

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
In Person & Virtual
DATE: Thursday, March 17, 2022
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Media Center**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88390789307?pwd=dkFtZE5yZkITSSs2NDRkMkpOTnpSZz09>

Passcode: F1ct1m

Or One tap mobile:

US: +13126266799

Or Telephone: US: +1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 883 9078 9307

Passcode: 526167

MINUTES

Members Present: Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Michelle Orlando

Also Present: Kevin Aguiar Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal Westport Middle School, Jennifer Chaves Extended Day Director, Stacey Duquette PreK-Gr. 4 Principal, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Michael Grandfield Assistant Principal Westport High School, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Coordinator, Kerri McKinnon Principal Westport High School, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Sean Persico Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 35 Community Participants (includes 14 in person)

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Tavares opened the In-Person and Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm. with a quorum of the members present, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Chair Tavares announced:

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Baker issued an Emergency Order Temporarily Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c 30A sec 20. Public bodies otherwise governed by the OML are temporarily relieved from the requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means." This meeting will be conducted in-person and virtually. This meeting is being recorded.

Comments and Statements from the Public - There were none.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representative – John (Jack) Keane was unable to attend the meeting.

B. Acknowledgement of Abigail Adams Recipients - Principal McKinnon and Guidance Counselor Ms. Ruel welcomed families and recognized a total of ten students earning this award.

C. Superintendent Report – Mr. Aubin reported he just received adjusted costs for the WES roof project. The original cost was \$2,088,100. The change order totaled \$435,384 making the final figure \$2,523,484. This represents a significant increase of 20% due to a one-year delay in the project.

Mr. Aubin participated in the Chamber of Commerce's meeting on Early Education and Childcare. They took a look at Bristol County and pointed out that Westport demonstrates one of the lowest rates of availability for children ages 3 and 4. The district is working with Ms. Duquette and Ms. Chaves to try and expand and to help meet these needs.

Mr. Aubin reported on March 29 there will be the first program in a series of lectures. Mr. Tomah will be doing a presentation on Cyber Security at 6 pm.

D. WCS Bill Warrant: 3-11-22 - Chair Tavares reported a Bill Warrant dated 3.11.22 in the amount of \$86,198.92 was emailed to school committee members for review.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions regarding the bill warrant? There were none.

E. Discussion of Summer Reading - Mr. Aubin reported the building and district leadership is looking at revamping the program to have it tie in with experiential learning and also academia. Summer reading started decades ago to try and mitigate learning loss over summer. They will be reporting the progress about this at each meeting and will be looking for public and staff suggestions.

F. Discussion of Tennis Courts - Mr. Aubin received a request that came in about a year ago to use the tennis courts during the school day. Principals Charette and McKinnon mentioned during the school day gym classes are using tennis courts as part of the requirement for Physical Education.

Discussion took place about using the athletic fields for these classes. Ms. McKinnon can explore using the fields when they are ready. Right now the tennis courts need to be reserved for student use. Being good partners with the community was mentioned. Offering use once a week between the hours of 6:00 am. - 7:30 am. was mentioned as a way to compromise for this year. This will be revisited once the athletic fields are completed.

G. Discussion of the Use of the Former Jr./Sr. High School for the 2022-23 School Year - Superintendent Aubin requested to table this item.

H. Subcommittee Updates - Mr. Viveiros reported the School Building Committee meeting was cancelled this month. Working on the punch list and the fields continue.

Mr. Viveiros reported they are meeting weekly on the long-term use of the old high school building. They are discussing the location for the district offices. They sent out an RFI for organizations showing interest in the building. Next meeting will be Monday at 5 pm. in the Library.

VI. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, March 2, 2022 Budget Work Session and Thursday, March 3, 2022 -
A motion was made to accept the Minutes of Wednesday, March 2, 2022 Budget Work Session and Thursday, March 3, 2022.

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

B. Review and Act on 2022-2023 School Year Calendar - Superintendent Aubin requested to table this item until the next meeting.

C. Review and Act on a Donation of Hand Sanitizer Valued at \$650 from Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Partnership with Stop & Shop for the Westport Community Schools -

A motion was made to accept the donation of hand sanitizer valued at \$650 from Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Partnership with Stop & Shop for the Westport Community Schools.

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

D. Review and Act on a WHS Field Trip – Grades 11 & 12 to the International Yacht Restoration School – Newport, RI – April 8, 2022 - This is part of the WEF boatbuilding project.

A motion was made to approve the WHS Field Trip for Grades 11 & 12 to the International Yacht Restoration School in Newport, RI on April 8, 2022.

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

Discussion took place on district field trips. Ms. Pacheco asked if field trips are being planned for all grades and wants to make sure all students get the opportunity to experience them equally.

Ms. McKinnon said field trips are encouraged school wide and she will continue to do this in collaboration with Ms. Charette. Teachers need to make sure it aligns with their courses and these activities are teacher initiated.

Some field trips/events mentioned were a field study at dunes on the beach for grade 6. Semi-formal for grades 9 and 10 Thursday April 14 at Rachels Lakeside. Panama and DC trips.

Ms. Duquette reported every grade will be having at least one field trip or a field study that includes Plymouth Plantation, Roger Williams Zoo, Whaling Museum, Heritage, Watershed Alliance, walks to library to get library cards, special activities, and the Zoo Mobile.

Ms. Chaves reported that the state monitor from EEC came to the old middle high school to look at having the Extended Day Program there. At this time, they do not see any issues. Next week a fire and building inspection will be done. The pods are going away soon.

V. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices - Chair Tavares reported correspondence received has been addressed in today's agenda.

VI. Topics the Chair could not Reasonably Anticipate Forty-eight (48) Hours in Advance of the Meeting -

Chair Tavares requested to send her any items for the next meeting's agenda.

Ms. Rapoza announced the next School Committee Meeting will be a Budget Hearing on March 31.

Dr. McKinnon announced graduation will take place on Saturday June 11 at 11 am. indoors in the auditorium.

Mr. Aubin reported the sign is now in working order.

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 Pacheco 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The In-Person / Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

John and Abigail Adams 2021-22 Scholarship Recipients

WCS Bill Warrant: 3-11-22

2022-2023 School Year Calendar- Draft

Donation of Hand Sanitizer Valued at \$650 from Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Partnership with Stop & Shop for the Westport Community Schools

WHS Field Trip Grades 11 & 12 to the International Yacht Restoration School in Newport, RI on April 8, 2022

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary