

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, February 2, 2023
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, John Jack Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Rick Monast Teacher, Alden Priestner Student Representative, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Anthony Tomah Director of Technology, 0 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Stanton Cross opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:30 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 - Today was the 4th Career Fair with 50 businesses and organizations participating, 2nd Community Tour will be Saturday February 8 there were over 200 attendees at the last one, Middle School Drama Club will present Once On This Island February 9,10,11, WMS Student Council is selling Candy-Grams for Valentine's Day, 8th grade students participating in the Washington D.C. trip are selling raffle tickets at \$20 each with \$10 trip credit going back to the seller, cash prizes for 3 winners, Winter vacation will be February 18 - 26, grades 5 and 6 will have a dance March 3, MCAS dates have been posted on the school website, Middle School boys and girls basketball teams have made great strides this season.

Alden Priestner - Class of 2024 calendar raffle has ended with a winner chosen every day of February, next issue of The Wildcat will be out end of February beginning of March, GSA is selling Candy-Grams at the High School, sophomore Student Council is hosting a Paint Night February 7 and a Movie Night February 14, STEEL is holding a boutonniere/corsage raffle for prom, 2nd AP study session will be Saturday at Durfee High School, Westport Special Education Parent Advisory Council will have a presentation on February 8 in the media center, Westport Shorelines featured a front page article on The Wildcat.

John Keane - Students are getting adjusted to their classes now in the second semester, High School graduation is Saturday June 3 at 11:00 am., High School Drama Club will present Little Shop of Horrors March 17,18,19, Winter sports team's games and records were reported.

B. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin shared that the Job Fair helped students explore different careers. They brought the zSpace computers down and had trades people working with this technology to help advance a robust technical training.

February 8 they will be presenting the budget to Finance Committee.

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

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 2-10-23 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrant dated 2-10-23 in the amount of \$272,667.65 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. Discussion of Insurance Cost for Computers –

Mr. Tomah gave an update on technology. There are 1,400 Chromebooks in the district. Another option is focusing on grades 5-12 students that take Chromebooks home. Pricing for the insurance was reported.

Option 1 - \$31.00 per Chromebook annually - covers accidental damage, cracked screens, liquid, theft, submersion and spills, fire, flooding, vandalism, natural disasters, mechanical failure, manufacturer defects, power surge

Option 2 - \$15.00 per Chromebook annually - this option gets rid of mechanical failure and manufacturing defects

Option 3 - \$23.00 per Chromebook annually - covers what option 2 offers plus adds power surge protection.

It was noted that damage happens quite often. Option 1 would be covering this problem.

Mr. Tomah added when the technology staff does repairs inhouse this takes time away from other things. Also, they may not have the supplies to fix the problems, versus sending it out for repair. If insured, the computer is shipped out and repairs already have been paid. Presently the district offers no insurance. Right now, there is a backup supply.

Chair Stanton Cross raised concern on the turnaround time for repairs. Mr. Tomah will check into this.

Ms. Rapoza offered to get information from other school systems on the list serve to see what other districts are using and how they handle computer issues.

Ms. Pacheco asked how much was spent on fixing the computers? Mr. Tomah mentioned there is no line item for repairs. Parts were swapped out from other computers. Ms. Pacheco brought up being mindful of the affordability issue as well as mandating use of school Chromebooks.

Chair Stanton Cross advised that this item will be placed on the next action agenda and a vote will take place at the next meeting.

E. Acknowledgement of 2 Grants Totaling \$8200 from SouthCoast Community Foundation for the WMHS Promotional Brochure -

Chair Stanton Cross acknowledged receipt of this grant and thanked the donors on behalf of the committee for providing funds to create the Open House brochures.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, January 19, 2023 and January 24, 2023 Budget Work Session -

A motion was made to accept the Minutes of Thursday, January 19, 2023 and January 24, 2023 Budget Work Session.

Motion by Cabral, seconded by Orlando

5/0/0

B. Review and Act on WHS Field Trip Grs. 10-12 – Portugal & Spain – April Break 2025 - Mr. Monast explained this is a 12-day trip that starts in Portugal and ends in Barcelona. He requested approval far ahead in order to give most people the opportunity to spread out their payments. Overall cost is \$3,700.

A motion was made to accept the WHS Field Trip Grs. 10-12 to Portugal & Spain on April Break 2025.

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

C. Review and Act on Joining Class Action Suit for School Districts Against Social Media Companies - Chair Stanton Cross informed everyone there is no risk or cost to join the lawsuit.

A motion was made to join the Class Action Suit for School Districts Against Social Media Companies.

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

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.

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

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

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Viveiros Yes

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WCS Bill Warrants: 2-10-23

2 Grants Totaling \$8200 from SouthCoast Community Foundation for WMHS Promotional Brochure

WHS Field Trip Grs. 10-12 to Portugal & Spain on April Break 2025

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary