

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, December 15, 2022
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Auditorium**

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Westport Middle School Principal, John Jack Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Kerri McKinnon Westport High School Principal, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Jason Pacheco Athletic Director, Sean Persico Westport Middle School Assistant Principal, Leslie Ruel Guidance Counselor, 45 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Stanton Cross opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:36 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

B. Student Representatives: (taken out of order) - John Jack Keane began by reporting progress reports for the high school and middle school will be posted in the Community Portal on December 16. December 19-22 is Spirit Week, December 22 will be a half day with 11:00 am dismissal. Winter sports began regular season this week. We hosted our first Middle School basketball game on Monday and our first high school games of the season on Tuesday. Cheerleaders helped energizing the crowd. Next boys' basketball games are Friday, girl's will have their first home games on Wednesday the 21st. Co-op ice hockey team will play in the Prenda Cup Tournament this weekend at Driscoll Rink. National Honor Society had a bake sale Tuesday night during the basketball games. Class of 2025 hosted a movie night for WES students on Wednesday featuring Home Alone. STEEL group went on Monday to Saint Vincent's home in Fall River. They donated toys and talked to the children. Talent Show will be Tuesday December 20 at 6 pm. in the auditorium.

Ryan Keane reported the following activities for the middle school: Winter season began and both middle school basketball teams played Monday against Norton. There was an extended home room today to collect food for the annual food drive. Spirit Week and holiday hallway decorating is next week. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all from Westport Middle School.

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 12-2-22 & 12-16-22 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrant dated 12.2.22 in the amount of \$452,099.28 and bill warrant dated 12-16-22 in the amount of \$292,827.28 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.

D. Acknowledgement of The Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients – Ms. Ruel announced there were 20 recipients of the Abigail Adams Scholarship. Students qualify by receiving advanced status in ELA, Math or both and were in the top 25% of their class that took the MCAS. Students were called up to receive their awards.

E. CIPC Update – M. Duarte - This item was tabled.

F. Strength & Conditioning Update – Mr. Pacheco shared some information after doing research with 2 local school districts Fall River and Dartmouth that do this kind of programming. Mr. Pacheco

recommends a 13-week program as the most practical option. There would be 15 students maximum and the program would be 3 hours a week in person.

Discussion took place on offering a structured program. Once students are familiar with the machines the program can build and they can be supervised by a teacher.

Discussion took place on program interest with the existing gym teachers. The committee requested for Mr. Pacheco to ask the gym teachers if they are interested in a strength and conditioning club, then email the committee their responses.

This item will be placed back on the next agenda. Mr. Pacheco does not need to attend.

A. Superintendent Report – (taken out of order) Superintendent Aubin reported the Commissioner of Education had a meeting and mentioned many items: Districts were asked to promote flu shots. State is looking in piloting a Pre-K-3 program and Ms. Kaminsky will apply for grants. In order to deal with teacher and sub shortages, the state is allowing high school seniors to work as teachers and subs. Emergency licensure for teachers is extended through June 30 2024. There were concerns about the new mental health bill with additional guidance coming in January. DESE is working with the state for building projects and will not reimburse for inflation issues. There are still items outstanding from the WES and the school building project. There is an uptick on newly arriving students. Massachusetts is a right to shelter state. Students coming in need to be enrolled and starting as soon as possible. There is a recommendation from Operational Services to increase the Special Education Budget by 14% and to set up an account to supplement costs. Finally, this week there was a choral concert on Monday, band concert, and basketball games that were all well attended.

G. Acknowledgement of the WEF \$5538 Grant for the WMS Robotics Gone Wildcat Program - Chair Stanton Cross expressed thanks for receiving this grant.

Ms. Charette reported the program meets weekly on Fridays. Participants take apart computers and build robots. Grade 5 students are working with Grade 8 students.

H. Acknowledgement of the WEF \$2000 Grant for the WES Director's Stipend for "Once on this Island, Jr." - This grant is for Westport Middle School and not WES. Ms. Charette explained this grant is to compensate the people for the work done with this program.

I. Acknowledgement of the WEF \$550 Grant for the WES Lion Head Integrated Cultural Project with Dance - Chair Stanton Cross expressed thanks for receiving this grant.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, November 17, 2022 and Tuesday, November 29, 2022 Budget Work Session -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, November 17, 2022 and Tuesday, November 29, 2022 Budget Work Session.

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

B. Review and Act on Out of School Time Rates and Benefits - This item was tabled to next meeting.

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** - Chair Stanton Cross reported there were none.

Superintendent Aubin reported receiving a resignation on Monday from Westport High School Principal Dr. Kerri McKinnon effective December 30, 2022. Dr. McKinnon will become Assistant Principal at Somerset Middle School. The district wishes her well.

Chair Stanton Cross would like to reassure everyone that the district will continue to be in good hands.

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

Chair Stanton Cross announced the district received approval for 2 travel vans. They will be used for field trips, additional programming and other activities that make sense in the district.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

The committee requests:

- Strength & Conditioning Update be placed on the next agenda

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

5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral	Yes	Orlando	Yes	Pacheco	Yes	Stanton Cross	Yes	Viveiros	Yes
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The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WCS Bill Warrants: 12-2-22 & 12-16-22

John and Abigail Adams 2021-2022 Scholarship Recipients

CIPC Projects Memo dated October 27, 2022 from Mr. Duarte, Director of Maintenance

Strength & Conditioning Update from Mr. Pacheco

WEF \$5538 Grant for the WMS Robotics Gone Wildcat Program

WEF \$2000 Grant for the WES Director’s Stipend for “Once on this Island, Jr.” - This grant is for Westport Middle School and not WES.

WEF \$550 Grant for the WES Lion Head Integrated Cultural Project with Dance

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary