

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

**MINUTES**

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

**Members Absent:** Melissa Pacheco

**Also Present:** Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Mr. N. Brown Teacher, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Wendy Miranda Special Education Coordinator, Rick Monast Teacher, Jason Pacheco Athletic Director, Nancy Tavares Special Education Coordinator, Shawn Thomas School Adjustment Counselor, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 0 Community Participants

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** - Chair Stanton Cross opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:32 pm. with a quorum of the members present, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**III. Informational Agenda**

A. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin reported that the first month of school went exceptionally well and thanked the staff.

There are still construction projects going on. WES roof project will be wrapping up by mid-October. Fence was removed for the playground and help with leveling will be done.

LED light project is still going on.

Town sent a notice on 9/16 concerning the budget schedule process. Building managers will meet to go over their specific budgets. The timeline has accelerated considerably. Enrollment has increased and official numbers will be given at the next meeting.

Discussion took place on the timeline. Having the budget number by October 28 does not give enough time to hold budget work sessions, schedule a public meeting 7 days before, as well as collaboration between school and town on the budget process.

Chair Stanton Cross would like a letter written to FinCom letting them know as ambitious as the schedule is, we will do the best we can, however having a number within the next 3 weeks will be very hard to determine within that timeframe. In addition, check on whether town and school will be collaborating.

B. WCS Bill Warrant: 10-7-22 - Chair Stanton Cross reported a bill warrant dated 10.7.22 in the amount of \$192,652.46 was emailed to school committee members for review.

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

C. 2022 MCAS Results - Superintendent Aubin went over a one-page summary entitled *MCAS Spring 2022 Update Overview*. Items included points of pride, weaknesses & opportunities, and what's happening now. This data is from years 2019 and 2022 and not from 2020 and 2021 when modified tests were done.

A request was made to have the Director of Curriculum go through this information with the committee at a future meeting.

D. Review of "Section D" Policies Recommended by MASC- Mr. Aubin informed members these are MASC recommended changes for policy updates.

#### IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, September 15, 2022 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, September 15, 2022.

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

B. Review and Act on Belize Make-up Trip – Grades 11-12 – 2023 February Break – Mr. Monast reported this trip is for the juniors and seniors and is a great educational opportunity.

There was a question on how many trips are offered to students? Mr. Monast explained students have 3 opportunities.

A motion was made to approve the Belize Make-up Trip for grades 11-12 during the 2023 February break.

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

C. Review and Act on Central Europe Trip – Grades 10-12 – 2024 April Break – Mr. Monast explained this is a 10-day tour that goes across 5 cities and offers cultural depth and holocaust history.

A motion was made to approve the Central Europe Trip for grades 10-12 during the 2024 April break.

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

Chair Stanton Cross shared that she attended the parent presentation on central Europe and there was lots of good information. Mr. Monast likes to speak to group leaders from other schools. He found that much larger districts don't travel at all. Westport is a small school district and they are providing experience traveling every year, taking over 70 students abroad.

Teachers involved with these traveling programs were thanked for their involvement.

D. Review and Act on Belize Trip – Grades 8 & 9 – 2024 February Break – Mr. Brown informed everyone about the trip.

A motion was made to approve the Belize Trip for grades 8 & 9 during 2024 February break.

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

E. Review and Act on WMHS FY23 Class/Club Offerings – Mr. Pacheco presented the Westport Middle-High School FY23 Class/Club Offerings. This information was placed in member's packets for review. A question was asked on how clubs are created. Mr. Pacheco explained that some are student driven and some are teacher driven.

A motion was made to approve the WMHS FY23 Class/Club Offerings.

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

F. Review and Act on WMHS New Clubs – S. Thomas & A. Rowley - Mr. Pacheco explained there are 2 new proposed clubs.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if stipends for the 2 new clubs are in the budget? Mr. Pacheco confirmed they are.

#### Gardening Club

Ms. Rowley was not present. Mr. Pacheco mentioned there is a description in member's packets.

A motion was made to accept the Gardening Club.

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

#### Anti-bullying Club -

Mr. Thomas explained he started a poster contest for student awareness to promote this club.

A motion was made to accept the Anti-bullying Club.

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

G. Review and Act on the MOU for the Occupancy of the Former Jr./Sr. High School and Administration Offices -

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

A motion was made to authorize an executed signature on the MOU for the Occupancy of the Former Jr./Sr. High School and Administration Offices.

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

H. Review and Act on Close Out/Transfer Funds from WES Student Activities to WMHS - Superintendent Aubin explained when there was a transition of the grades at WES the funds raised did not follow the students. Mr. Pacheco will work with Ms. Duquette to reconcile this issue based on the reconfiguration.

A motion was made to approve the Close Out/Transfer Funds from WES Student Activities to WMHS.

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

I. Review and Act on Special Education Transportation Contract - Superintendent Aubin reported the Special Education Transportation Contract went out to bid. They received two bids. A recommendation to go with Whaling City Transit, Inc. for Special Needs Transportation was made.

A motion was made to accept the Special Education Transportation Contract with Whaling City Transit, Inc. as the provider of Special Needs Transportation.

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

J. New School Committee Member Appointments - Chair Stanton Cross recommended the following updates to appointments on committees to replace former school committee member Nancy Tavares who is no longer on the committee.

Budget Subcommittee - Michelle Orlando

Educational Fund Committee (2 members for liaison position) Michelle Orlando and Nancy Stanton-Cross will alternate.

Health Advisory Committee - Gloria Cabral and Nancy Stanton-Cross

Master Plan Update/ED Section - Michelle Orlando

New members accepted their appointments.

A motion was made to accept all the committee appointments.

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

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

Reports on committees - Chair Stanton Cross reported the Campground Committee had a meeting last night and decided to get together in-person at the campground site next Friday October 21 at 3:30 pm.

VI. **Topics the Chair could not Reasonably Anticipate Forty-eight (48) Hours in Advance of the Meeting** -

Mr. Pacheco gave a general update on fall sports. Middle school has seen improved scores. Soccer is doing well with the boys undefeated and the girls winning today. Also doing well is golf, volleyball, and field hockey. Mr. Pacheco is trying to get recreational basketball back. Middle school basketball uniforms will be ordered. Westport 5K Run/Walk fundraiser is coming up on Sunday October 23. On October 24, a volleyball program fundraiser will be held. The volleyball team plays Diman and all 3 teams host that night so the whole program is involved.

Mr. Viveiros would like to see the weight room used and requested to look into this as a possibility to create a club.

It was noted there are 170 students participating in the Start Em Young Program.

**FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

The committee requests:

- Sending a letter to FinCom concerning the budget timeline and process.
- Ms. Kaminski report on 2022 MCAS data.
- Mr. Pacheco look into use of the weight room/possibly as a club.

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

Motion by Orlando, seconded by Cabral

4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Orlando Yes Stanton Cross Yes Viveiros Yes

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**MEETING DOCUMENTS**

WCS Bill Warrants: 10-7-22

2022 MCAS Results Overview

“Section D” Policies Recommended by MASC

MASC Policy Newsletter September 2022

Belize Make-up Trip – Grades 11-12 – 2023 February Break

Central Europe Trip – Grades 10-12 – 2024 April Break

Belize Trip – Grades 8 & 9 – 2024 February Break

WMHS FY23 Class/Club Offerings

Close Out/Transfer Funds from WES Student Activities to WMHS

Special Education Transportation Contract

Westport School Committee Reorganization, Appointments, and Authorizations 2022-2023

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*