

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, October 17, 2018
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Jr./Sr. High School Media Center**

MINUTES

Members Present: Mark Carney, Margot DesJardins (*arrived at 6:35 pm.*), Nancy Rioux, Nancy Stanton Cross, Antonio Viveiros.

Also Present: Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent.

Special Guests and Presenters: Cabot Priestner, Student Representative, Darren Elwell, Director of Curriculum.

I. Call to Order - A quorum being present, Chair Viveiros called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Notice of Recording of Meeting (M.G.L. 30A:20f) Comments and Statements from the Public – There were none.

III. Informational Agenda

I. Student Representatives' Report – Melena Rodrigues & Cabot Priestner – Today just Cabot Priestner was in attendance. Cabot announced the youth engagement talk with Parkland survivors at UMass Dartmouth is tonight, colleges are visiting with many students attending and making up class time, students are preparing for early admissions, Haunted Hallways will take place on October 30 from 6-8 pm. for young trick or treaters, last Friday there was a Dig Pink breast cancer fundraiser/volleyball game against Diman with high attendance and high energy, 4 seniors went to Wentworth Poly-Technical Institute to compete in the WPI Math Meet with one student receiving a \$1,000 scholarship to the college, a cookie and soup fundraiser is taking place to fund the 8th grade field trip to DC and prom, Homecoming is at Rachel's on November 9 tickets are \$35 each.

(Ms. DesJardins arrived here at 6:35 pm.)

Chair Viveiros announced that the school committee will now go into Executive Session.

Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. 30A:21 a (4) to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto and return to open session.

A motion was made to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:35 pm.

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Carney

5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Carney	Yes	DesJardins	Yes	Rioux	Yes	Stanton Cross	Yes	Viveiros	Yes
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Chair Viveiros resumed the regular School Committee meeting at 6:49 pm.

B. Superintendent Report – G. Reese – Dr. Reese announced that they are still looking to fill some positions. He reached out to the superintendents' association to send a reminder courtesy notification.

Work is being done at the Jr./Sr. HS with the exploratory schedule. Proposed staffing changes are being reviewed. Dr. Reese mentioned they may have a solution for the MAC water issue. Costs for equipment from Blake will be updated at the next meeting as well as verifying equipment needs with Mr. Duarte.

C. MCAS Presentation – D. Elwell – Mr. Elwell gave an update on how DESE measures schools with the new accountability indicators and formulas. As one of the measures, schools are judged by MCAS scores and placed into categories. Mr. Elwell reported there are many healthy indicators in this district. He went over all the grades that take the tests and reviewed their MCAS achievement levels. Addressed were general trends in comparison to the state, where the district was above the state average by a few points in some areas. With the overall district accountability status, Westport is in between the meeting targets and partially meeting targets. This means the district does not need support or require assistance or intervention at this time.

Finally, Mr. Elwell reported the steps to addressing the challenges. First will be a focus on assessment, standards and alignment of the curriculum with a comprehensive curriculum review. Second implement open response writing at all grades. Third mathematical fluency and problem solving. Fourth increase rigor beginning with general academic vocabulary.

D. April 2019 China Trip Update – Beijing, Xian and Shanghai – R. Monast – Mr. Monast International Exchange Club Advisor gave an update on the China trip enrollment and community fundraising events. There are 18 students participating which is the largest number since 2013.

E. Business Manager Report - FY19 Quarterly Budget Review (Sept. 30th) - Dr. Reese presented the summary of expenditures for first quarter FY18/19 for Mrs. Rapoza. He asked that any questions be deferred to the next meeting.

F. Capital Improvement Update – Chair Viveiros reviewed the FY20 list of capital improvements priority list with the grand total of \$480,739,00. A statement of interest request from the Massachusetts School Building Authority will be made in the amount of \$1,250,000,00 for Elementary School roof replacement. There was a CIPC meeting as well as a District Reuse Committee meeting.

G. School Building Committee Update – Chair Viveiros announced there will be an SBC meeting tomorrow October 18 at 6 pm. and everyone is welcomed. The abatement contractors are beginning and items are on track.

H. Campground Subcommittee Update – Ms. Stanton Cross representative for the SC reported meeting twice. They will walk the land Friday October 19 at 2:15 pm. The committee is looking at the highest use of the land (approximately 30 acres) with additional areas of access and safety being addressed. The community has been very positive about this land. The general consensus is to be forward thinkers on where the school district will be in 5-10 years from now. This could be a secondary water source if needed. Title search will be done to determine the fair market value with possible town purchase for school use.

I. Review and Discuss School Dress Codes/ Uniforms - Ms. Stanton Cross is looking for guidance from Dr. Reese on the issue of school uniforms for grades K-8 only. Ms. Stanton Cross believes uniforms provide a sense of community and from a parental standpoint will be able to distinguish the older kids. Pros and cons were discussed. Some pros are uniforms introduce life skills by putting on appropriate dress and fosters a sense of respect. Some cons are uniforms hinder freedom of expression and constitutional rights.

Dr. Reese will talk to other districts to see how they are facing any challenges with school uniforms and will solicit student leaders beginning with Cabot and Melena for help as well as school counsel and parent support. More research will be done.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Policies

1. JJF – Student Activities Accounts
2. JJH-R - Student Travel Regulations
3. IJOA – Field Trips

A motion was made to approve all three policies JJF Student Activities Accounts, JJH-R Student Travel Regulations and IJOA Field Trips.

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Stanton Cross, all were in favor, motion passed 5/0/0
Policies will be submitted to MASC and updated online.

B. Review and Act on the WJRHS Field Trip – Gr. 8 – Washington DC – May 29, 2019 to June 1, 2019 -

A motion was made to approve the WJRHS Field Trip for Gr. 8 to Washington DC from May 29, 2019 to June 1, 2019.

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Carney, all were in favor, motion passed 5/0/0

C. Review and Act on WEF Grant: \$3,195 for the Destination Imagination Program at the Westport Elementary School -

A motion was made to approve the WEF Grant totaling \$3,195 for the Destination Imagination Program at the Westport Elementary School.

Motion by Carney, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/1 (Rioux abstained)

D. Review and Act on MASC Resolutions – Mrs. Rioux will serve as the School Committee Delegate for Westport Community Schools and will cast a vote on the MASC resolution in behalf of Westport.

A motion was made to approve the MASC resolutions on file as part of the review and act provision of the agenda.
Motion by Stanton Cross, there was no second

Mrs. Rioux asked SC members for their opinions on the MASC resolutions.

1. Rejecting Arming of Educators - SC members agree teachers should not be armed.
2. Small and Rural Districts – SC members support this.
3. Eliminate the Department of Education – MASC department should remain separate and not merge, SC members support this.
4. Regional School Transportation - does not apply
5. Reporting and Accountability Standards - accountability standards for home schools and charter schools should be held accountable like public schools with the same standards. SC members all agree.
6. Reproductive Health Education – MASC is opposed on just abstinence only education and wants evidence based reproductive curriculum as well. Students should be informed of all options. Ms. Rioux will ask for clarification.
7. Gender Identity Inclusive Athletic Participation Policy – MASC is in favor of providing these resources. Mrs. Rioux will listen to both sides and procedure accordingly.
8. Sports Wagering - SC members were divided on this topic. Mrs. Rioux will listen to both sides of the topic.
9. Access to Information for Parents/Students who are clients of Special Education – Changing the timeframe of information to be provided 5 days before a meeting and send by email, including the IEP is being proposed. Discussion was held on the timeframe for the translation of documents in the parents preferred language and writing the evaluation. The ability for schools to meet the timeline may be challenging and may result in further complications.

All SC members approved going forward with having Mrs. Rioux carry out the resolutions as discussed and to act as she deems appropriate on the resolutions.

E. Review and Act on Superintendent's Goals –

A motion was made to accept Dr. Reese's Educator Plan.

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

F. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, September 19, 2018 –

A motion was made to accept the Minutes of Wednesday, September 19, 2018.

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Carney 5/0/0

V. Routine Matters –

Correspondence and Notices- Chair Viveiros mentioned how we open public meetings and start the school day with the Pledge of Allegiance. This started in 1892, in 1942 the pledge was adopted by congress, and in 1954 "under god" words were added. He mentioned saluting the flag is for military veterans in uniform and also veterans not in uniform can salute the flag. Chair Viveiros informed everyone that the Pledge of Allegiance and saluting the flag are 2 very distinct things to do.

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

VII. Additional Agenda Issues - Budget Discussion – Dr. Reese informed everyone that a leadership team meeting will take place on the first week of November. Goals and expenses will be discussed as well as where the district will be headed.

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

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Stanton-Cross 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Carney Yes DesJardins Yes Rioux Yes Stanton Cross Yes Viveiros Yes

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Meeting documents –

Policies JJF Student Activities Accounts, JJH-R Student Travel Regulations, IJOA Field Trips
WJRHS Field Trip – Gr. 8 Washington DC – May 29, 2019 to June 1, 2019
WEF Grant: \$3,195 for the Destination Imagination Program at the Westport Elementary School
MASC Resolutions
Superintendent's Goals
Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary

