

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, June 18, 2020
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting**

Join video call

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84973865853?pwd=Z096SXEzeDVOR0t3djlwZDlDTHVlUT09>

Meeting ID: 849 7386 5853

Password: 5dNQEE

Join by phone

(646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 849 7386 5853

Password: 771794

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Assistant Superintendent / WJSHS Principal, Jennifer Chaves Extended Day Director, Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, Melissa Sousa Executive Assistant for Business Services, 44 Public Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Viveiros opened the Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:34 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 - Dr. Reese explained to keep the public comments and statement organized, anyone wanting to speak should type their name into the group chat so he can acknowledge each person in order.

Chair Viveiros read a brief statement on how SC members have asked for what is needed and fought for the school budget in order to make students successful. As of today, the school budget is proposed at \$1.1 million dollars lower than the figure originally voted on by the SC members. Countless hours have been spent on the budget. They are still negotiating for the best results and doing everything to try and minimize staffing cuts.

There were no comments and statements from the public at this time.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Superintendent Report – Dr. Reese reported the remote summer school programming will be robust this year by offering this opportunity to a greater number of students. Special Education is a part of this as well.

Guidance from DESE on fall re-entry has not been received yet. On the last call from the Commissioner no one is to move forward with plans until guidance is issued. On Tuesday, the Re-entry Subcommittee of more than 50 people attended a meeting. This subcommittee consists of parents, teachers, TAs, and administrators that represent a good range of individuals. Ms. Pacheco will also be a part of this subcommittee. Topics discussed were transportation, lunch program instruction, student and staff safety. The Re-entry Committee will meet every other week. Dr. Reese will keep members updated on their progress.

Dr. Reese shared information on the following 3 grant applications:

- FY21 CARES Act - Elementary and Secondary Education Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) - This grant is associated with the CARES Act for costs associated with the pandemic. Based on Title I allocation from FY19. The Leadership Team is identifying needed safety material.
- Early Literacy Grant will provide Professional Development opportunities to develop staff competencies associated with reading and language issues. Mr. Elwell and Ms. Greeson are working on this grant.
- Summer/Vacation learning program grant for learning remediation and support. This week a statement of interest was submitted, then an RFP will be done with more details. Mr. Elwell and Mr. Aubin are working on this grant.

Discussion on the remote summer school program took place. There will be instruction on learning gaps incurred from the time students were not in school. Teachers will be leading group sizes of 6-8 students. There will be safe entry and cleaning so teachers can use their rooms. Costs will be coming from CARES Act funds. Ms. Stanton Cross would like to know how many teachers and TAs will participate in summer school. Dr. Reese send out a survey to families and is waiting for feedback.

B. Bill Warrant Update: 6-19-20 - Chair Viveiros acknowledged reviewing and signing the bill warrant dated 6.19.20 in the amount of \$90,117.96. Bill warrant was emailed to school committee members for review on June 9, 2020.

C. Discussion of Extended Day Program - During a Work Session last week Ms. Chaves shared all the program details with the members. The district attorney drafted a document for families to sign off. This was sent to committee members today. Ms. Chaves spoke to each family concerning the protocols and reported the families are very thankful. Two children did drop out. Ms. Chaves mentioned the state gave an additional incentive by matching up to a full rate for voucher students. The Board of Health gave additional feedback. Ms. Chaves also reported that over 200 facilities submitted their intent to open in July according to the district manager of school-based programs in the state and islands.

Dr. Reese clarified that the Extended Day Program is being offered because the numbers are low and the protocols can be managed. The summer school program could not accommodate the higher numbers of students and maintain the guidelines, so this will be offered remotely.

D. Discussion to Encumber Transportation Funds due to Transportation Negotiations Not Settled in FY20 - A meeting was held this morning with Chair Viveiros, Dr. Reese, Ms. Rapoza and Attorney Coleman to discuss transportation payment issues. The attorney had been in discussions with the 2 companies to try and expedite the process. Talks have been ongoing for several months to try to negotiate a fair settlement.

E. Discussion of the Hover Camera in the Classroom for Virtual Learning - Dr. Reese shared that a strategy being looked at for fall is the use of hover cameras in the classrooms to be able to provide a live feed sent to student's homes for remote instruction as well as in class instruction. They are exploring pricing and logistics.

F. Subcommittee Updates -

School Building Committee - Chair Viveiros reported that work continues. At the last meeting they showed a drone video. Sheetrock and interior walls are being worked on. Daily 80-100 workers are on site.

Policy Subcommittee - Ms. Pacheco reported she will be scheduling a meeting to address policies.

Town/School Budget Meetings - Ms. Orlando and Ms. Stanton Cross have been meeting with the town. The budget is being cut by \$1.1 million dollars for FY21. The Town and BOS is willing to work with the school and is asking to be creative with the budget. The state will be experiencing a reduction in revenues of around 10-20%. The school is negotiating with the WFT for a fair offer under the circumstances and is

also looking at administration furloughs. There will be a FinCom meeting on June 23rd. The school budget will be presented.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Monday, June 1, 2020 Virtual Work Session, Thursday, June 4, 2020 Virtual Meeting, Monday, June 8, 2020 Virtual Work Session, Thursday, June 11, 2020 Virtual Work Session -

A motion was made to accept Minutes of Monday, June 1, 2020 Virtual Work Session, Thursday, June 4, 2020 Virtual Meeting, Monday, June 8, 2020 Virtual Work Session, and Thursday, June 11, 2020 Virtual Work Session.

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

B. Review and Act on the Acceptance of the 2020-2021 School Lunch Bids/Quotes - Ms. Rapoza reviewed the quotes for the 2020-2021 School Lunch Bids and is requesting approval for R&R Services for Kitchen Refrigeration Services, American Commercial Appliance, Inc. for Kitchen Equipment Services, Mello's North End Mtg., Inc. for Chourico and Hot Pepper Products, Falvey Linen Supply for Linen Services, and Domino's Pizza for Pizza Products.

A motion was made to approve the list of vendors as presented for 2020-2021.

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

C. Review and Act on Payment to Whaling City Transit - Still under negotiations at this time.

D. Review and Act on FY21 School District Budget - Dr. Reese reported that he, Ms. Stanton-Cross, Ms. Orlando, Mr. Aubin, Ms. Rapoza, and Ms. Sousa have been meeting in a work session with town officials to discuss challenges associated with any reductions to the school budget. It was suggested that the school department reduce the FY21 by another \$340,000 below the current fiscal year's budget, bringing the figure to \$18,441,131.

A motion was made to move forward with the FY21 School District Budget in the amount of \$18,441,131.

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

V. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices - Nothing new at this time.

VI. Comments and Statements from the Public - Ms. Stanton Cross asked Mr. Aubin how he is doing. Mr. Aubin responded that it is great to be a part of Westport Community Schools. He has contacted DESE about a grant submission, working with Assistant Principals about graduation issues, as well as planning scenarios A, B, and C concerning COVID19.

VII. Additional Agenda Issues - If anyone has items, forward them to Chair Viveiros for the next meeting.

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 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 7:30 pm.

Meeting Documents

Hover Camera in the Classroom for Virtual Learning
Acceptance of the 2020-2021 School Lunch Bids/Quotes
FY21 School District Budget

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary