

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, January 9, 2019
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Jr./Sr. High School Media Center**

MINUTES

Members Present: Margot DesJardins, Nancy Rioux, Nancy Stanton Cross, Antonio Viveiros.

Absent: Mark Carney

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

Special Guests and Presenters: Melena Rodrigues and Cabot Priestner, Student Representatives.

I. Call to Order - A quorum being present, Chair Viveiros called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. Student Representatives' Report – Melena Rodrigues & Cabot Priestner - Melena Rodrigues announced that semester 1 is ending and semester 2 will start soon, AP seminars will begin, the first Ivy League acceptance has come in from Brown University, Career Day will take place January 16, a Mario Cart Tournament with proceeds for the Drama Club will be Friday after school, varsity jackets are available, and a notable community service opportunity is to help with technology in the library, speak to Dr. Reese if interested.

Cabot Priestner announced there are many scholarships offered to seniors in the guidance office, Career Day is Friday, Mrs. Santos's math class was experimenting with the length and distance of paper airplanes using the scientific method, a safety drill was conducted this week and the Drama Club is preparing for its play Legally Blonde scheduled for March 22, 23 and 24.

B. Superintendent Report - Dr. Reese explained the recent implementation of a safety drill and thanked the police and fire department for their assistance. This opportunity brought dialog and reflection amongst the students. Information on the drills will be ongoing, communicated through newsletters, announcements and the school website.

Dr. Reese gave an update on the MAC water issue. Blake Equipment designed equipment to be used at a cost of \$20,000. There is work being done with an engineer to submit plans to the DEP. Costs have not been determined at this time.

C. FY20 Budget Presentation

1. Budget PowerPoint Presentation – Dr. Reese presented the Proposed Preliminary FY20 budget and reviewed the four district goals. Preparing students for a 21st Century environment by having them think to be problem solvers and collaborators is key. Dr. Reese explained that the FY19/20 budget is a level services budget that takes this year's budget and factors contractual obligations. The total FY19/20 budget is \$18,781,131 which is above the town's amount by an increase of \$91,621. The town's figure is \$18,689,510.

Dr. Reese will be going out to the community to involve the public more with the understanding of the budget process.

Mrs. Rapoza went over special education enrollment from FY13-FY19. The Special Education Budget for FY19/20 is \$4,567,338. Mrs. Rapoza went over grants and their impact on the school budget as well as student fees. FY19/20 district enrollment figures as well as the FY20 budget timeline was also reviewed.

During discussion and questions Ms. DesJardins requested percentages of enrollment for the 3 schools and a short explanation on any major increase or decrease. Dr. Reese will provide this information.

Mrs. Rioux would like to see an increase in guidance support and taking a close look at the offerings. She asked about the new accounting software which Dr. Reese said is being proposed with CIPC funds.

Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned that she likes to do a budget comparison from the year before. She suggested to explain the Special Education budget to the community. Dr. Reese commented on the ride share opportunity with other districts and mentioned they are always looking for ways to share costs with other communities. Making the school a community asset, for example having afterschool adult education opportunities and training staff to provide supports and services to keep students within district is also important.

Chair Viveiros mentioned the need to keep up with great offerings for students. He mentioned looking for town support, this budget is not above and beyond the needs of the district. There were no further questions.

2. School Narratives – Dr. Reese informed members that these are available in the packets.

D. School Building Committee Update – Chair Viveiros reported there was an SBC meeting earlier today. Demolition of the middle school is going on now through March with all activities on schedule. On December 20, the Planning Board gave some conditions in the school building plan moving forward. There was a meeting with the Library Board of Trustees concerning the tennis court placement. There may be grants available by becoming a member of the USDA, Dr. Reese signed up. Once the project is complete the town will be receiving about \$85,000 from the Mass Save Rebate Program. The 90% construction documents will be submitted to the MSBA on Friday. Estimates from the two estimators came in close and the project is presently under budget. The well is being tested. Next SBC meeting will be January 23 at 5 pm.

Campground - Ms. Stanton Cross informed members a letter was written by the Campground Committee that makes recommendations to the town about the purchase of the campground property. A special town meeting is preferred and they are still waiting for an appraisal. Dr. Reese wrote a letter stating the School Committee's position supporting the campground.

Legal Counsel - Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned there has been discussions in researching law firms. There will be a report next meeting.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Policy KF – Community Use of School Facilities – Dr. Reese mentioned this policy has been looked at previously. Changes include addition of a sentence about waivers and changing the wording from “parks and playgrounds activities” to “town recreation”.

A motion was made to accept the changes as proposed on Policy KF.

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

B. Review and Act on Westport Elementary Roof: MSBA Statement of Interest – Dr. Reese informed members that the application period opened on Friday. The statement of interest needs to be approved by the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen with a deadline for submission by February 15, 2019. Members agreed to move forward with a statement of interest and to then have it come before the committee. No formal vote was taken.

C. Review and Act on a \$8,000 Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation Grant for WSRH Scholarships – Dr. Reese mentioned that this is a donation to the Jr./Sr. High School to use for scholarship opportunities.

A motion was made to approve and accept the Grant for \$8,000 from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation.

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

D. Review and Act on a \$1,024 WEF Grant for the MAC Crazy 8s Math After School Club – Dr. Reese explained this is an afterschool program to reinforce math skills.

A motion was made to accept the WEF Grant for the MAC Crazy 8s Math After School Club in the amount of \$1,024.

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

E. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, December 12, 2018 – This item was tabled at this time.

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** – Just bills were received.

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

VII. **Additional Agenda Issues** – Agenda items to include for next meeting are the campground, adult education and use of facilities.

Mrs. Rapoza announced the next school budget public hearing will take place on January 23. Dr. Reese will meet with individual members if needed or questions can be emailed. Another meeting will be held on February 6.

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 Rioux

4/0/0

Roll call vote:

DesJardins Yes

Rioux Yes

Stanton Cross Yes

Viveiros Yes

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Meeting documents –

FY20 Proposed Preliminary Budget Presentation

Policy KF Community Use of School Facilities and Form

Westport Elementary Roof MSBA Statement of Interest

Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation \$8,000 Grant for WSRH Scholarships

WEF Grant for the MAC Crazy 8s Math After School Club for \$1,024

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary