

Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, October 20, 2022
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Auditorium

MINUTES

Members Present: Gloria Cabral, Michelle Orlando, Nancy Stanton Cross, Melissa Pacheco

Members Absent: Antonio Viveiros

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Lisa Kaminsky Director of Curriculum, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, 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 6:31 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 there was a request from AFSCME to open up negotiations for a new contract. The existing contract will be ending this year. Dr. Pacheco and Mr. Viveiros serve as the collective bargaining representatives. Chair Stanton Cross mentioned that the representatives can serve on this committee without the attorney.

Working with the Director of Facilities Mr. Duarte a list of capital projects was created with 2022 priority projects highlighted in yellow. The town is expediting the budget process, so outlining these projects needs to be done now to be ready.

There was a meeting with Mr. Tomah and Ms. Rapoza about leasing rather than purchasing Chomebooks.

WES roof project is completed, they are testing electric and snow melt. The project will be closed out this month. Mr. Aubin thanked everyone involved.

Chamber of Commerce Educational Committee came to visit the school today with about 25 people. They wanted to see what is going on in schools and take a look at the day to day happenings. The middle school and high school students as part of the My Buddy Club took care of them with a tour and answered questions. They mentioned that the building was clean.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if anyone had questions?

Dr. Pacheco requested to have more details on how capital items are determined. She would like to back up the need for requests and would like to be able to explain why we need what we need. Mr. Aubin will put together explanations /narrative for the items on the capital improvements list.

B. WCS Bill Warrant: 10-21-22 - Chair Stanton Cross reported a bill warrant dated 10.21.22 in the amount of \$343,258.51 was emailed to school committee members for review. Members also have a hardcopy of the bill warrant.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if there were any questions regarding the bill warrant?

Chair Stanton Cross noted the district's food bills are going up and this should be earmarked for future budget conversations.

Ms. Rapoza shared information on the district's Farm to School initiative. Last week hamburgers and hot dogs purchased from Meatworks were served to students. Representative Schmid and the CEO from

Meatworks also attended. Teachers are starting to work with the Farm to School initiative. On November 15 at 5:30 pm. they will be inviting local farmers to come to the school to introduce what Westport is doing in this area with the possibility of working together.

In addition, there will be a culinary program starting next Tuesday after school. Chef McGovern from Diman will be the instructor teaching things like cookies, pasta, and broths. The program goes until the second week in February and then there will be another program for the remainder of the students that signed up for the program. Students will choose which foods to serve, create a menu and invite their families in to share the meal.

C. 2022 MCAS Overview – Ms. Kaminski gave an overall summary using a PowerPoint presentation entitled *MCAS Spring 2022 UPDATE*. Only years 2019 and 2022 are comparable since 2020 students were remote and 2021 MCAS was given in an abbreviated version. Ms. Kaminsky used a slide to demonstrate the student experience that showed how each grade had an interrupted learning experience. Also covered were comparison charts for grades 3-8 and grade 10, points of pride, needs improvement/opportunities for growth, expanding success and what is going well.

Finally, Ms. Kaminski shared what is happening now. Reading Wonders for K-3 was implemented with teacher's professional development last week. They are continuing to build on this expanding the program to all with hopes of improvement. They are also looking at the research on the science of reading, aligning ST math, deeper learning strategies, high school is preparing for a NEASC review, continuing to ramp up SEL and personalizing instruction on all levels.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if anyone had questions or comments?

Members shared they are happy to see the district implementing hands on learning. Ms. Kaminsky shared they are measuring progress by using i-Ready and DIBELS at the elementary school. MCAS data will be looked at November 8 with professional development. Ms. Kaminsky is working with the SPED Directors as well.

D. Student Enrollment – Ms. Rapoza gave an overview of the monthly enrollment as of October 12, 2022.

FY22 October 2021 - 1,430

FY23 October 2022 - 1,446 This reflects an increase of 16 students.

There has been an increase in ELL (English Language Learners) needing additional resources. Languages were defined as Arabic, Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese.

Dr. Pacheco inquired about parent notifications sent by email and suggested to see if there is a way that progress reports and report cards can get to parents by mail. Some people might not have access to a computer or be computer savvy. Superintendent Aubin will work with building leadership on this. Ms. Rapoza informed everyone in School Brains they can access portal usage.

FY22 SPED services - 259

FY23 SPED services - 286 This reflects an increase of 27 students that need services.

Chair Stanton Cross requested to have 3 years (2021, 2022, 2023) of data on which grades of students need services, what % of existing students are on an IEP, and are students coming into the district needing services.

OOD (Out of District) - Increased by 3 students.

Superintendent Aubin shared that Ms. Miranda and Ms. Tavares can be at the next meeting to give more information.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, October 6, 2022.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, October 6, 2022.

Motion by Cabral, seconded by Orlando

3/0/1

(Pacheco abstained)

B. Review and Act on Grades 5-9 Field Trip to Johnson & Wales – Providence, RI – March 23, 2023 -

A motion was made to approve the Grades 5-9 Field Trip to Johnson & Wales in Providence, RI on March 23, 2023.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Cabral, all were in favor, motion passed

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 compile explanations /narrative with the items on the capital improvements list.
- Data for 3 years 2021, 2022, 2023 on which grades of students need services, what % of existing students are on an IEP, and are students coming into the district needing services.
- Look at ways to communicate to all parents so they can be well informed on their child's education. Identify and explore other ways besides sending out electronic communication for those parents that need it.

VII. Adjourn to Executive Session in Accordance with MGL c.30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Members will not to return to Open Session.

A motion was made to adjourn to Executive Session.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Cabral

Roll call vote:

Cabral	Yes	Orlando	Yes	Pacheco	Yes	Stanton Cross	Yes
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The Regular School Committee Meeting ended at 7:47 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WCS Bill Warrants: 10-21-22

Capital Projects-Buildings

Westport Community Schools MCAS Spring 2022 Update

Westport Community Schools Monthly Enrollment - October 12, 2022

Field Trip to Johnson & Wales – Providence, RI – March 23, 2023- Grades 5-9

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary