jtd

Join by phone - +1 414-909-7753 (PIN: 545874682)

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Assistant Superintendent / WJSHS Principal, Cheryl Greeson MAC Principal, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, 35 Online Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee at 6:30 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 the last day of school is next Friday June 12th. They are looking at different ways to celebrate in social distancing ways, as well as planning for the summer and fall.

Mr. Aubin announced a committee was formed to review 45 applications, vetted down to 4, for the WJSHS Assistant Principal position vacancy. The position was awarded to Kerri McKinnon who will begin her role on July 1, 2020. Chair Viveiros welcomed Ms. McKinnon who was present this evening, on behalf of the committee.

B. Bill Warrant Update: 6-5-20 - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrant dated 6.5.20 in the amount of \$105,179.45. Bill warrant was emailed to school committee members for review on May 26, 2020.

C. Summer Programming - Dr. Reese reported meeting with the Commissioner this week, there will be more inform coming. The Leadership Team is focusing on a framework for summer planning by providing learning opportunities that are safe and making sure to follow guidance from the state. They will be meeting again on Monday to further discuss the plan. Some costs may be recovered through the CARES Act funds. It looks like the program will be primarily online. Grades will be K-12. Having teachers implement the learning from their own classrooms was discussed.

D. School Reentry Planning - Dr. Reese informed the members that the state will be providing guidance on a structure for school re-entry during the week of June 15th. It could be a combination of remote and in school learning. They are meeting weekly with nurses, and have also been safety planning for staff and students. Members expressed they would like to discuss these issues soon.

E. Special Education Program Restructuring - Dr. Reese met with Elaine Santos and Darren Elwell about student needs, supporting students, and how to enhance the Special Education Program.

Mr. Elwell explained the Language Based Program is a general education model serving students with IEPs and regular education. Action steps for the coming school year is to maintain the upper elementary/ junior high school Reading Specialist position in the FY21 budget for specialized reading instruction service, monitor compliance and be sure best practices are upheld and employed, train grade 4 in the Language Based Model and consider high school transition with a gr. 9 model, offer Professional Development around dyslexia, continue partnership with Landmark School, and look at a comprehensive tiered system of supports.

Ms. Santos informed members that addressing all students in the least restrictive environment is key. For FY 21/22 hire 2 Special Education Teachers, 1 for Elementary and 1 for WJSHS with Orton Gillingham or Wilson training, address IEP roles in ELA for grades 4 and 9, continue partnership with Landmark School, provide dyslexia training and the Language Based Learning Program.

Mr. Elwell stated that what is needed is a shared responsibility and shared accountability. Building leaders and district administration must come together to problem solve and work to share a common vision.

Discussion took place on the importance of keeping students within the district. Mr. Elwell stated the Language Based Program has helped with this by giving intentional instruction in the 4 domains - reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Student schedules will need to be looked at and having a flexible hybrid schedule might help.

F. Technology Purchase Update - Ms. Rapoza reported on the FY20 Technology purchases for the district. These purchases will provide 1:1 Chromebooks for grades 7-12 at the WJSHS. Items bought were a total of 421 Chromebooks, carry bags, licenses for grades 9-12, 135 Chromebooks, carry bags, licenses for grade 8, and 115 Chromebooks, carry bags, licenses for grade 7. In addition, 80 Surface Pro Laptops with docking stations, carry bags, and keyboards were purchased to replace outdated equipment or issue to staff without laptops. Other items procured were hard drives, cables, monitors, thumb drives, hard drive cases, replacement projectors, memory card reader, hard drive dock, 5 smartboards for replacements, powerpack for server room backup and Technology Department workstation. Total cost reached \$234,770 and \$29,854 from the Greater Fall River Grant.

Ms. Stanton Cross expressed how happy she is with these technology purchases. She mentioned the need to relook at the cell phone policy now that students will have Chromebooks. A policy is also needed for the distribution and responsibility of these devices as well as chewing gum.

G. Bus Contract - Ms. Rapoza will be going to review the accounting books for Whaling City Transit. A settlement needs to be done by June 15 to keep within the timeframe of this school year. To date they have not received any documentation after many attempts from Amaral's Bus Company.

H. Subcommittee Updates -

Ms. Stanton Cross reported that she Ms. Orlando and Dr. Reese met with the WFT to discuss budget and contracts. Another meeting is scheduled next week.

Ms. Stanton Cross reported they met with Town officials last week to better understanding the town side and school side of the budget, talks are still underway.

Ms. Stanton Cross informed the members that the Campground Committee appointed a subcommittee to keep informed on the fields and parking area.

Chair Viveiros sent communication to the Chair of the BOS asking for support with the school budget and CIPC funds.

Chair Viveiros reported the School Building Project has been continuing with weekly construction meetings on Tuesdays.

Chair Viveiros informed the members that the SBC held a meeting on June 3, 2020. The brick façade is going up and the project is moving along on schedule. They recently approved some change orders. Construction manager has been doing a good job. There are 85-100 workers on site following state guidelines with COVID19, hand washing stations have been installed and they are taking temperatures every morning.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, May 21, 2020 Virtual Meeting -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, May 21, 2020 Virtual Meeting.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Orlando, all were in favor, motion passed 5/0/0

B. Review and Act on 2020-2021 School Year Calendar – Preschool /Kindergarten Start Date -

Ms. Greeson is requesting to move Preschool/PreK Orientation to September 8/9 with first day for Preschool being moved to September 10, 2020 and the first day of PreK to September 11, 2020. This will allow completion of Kindergarten screening that typically takes place in Spring, postponed this year due to school closure. This change will provide savings due to substitutes not being needed. This delay will allow kindergarten teachers to assess each incoming kindergarten student, review data, develop equitable class lists, and notify parents.

A motion was made to allow changes in the calendar for the 2020-2021 Preschool /Kindergarten Start Date.

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

C. Review and Act on Timeline for Immunizations and Physicals for 2020-2021 School Year - Dr.

Reese reported that nurse leaders have consulted with the school physician about having the flexibility to complete immunizations and physical exams by October 15, 2020. This is not a policy change, just a procedure change.

A motion was made to approve the change in procedure on the Timeline for Immunizations and Physicals for the 2020-2021 School Year.

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

V. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices - There were none.

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

VII. Additional Agenda Issues - Staying on top of the campground issues and keeping schools involved with discussions on the future of the sports fields was noted as being very important.

Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned working on a Chromebook policy for distribution and responsibility. Revisit the cell phone policy.

VIII. Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn. 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 School Committee Virtual meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Meeting Documents

SY20 Technology Purchases
SY2020-2021 School Year Calendar – Preschool /Kindergarten Start Date
Physical Exam and Immunization Deadline Extension for 2020-2021 School Year

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary