

Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, November 14, 2018
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Jr./Sr. High School Media Center

MINUTES

Members Present: Mark Carney, Nancy Rioux, Nancy Stanton Cross, Antonio Viveiros.

Absent: Margot DesJardins.

Also Present: Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent, Michelle Rapoza, School Business Manager.

Special Guests and Presenters: Melena Rodrigues and Cabot Priestner, Student Representatives, Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients, Mitchel Aho Principal of Westport Jr./Sr. HS.

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

A. Acknowledgement of Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients – Chair Viveiros announced it was time to acknowledge and congratulate the seniors receiving the Abigail Adams Scholarship. This group of seniors excelled in their performance and represents the top 25% of the students. The scholarship gives a financial benefit for a state school with tuition reimbursement. Dr. Reese called the names of the recipients and Mrs. Ruel Guidance Counselor handed out letters to the students.

B. Student Representatives' Report – Melena Rodrigues & Cabot Priestner – Melena announced that seniors are submitting college applications, HS Drama Club production of Mama Mia will be March 15, 16, and 17 with rehearsal November 26, auditions for the Talent Show will be on November 20, Parent/Teacher conferences were held on 11/13 with another on 11/15 report cards were distributed, Curry College is visiting this week, 7th and 8th grade Glow Night Dance is 11/16, ½ day of school on Wednesday 11/21, and armed service aptitude battery will be offered by the military on 11/21.

Cabot announced that Homecoming was last Friday with a good turnout, varsity volleyball team made it to the finals, girls freshman volleyball team is undefeated, open court for basketball is starting soon, seniors organized a food drive for the Nazarene Church food pantry, an industry tour of the Joseph Abboud Factory will be November 30, a tour of MTTI will be on 11/28, and congratulations to Ms. Charette for twins born on 11/13.

C. Superintendent Report – G. Reese – Dr. Reese gave a quick update on staffing. As of Tuesday, a full administration team is in place. A welcome was given to the new Dean of Students Bryan Oliveira. School psychologist and teacher of the visually impaired are still needed. On November 6, Mr. Elwell put together a comprehensive Profession Development Day. On the MAC water issue, Mr. Duarte met with a representative from the company to discuss various solutions. Dr. Reese attended a superintendent and school committee conference last week participating in several workshops. One workshop was on involving the community with understanding school budgets and another was on legal services.

D. Coordinated Program Review Update – Dr. Reese explained that the district submitted a corrective action plan and 2 out of the 7 findings have already been approved. For the other 5, periodic monitoring was set up to get up to compliance. November 30 is the next date to review the progress.

E. FY20 Budget Timeline – School Business Manager Mrs. Rapoza reported that the budget timeline is moving along quicker compared to the last few years. Starting earlier is better for getting a handle on the budget and helps to be more prepared for town meeting and to be able to speak on cuts.

Discussion took place about engaging the community in the budget process so they can speak at town meeting on issues. Dr. Reese shared that part of his goals involve doing an activity with the community to educate them on the school budget process. He would also like to include students.

Ms. Stanton Cross shared at the conference she attended it was noted that the SC should post a meeting the same day as the town meeting so the SC can take up action agenda items in a timely matter with a quorum present.

F. School Building Committee Update – Chair Viveiros announced there will be an SBC meeting tomorrow at 6 pm. Dr. Reese is looking at the 60% documents phase concerning the administration offices, guidance staff, additional drawings, library, and the mobility of library bookshelves. They are at the 60% phase now, then will move to the 90% phase. Discussions are taking place before the architect has completed the final plans. Chair Viveiros reported the contractor is starting to remediate the middle school.

1. Campground Site Update – Ms. Stanton Cross gave an update. The Campground Subcommittee met 2 weeks ago to discuss the potential purchase of the campground by the town. Offers made on the property include a professional campground, solar farm, and a developer. On December 4, the BOS will hold a special town meeting. An action item for town to approve the campground purchase was submitted. The BOS is not comfortable with an appraisal not completed and wants suggestions given to determine a funding source. SC members agree that this property would be beneficial to the school district and timing is important. Chair Viveiros mentioned that the Town Reuse Committee suggested the town demolish the old police station. The school will still need the fields behind the high school. Purchasing the campground property would eliminate this option. Spending funds on bussing students may cover cost of the campground.

G. Policies - First Read -

1. Policy ACAB – Sexual Harassment – Dr. Reese explained the policy needs to identify who will be the investigator. The policy will be updated by removing the name DeFusco and adding Mrs. Santos as the sole identified investigator.

A motion was made to have Mrs. Santos be the sole investigator of the Sexual Harassment Policy ACAB.

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

2. Policy KF – Community Use of School Facilities and Revised Form – Dr. Reese mentioned that Ms. Ouellette and Mrs. Rapoza revised the policy by updating the fee schedule, process for approval, and provide language to request a waiver. Discussion took place and SC members made suggestions for edits that include parks and playgrounds should be called town recreation and not to focus on only allowing non-profit community use, but to expand to groups willing to pay for use as long as it was appropriate. This policy will be looked into further.

H. Discussion of Building Use Request from Westport Town Basketball League – This was placed on hold.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Campground Acquisition / Purchase – Chair Viveiros would like a formal request to the Board of Selectmen to acquire the campground property. It needs to be on the ballot for the April 2019 election to have the town be able to vote on it.

A motion was made to send the BOS a letter of support to purchase the campground for school and recreational use.

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

B. Review and Act on WEF Grant: \$2520 for the WES Drama Club – High School Musical Junior -

A motion was made to accept the WEF Grant of \$2520 for the WES Drama Club High School Musical Junior.

Motion by Carney, seconded by Stanton Cross 3/0/1 (Rioux abstained)

C. Review and Act on Mass Cultural Council Grant: \$250 for the JRSRHS Big Yellow School Bus –

A motion was made to accept the Mass Cultural Council Grant of \$250 for the JRSRHS Big Yellow School Bus.

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

D. Review and Act on Student Activity Account and WES School Store Account – Dr. Reese explained that WES would like to start a school store run by the student council. Funds raised will be used to promote the WES PBIS intervention program and the account will not exceed \$5,000. Ms. Rapoza noted food cannot be sold in the school store.

A motion was made to approve establishing a Student Activity Account for the WES to manage funds from the school store with funds not to exceed \$5,000.

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Carney 4/0/0

E. Review and Act on Naming of the New School – Chair Viveiros mentioned that a new HS is being built and right now the name is referred to as Jr./Sr. HS. A sign will be placed at the construction site and it needs to display the correct name for the new school. Discussion took place on the name with the final decision being:

Westport Middle - High School

WMHS for the abbreviation

A motion was made to name the new school Westport Middle - High School, with WMHS for the abbreviation.
Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Rioux 4/0/0

F. Review and Act on WJRSRHS Draft Handbook (Separate Cover) – Mr. Aho – Chair Viveiros noted that the handbook gets approved every year by the SC.

Mr. Aho explained that he went through the school council, students, and faculty council, to make sure the Assistant Principals had clear guidelines for discipline. An approach to progressive discipline was used with the addition of Saturday school. Before the handbook was very ambiguous. SC members reviewed the handbook and made the following comments; pleased it is clear, glad to see restorative justice, unexcused absences for family vacations and not being able to make up the work may be a problem, under athletics fees add family cap, cell phone registration and restriction, check charts on page 24 and 25, add a sentence about challenging courses make you a much better person, not just a big financial reward.

Mr. Aho believes that students should not be penalized for adult decisions, so the faculty may look at unexcused absences again. Dr. Reese noted under the new accountability system DESE counts absences. Mr. Aho will be reviewing the handbook with students after the Thanksgiving break.

A motion was made to approve the updates on the WJRSRHS handbook for the 2018-2019 school year as presented.

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

G. Review and Act on Revised 2018-2019 School Calendar – In the last contract two additional half days were added on January 22 and June 12. Professional development on January 22 will be with Polly Bath on social emotional learning and on June 12 district wide curriculum development.

A motion was made to approve the revised 2018-2019 School Calendar.

Motion by to Rioux, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

H. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, October 17, 2018 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

Chair Viveiros reminded SC members to be sure the recording secretary understands the way your vote is cast for the record.

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** – Chair Viveiros announced there were none.

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

VII. **Additional Agenda Issues - Budget Discussion** – Dr. Reese requested to have the SC items placed on the December 12 meeting and not schedule the November 28 meeting due to holiday week, SC members agreed.

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 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Carney Yes Rioux Yes Stanton Cross Yes Viveiros Yes

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Meeting documents –

First Read - Policy ACAB - Sexual Harassment, Policy KF - Community Use of School Facilities and Revised Form Campground Acquisition / Purchase

WEF Grant: \$2520 for the WES Drama Club – High School Musical Junior

Mass Cultural Council Grant: \$250 for the JRSRHS Big Yellow School Bus

Student Activity Account and WES School Store Account

Naming of the New School

WJRSRHS Draft Handbook 2018-2019

Revised 2018-2019 School Calendar

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary

