

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, April 3, 2019
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Jr./Sr. High School Media Center**

MINUTES

Members Present: Mark Carney, Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares (*arrived at 6:33 pm.*), Antonio Viveiros

Absent: Margot Desjardins

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

Special Guests and Presenters: Melena Rodriguez & Cabot Priestner Student Representatives

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 – Chair Viveiros announced the meeting was being recorded. There were no public comments.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representatives' Report – Melena Rodriguez & Cabot Priestner - Melena Rodriguez announced the annual fitness challenge ended on April 3, annual Night in Black and White was March 8 with proceeds going to the International Exchange Club, Japanese students went home at the end of last month, BCC held a Palooza event on March 20 where seniors can apply, get financial assistance and sign up for an Accuplacer test.

(Ms. Tavares arrived here at 6:33 pm.)

Cabot Priestner announced that Westport will be going to the National College Fair, Mr. Westport takes place on April 27 any comedy or talent act is welcomed, high school Drama Program worked hard and performed Legally Blond, baseball, softball, and lacrosse started last week, third quarter is ending on April 8 and students are ready for summer.

B. Superintendent Report – G. Reese – Dr. Reese reported last week Mike Duarte met with another engineer to get an additional quote concerning the MAC water. Tonight, is the first evening for the Adult Education Program. Three classes, all based on athletics will be held. The classes are Yoga for Beginners, Exercise Bootcamp and Stretch, Strengthen and Tone.

Date for the second Budget "Road Show" is being planned.

Mr. Elwell provided a variety of Professional Development opportunities to staff on March 22.

Dr. Reese announced Ms. Leah Chesney has been appointed Interim Assistant Principal at WES. The WES principal search received applications from 30 candidates. The three finalists are Stacey Duquette, Dr. Patricia Gablinske and Maria Sirois. There will be community forums with the candidates and final reference checks. Dr. Reese will present a candidate at the SC meeting on May 1.

There has been continued discussions with students and staff concerning the high school schedule. During the 19/20 school year there will be small tweaks in the schedule. Real changes will be implemented in the 20/21 school year. Timeline action steps have been provided. A committee will begin to explore graduation requirements.

Dr. Reese announced the application submission for a \$60,000 safety grant to improve facility structures like doors, locks, lock boxes, surveillance cameras and first aid equipment for MAC and WES. It was recommended to reach out to local legislators for grant support.

May 1 is MASC Association Day on the Hill if anyone is interested in attending Dr. Reese has application forms.

Dr. Reese mentioned his upcoming evaluation and the need to provide feedback to the state on the ratings. At the next SC meeting Dr. Reese will give a framework to the committee. Discussion was held on new SC members and the superintendent evaluation process.

Mrs. Rapoza reported a Driver's Education class will begin the last 2 weeks in June with another class in fall. A cooking class is also being planned for the fall.

C. Acknowledgement of School Committee Members – Margot DesJardins and Mark Carney – Chair Viveiros informed everyone that Mr. Carney and Ms. Desjardins did not run for reelection. They both will be missed tremendously. Dr. Reese thanked both of them for their commitment to the students of Westport and presented a citation from the state senate.

D. School Building Committee Update – Chair Viveiros gave an update on the School Building Project. The middle school building is now gone, Construction Subcommittee decided to keep the fence up until the general contractor comes on board in May, bids are out and will be coming in after April 10 and there will be an official groundbreaking ceremony in May.

Dr. Reese had a meeting with the OPM concerning the accessibility to WES during the summer. There are continued meetings about wiring, cable wiring and tennis court phasing. Need to wait until the general contractor comes on board.

Discussion took place on the new student pick up policy. Mrs. Rapoza explained the student dismissal process.

E. Acquirement of the Westport Camp Ground – Town Warrant Article 13 – Chair Viveiros informed members that the Board of Selectmen suggested the SC do a formal vote concerning the camp grounds. Dr. Reese mentioned the SC voted to send a letter to the BOS in support of moving forward with the purchase of the Westport Campgrounds.

A motion was made to have the Westport Community Schools School Committee on record in support of Article 13 warrant for the purchase of the adjacent campground property by the Town of Westport.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Carney

4/0/0

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on 2019-2020 School Choice Program – Dr. Reese explained that the SC is asked each year to vote to accept students through the School Choice Program. Dr. Reese recommends opening up school choice for grades 9-12, there is capacity at these 4 grade levels. Based on current levels the district could have up to 10 students in grades 9 and 12 and up to 20 students in grades 10 and 11. Discussion took place concerning school choice. This issue was tabled in order to take more time to do further research and consider all the options.

B. Review and Act on a \$500 WEF Grant for the WJSH Art Project: Pet Portraits for a Cause – Dr. Reese explained 2 art teachers submitted the grant to create pet portraits and an art show with donations to go to a local charity. Funds are to purchase materials and implement the art show.

A motion was made to accept the \$500 WEF Grant for the WJSH Art Project: Pet Portraits for a Cause.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Carney

3/0/1 (Tavares abstained)

C. Review and Act on a \$136 Westport Cultural Council Grant for the WJSH SPED Class to Attend the Zeiterion Theater – Dr. Reese reported the grant funds are for the cost of tickets.

A motion was made to accept the \$136 Westport Cultural Council Grant for the WJSH SPED Class to Attend the Zeiterion Theater.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Carney

4/0/0

D. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, March 6, 2019 – Work Session -

A motion was made to approve the Work Session Minutes of Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Tavares

3/0/1 (Carney abstained)

E. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, March 6, 2019 –

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Tavares

3/0/1 (Carney abstained)

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** – Chair Viveiros acknowledged receipt of the MAC newsletter.

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

VII. Additional Agenda Issues – Discussion on changing the SC Wednesday meeting on April 10 took place. Some members signed up for the Wednesday Exercise Bootcamp. It was decided to possibly move the meeting to Thursday April 11 at 6:30 pm.

VIII. Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

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

Roll call vote:

Carney Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Meeting documents –

2019-2020 School Choice Program

\$500 WEF Grant for the WJSH Art Project: Pet Portraits for a Cause

\$136 Westport Cultural Council Grant for the WJSH SPED Class to Attend the Zeiterion Theater

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary