

**Westport School Committee**  
**Budget Work Session**  
**DATE: Wednesday, April 27, 2022**  
**TIME: 5:30 p.m.**  
**PLACE: Virtual**

**Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82730764087?pwd=V2F3bk1KT09LL3J3dnI1c1hxbmlidz09>

Passcode: Zt4eWv

Or One tap mobile: US: +16468769923

Or Telephone: US: +1 646 876 9923

Webinar ID: 827 3076 4087

Passcode: 556021

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Gloria Cabral (*left at 6:41 pm.*) Melissa Pacheco (*left at 6:38 pm.*), Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros

**Also Present:** Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager

**I. Call to Order** - Chair Tavares opened the Virtual School Committee Budget Work Session at 5:34 pm.

Chair Tavares announced the following:

On February 15, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law a new session law extending certain COVID-19 related measures. The new law, Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, includes an extension until July 15, 2022 of the remote meeting provisions of the Governor's March 12, 2020 Executive Order 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.

Everyone welcomed Gloria Cabral as a new school committee member.

**II. FY23 Budget Cuts** - The FY23 budget cuts were reviewed and include the following:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 3 teaching positions                       | \$ 183,951   |
| Nurse salaries coming out of ESSER funding | \$ 70,000    |
| New hire retirement savings                | \$ 110,000   |
| FY23 Town Recommended                      | \$20,035,369 |
| FY23 School Proposed                       | \$20,699,320 |
| Difference                                 | \$ 663,951   |
| \$300,000 town free cash                   |              |
| Shortfall after free cash                  | \$ 363,951   |

Discussion took place on the nursing staff. The district was previously informed that the LPN could work at the middle school under the license of the RN at the high school. It was recently brought to their attention this is not the case. Mr. Aubin is waiting for clarification on the nursing situation in order to make a decision with the budget.

Ms. Cabral made a suggestion to possibly use RN interns. Mr. Aubin will look into this and will keep the committee updated on the nursing situation.

Ms. Pacheco asked if 3 teachers cuts have been decided? Mr. Aubin has not determined this yet. They are going to each school and looking at classes, teachers, and students' numbers to get a full analysis. Within the next week recommendations for cuts will be made.

**III. ESSER Funds/ARPA Update** - Ms. Rapoza went over all the items listed in the spreadsheet entitled "ESSER Funding FY22-FY23 (Budget vs. Encumbered/Expended)". This includes ESSER II Grant ESSER III Grant and ARPA Grant.

Mr. Aubin mentioned a total of \$65,000 was earmarked for a van for Special Education and transportation through the ARPA Grant. Two other vans are from ESSER Funds.

It was suggested to have Mr. Aubin inquire how the town is using their ARPA funds.

Mr. Aubin congratulated Ms. Rapoza and Ms. Sousa for a great job managing these grants.

Ms. Rapoza informed everyone they have 2 years for ESSER II funds and the funds need to be spent by FY23. Ms. Rapoza mentioned each item had to go through approval with a description and how it will be used. Any changes need to be amended. All items were also approved by the committee for ESSER II and ESSER III.

Discussion took place on the ESSER III funding.

Chair Tavares asked about the structure of the social emotional program. Chair Tavares recommends to have a BCBA and a social worker be attached to the social emotional program and not to have just teachers and paraprofessionals. The Behavior Consultant will conduct assessments. Mr. Aubin will work on this with Ms. Rapoza and Ms. Tavares.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions on ESSER III funds? There were none.

Chair Tavares reported this meeting was to provide an update to the committee on the line items for ESSER II, ESSER III, and ARPA Grants.

Chair Tavares asked if there were any questions or further thoughts? There were none.

Chair Tavares mentioned tomorrow's meeting will be the reorganization of the School Committee and appointments to various subcommittees. It will be helpful if everyone reviews the subcommittees. A list can be found in the supporting documents.

*(Ms. Pacheco left here at 6:38 pm.)*

Discussion on school lunch meals took place concerning better food and building capacity.

*(Ms. Cabral left here at 6:41 pm.)*

Appreciation and thanks went out to Ms. Orlando for all her work.

**IV. Adjourn** - A motion was made to adjourn the Virtual School Committee Budget Work Session.

Motion by Viveiros, seconded by Stanton Cross

3/0/0

The Virtual School Committee Budget Work Session ended at 6:42 pm.