

**Westport School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
DATE: Thursday, January 19, 2023**

**TIME: 6:30 p.m.**

**PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Auditorium**

**MINUTES**

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

**Members Absent:** Michelle Orlando

**Also Present:** Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Westport Middle High School Principal, John Jack Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Alden Priestner Student Representative, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, 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. Student Representatives:**

Ryan Keane - First semester ends January 23 with semester 2/ quarter 3 beginning January 24. Parent Teacher Conferences for middle school will take place January 25 from 6-8. January 26 is an early release day for students. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders had a blast at their dance last Friday, all involved were thanked. Grades 5 and 6 dance will be March 3. Middle school Drama Club will perform Once On This Island February 9,10, and 11. MCAS is fast approaching with dates posted on the school website. Report cards will be on the Community Portal by January 27. Community tours will take place on January 21 and February 4.

Alden Priestner - Announced she is now a Student Representative and founder and editor in chief of the school newspaper entitled *The Wildcat*. Lisa Kaminsky will be the club advisor and Mr. Marques also provided assistance. The paper will be printed 3-4 times a year and will be available at the front desk and online. The high school Drama Club began rehearsal for the production of Little Shop of Horrors. The show will take place March 17,18,19. Music boosters started a See's Candies Fundraiser to help the drama and music programs.

A suggestion was made to have copies of the school newspaper at Lees Market, Council On Aging and the Westport Library.

John (Jack) Keane - Semester 2 Open House for high school will take place January 26 from 6-8 pm. High School graduation will be Saturday June 3 at 11 am. Career Fair will take place February 2. Sophomore class will host a Paint Night on February 7. STEEL Club will be collecting donations of prom dresses and suits for a pop-up shop held in April. Sports statistics were announced for all the teams. Congratulations goes out to Coach Parker for being selected as Boston Globe's Division 5 Boy's Soccer Coach of the Year. In addition, Herald News named him Coach of the Year. Congratulations went out to students for golf all stars, volleyball all stars, boy's soccer all stars and field hockey all stars. Hunter Brodeur was selected by Boston Globe as an All Scholastic. Herald News named him Boy's Soccer Player of the Year.

**B. Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Aubin began by recognizing the Student Representatives, Pep Band, and Cheerleading for them representing what is best for the schools. There are so many good things happening in the community. The district will be holding 2 Open Houses with the first one Saturday January 21 from 8:30 am. - 11:00 am. The second one will be the same time on Saturday February 4.

Use the main entrance. Mr. Aubin thanked Irene and Norm Buck for organizing the tours. There will be a Casino Night this Saturday. Tickets are available online.

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

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 1-27-23 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrant dated 1.27.23 in the amount of \$381,755.27 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? There were no questions.

D. Proposal for LEAP Program – Ms. Charette explained this LEAP Program (*“Leadership and Educational Advancement Program”*) is a new initiative to encourage 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They are trying to keep students in Westport and have them experience a new level of challenge academically and socially. Students will earn credits for high school graduation and can also earn college credits. This program creates more time for internships, electives, dual enrollment, and AP classes. There is an application process and no fee. This program will begin as soon as possible. Ms. Charette thanked the Guidance Department for this program.

E. Summer at Westport Community Schools - Superintendent Aubin announced there will be a number of different things offered where students learn basic life skills to be successful. For example, how to jump start a battery, writing a check, and buying a car. More information will be upcoming. If anyone has suggestions send them in.

Suggestions from the committee are how to prepare for job interviews, cooking, and making the offerings gender neutral.

F. CIPC Update - Ms. Pacheco reported CIPC met on Wednesday and went through the requests and prioritized them. At this time there is nothing additional to provide.

G. Strength & Conditioning Update – Mr. Pacheco was not present. Chair Stanton Cross mentioned there are limited funds to implement a formal program. It was requested to have Mr. Pacheco arrange with the Physical Education teachers to certify students so they can use the equipment. The idea is to open up the room with someone monitoring the students. Ensuring safety and responsibility for the students using the equipment was emphasized. It was suggested to have examples of different workouts posted on the wall.

H. FY24 Budget Discussion - Chair Stanton Cross reported that the budget numbers have not changed. There will be budget cuts coming. The school will discuss the budget at an upcoming FinCom Meeting on February 7.

#### **IV. Action Agenda**

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, January 5, 2023 and January 10, 2023 Budget Work Session -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, January 5, 2023 and January 10, 2023 Budget Work Session.

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

B. Review and Act on a Donation of a Drum Set for the WMHS Valued at \$500.00 by Mr. Randy Laplante - Mr. Laplante’s donation was from his father who recently passed away and was a town bus driver. The committee thanked the family for this donation.

A motion was made to accept the donation of a Drum Set for the WMHS Valued at \$500.00 by Mr. Randy Laplante.

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

**V. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** - Mr. Aubin received an email from the Federation of Teachers on January 11, 2023 concerning the use of \$65,000 earmarked for the Start Em Young Program. They are requesting support to allowing a waiver for a reduction in user fees.

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

Chair Stanton Cross requested for Ms. Charette to speak with the Athletic Director to ask where the lacrosse games will be held. The committee does not want an away season. A recommendation was made to hold clinics at the old high school for lacrosse since the district is introducing a new sport. Mr. Aubin will work with Ms. Charette on this.

**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 Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

**MEETING DOCUMENTS**

WCS Bill Warrants: 1-27-23

Proposal for LEAP Program

CIPC List

Donation of a Drum Set for the WMHS Valued at \$500.00 by Mr. Randy Laplante

School Uniform Survey

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*