

**Westport School Committee  
Work Session  
DATE: Thursday, July 26, 2018  
TIME: 7:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Westport Jr./Sr. High School Media Center**

**MINUTES**

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

**Members Absent:** Margot DesJardins

**Also Present:** Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent

I. **Call to Order** - A quorum being present, Chair Viveiros called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

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

III. **Informational**

A. To Discuss School Committee Roles, Responsibilities, and Goal Setting –

Family event - Discussion was held on developing a plan to hold a family event to meet the new superintendent and the new appointments in the district. Ideas included having a barbecue, inviting fireman, police, hosting a guidance table, athletics, instrument rentals, hot dogs, hamburgers, and students having a leadership role taking parents through the school. The event would include all grades sometime late in August.

Uniforms – Discussion took place on the idea of implementing school uniforms and creating a school culture around the use of school uniforms. Having a community discussion on wearing uniforms would gather opinions of parents. It was noted to connect the use of uniforms to its effects on bullying and social emotional learning.

Teaching Assistant's and Interventionists – Discussion was held on the role of interventionists. Items mentioned were Dibels, DRA's, assessments, identifying student weaknesses, implementing remediation in certain areas and working with students in small groups as part of some of the roles provided by interventionists. It was noted there is no class size policy.

Personnel, Procedures, Contracts – Various items were discussed.

Budget – Discussion on the budget process took place. Dr. Reese mentioned he starts with the leadership team in September, moving onto budget forums with the community to gather ideas. At the end of January beginning of February budget presentations would begin. SC members provided an overview on how the Town handles the budget process. Dr. Reese agrees with the budget format template at this time.

Legal Counsel – Discussion concerning the present Legal Counsel took place.

Negotiations – Legal counsel is working on this it and has not been finalized at this time.

B. To Discuss Superintendent Goals –

Dr. Reese shared his thoughts on a strategic plan. The strategic plan starts by working with the leadership team. Meetings with all the stakeholders including teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, staff and parent nights in conjunction with the leadership team are important. The idea is to take the big rocks and break them up into smaller initiatives. School improvement plans are based on the strategic plan. Programs will be based on the initiatives and then connected back to the strategic plan, all working

in conjunction with each other. Dr. Reese develops an entry plan that then evolves into a strategic plan. At the current time he is working on immediate staffing needs for the district.

Handling concerns – Discussion was held on the procedure on how to handle district concerns. For example, in areas such as athletics, curriculum, teacher, etc. Dr. Reese would like it to be handled with the respective principal initially when possible. Dr. Reese will send an email to SC members explaining how to handle the chain of communication.

Agenda format - Dr. Reese created a year at glance and will share this with SC members for any revisions.

Schedule – Dr. Reese is having someone come in to set up a master schedule during the summer.

Project Lead the Way grant will give the opportunity to have a course on coding coming up.

Discussion took place on starting school earlier in the year in lieu of the day after Labor Day. The idea of having a “blizzard bad day” was mentioned with logistics on how this day could be used by both teachers and paraprofessionals.

Publicity - It was mentioned to contact Jeff Wagner from the Herald News for an article about the introduction of a new superintendent in Westport. Dr. Reese mentioned having a discussion with him as well as developing community connections to support the schools.

Programs - The role of the Westport Education Foundation was mentioned with their generous support of a language and boatbuilding program.

SC members are excited to take direction from the leadership of Dr. Reese who has a fresh set of eyes. They are willing to give support and feel that communications among schools has already shown improvement.

**IV. Adjourn** – A motion was made to adjourn. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by Carney, seconded by Rioux

4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Carney Yes

Rioux Yes

Stanton-Cross Yes

Viveiros Yes

The School Committee Meeting ended at 9:44 am.