

Westport School Committee
Budget Public Hearing
DATE: Wednesday, January 23, 2019
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Jr./Sr. High School Media Center

MINUTES

Members Present: Margot DesJardins, Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Mark Carney

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

Special Guests and Presenters: District Principals and Department Heads

I. Call to Order - A quorum being present, Chair Viveiros called the meeting to order at 6:35 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. Special Agenda – FY20 Education Budget Public Hearing

A. Proposed FY20 School Committee Education Budget (Separate Cover) – Chair Viveiros announced that tonight is a special meeting dedicated as the FY20 Education Budget Public Hearing. This meeting gives the public an opportunity to ask questions concerning the budget. Chair Viveiros opened the Budget Public Hearing at 6:37 pm. and asked if there was anyone that would like to speak at this time. No public comments were made at this time. Chair Viveiros informed everyone that the Budget Public Hearing will be open for comments until 7:10 pm.

B. General Discussion of FY20 Proposed Budget -

Dr. Reese created a packet with additional FY20 budget information to assist in answering any questions. All the information in this packet was explained by Dr. Reese.

Dr. Reese sent an email to staff last week concerning an adult education program. There are 12 staff members interested. The following course topics were mentioned; computers, yoga, creative writing, sewing, knitting, crochet, guitar, dramatic performance, drivers' education, CPR and safety. Dr. Reese met with the recreation director with possibility of expanding in this area as well. Adult Education programs will focus on opportunities for students and adults of all ages in the community. Dr. Reese will be exploring startup grants and will get input from the community on their interests by speaking at upcoming traveling roadshows.

Dr. Reese acknowledged principals and department heads in attendance tonight and mentioned that they are ready to answer any questions. Any additional questions can be sent to Dr. Reese.

Mrs. Rapoza explained parts of the budget including accounting software, technology and transportation.

IV. Informational Agenda

B. Superintendent Report – G. Reese (taken out of order) -

Dr. Reese gave an update on the MAC water issue. Discussion with an engineer and their role with DEP approval took place. By next week, a better understanding on costs and timing will be reached. Dr. Reese is working on resolving this issue first with possible legal action as the next step. To date DEP has been flexible with the timeline.

Dr. Reese reported in January practice with school safety drills took place. In February, there will be a focus on specific strategies with lockdown barricades. Public safety officials are present during these drills.

Dr. Reese gave a Professional Development update. Mr. Elwell Director of Curriculum secured a national trainer who is an expert in Special Education and identifying the underlying factors associated with student behavior. This trainer spent time with staff at the Jr./Sr. HS on classroom strategies as well as teachers taking ownership of student behavior. Two days were spent with staff training including WES and MAC. Discussion took place on follow up procedures. Mr. Aho Principal of the Jr./Sr. HS explained the revised referral form will reflect consistent terminology with a 48-hour turnaround time and they will be analyzing the data to address the school as a whole. They will also

focus on classroom interventions, will be looking at the student handbook and have schoolwide expectations for faculty.

Tracy Priestner FinCom member shared some suggestions to the committee. When the time comes to present the budget to FinCom, make sure the budget is accurate with complete costs including unfunded mandates and all grants. In addition, sharing a "kudos list" to celebrate the wonderful things happening within the school district for example, the colleges students have been accepted to, exceptional test scores, community service and scholarships.

Chair Viveiros officially closed the Budget Public Hearing at 7:22 pm.

B. Superintendent Report – G. Reese - ...Continued (taken out of order)

Dr. Reese mentioned other professional development for MAC and WES focused on safety protocols. Westport firefighter Glen Nunes did training on helping injured staff with a program called "Stop the Bleed". He is also working with administration to employ strategies and will add these items to the GO Buckets.

Dr. Reese attended the BOS meeting concerning submission of the statement of interest for the WES roofing project. A unanimous vote was taken to authorize him to go forward.

The SRO officer is shifting positions, the new officer will be Kyle Fernandes.

There will be new OSHA regulations going into effect in February and they are taking a look at the new regulations and guidelines in order to provide consistency.

IV. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representatives' Report – Melena Rodriguez & Cabot Priestner – Student Representatives were preparing for finals this week and were not present.

C. School Building Committee Update – Dr. Reese gave an update on the SBC meeting held today right before the SC meeting. The SBC looked at the bid alternates and determined their order of priority. They also reviewed and approved a list of prequalified contractors, disqualifying some companies. Amendments to the architect's contract were discussed. The architect presented a library planting plan approved by the Library Board of Trustees with a shift in the tennis courts. One of the Trustees shared a positive note on the collaborative efforts of all parties.

1. **Campground Site Update –** Mr. Viveiros reported there was a meeting a few weeks ago. Mr. Ingoldsby received overwhelming support for the acquisition of the property. The appraisal came in late Tuesday. Town Administrator Mr. King put together a subcommittee. Mr. Viveiros announced the Building Reuse Committee is continuing discussions on the Jr./Sr. High School's future when the new school is built.

D. Adult Education – Dr. Reese spoke on this in the Superintendent's Report.

V. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on MSBA – Vote to Authorize Superintendent to Submit SOI for WES Roof Project –
A motion was made to authorize the Superintendent to submit an SOI application on behalf of the district to the MSBA to participate in the Accelerated Repair Program for the repair of the WES roof.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Stanton Cross, all were in favor motion passed 4/0/0

B. Review and Act on WEF Grant for \$3000 to Fund Boat Building in Westport, a Partnership between Dharma Voyage and Westport Community Schools – Members acknowledged the grant, no vote taken.

C. Review and Act on WEF Grant for \$150 Entrance Fees for the Boat Building and Buoyancy at the Herreshoff Marine Museum – Members acknowledged the grant, no vote taken.

D. Review and Act on WEF Grant for \$650 for the AP Bio Field Study: East Branch of the Westport River –
Members acknowledged the grant, no vote taken.

E. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, December 12, 2018 and Wednesday, January 9, 2019 –
A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, December 12, 2018.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Viveiros (DesJardins, Tavares abstained) 2/0/2

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, January 9, 2019.

Motion by Tavares seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/0

F. Legal Counsel – (*item added to agenda*) Dr. Reese explained that research was done on legal counsel representation. Dr. Reese recommends to move forward with the law firm of Murphy Lamere & Murphy.

A motion was made to engage the law firm of Murphy Lamere & Murphy as attorneys on behalf of the schools in Westport Massachusetts.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Tavares all were in favor 4/0/0

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

VII. **Comments and Statements from the Public** - There were none.

VIII. **Additional Agenda Issues** – Ms. Stanton Cross requested a report from Principal Mr. Aho concerning the status of the climate and the progress of implementing schoolwide expectations for faculty and staff.

IX. **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 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

DesJardins Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Meeting Documents

MSBA – Vote to Authorize Superintendent to Submit SOI for WES Roof Project
WEF Grant for \$3000 to Fund Boat Building in Westport, a Partnership between Dharma Voyage and Westport Community Schools
WEF Grant for \$150 Entrance Fees for the Boat Building and Buoyancy at the Herreshoff Marine Museum
WEF Grant for \$650 for the AP Bio Field Study: East Branch of the Westport River
Legal Counsel

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary