

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, June 13, 2019
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Jr./Sr. High School Media Center**

MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Orlando, Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros
Also Present: Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager
Special Guests and Presenters: Avery Avila, Amy Tran and Mark Allen new Student Representatives, Ann Marie Forbes & Students 1,000 Books Before 1st. Grade.

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.

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B. 1000 Books Before 1st. Grade Awards – Ann Marie Forbes & Students – (taken out of order) - Ann Marie Forbes began by explaining that the program is a family literacy program designed to create the love of reading. What matters is students are reading with family members. There are 150 students PreK- Grade 2 that have read a total of 20,650 books since September 2018. They have experienced the largest group with 17 children completing the program this year. The program is in its 4th year, students have read a total of 166,000 books in the 4-year span. The program is fueled by 20 volunteer Book Fairies, spending 250 hours at MAC swapping book bags to share. Funded by the Westport Education Foundation, Lees Market, and Partner's Village Store. Partner's donated a book entitled *Hello Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackall for each of the children. Ms. Forbes read off a list of participants. Each child came up and received a medal, certificate and a book. SC members praised Ms. Forbes for her participation in the program.

II. Comments and Statements from the Public –(continued)

Julieana Pocetto resident and parent of a 16-year-old student distributed a letter written by her son to SC members. The letter was about the releasing of the HS Band Director and also expressed this teacher's accomplishments, programs and depth of commitment. The letter was respectfully submitted along with signatures from HS students.

Marcela Pocetto grandmother of the student that authored the letter asked the SC members to take it seriously and reconsider the decision. She does not want to see the music department crumble. She had 3 questions:

1. How do you intend to maintain the music program by reducing the teaching staff?
2. What plans are there to integrate music into the curriculum and programs as promised to the town?
3. Is teacher experience considered when restructuring the music department?

Dr. Reese explained that he looked at scheduling and found 10 hours lost in travel time instead of face to face with students. The schedule for the upcoming year will improve opportunities by providing 4 classes instead of 2. With a reduction in force the teacher's contract must be followed. Dr. Reese will take another look at the budget.

Meghan Thomas a parent mentioned that Mrs. Rapoza has done amazing things with the budget. She stated that getting parents involved to help with the budget may help. The donation of musical instruments, in her case donating oboes was used as an example.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representatives' Report – Melena Rodriguez & Cabot Priestner – Melena and Cabot were not present.

1. Introduction of New Student Representatives – Avery Avila and Amy Tran

Mr. Aho introduced three new student representatives 7th grader Avery Avila, 10th grader Amy Tran and 12th grader Mark Allen all the students came to the table and introduced themselves.

C. Superintendent Report – G. Reese – Dr. Reese reported that the district should be hearing by the end of June on a School Safety grant in the amount of \$60,000 to improve infrastructure dealing with safety for example, cameras, locks, mechanisms to lock doors and medical equipment. Another grant dealing with Cyber Security was applied for jointly with Mr. King Town Administrator. This grant will provide online training opportunities for both town and school employees with possible notification by the end of next week.

Dr. Reese shared a list with SC members of Professional Development opportunities provided to staff this year both in district and outside the district made available from Mr. Elwell. PD offerings were also shared with the teacher's union AFSCME for next year.

Dr. Reese mentioned working with engineers to design a plan that will resolve the MAC water issue. A timeframe is not set and it could be an 8-week turnaround from the DEP. This issue may not be resolved before September. Dr. Reese informed members many projects are being done with CIPC funds this summer.

Dr. Reese reported during the past few weeks staffing adjustments have taken place. At the July SC meeting an update on positions will be made available.

D. Bill Warrant Update: 6-7-19 – Mr. Viveiros reported that the bill warrant was signed and emailed to SC members.

E. CIPC Update – M. Rapoza – Mrs. Rapoza reviewed School Capital Projects from FY18, FY19, and FY20 and gave an update on the status of the projects. Over \$600,000 in funds have been allotted over the last 3 years.

F. District/School Improvement Planning – Dr. Reese presented the District Improvement Plan for the 2019-2020 school year. This is an annual plan based on district wide goals and becomes the driving force for each school to develop their individual plans, based on the 4 standards. Dr. Reese will be further analyzing the data and tests.

A motion was made to accept and receive the Westport Community Schools District Improvement Plan 2019-2020 and to receive quarterly updates on the plan.

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

G. Superintendent Evaluation – Ms. Tavares distributed supporting documentation and a summary of the Superintendent's evaluation to the SC members. Ms. Tavares explained the evaluation process with the collection and implementation of the data. Dr. Reese was commended on his progress. Dr. Reese thanked the committee for the evaluation and appreciates the support and feedback.

H. School Building Committee Update – Chair Viveiros reported there was a meeting at the Library last week with contractors attending. They are waiting on information about a construction manager. Mr. Viveiros explained the reasoning behind choosing the Design Bid Build process 2 years ago and the lack of bidders in the process which was not anticipated.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on the Cost Increase of School Lunches: MAC \$3.25 / WES \$3.25 / WJSH \$3.40 / Adults \$4.25 – Mrs. Rapoza began by explaining in Westport there is a self-operating school lunch program. To maintain a profitable School Lunch Program increases need to be done. Discussion took place on the logistics of the school lunch program including foods used, waste, use of fruits and vegetables and required components to be counted as a fundable reimbursed lunch. Mrs. Rapoza also mentioned ideas such as to create a share table to go to a homeless shelter or elderly program and offering catering opportunities in the future to help the program. Coming up with different ways to sustain the program without increasing prices was suggested to explore.

A motion was made to table the School Lunch Costs to the next meeting.

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

B. Review and Act on \$500 and \$400 Awards for the 2019 Greater Fall River School Fitness Challenge – to supplement the School's Physical Education Program Budget – Dr. Reese reported that Westport came in first and second place in the fitness challenge.

A motion was made to approve and act on \$500 and \$400 Awards for the 2019 Greater Fall River School Fitness Challenge to supplement the School's Physical Education Program Budget.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

C. Review and Act on a \$500 Award for Becoming a Fuel Up to Play 60 To School from the N.E. Dairy & Food Council – Dr. Reese explained that Fuel Up to Play is a program that encourages leading a healthy and active lifestyle along with wellness.

A motion was made to approve and accept the \$500 Award for Becoming a Fuel Up to Play 60 To School from the N.E. Dairy & Food Council.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Tavares 5/0/0

D. Review and Act on a \$250 Grant for the Big Yellow School Bus for WES Field Trips from the Westport Cultural Council –

A motion was made to approve the grant of \$250 Grant for the Big Yellow School Bus for WES Field Trips from the Westport Cultural Council.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Orlando 5/0/0

E. Review and Act on the Health Science Award in Memory of George C. Gobeil of \$1,000 by the Brewda Family Fund – Dr. Reese explained the funds are funneled through the School Department for a graduating senior going into a health/science career.

A motion was made to accept the Health Science Award in Memory of George C. Gobeil of \$1,000 by the Brewda Family Fund.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

F. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, May 16, 2019 –

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, May 16, 2019.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Stanton Cross 5/0/0

V. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices – Chair Viveiros read an invitation for SC members to join the WES 6th grade Promotion Ceremony on June 10. MAC newsletter was received.

VI Comments and Statements from the Public –

Susan Collins resident and parent shared concerns about not adding any new programs to the Jr./Sr. HS. She would like to see AP computers and academic programs for the new building. She mentioned MAC having a STEM interventionist and adding a new computer teacher to the MAC. In addition, parents should be able to see a master schedule ahead of time.

VII. Additional Agenda Issues – Items to include are looking into a new student representative orientation program, mentorship for new SC members, absenteeism report, substitute report and any future teacher contract items.

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 Tavares 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Meeting Documents

- Cost Increase of School Lunches
- \$500 and \$400 Awards for the 2019 Greater Fall River School Fitness Challenge
- \$500 Award for Becoming a Fuel Up to Play 60 To School from the N.E. Dairy & Food Council
- \$250 Grant for the Big Yellow School Bus for WES Field Trips from the Westport Cultural Council
- Health Science Award in Memory of George C. Gobeil of \$1,000 by the Brewda Family Fund

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary

