

Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, October 3, 2019
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Jr./Sr. High School Media Center

MINUTES

Members Present: Melissa Pacheco, Michelle Orlando, Nancy Tavares (*arrived at 6:55 pm.*), Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Nancy Stanton Cross

Also Present: Michelle Rapoza, School Business Manager

Special Guests and Presenters: Mark Allen Student Representative, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Nancy Tripp, Language Based Program, Anthony Tomah Director of Instructional Technology

I. Call to Order - A quorum being present, Chair Viveiros called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Notice of Recording of Meeting (M.G.L. 30A:20f) - Chair Viveiros announced the meeting was being recorded. **Comments and Statements from the Public** – There were none.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representatives' Report – Mark Allen reported that the sports teams are going very well, student government will start October 8, there is an organizational meeting tomorrow that he will attend.

B. Superintendent Report – Chair Viveiros reported the following items for Dr. Reese.

Uniform survey results added the student survey. Out of a total of 625 respondents 82.1% of the students did not want uniforms, 11.2% responded yes to uniforms, and 6.7 % had no commitment. Comments from students were also compiled for review.

Attendance report and substitute coverage for the month of September was submitted to the committee.

Culture and climate work - Mrs. Rapoza informed the committee that Mr. Elwell is having leadership team meetings with discussions on climate and culture. Administrators can use this topic for their smart goals.

Staff cell phone policy information was provided with policy examples.

Anthony Tomah Director of Instructional Technology came to the microphone to give an update on Chromebooks. Provided to the committee is a mock breakdown of costs starting with 7th grade in 2020 and using a 3-yr. lease agreement. In addition, a fee of \$30 per Chromebook for a license to get onto the google platform and \$25 for a case was included. Other considerations include upgrading the network infrastructure and staffing. When Mr. Tomah researched buying Chromebooks outright versus leasing his numbers were nearly identical, ranging between \$250 - \$270 per device.

(Ms. Tavares arrived here at 6:55 pm.)

Discussion was held on what grade would be targeted for this gradual implementation model. Mr. Tomah suggested a 3-4-month leeway in order to provide appropriate PD.

Central office future location plan was discussed with 6 options presented. Under option 5 it was noted that 2,500 square feet is a very low estimate for 8 offices.

C. Bill Warrant Update 9-27-19 – Chair Viveiros reviewed and signed the bill warrant for 9.27.19 in the amount of \$153,782.33. All members received the bill warrant for review.

D. Language-Based Program – Nancy Tripp and Darren Elwell were invited to the table. Mr. Elwell began by highlighting the language-based program as unique and distinct to the Westport school district. The program has been in existence for 10 years. The philosophy behind the program is specialized instruction for language-based disabilities.

Ms. Tripp informed members that students were having to attend outside programs and the district had an IEP increase of 5-20%. In 2008, the language-based program began in grades 7,8,9 as a general education model. The program has expanded to grades 5 and 6 with the hopes of expanding it further to grades 3 and 4. Ms. Tripp advocates for the program by introducing new teachers and veteran teachers to the program model. Soon the law will be modifying Pre-K screening assessments to identify dyslexia in students earlier. Ms. Tripp explained that no formal testing is done to identify students, however multiple data points are used including hand written writing samples as well as referrals from teachers. Mr. Elwell invited SC members to a training being held next Tuesday with Ann Larson.

E. Curriculum Update – Mr. Elwell gave an overview from his Office of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Fall Updates news dated October 3, 2019. Two instructional coach positions, one for ELA and one for Math were added as Title I intervention to support student’s tier 1 instruction. They will also serve in facilitating data meetings, model classroom lessons, and provide curricular resources. Under the district accountability an Annual Overview was conducted on September 9, Proposed SMART Goals on October 1 and Evaluator Consultations on October 5. Funding allocations were reviewed for Title I, II, and IV. Under STEM programs, ST Math game platform for K-2 will expand to grades 3-4. Project Lead the Way will include a new Cybersecurity course. Curriculum frameworks update was given, as well as a timeline for Professional Development for the SY2019-2020.

F. School Building Committee Update- Chair Viveiros announced that a Groundbreaking Ceremony on the middle school site will take place at 9:30 am. on October 8. Temporary fencing is up and earth moving activity is happening.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, September 19, 2019 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, September 19, 2019.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Orlando 4/0/0

B. Review and Act on JICJ Policy – Student Cell Phone and Electronic Devices – It was noted that this policy does not include staff. Discussion was held on a having a separate cell phone policy for staff.

A motion was made to approve Policy JICJ – Student Cell Phone and Electronic Devices.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Orlando 4/0/0

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** – Chair Viveiros reported receiving a copy of the *American School Board Journal* and noted an article on employability skills.

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

VII. **Additional Agenda Issues** – Schedule a Policy Subcommittee meeting. Revisit curriculum at SC meetings on a rotating schedule.

VIII. **Adjourn** - A motion was made to **Adjourn to executive session in accordance with MGL 30A:21a (2) to conduct collective bargaining session (WFT Grievance). Not to return to open session.**

With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Tavares 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The School Committee meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:56 pm.

Meeting Documents

Language-Based Program

Curriculum Update

JICJ Policy – Student Cell Phone and Electronic Devices, Approval

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary