

Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, May 16, 2019
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Jr./Sr. High School Media Center

MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Michelle Orlando

Also Present: Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent

Special Guests and Presenters: Melena Rodriguez and Cabot Priestner Student Representative, Elaine Santos Director of Special Education

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), Chair Viveiros announced the meeting was being recorded.
Comments and Statements from the Public – There were no public comments.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representatives' Report – Melena Rodriguez & Cabot Priestner – Melena announced tomorrow is prom for Juniors and Seniors at the Viking Hotel, AP tests took place this week and last week, finals will be taking place soon, WestFest is on May 18 and is a fun family event, Spring Concert and Art Show is May 20, Memorial Garden Clean Up and Planting will be May 23 with a ceremony on May 24 at 10:20 am., students will sing and recite poems.

Cabot announced Senior High School field day will be May 24, official last day for Seniors will be May 28th only if they are excused from finals with a 90 or above. Senior finals are May 29 and 30, 8th grade class trip to Washington D.C. will be May 29 - June 1, Scholarship Night is June 6, Graduation is June 8, Boat Building class will launch the boat they made on the Westport River June 6.

Both Melena and Cabot are in the process of finalizing their replacements for next school year. SC members acknowledged Melena and Cabot for their informative sharing of information all year.

B. Superintendent Report – G. Reese – Dr. Reese reported the first week in May Town Meeting was held. He thanked the town for supporting the school budget as proposed. The capital improvement plan was supported as well for the WES roof feasibility study for design work. The Massachusetts School Building Authority came to tour the building and was supportive in moving the project forward. There will be funding from the town for the schematic design.

Dr. Reese reported the Leadership Team is working on the District Improvement Plan in areas to move the school forward. They are looking at goals and aligning these to the Educator's Framework as well as the 4 standards of curriculum, instruction, family and community engagement and staff development. The strategic plan that gives a 3-5-year projection will be updated in summer /early fall.

Friday night the prom takes place and also the Education Foundation Derby Fundraiser on the same night.

Dr. Reese distributed a report dated May 10, 2019 on staff absences/substitute coverage per request of the SC. Discussion took place with a request to further break it down by school for the next report.

C. Special Education Department Update – E. Santos – Ms. Santos presented program highlights of special education. There are 2 classrooms divided by 7-9th grade and 10-12th grade. These classes are smaller in size as well as student to teacher ratio. Preparing students for adulthood and independence is their goal. Academics is extended through community outings, for example, visiting farms, apple orchard, cranberry bogs etc. to promote functional life skills. The Juniors and Seniors have raised money for autism acceptance for Sophie's Promise in Swansea. They also had a holiday pet bake sale for an animal sanctuary in Tiverton. Advocats help with school wide awareness, positive projects for wellness and community connections with the police, fire stations, Whaling Museum, and Sharing the Harvest Farm with actual planting. They will be exploring job opportunities and they also do job shadowing.

D. Bill Warrant Update: 5-24-19 – Chair Viveiros mentioned the recent decision to have only one SC member sign off on the bill warrant. Part of this procedure is that all SC members will be emailed a summary of the bill warrant. Chair Viveiros encouraged members to review the warrants. Dr. Reese announced the amount of the warrant dated 5.24.19 is \$243,682.75.

E. Discuss Campground Acquisition – Chair Viveiros reported the town approved and supported the acquisition of the campground property of 30 acres (15 acres of upland) and the town will be in charge of the property. Chair Viveiros urged members to begin thinking of forming a plan for a vision of the property and formally send the plan to the Board of Selectmen. Chair Viveiros thanked

SC member Nancy Stanton Cross for her work on the Campground Committee. Ms. Stanton Cross mentioned there is a need to start having meetings to discuss the number of fields, a road to the elementary school, determining a second energy source and commence fundraising for artificial turf.

F. School Building Committee Update – Chair Viveiros reported the School Building Committee met last Thursday May 9. A vote was taken to add SC member Nancy Stanton Cross to the School Building Committee to replace outgoing SC member Mark Carney. Discussion was held on the idea of using CM at Risk with the advantage of having the construction manager on site for direct input and handling design issues. The process for using this construction method could take up to 3 months with prequalification and interviews, there is also an additional premium. The SBC voted to file an application with the Inspector General for CM at Risk. Delay in the opening of the school is a possibility and will depend on timing.

Discussion on how the SC can be more impactful to the project was mentioned with the suggestion that SC members attend the SBC meetings.

G. Discuss Westport Middle High School Re-Design Options – A 7-page VM (value management) list was distributed to the members. It is important that SC members are aware of the items on this list. Some members are concerned about items on the list that could potentially affect educational programs as well as have an impact on safety. Important items to maintain are the gym, auditorium, and walking track that were discussed with the community. Chair Viveiros mentioned the Design Subcommittee will be meeting again and it is imperative to let the architect know what road to follow. Hopefully simplification of design will bring costs down significantly. Conversations to have the architect begin now or wait for the CM to start has been debated. No additional money will be given to the architect's redesign work.

Dr. Reese will voice SC concerns at the next SBC meeting which include not wanting any programmatic changes, maintain opportunities that were sold to the community for example the walking track, safety is a concern, SC agrees with the CM at Risk approach and negotiate costs for the CM in line with the project timeline.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Additional Funds of \$722.25 for the WEF Grant - MAC Drama Program –

A motion was made to accept additional funds of \$722.25 for the WEF Grant, MAC Drama Program.
Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco 3/0/1 (Tavares abstained)

B. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, May 2, 2019 –

A motion was made to accept the minutes of Thursday, May 2, 2019.
Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Tavares 4/0/0

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** - There were none.

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

VII. **Additional Agenda Issues** –

Discussion took place concerning the SC evolving and setting their own goals. The SC would like to align their goals with the district's goals. Collaboration, recognizing the importance of goals and supporting the Superintendent are key to moving the district in the right direction.

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 Pacheco 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Pacheco	Yes	Stanton Cross	Yes	Tavares	Yes	Viveiros	Yes
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The School Committee meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Meeting documents –

WEF Grant - MAC Drama Program in the amount of \$722.25

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary