

**Westport School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
DATE: Thursday, May 21, 2020  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Join video call - [meet.google.com/ehp-dgxe-vrz](https://meet.google.com/ehp-dgxe-vrz)

Join by phone - +1 661-527-2995 PIN: 468 747 724

**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, Melissa Sousa Business Office, 22 Online Participants

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee at 6:32 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 provided some updates. The district continues with remote learning, everyone is settling in, and teachers are transitioning into deeper learning. Ms. Archambault developed a schedule for seniors. They received notification from the state that it is ok for an outside graduation in August following specific guidelines. Last week the school committee approved Thomas Aubin as the Assistant Superintendent/WJSHS Principal. Interviews will take place this week for the Assistant Principal position.

**B. Bill Warrant Update: 5-22-20** - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrant dated 5.22.20 in the amount of \$173,051.41. Bill warrant was emailed to school committee members for review on May 11, 2020.

**C. FY20 Purchases** - Dr. Reese informed members they are looking at savings of \$540,000 from this year's budget. Some of the purchases include prepaying SPED tuition, Special Education supplies, summer school supplies, COVID19 supplies, disinfectant sprayers, sanitary product dispensers for bathrooms, athletic uniforms and the one to one chrome book initiative. New guideline measures are coming and what it will look like for next year is uncertain at this time.

Ms. Stanton Cross requested a line by line breakdown of technology purchases.

D. FY20 Transportation Negotiations Update – Ms. Rapoza reported they have continued to meet with Amaral’s Bus Company. Ms. Rapoza suggests to meet again privately and include a school committee member, Dr. Reese, owner of Amaral’s, both parties’ attorneys and herself to discuss a fair negotiation. Amaral’s Bus still has not provided any financial documentation as requested from the district. Ms. Rapoza will share a Google Doc showing company settlements from other districts to the members. Ms. Rapoza will contact Attorney Coleman to discuss the possibility of binding mediation.

E. Subcommittee Updates- Chair Viveiros reported the School Building Committee and Design Subcommittee meetings were rescheduled to next week. School Building Project continues on schedule, fully staffed, wearing masks, regular temperature checks, and security on site in the evening. They are experiencing quality of work, especially with masonry, roofing nearly complete, exterior vapor barrier installed, utilities, mechanical and electrical work being worked on. A total of \$26.5 million has been submitted to the MSBA.

Dr. Reese reported there was a meeting with the Town including Ms. Stanton Cross and Ms. Orlando to discuss the budget, Chapter 70, and state and federal funding. Discussions will continue.

Ms. Stanton Cross acknowledged and thanked school committee members and staff. All are working very hard with numerous virtual meetings and countless hours spent.

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

##### **A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, May 7, 2020 Virtual Meeting, Monday, May 11, 2020 Virtual Work Session, and Friday, May 15, 2020 Virtual Meeting -**

A motion was made to approve Minutes of Thursday, May 7, 2020 Virtual Meeting, Monday, May 11, 2020 Virtual Work Session, and Friday, May 15, 2020 Virtual Meeting.

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

B. Review and Act on FY21 1/12th Budget - Dr. Reese explained they received communication from Town Administrator Timothy King that by July 1 the Town would not have an approved budget. The Town directed the School Department to develop a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget. To calculate anticipated spending, last year’s warrants were reviewed. It was noted you cannot take the July 2020 figure and multiply it by 12 months, due to some months being higher than others. Melissa Sousa verified that they also consulted with the Town in the process.

A motion was made to approve the FY21 1/12<sup>th</sup> School Budget for July 2020 in the amount of \$450,000.

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

C. Review and Act on 185 Day Waiver Request to DESE - Dr. Reese mentioned at the end of April the Commissioner directed schools to be in session through whenever they reached 185 days. A reduction in that number could occur if work was done during the vacation period or if remote learning was in place on the first day of closure. Applying to request a waiver is being presented, due to staff working on that first day of COVID19 and on the vacation.

A motion was made to approve sending a letter to DESE requesting a 185 Day Waiver.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Stanton Cross 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** - Chair Viveiros informed members if an item for discussion comes up, just let him know and it will be placed on the upcoming agenda.

**VIII. Adjourn** - A motion was made to adjourn. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Orlando

5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes      Pacheco Yes      Stanton Cross Yes      Tavares Yes      Viveiros Yes

The School Committee Virtual meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

**Meeting Documents**

FY21 1/12 School Budget

185 Day Waiver Request to DESE

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*