

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, May 5, 2022
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Auditorium/Virtual**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83100332103?pwd=TzhGdGRncm9aOEErQ3VtSXp5QVJJZz09>

Passcode: 54aZr7

Or One tap mobile: US: +13017158592

Or Telephone: US: +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 831 0033 2103

Passcode: 372049

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Kevin Aguiar Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal Westport Middle School, Jennifer Chaves Extended Day Director, Darren Elwell Director of Curriculum, Ms. Graham, Michael Grandfield Assistant Principal Westport High School, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Coordinator, Kerri McKinnon Principal Westport High School, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Jason Pacheco Athletic Director, Sean Persico Assistant Principal Middle School, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 8 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Stanton Cross 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.

Chair Stanton Cross announced:

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.

II. Comments and Statements from the Public - There were none.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representative – John (Jack) Keane was not present.

B. Superintendent Report – Mr. Aubin announced the first town meeting to take place in the new building was held on Tuesday. A positive email was received from Town Administrator Mr. Hartnett.

Mr. Aubin reported the Commissioner of Education gave an update. There will be an accountability update on chronic absenteeism which is now 10% of the school year, COVID may increase this number. There has been a re-issuance of Emergency Licensure and ones already existing will be extended until June 2023. A reminder was given to turn over documents under public record requests but not confidential student Information. College participation is down with a drop in the FASFA. Finally there will be a changes in competency determinations for 2026-2029.

A successful School to Career Fair was held last week.

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 5-6-22 - Chair Stanton Cross reported a Bill Warrant dated 5.6.22 in the amount of \$248,965.73 was emailed to school committee members for review.

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

Chair Stanton Cross explained that some items listed in the Action Agenda will be voted on when they appear in the Informational Agenda.

D. Discussion of School Committee Subcommittee Appointments - Chair Stanton Cross presented the School Committee Subcommittees with most members keeping their previous committees. The list of Appointments, and Authorizations for 2022-2023 was emailed to Ms. Augusto and reflect the following appointments:

Committee Officers

Chair	Nancy Stanton Cross
Vice Chair	Melissa Pacheco

Annual Appointments

Legal Counsel	Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, P.C.
School Committee Secretaries	
Recording Secretary	Sharon Pinho
Secretary	Karen Augusto
School Physician	Dr. Dennis Callen

Town Committee Representatives

Capital Improvements Committee	Melissa Pacheco
Cable Committee	Gloria Cabral
School Building Committee (2)	Antonio Viveiros, Nancy Stanton Cross
Long Range Building Planning Committee	Antonio Viveiros
ADA Transition Team (2)	Gloria Cabral
Campground Committee	Nancy Stanton Cross
Audit Committee	Gloria Cabral
Educational Fund Committee (2)	Nancy Tavares

School Committee Subcommittees

Collective Bargaining Representatives	
WFT (2)	Nancy Stanton Cross, Melissa Pacheco
AFSCME (2)	Antonio Viveiros, Melissa Pacheco
Health Advisory Committee	Nancy Tavares
Budget Subcommittee	Nancy Stanton Cross, Nancy Tavares

Other School Committee Assignments

MASC Policy Review Subcommittee	Gloria Cabral, Melissa Pacheco
Master Plan Update/ED Section	Nancy Tavares

A motion was made to accept the subcommittee appointments and authorizations for 2022-2023 as presented in Ms. Stanton Cross's email.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Tavares 5/0/0

E. Discussion of School Committee Regular Meeting Calendar - After discussion, it was decided to eliminate the August 4 and August 18, 2022 meetings. The decision for hybrid meetings will be determined later on.

A motion was made to accept the remainder of the school committee regular meeting calendar as is.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

F. Discussion of Westport Middle-High School Sports Survey - Item tabled. The sports survey went out to parents today. Chair Stanton Cross emphasized the importance of responding. The committee will use the data as a tool for guidance as to what direction school sports will take.

G. Discussion of Graduation Outdoor Venues – Ms. McKinnon went over Graduation 2022 Cost Comparisons of outdoor versus indoor graduations with considerations.

Discussion took place on logistics and custodial assistance with set up and take down. Potential traffic noise was mentioned by Mr. Viveiros. Mr. Aubin will talk to the Police Department for assistance with traffic and security. A survey will be done to inquire about the number of graduation tickets needed. Presently students are allowed 4 tickets, however this may be adjusted depending on the survey results.

H. Discussion of School Choice - Mr. Aubin reported meeting with his colleagues on the topic of school choice. They suggested if you provide school choice do it slowly and start at 9th grade to see how it goes. Mr. Aubin recommends to open school choice to grade 9 with 10 students.

Discussion took place on the logistics and revenues. Ten students in grade 9 would mean \$66,000 in increased revenue for the district.

Mr. Viveiros would like to open up to every grade.

Ms. Pacheco would like to pilot this project.

Ms. McKinnon is open to trying school choice.

Mr. Aguiar mentioned presently with 310 students they can't do all the programs they would like to offer. He is in favor of school choice. There is room to grow and would like more than 10 slots.

Mr. Aubin suggested to start small and see how it works for next year.

A motion was made to open School Choice with 10 slots for Grade 9.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Cabral

4/1/0
(Viveiros No)

I. Discussion of Home Schooling – Assessments - Mr. Aubin expressed concerns and would like to have a process in place to assess homeschoolers. Offering families, a way to have their child assessed on a volunteer basis would alleviate students requiring extensive intervention when coming into the district.

J. Discussion of New Building and Connectivity Issues – Mr. Tomah explained when the Red Cross Blood Drive was held they bring in their own devices that directly connect to a cell tower. The school is built where they do not get a cell signal that is the reason why they had problems. Mr. Viveiros reported they are still working on the cell phone boosting and trying to determine how the roof penetrations will be done. Mr. Tomah mentioned cell phone boosting is only as good as the best tower available.

It was reported that WES lost phones due to digging at street. Mr. Aubin announced at no time was there no landline available and arrangements were made to remedy the situation.

K. Subcommittee Updates - There were none.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, April 27, 2022 Work Session and Thursday, April 28, 2022 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, April 27, 2022 Work Session and Thursday, April 28, 2022.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Cabral

5/0/0

B. Review and Act on Formation of Campground Committee - Item removed, taken care of at last meeting.

C. Review and Act on School Committee Subcommittee Appointments - Done above.

D. Review and Act on School Committee Regular Meeting Calendar - Done above.

E. Review and Act on Westport Middle-High School Sports - Item tabled.

F. Review and Act on Graduation Outdoor Venues - No motion needed, done above.

G. Review and Act on School Choice - Done above.

H. Review and Act on SY22-23 School Year Calendar - Mr. Aubin mentioned the bargaining agreement for the work year for teachers is to start no earlier than August 25 and no later than June 30. This is subject to impact bargaining.

September 6 for students is the present calendar.

Ms. Charette and Ms. McKinnon supports August 25 for New Teacher Orientation, August 26 Staff Convocation, Monday August 29 PD day. Students in for 3 days August 30, August 31, September 1, Friday September 2 closed, September 6 first day back for grades 1-12. School year could end on June 13 and would not go into Juneteenth.

Mr. Aubin expressed major concerns about construction still going on and the WES roof project.

A motion was made to approve the calendar as follows: August 25 for New Teacher Orientation, August 26 Staff Convocation, Monday August 29 PD day. Students in for 3 days August 30, August 31, September 1, Friday September 2 closed, September 6 first day back for grades 1-12.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Tavares

5/0/0

I. Review and Act on WHS Grades 10-12 Field Trip – Roger Williams Park Zoo – Providence, RI May 13, 2022 -
A motion was made to approve the WHS Grades 10-12 Field Trip to Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, RI on May 13, 2022.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Tavares 5/0/0

Ms. Tavares mentioned the vote taking place on the school calendar needs to be amended due to pending WFT negotiations.

Ms. Pacheco requested to amend the previous motion made on the start of school and the school calendar until completion of WFT negotiations.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Tavares 5/0/0

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

VI. **Topics the Chair could not Reasonably Anticipate Forty-eight (48) Hours in Advance of the Meeting -**
Ms. Charette announced on Wednesday evening June 15 they will be hosting a forum for grade 4 parents at 6 pm. On June 17, 4th graders will walk from WES to the middle/ high school for tours and lunch. Broadcasters from the WES will do an informational video for parents.

Mr. Aubin thanked Tanya Quinlan for the 2nd community discussion on “If You’re In An Accident What To Do”. A 3rd discussion will take place on May 19 with a representative from Bristol County Sherriff’s Department on bullying.

Mr. Aubin announced the Pep Band performed for students at WES to promote the Arts.

Mr. Aubin gave a shout out to all for Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week.

Chair Stanton Cross mentioned there will be a Memorial Day Parade and SC members can march 9:30 am. start time.

Ms. Tavares requested to add Summer Reading and Ms. Stanton Cross requested to add Senior Project to next meeting’s agenda.

VII. **Adjourn -** A motion was made to adjourn. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

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

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The In-Person / Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

School Committee Reorganization, Appointments, and Authorizations

School Committee Regular Meeting Calendar

WCS Bill Warrant: 5-6-22

Westport Middle High School Athletics Survey

Graduation 2022 Cost Comparison

JFBB-1 - School Choice

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers - School Choice

DESE School Choice Trends in Enrollment and Tuition

School Choice Past Votes and Current Enrollment

Policy IHBG- Home Education

SY22-23 District Calendar - Draft

WHS Grades 10-12 Field Trip – Roger Williams Park Zoo – Providence, RI May 13, 2022 -

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary