

Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, May 2, 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: Melena Rodriguez and Cabot Priestner Student Representative, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Stacey Duquette, Principal WES

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 reported WestFest takes place May 18, Art Show is May 20 from 6-8 pm., Memorial Garden Clean Up and planting will be May 23 after school with flower donations accepted, field day will be May 24, June 6 is Scholarship Night, June 8 is Graduation and June 17 is the 8th grade Promotion Ceremony.

Cabot reported Mr. Westport was April 27 with winner Damien Rego, May 1 is Decision Day seniors wear college gear of the college they will be attending, AP exams take place in May, MCAS for Science and Math are in May, May 10 is 7th and 8th grade dance and senior prom is May 17 at the Viking in Newport.

The students were asked who will be coming as new student representatives. Cabot is working with Principal Aho to find replacements. Having students from the junior high level was also mentioned.

B. Superintendent Report – G. Reese – Dr. Reese explained the WES principal search process beginning with a posting in March had a total of 25 applicants. Site visits, meeting with staff, as well as an evening community forum was scheduled. Dr. Reese was impressed with the nine 6th grade students that represented Westport. Dr. Reese is pleased to introduce Ms. Stacey Duquette as the chosen candidate. Ms. Duquette worked as the Interim Principal and will now move forward as Principal of the WES. Ms. Duquette came to the microphone and said she is looking forward to working with everyone.

Dr. Reese sent members a PowerPoint of his end of cycle evaluation presentation that lines up his goals with hyperlinks to evidence. He focused on “inclusive practices” that develops strategies and skills for everyone to be successful. Student learning goal was student achievement around MCAS data in Science, Math and English. Each of the 4 standards are included with work he has done and where he assesses himself. Committee members needing further information can speak with Dr. Reese.

C. Title 1 Update – D. Elwell – Mr. Elwell gave an overview of the Title I Program for grades K-4. Westport is considered to be a “Targeted Assistance” program with interventionists working in small groups with both “push in” and “pull-out” settings. Discussion took place about how a student gets into Title I and how the funds are determined. Mr. Elwell explained that all students are assessed by Dibels three time per year and based on the results they are ranked. Title I is very fluid with students going in and going out of the program. The funds are allocated and driven 97% by census data and the rest is what the district is reporting. Mr. Elwell will continue to evaluate the services and there will be some adjustments ahead.

D. School Building Committee Update – Chair Viveiros reported last Wednesday at 2 pm. general contractor bids were open and they all came in high at around \$85M instead of the \$75M expected by the estimators, reflecting a 12-13% increase. The Design Subcommittee needs to relook at the plans to bring the numbers down. They had a meeting last night to begin this process. The cost of doing this is on the architect and they do not get any additional money. Changes can be made without asking the town for more money. The downside is the new school will be

delayed from the anticipated 20/21 opening by possibly 5-6 months. In addition, incremental construction costs increase by 3.5% per year. The architect has a big team to get this project done, along with the OPM. The type of construction method used is also being discussed. All three bids were declined. An email from one of the contractors was sent and the information provided can be looked at to adjust the costs. Dr. Reese mentioned that if there are any changes to the educational program previously approved by the SC, these changes need to come back to the committee and the MSBA.

E. Campground Update – Ms. Stanton Cross explained the Fincom meeting. There were many questions about the campground use and whether purchasing the property at \$895,000 is a good buy for Westport. Ms. Stanton Cross explained that the campground will be presented at town meeting and the purchase needs a town vote. There are two ways this can be done, “exclusion of debt” allows the town to then raise taxes over a period of time to make the payments. Another way is “inclusion of debt” where funding would come from the town budget with no excess taxes. Land purchase would start in January 2020. The town has been paying \$200,000 per year for the pcb project and loan which comes off the books in January 2020. This would mean the town only needs \$95,000 extra for the next 3 years. Tuesday May 7 is Town Meeting at 7 p.m..

F. School Committee Meeting Schedule – Chair Viveiros mentioned the SC meetings have been changed to Thursdays. It was decided to meet on the first and third Thursday of the month and a schedule will be developed. Close out of the budget will take place either July 8 or 9. Discussion took place about having early morning meetings during the summer on Thursdays at 7:30 am.

G. Driver's Education Classes – Mrs. Rapoza reported Driver's Education classes will begin with Mr. J's Driving School. There will be two different times June 3-12 from 2:30 - 5:45 pm. and June 17-24 from 5:30 - 8:45 pm. This first round of classes is running as a trial and will begin again in the fall.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on 2019-2020 School Choice Program – Dr. Reese researched 11 other communities and 6 of them offer School Choice. Presently Westport has 7-8 students involved in School Choice. Dr. Reese recommends to offer School Choice for grades 9,10, and 11th grade only.

A motion was made to accept Dr. Reese's recommendation for School Choice in grades 9, 10, and 11.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Tavares

The motion was amended to add up to 10 students maximum at each grade 9, 10, and 11.

All were in favor, motion passed 5/0/0

B. Review and Act on One Signature for Bill Warrant – Chair Viveiros referred to Mass. General Law Ch. 41, Sec. 56 that allows designation of any one of its members to approve all bills, drafts, orders and payrolls. Dr. Reese recommends to have one committee member to sign bill warrants. It was noted that electronic notification of the bills can be emailed.

A motion was made to have one committee member act on the behalf of the committee and sign the bill warrant and to have each member receive electronic notification.

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

C. Review and Act on a \$1500 WEF Grant for the WCS FY19 Adult Education Program – Dr. Reese explained this grant was to start up the Adult Education Program.

A motion was made to accept the \$1500 WEF Grant for the WCS FY19 Adult Education Program.

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

D. Review and Act on the Awarding of the WES Gym Floor Replacement Bid – Mrs. Rapoza reported that last Wednesday April 24, 2019 was the bid opening for work on the WES gym floor. A total of 5 bids were received with 1 of them disqualified. Mrs. Rapoza recommends to accept and approve the bid contract to the lowest bidder O'Sullivan Flooring at \$36,044. Funding for this project is supported by the Westport Capital Improvement funds.

A motion was made to accept and approve the bid from O'Sullivan Flooring at \$36,044 for the WES gym flooring.

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

E. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, April 3, 2019 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Stanton Cross 4/0/1 (Pacheco abstained)

F. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, April 10, 2019 –

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Motion by Orlando, seconded by Stanton Cross

5/0/0

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** – Chair Viveiros reported receiving a letter from Carlos Freitas cordially inviting SC members to the Westport Memorial Day parade on May 27.

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

VII. **Additional Agenda Issues** – It was requested to have a monthly report on absenteeism including the number, school and cost for substitutes.

Dr. Reese mentioned they experienced a quick response using Facebook to post the need for substitutes. A total of 11 people came to the substitute training.

Recommendation was made by Mrs. Stanton Cross to look into tax rebates for senior volunteers.

Ms. Tavares will send members an email of instructions and deadlines concerning the superintendent evaluation process. Forms will be completed and sent to Ms. Tavares to compile.

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

5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Meeting documents –

2019-2020 School Choice Program

One Signature for Bill Warrant

\$1500 WEF Grant for the WCS FY19 Adult Education Program

Awarding of the WES Gym Floor Replacement Bid

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary