

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, August 22, 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, Michelle Rapoza, School Business Manager

Special Guests and Presenters: Melena Rodrigues and Cabot Priestner, Student Representatives

I. Call to Order - A quorum being present, Chair Viveiros called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

II. Notice of Recording of Meeting (M.G.L. 30A:20f) Comments and Statements from the Public – There were none.

III. Informational Agenda

Student Representatives' Report – Melena Rodrigues & Cabot Priestner- *(this item was added to the agenda)*

Melena Rodrigues reported that seniors are doing prep work for college with applications, essays and SAT'S as well as senior pictures.

Cabot Priestner reported the first day of school is September 4, there are no hard copies of schedules, however they can be accessed online through the student portal. He added that this will be an interesting year with having a new superintendent, principal and vice principals. Students are looking forward to meeting them all.

A. Superintendent Report – G. Reese – Dr. Reese began with acknowledging the challenges of the schedules. He appreciates the flexibility of students and parents. Parents voiced concerns about not having a venue for information when the Facebook page was taken down. A new Facebook page has been created at westportcommunitieschools. There is still a Twitter account available. A calendar adjustment was made to change preschool orientation to 2 days on September 5 and 6 with the start date on September 7. Each school is doing an orientation/welcome program WES 8/28 from 5-6:30 pm., MAC picnic 8/29 from 5:30-7 pm., Jr./Sr. HS 8/29 at 4 pm. for incoming 7th and 9th grade students and any new students. Administrators retreat will be tomorrow and Monday with the goal of getting everyone acclimated to the community and school culture. August 29 will be a teacher/staff convocation covering leadership focus and mandated training, August 28 will be a day for new staff to learn about Westport and get acclimated to the schools. Since the last meeting Dr. Reese worked on outreach for community support by meeting the following people; Kathleen Mc Areavey Westport Historical Society, Irene Buck about the Helen Ellis project, Timothy King Town Administrator, Chief Pelletier for school safety enhancement as well as parents. A policy on the chain of communication and who to contact was distributed. A new visiting entry system called Raptor will be instituted with a letter to families and information on the district website. Teacher negotiations are moving forward. Dr. Reese along with SC and town representation attended a meeting with Governor Baker for a better understanding of the \$72M budget focused towards school safety.

B. Introduction of New Principals –

Jr./Sr. HS - Mitchel Aho introduced himself and explained he has been busy with the hiring process for Assistant Principals, science teacher and school adjustment councilor.

MAC - Dr. Cheryl Greesen Principal introduced herself and has already met with 30 staff members and families. She looks forward to a great school year.

WES - Stacy Duquette Principal introduced herself and is looking forward to continuing what was started last year. The custodial staff is working hard and the extended day program took place all summer. It was noted for MAC and WES that students are able to order supplies ahead of time and send them directly to the schools.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction - Darren Elwell was not present, however he started this week.

The SC welcomed everyone to the district and thanked them for choosing Westport.

C. Personnel Update- Dr. Reese distributed a staffing update with positions filled since July 24, 2018 and vacancies as of August 21, 2018. It was announced that Jack DeFusco retired over the summer and served the district in many capacities.

Dr. Reese mentioned some committee updates. ADA Transition Committee was served by Ms. DesJardins and will now be served by Dr. Reese. SBC and Education Fund Committee will also be served by Dr. Reese. Nancy Rioux volunteered to represent the district on the Long Range Building Planning Committee. Nancy Rioux also serves as the designated payroll sign off person and Mr. Carney will serve as the back-up.

D. Summer School Update – Dr. Reese explained the summer school report for 2018 with participation data. Summer school gave enrichment opportunities for credit recovery in Math, ELA, History and Odysseyware.

E. School Building Committee Update – The SBC had a joint meeting with the Library Board of Trustees on August 2 with the focus on the design of the parking lot, property lines, location of the tennis courts and impact. They are in the process of coming up with a workable plan. A meeting with the MSBA for next steps was held.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Policies

1. AC - Nondiscrimination
2. JB - Equal Educational Opportunities
3. JFB - School Choice

Chair Viveiros informed everyone that the district policies are now posted on the MASC website. Policies get updated right away once approved and can be searched.

A motion was made to approve policies AC, JB, JFB.

Motion by Rioux, seconded by Carney 4/0/0

B. Review and Act on WJRSRH Handbook –Mr. Aho requested an extension of a month for completion of the handbook. He is presently updating and streamlining the code of conduct for continuity as well as building in alternatives to consequences. He will put the draft handbook online.

C. Review and Act on the WEF Grant for \$2990 for the MAC's, K-2 Maker Space –

A motion was made to approve the WEF Grant for \$2990 for the MAC's, K-2 Maker Space.

Motion by Carney, seconded by Stanton-Cross 3/0/1 (Rioux abstained)

D. Review and Act on the WEF Grant for \$360 for the MAC's Pre-K Maker Space –

A motion was made to approve the WEF Grant for \$360 for the MAC's Pre-K Maker Space.

Motion by Stanton-Cross, seconded by Carney 3/0/1 (Rioux abstained)

E. Review and Act on the Project Lead the Way Grant for \$20,000 for the WSRH Computer Science Program – Dr. Reese explained there are 2 separate grants. One for grades 9-12 and one for grades 7 and 8. The grants are for specific training, supplies and equipment. The grants are funded for 2 years with \$12,000 in first year and \$8,000 in second year. The outcome will be 4 courses at each level in computer science, however they will need to be redesigned and adjustments will be looked at. This upcoming year the Jr. High will offer 1 course to all students and two sections will run for the upper grades.

A motion was made and amended to approve Project Lead the Way Grant for \$20,000 for the WSRH Computer Science Program.

Motion by Stanton-Cross, seconded by Rioux. 4/0/0

F. Review and Act on the Project Lead the Way Grant for \$20,000 for the WJRSR Gateway Program -

A motion was made to approve the Project Lead the Way Grant for \$20,000 for the WJRSR Gateway Program.

Motion by Stanton-Cross, seconded by Rioux. 4/0/0

G. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, July 25, 2018 –

A motion was made to approve the minutes of Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

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

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

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

VII. 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 Rioux

4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Carney Yes

Rioux Yes

Stanton-Cross Yes

Viveiros Yes

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 8:14 am.

Meeting Documents

Westport Community School Staffing Update 8.22.18

Policies AC, JB, JFB Final Read

WJRSRH Handbook

WEF Grant for \$2990 for the MAC's, K-2 Maker Space

WEF Grant for \$360 for the MAC's Pre-K Maker Space

Project Lead the Way Grant for \$20,000 for the WSRH Computer Science Program

Project Lead the Way Grant for \$20,000 for the WJRSR Gateway Program

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary