

**Westport School Committee
Special Meeting
DATE: Thursday, August 25, 2022
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81375543837?pwd=Ti83MERSchHhPaTNMU3lJMC9XODVxdz09>

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Webinar ID: 813 7554 3837

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MINUTES

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

Also Present: Kevin Aguiar Assistant Principal Pre-K-Gr.4 (arrived at 7:23 pm.), Amy Arruda AFSCME President, Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal Middle School, Jennifer Chaves Extended Day Director, Stacey Duquette Principal Pre-K-Gr.4 (arrived at 7:23 pm.) Michael Grandfield Assistant Principal Westport High School, Lisa Kaminski Director of Curriculum, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Coordinator, Kerri McKinnon Principal High School, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Wendy Miranda Special Education Coordinator, Jason Pacheco Athletic Director (left at 7:20 pm.), Sean Persico Assistant Principal Westport Middle School, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Elaine Santos Special Education Director, Anthony Tomah Technology Director (left at 7:29 pm.), 2 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Stanton Cross opened the 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 July 15, 2022, Lt. Governor Polito signed into law a new session law extending certain COVID-19 related measures which includes an extension until March 31, 2023 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 is being recorded.

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

III. Informational Agenda

A. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin would like everyone to know that staff has done an exceptional job getting ready for the school year. He thanked everyone for their efforts and he is proud of their work.

Disappointing news is that students will not be allowed to play on the new school fields to avoid jeopardizing them for future use. Arrangements for students to play at the old high school fields have been made. The situation will be assessed in the Spring.

B. WCS Bill Warrant: 8-12-22 and 8-26-22 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrants dated 8.12.22 in the amount of \$143,671.13 and 8-26-22 in the amount of \$10,035.06 was emailed to school committee members for review.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if there were any questions regarding the bill warrants? Chair Stanton Cross made inquiries on some Special Education expenditures and received a satisfactory explanation.

C. Acknowledgement of a \$11,085 WEF Grant for the Wilson Language Training Program for the WES - Chair Stanton Cross acknowledged the WEF Grant for the Wilson Language Training Program for the WES in the amount of \$11,085.

D. Acknowledgement of a \$1599 WEF Grant for the Mystery Science Program for the WES - Ms. Kaminsky shared excitement that the elementary grades 1-4 are getting these resources. Science materials are interesting and connect science to real world experiences.

Chair Stanton Cross acknowledged the WEF Grant for the Mystery Science Program for the WES in the amount of \$1599.

E. Acknowledgement of a \$4620 WEF Grant for the SAT Prep for the WHS - Ms. McKinnon explained there will be different 3-week sessions running after school, before an SAT test date. This program will be free and students will also receive the prep book.

Chair Stanton Cross acknowledged the WEF Grant for the SAT Prep for the WHS in the amount of \$4620.

Ms. Pacheco pointed out that in the past members approved grants, not just acknowledged them. They are usually listed on the informational and action sections on the agenda. These grants may impact the financial budget.

Chair Stanton Cross will add these grants in section *VI. Topics the Chair could not Reasonably Anticipate Forty-eight (48) Hours in Advance of the Meeting* to approve on the Action Agenda.

F. Review WCS Policy JICA – Dress Code Policy - Chair Stanton Cross reported that the members received information on the existing policy and the proposed policy. The existing dress codes will start at the beginning of the year. The policies in the high school handbook is what is being looked at and not the district policy.

Mr. Viveiros explained that the Student Handbook has to be within the guidelines of the district policy. The district policy was streamlined because it was too wordy. MASC recommends district policy should be vague. If you list things it gets too specific. Administration should decide the outcomes when implementing policy enforcement.

Ms. Pacheco mentioned the policy should not be gender specific. The policy needs enforcement by teachers and administration with specific discipline and following through.

Ms. Cabral mentioned the use of uniforms having students wear a certain color pant, shirt, etc. This may reduce anxiety.

It was mentioned the topic of uniforms was brought up in the past. Parents were surveyed about uniforms and the results came back very tight about half and half.

Chair Stanton Cross requested to do another survey for parents K-8 on uniforms.

Discussion took place on the policy being too broad versus being too detailed. Members were divided as to what should be included. The policy was not approved as written and needs more revision.

Ms. McKinnon was asked if they can work with the current policy? Ms. McKinnon responded yes, however she prefers having a bulleted list and noted that students work better with this method. Ms. McKinnon will redo the policy and send it out to the members. The new school year will start with the existing policy.

G. Review WCS Policy JICJ - Student Cell Phone and Electronic Devices -

Discussion took place on whether to allow students to use cell phones during lunchtime in the cafeteria. After discussion, it was decided to allow cell phones in the cafeteria. This can be revisited if this policy is not working and phones can be taken away. Add the use of earbuds to the policy.

Discussion on enforcement protocol took place. Instead of having parents pick phones up or assigning a Saturday detention, having students leave cell phones in the office for a certain number of days was mentioned as an alternative.

Ms. McKinnon explained that based on the policy meeting that was held on August 9, two drafts of potential policies were written. The first one is to keep the existing policy. Ms. McKinnon would like to include earbuds. First revision adheres to using cell phone holders. Ms. McKinnon ordered cell phone holders that were installed last December and were implemented as a classroom protocol. Second draft policy would be to align to the middle school policy in which cell phones are never used.

Discussion took place on using cell phone holders in the classroom. Majority of the members would like to keep the existing policy of having cell phones turned off and out of site. The use of the cell phone holders can be part of the teacher's classroom protocol.

H. Review WCS Policy IJNDB-R – Chromebook Policy - The district has no signed policy right now for Chromebooks.

Ms. Pacheco mentioned adding to the policy that admin will review the incident details on a case by case basis. Students were going to the Technology Department when there was a problem.

It was noted that about 90% of computer issues are not due to accidental damages.

Ms. Charette shared they were sending home bills and not getting paid.

Mr. Aguiar explained how they handled Chromebook problems last year at the high school. They treated this similar to when a textbook or book is lost. Students lost their privileges to participate in activities. Students would write down what happened in an incident report to determine liability. Once they started to charge fees, students took better care of the computers.

Discussion took place on the implementation of insurance. Mr. Tomah was not available for an update.

It was mentioned that possibly not releasing transcripts may be an option.

I. Fall Sports Update – J. Pacheco - Chair Stanton Cross announced this will be discussed at the next meeting.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, August 4, 2022 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, August 4, 2022.

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

B. Review and Act on WMHS Handbooks – K. McKinnon & L. Charette -

A motion was made to approve the current WMHS handbooks.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Viveiros 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 -

Chair Stanton Cross listed these grants to be on the Action Agenda for approval:

\$11,085 WEF Grant for the Wilson Language Training Program for the WES -

A motion was made to approve the \$11,085 WEF Grant for the Wilson Language Training Program for the Wes.

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

\$1599 WEF Grant for the Mystery Science Program for the WES -

A motion was made to approve the \$1599 WEF Grant for the Mystery Science Program for the WES Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Cabral

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

\$4620 WEF Grant for the SAT Prep for the WHS -

A motion was made to approve the \$4620 WEF Grant for the SAT Prep for the WHS

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

Chair Stanton Cross announced on behalf of the committee members she would like to thank Ms. Elaine Santos for her dedication and service to the district and wished her well in her retirement.

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 Cabral 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Viveiros Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

- WCS Bill Warrants: 8-12-22 and 8-26-22
- \$11,085 WEF Grant for the Wilson Language Training Program for the WES
- \$1599 WEF Grant for the Mystery Science Program for the WES
- \$4620 WEF Grant for the SAT Prep for the WHS
- Review WCS Policy JICA– Dress Code Policy
- Review WCS Policy JICJ - Student Cell Phone and Electronic Devices
- Review WCS Policy IJNDB-R – Chromebook Policy
- WMHS Handbooks

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary