

Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, November 17, 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, Mike Fernandes Start Em Young Coordinator, Michael Grandfield Westport Middle School Assistant Principal, Lisa Kaminsky Director of Curriculum, John Jack Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, D. Marques Teacher, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Coordinator, Kerri McKinnon Westport High School Principal, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Jason Pacheco Athletic Director, 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 6:49 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

I. Discussion of Internship Process and Internships at WES – *(taken out of order)* - Mr. Marques provided an overview of the internship school to career program that focuses on internships and work studies. Students sign up in Spring and class begins in Fall based on the student's interests. Mr. Marques explained the schedule, participation numbers and breakdowns for internal and external placements.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if there were any questions?

Mr. Viveiros asked if students miss any classes when they participate. It was explained that students do not miss any classes and spend about 2 days 90 minutes 3 hours week for 16 weeks.

Ms. Cabral shared there is an apprenticeship program to get credits from the state.

C. Update on Start'em Young – *(taken out of order)* Mr. Fernandes reported that the program has been expanded to the middle school this year and the number of students has doubled. Offered at the high school are lacrosse, field hockey, and basketball. Offerings at the middle school include flag football, hockey, and pep band. Relationships are developing with 6 high school student volunteers and 2 for field hockey at WES. Mr. Fernandes met with Mr. Pacheco to discuss the future of the program. It was noted that students need exposure at a young age and this will help build capacity. School news and robotics are being considered for additions to the program.

B. Student Representatives: *(taken out of order)* - John (Jack) Keane & Ryan Keane
John Jack Keane began by thanking the School Committee for allowing him to be the voice of the student body. Fall sports just ended and congratulations goes out to all the athletes and coaches. Thanks also to the PTO for providing breakfast on Monday for all student athletes. Winter sports tryouts begin Monday November 28 and registration closes by Friday November 18 at midnight. Drama Club will host auditions for the Little Shop of Horrors, STEEL raffle basket fundraiser closes November 22, Environmental Club and Medical Club are running raffle basket fundraisers that close December 16.

Ryan Keane reported on middle school activities. Congratulations went out to all the athletes and coaches with thanks to the PTO for providing a breakfast. Winter sports tryouts will be Monday November

28, there was an extended home room today so middle school students could create a link in a paper chain of gratitude with a display of the chain on the second floor, tomorrow from 6-8 pm. there will be a dance for students in grades 5-6, Student Council will run a food drive December 1-14 for families in need, donations are welcomed.

A. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin reported meeting with Old Colony superintendents. They discussed question 1 on the millionaire’s tax. It has not been determined exactly how the money will be spent. There is a possibility the money will be earmarked for K-12 education.

There is discussion on increasing Special Education funding on circuit breaker reimbursements from 70% to 100% and increasing transportation. Everyone should look to the legislative delegation to help our community.

D. WCS Bill Warrant: 11-4-22 and 11-18-22 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrant dated 11.4.22 in the amount of \$504,815.26 and bill warrant dated 11-18-22 in the amount of \$320,447.32 were emailed to school committee members for review. Members also have a hardcopy of the bill warrants.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if there were any questions regarding the bill warrants? There were no questions.

F. Discussion of the Number of Students Participating in Clubs for 2021 & 2022 and the Fees Previously Charged – *(taken out of order)* Mr. Pacheco gave an update on clubs listing all the offerings and enrollment for 2021 and 2022. An explanation on fees was also provided.

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

G. Discussion of What the Strength & Conditioning Person Would Offer to the District and Stipend – *(taken out of order)* Mr. Pacheco shared what he would like to see in a strength and conditioning program for the district. Discussion took place on having students use the equipment and use it correctly with safety in mind. A suggestion was made to possibly receive funding through the Westport Education Foundation and make the strength training an educational program with an academic background. Chair Stanton Cross requested recommendation from legal council as well as clarification on certification status.

Chair Stanton Cross recommended that notice on sports registration be sent out to parents/students more often.

E. CIPC Update

1. Building Needs - Superintendent Aubin reviewed the capital projects for the school buildings. Mr. Duarte prepared a narrative on each item for background information.

Discussion took place on how to proceed with the list.

Chair Stanton Cross recommended that the committee review the capital projects list and this will be placed on the next agenda.

2. Buying or Leasing Options and Insurance for Chromebooks – Mr. Tomah presented a 10-year lease projection for FY2025-2036. Pros and cons were given for leasing versus buying out right. Mr. Tomah suggested funding should be built into the operating budget.

Mr. Tomah informed everyone there is no need to purchase Chromebooks for 3 years since 1,400 were purchased this year.

Discussion took place on doing a phase in program with concentrating on maximum use for 3 years. It was noted that it is important to have a purchase and a lease plan.

Next Mr. Tomah went over the insurance options. There was a question on whether the district would collect the insurance fees or do parents get the insurance on their own? Chair Stanton Cross

recommended to have members of the Policy Committee review all the options for the Chromebooks and make recommendations to the School Committee Ms. Cabral and Ms. Pacheco will review this further.

H. Overview of AP Offerings/Scores/Enrollment & pre AP – Ms. McKinnon reviewed the AP scores and AP enrollment for 2020, 2021, 2022. Ms. McKinnon mentioned that she encourages training and works closely with the AP teachers. They use mock exams to help increase scores.

Chair Stanton Cross requested a report on AP including statistics every September, since grades come out in August.

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

J. Discussion of Preventing Vaping in the Bathrooms – Mr. Grandfield went over procedures that the school goes through to monitor bathrooms. Mr. Grandfield explained that bathrooms were roped off and closed during passing periods due to difficulties in monitoring. Teachers monitor bathrooms at other times during the school day and some bathrooms are locked.

K. Communication / Translation Update – Ms. Kaminski gave an overview on how the district has expanded their ability to communicate with families. She explained the use of Language Line that connects with an interpreter right away. The school website has a translation widget.

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

L. Discussion of Dates for Budget Work Sessions - Discussion took place on scheduling a budget work session. It was decided to meet on Tuesday November 29 at 4:30 pm.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, October 20, 2022 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, October 20, 2022.

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

B. Review and Act on WHS Field Trip to RISD – Providence, RI – January 11, 2023 -

A motion was made to approve the WHS Field Trip to RISD – Providence, RI – January 11, 2023.

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

C. Review and Act on WMHS Drama Club Field Trip to the Palace Theater, Waterbury, CT– March 4, 2023 -

A motion was made to approve the WMHS Drama Club Field Trip to the Palace Theater, Waterbury, CT– March 4, 2023.

Motion by Orlando, 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 -

Chair Stanton Cross suggested to have the PTO breakfast event divided into 2 separate events with one for the middle school and one for the high school.

Chair Stanton Cross and Ms. Cabral attended the Farm to Table Program reporting it was an amazing event.

Ms. Rapoza shared there was an event that included serving meals at the Council on Aging. In December they will be doing an activity with seniors and having pizza. Students will earn community service.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

The committee requests:

- Review of Capital Projects - Building list.

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 Viveiros 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral	Yes	Orlando	Yes	Stanton Cross	Yes	Viveiros	Yes
--------	-----	---------	-----	---------------	-----	----------	-----

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

- WCS Bill Warrants: 11-4-22 and 11-18-22
- Internship Process and Internships at WES - School To Career
- Clubs Data for 2021 & 2022 and the Fees / Strength and Conditioning
- Memo CIPC Projects from Mr. Duarte dated October 27, 2022
- Capital Projects - Buildings 2022 Priority
- 10 Year Lease Projection FY2025-2036
- Worth Ave. Group Quote Chromebook Insurance
- AP Enrollment 2020, 2021, 2022
- AP Scores 2020, 2021, 2022
- Prevention of Vaping at WHS
- Interpretation and Translation Services Communicating with Families 2022-2023
- WHS Field Trip to RISD Providence, RI January 11, 2023
- WMHS Drama Club Field Trip to the Palace Theater, Waterbury, CT March 4, 2023
- Memo Student Discipline: Changes to 37H3/4(b), effective November 8, 2022, dated October 21, 2022 from Long, DiPietro, and Gonzalez, LLP

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary