

**Westport School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
DATE: Thursday, May 19, 2022  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.**

**PLACE: Westport Middle-High Media Center/Virtual**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88516058821?pwd=WG1zMkw2Wm1CZzVHVXBRMWpUbmZzZz09>

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Or One tap mobile: US: +16468769923

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### MINUTES

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

**Members Absent:** Melissa Pacheco

**Also Present:** Kevin Aguiar Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Jennifer Chaves Extended Day Director, Stacey Duquette Principal Pre-K-Gr.4, Mike Fernandes Start Em Young Program Director, Michael Grandfield Assistant Principal Westport High School, John Jack Keane Student Representative, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Coordinator, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Jason Pacheco Athletic Director, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 18 Community Participants

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** - Chair Stanton Cross opened the Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:31 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 reported upcoming school events. On May 23 there will be a Spring Choral Concert and on May 24 Spring Band Concert both will be at the middle school, May 25 Senior Dinner, May 26 there will be a Safe Prom Assembly at 9 am. for Juniors and Seniors, May 27 Jr. Sr. Prom at Shining Tide from 6-10 pm., Freshmen and Junior Paint Night will take place on June 15. Spring Sports is finishing strong over final week and several teams have a chance to make post season. Congratulations for all the student athletes as they wrap up their careers. Baseball senior's night will be on Monday, boy's tennis on Wednesday and softball on Thursday. Athletic Boosters will be providing a breakfast on May 27. Thanks goes out to the Westport Athletic Boosters volunteers.

B. Superintendent Report – Mr. Aubin reported a total of 24 cases during May 12 -18, 2022. Plans for removal of pods is continuing. Officially moved Extended Day to the old JRSRHS.

It is now budget time and a very busy time for SC and the Business Office. They are looking for ways to trim the budget without cuts to direct service.

The Fire Department spent time at the new school concerning a problem with the fire alarm system.

Mike Fernandes gave an update on the Start Em Young Program. There are 3 areas including basketball, flag football and school news with a total of 90 students.

These programs are helping students make the transition to JRSRHS. Students are getting a great experience by doing interviews using a green screen, participating in school news and 3D modeling. They have 6 high school volunteers.

Mr. Fernandes reported receiving two email communications, 1 from a parent and 1 from a local business praising the program and recognizing that enrichment programs are beneficial. Mr. Fernandes gave praise to Mr. Aubin for initially providing a vision for this program.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if there were any questions?

Discussion took place on where the video broadcast is shown. Chair Stanton Cross recommended to tap into the Recreation Department, We the People, school news television programming, school website and Facebook page. In addition, host broadcasting on PEG TV supported by Community Cable TV.

Mr. Fernandes requested if any teachers have resources to add to the expansion of this program let him know.

Chair Stanton Cross mentioned we live in a coastal community and would love to see a beach volleyball tournament or beach soccer tournament. Possibly make this a fundraising event.

Mr. Aubin reported the citizens of Westport should be proud of teaching and ancillary staff. Staff have stepped up in tremendous ways to make this year as seamless as possible. Mr. Aubin gave a shout out to Judy Oliveira and Lori Melo for putting the students first.

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 5-20-22 - Chair Stanton Cross reported a Bill Warrant dated 5.20.22 in the amount of \$586,547.19 was emailed to school committee members for review.

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

D. End of the Year Student Events -

Mr. Aguiar reported today Ms. McKinnon sent out emails to families about upcoming events.

Ms. Duquette reported there will be some PTO activities, Kindergarten will have Moving Up Days and there will be 4<sup>th</sup> grade promotions.

Ms. Santos hosted a virtual Special Education event called SEPAC (Parent Advisory Council) on Tuesday. A total of 12 people attended and viewed this as helpful. This organization looks at the district to see what is working well as well as what needs to improve.

E. Discussion of Summer Reading - Mr. Aubin is working with building leadership to see what direction the district wants to go. They want to engage reluctant learners, possibly provide a hybrid program to combine reading with experiential learning activities. More information will be given at the next meeting.

Ms. Tavares would like to see something different.

Ms. Cabral suggested the use of movies with answering questions to get in reading and writing.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if there were any questions? There were none.

F. Discussion of Westport Middle-High School Sports Survey – Mr. Pacheco shared survey results with the committee and reported a total of 228 responses. Chair Stanton Cross requested the survey to be broken down by grades 4-11, season, sport, boys and girls. Mr. Pacheco will update the survey to reflect the grades for the next meeting for further discussion.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if there were any questions? There were none.

G. Tennis Court Resolution - Chair Stanton Cross recognized Mr. Aubin in providing a resolution to the tennis courts issue by making times available for community use.

Chair Stanton Cross reported a request for pickleball use. Presently the lines for this sport are not placed and the district does not have any funds to provide them.

H. Subcommittee Updates - Ms. Cabral reported there was a Cable Advisory Board meeting on May 11. There was discussion on funding and what is presently happening.

Chair Stanton Cross reported the Campground Committee sent out an email to the members. Mr. Hartnett will remain as an advisory member. Discussion took place on the formulation of the committee now under the direction of the School Committee. Jeff Wade is the present Chair. Chair Stanton Cross recommended for the committee to get an organizational meeting together, set ground rules, and re-elect a Chair.

**IV. Action Agenda**

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, May 5, 2022 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, May 5, 2022.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Viveiros 4/0/0

B. Review and Act on Westport Middle-High School Sports - Item was tabled. Mr. Pacheco will have more information. Item to be placed on the agenda in both the Informational and Action Agenda sections for the next meeting.

C. Review and Act on WES Field Trip – Grade 3 – Roger Williams Zoo, Providence, RI – May 31, 2022 -

A motion was made to approve WES Field Trip for Grade 3 to Roger Williams Zoo, Providence, RI on May 31, 2022.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Cabral 4/0/0

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** - There were none.

**FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

The committee requests:

- Mr. Aubin to provide more information on summer reading.
- Mr. Pacheco update the sports survey to reflect grade level.

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

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Cabral 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Stanton Cross Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

**MEETING DOCUMENTS**

WCS Bill Warrant: 5-20-22

Westport Middle High School Athletics Survey

WES Field Trip – Grade 3 – Roger Williams Zoo, Providence, RI – May 31, 2022