

Westport School Committee

Regular Meeting

DATE: Thursday, June 16, 2022

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89175085417?pwd=V1NHTFFPdEErOGx5akRNeEpTZ1ZhQT09>

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MINUTES

Members Present: Gloria Cabral, Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Stanton Cross (*left at 8:28 pm.*), Nancy Tavares, Antonio Viveiros

Also Present: Kevin Aguiar Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal Middle School, Stacey Duquette Principal Pre-K-Gr.4, Michael Grandfield Assistant Principal Westport High School, John Jack Keane Student Representative, Kerri McKinnon Principal High School, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Jason Pacheco Athletic Director, Sean Persico Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 25 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Stanton Cross opened the Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:33 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 - Bethany Borges a Westport community parent would like to see SC members consider bringing Lacrosse to Westport Community Schools as a spring sport. She explained there is a transportation issue with parents bringing kids to practice at 2:30. Students with a license need to drive to and from Connolly for practice every day as well as coming home from Fall River at night. There is a great interest in the sport.

Madeline Melnick a grade 6 student expressed that students should not have summer reading. This is a source of stress when it is supposed to be time away from school. Students practice reading and writing in other things. Typically, students who do not do homework while in school will not do any work over the summer.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representative – John (Jack) Keane - Westport Fire Department will be at the high school tomorrow hosting grade level education assemblies, Drama Club's last performance called *Night At the Theater* will be tomorrow, no school on Monday in observance of Juneteenth, last day of school is Friday, final exams will take place on Wednesday and Thursday. John mentioned this is his last meeting reporting and thanked everyone. He enjoyed doing this and hopes everyone has a nice summer

B. Superintendent Report – Mr. Aubin reported this has been an incredible year with many accomplishments for staff and students. Mr. Aubin gave credit to all employees in transitioning the whole school district and dealing with the pandemic. He is proud of the school community and the SY22 will be remembered by all. Mr. Aubin also thanked the Westport community departments.

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 6-17-22 - Chair Stanton Cross reported a Bill Warrant dated 6.17.22 in the amount of \$344,535.20 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. Report on Cost Estimate for Varsity Lacrosse - A total of 17 students responded to the survey. After discussion estimated costs are between \$12,000 - \$11,000 to have Lacrosse in Westport using ESSER funds.

Mr. Viveiros asked what is needed to do Lacrosse? Mr. Pacheco explained to provide Lacrosse as a varsity sport we need to be included in the league schedule or create a schedule from scratch. In addition, order items needed and get enough students to play. Connolly would be on their own unless we host them. The rule is the team with the majority of students is the host. Most likely we would need to branch off on our own and not take Connolly as a co-op. Mr. Pacheco recommends at least 18 players.

Chair Stanton asked if there was any further discussion? There were none.

Chair Stanton Cross will wait for Action Agenda to vote.

Chair Stanton Cross asked the members if anyone has opinions on middle school sports for the 2022-2023 school year?

Mr. Viveiros stated that having students as part of the program early on has been fine. If the numbers increase changes can be made. We should stick with something and not flip flop.

Ms. Pacheco would like to have a rigorous middle school and high school sports program. If we do not build it we will never have the numbers.

Ms. Cabral agrees with Ms. Pacheco. Middle school is the feeder fish to the high school program.

Mr. Pacheco wants a strong successful high school program and his opinion is it will not have the same success as in past due to the need to field high school teams with grade 7 and grade 8 students. The middle school does serve as a feeder but town recreational leagues have soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball.

Mr. Pacheco was asked to get a price estimate breakdowns for middle school sports and varsity sports. Compare the two programs for a budgetary comparison.

Discussion took place on funding.

A motion was made to table this issue, more information is needed.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Pacheco

5/0/0

E. Summer Reading Discussion - Discussion began with information from the Principals on how summer reading is handled.

Ms. McKinnon explained summer reading still applies to students in Advanced Placement and Honors. There is a need to increase AP scores. The English team did some modifications to college prep summer reading. They always had 2 books to choose from to foster interest in reading. This has been modified to have 1 book that students select from a vast list of books.

Ms. Charette said they support the way it has been done in the past where summer reading is applicable to grade level. For grades 5 and 6 choice is not a good thing and for grades 7 and 8 there is choice to read 1 book and complete journal entries.

Ms. Duquette - For Grades 1-4 and MAC Pre-K and K they focus on family-based activities, enrichment activities and outdoor activities depending on grade level. There is nothing to turn into a grade for next Fall.

Discussion from SC members included to do project-based assignments, make a journal or document something like cooking or gardening to include reading and writing. Let kids be kids in the summertime. How much value is summer reading? Family support varies. Grading may start in the negative at the beginning of year if not completed. Have students choose to grow academically by adding value to their educational path, this may or may not include reading and should be their option.

F. Discussion of 2022-2023 School Year Calendar - It was noted that some parents were upset about the late notice concerning the early start to the 2022-2023 school year. A decision was made in April, however they had to wait to ratify the teacher contract. If anyone has an issue Mr. Aubin has ideas for families.

G. Review of School Improvement Plans for 2022-2023 (WHS / WMS / WES / MAC) – Principals -

Each Principal gave a summary of their School Improvement Plan:

Ms. McKinnon reported this plan is developed annually with the School Council. This year is a NEASC study year for the high school so two goals were selected. These goals are aligned to the strategic plan, curriculum, instruction, and assessment system to facilitate student growth. UbD Stage 2 has 2 parts that include writing assessments and learning activities. Part 2 assessments are common assessments.

Goal 1 - Complete common final exams and 1 common assessment per course. Stage 3 - Creation of UbD teachers use for their learning plan units.

Goal 2 - Social emotional development of all students. Develop Big Buddies Program, grade 9 students will help out with the orientation program. Formulation of advisory groups having students assigned to 1-2 staff members in order to foster relationships between staff and students.

Ms. Charrette mentioned the middle school goals are similar to the high school.

Goal 1 - Curriculum Stage 3 in UbD - focus on common assessments across grade levels.

Goal 2 - Social emotional development focusing on positive personal and interpersonal development. They will have daily homeroom meeting time run by guidance counselors in small groups.

Ms. Duquette reported that WES and MAC are intertwined and will be rolling out the implementation of an ELA program. Action steps are the roll out and implementation of this program aligning curriculum and instruction. They will be using K-3 Wonders Literacy Program - stage 2 in the UbD process. They are looking at ways K students will transition into the Wonders Program. A monthly goal is to build community

outreach by offering family community engagements. Data is being analyzed on the effectiveness of Chomebooks going back and forth between home and school for Pre-K- grade 3 students.

Chair Stanton asked if there were any comments? There were none.

H. Discussion of Westport High School 2022-2023 Schedule -

Ms. McKinnon reported on Tuesday and Thursday last block is the same and has been implemented all year. Ms. McKinnon does not agree with having a stagnant block every day because students learn differently and having a class at the same time may or may not be optimal for learning. The present schedule has flexibility so students can do dual enrollment, employments and co-ops.

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

I. Discussion of Half Day Box Lunches – Ms. Rapoza reported they did a survey concerning box lunches for K-12. These lunches will be grab and go for students to place in their backpacks to take home. Ms. Rapoza is working with building administrators to get a count on the number of lunches needed.

J. Discussion of Orientation of Incoming 4th Grade Students - Ms. Charette reported there was a grade 4 to be grade 5 orientation last night. A total of 53 families (50%) attended out of 110 students. There was a successful information forum, questions and answers, and student led tours. The event presentation was shared on Facebook. Ms. Charette thanked all the people who helped.

Tomorrow 4th graders are coming from WES for a presentation in the auditorium, pizza and ice cream lunch, tours and the Pep Band to greet them.

K. Review of Draft Handbooks – WHS & WMS - Principals - Ms. McKinnon mentioned during the last 2 years this was on the August agenda. She requested the opportunity to be able to work during July to formalize the handbook. Chair Stanton Cross mentioned an SC meeting can be set up if needed for August and suggested to reach out to the Policy Subcommittee especially for phone use and dress code. Ms. McKinnon will highlight the changes.

L. Subcommittee Updates - There were none.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, June 2, 2022 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, June 2, 2022.

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

B. Review and Act on Varsity Lacrosse to be added as Varsity Sports 2022-2023 -

A motion was made to add Lacrosse to varsity sports for the school year 2022-2023.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Pacheco, all were in favor, motion passed 5/0/0

C. Review and Act on Summer Reading to Include or Changes or Moratorium for the Summer of 2022-
Discussion was held on summer reading.

A motion was made to place a moratorium on summer reading this year except AP and Honors students.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Viveiros

Discussion took place on the numbers of AP and Honors students.

A motion was made to amend the motion on the table to exclude Honors students and just include summer reading for AP students to meet academic requirements of the course.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Viveiros

Ms. Tavares mentioned the English Department needs the data and they already have this planned out to be able to have this information.

Ms. McKinnon explained Honors is the pre - AP. They use summer reading to gauge rigor.

Chair Stanton Cross asked how many students needed to drop out of Honors? The number was not known at this time.

Ms. Pacheco mentioned making reading suggestions can still be done.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if there was any further discussion? There was nothing further.

Vote on the motion - 4/0/1
Cabral abstained

D. Review and Act on Community Service Graduation Requirements –

Ms. McKinnon reported community service requirement is part of the School Improvement Plan done with the School Council. Beginning with students graduating in 2026 YOG (year of graduation) there will be 20 hours of community service, 5 hours per year to be completed after school.

Discussion was held on making a list or creating a form for the kinds of tasks that can be done to fulfill the requirements. Offering an option to complete some of the hours during school time because of transportation issues was mentioned. Also, the opposite of not doing the hours in school because this should be part of service to the community was stated. Examples of service; shoveling snow, cutting grass, earth day, or cards to soldiers.

A motion was made to approve the graduation requirements as presented by Dr. McKinnon.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Cabral

3/2/0 Stanton Cross - No
Pacheco - No

Chair Stanton Cross turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Pacheco.

(Chair Stanton Cross left here at 8:28 pm.)

E. Review and Act on Student Transportation Bid for 2022-2023 – Ms. Rapoza reported they initially went out to bid for a 3-year contract but it was cancelled. They made some changes and bid for a 1 year bus contract for 2022-2023 with an optional year 2 rollover for SY 2024. They received only 1 bid.

A motion was made to accept the transportation bid as presented.

Motion by Tavares, seconded by Cabral, all were in favor, motion passed 4/0/0

F. Review and Act on MASC/MASS Joint Conference – Early Bird Registration - November -
Discussion took place on who can attend. Early Bird Registration is until July 15.

A motion was made to approve MASC/MASS Joint Conference attendance for 2 members.

Motion by Cabral, seconded by Tavares 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:

- Ms. McKinnon to highlight changes to the Student/Parent/Guardian Handbook.
- Mr. Pacheco was asked to get price estimate breakdowns for middle school sports and varsity sports. Compare the two for a budgetary comparison.

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 Pacheco Yes Tavares Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

- WCS Bill Warrant: 6 -17- 22
- Lacrosse Estimated Costs
- Middle School Boys Basketball
- Westport Community Schools 2022-2023 School Year Calendar
- Master Schedule Option: Modified Block
- WHS and WMS School Improvement Plan 2022-2023
- Grade 4 to Grade 5 Transition Forum
- WHS and WMS Student/Parent/Guardian Handbook Drafts 2022-2023
- WHS Community Service Graduation Requirements Proposal
- SY2014-2022 School Transportation Comparison
- MASC Early Bird Conference Savings Memo

Vote only: Summer Reading

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary