

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 2023
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Media**

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Jason Pacheco Athletic Director, 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 6:45 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: John (Jack) Keane / Ryan Keane & Alden Priestner - Students were not present due to inclement weather.

A motion was made to table this item until the next meeting.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Cabral

5/0/0

B. Superintendent Report – Mr. Aubin received an email this afternoon from the Mass. Association of School Superintendents and Committee on Ways and Means concerning the FY24 school year budget. They are asking for an increase in the minimum student aid from \$30 to \$100 per student. For Special Education they are looking to fully fund circuit breaker from 75% to 90% as well as increase in Special Education transportation from 75 to 90%.

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

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 2-24-23 & 3-10-23 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrant dated 2-24-23 in the amount of \$407,544.54 and bill warrant dated 3-10-23 in the amount of \$220,424.17 was 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. School Attending Children Report – Ms. Rapoza reported that information is located in the committee's packets. There is a comparison of numbers that have shown an increase. They are working diligently with the registrar person. The district is starting to turn around for offerings and increased enrollment. If there are any questions on the breakdown send them in.

The closing of Bishop Connolly was mentioned. It was noted that School Choice in Westport is open for grade 9.

Chair Stanton Cross would like to place an item for School Choice on the next agenda. School Choice needs to be decided for SY24.

E. Acknowledgement of a \$1656.80 School Breakfast Participation - The committee acknowledges receipt of these funds and thanked Ms. Rapoza for her work in procuring the monies.

F. Improvement Grant from Project Bread - Ms. Rapoza reported these are funds to help increase breakfast participation.

G. Update on Lacrosse Field and Skills Clinic - Mr. Pacheco began by explaining that Bishop Connolly was invited to co-op with Westport. This was approved by the MIA district and Westport district. He is not sure what will happen now that it has been determined they will be closing.

Lacrosse program is up and running with 16 students registered. None from Bishop Connolly.

Chair Stanton Cross requested Mr. Pacheco to reach out to Bishop Connolly.

Ms. Pacheco mentioned track and field offerings for winter and spring.

Chair Stanton Cross mentioned planning more offerings and co-ops. The district received 2 more travel buses and has better ability for sports transportation.

Mr. Pacheco verified the lacrosse field will be the former field used for field hockey by the old high school. The area has been marked and is all set. The field is of legal size.

The School Building Authority will be asked to pay for fencing. Mr. Viveiros will look into this. Several quotes were done.

Mr. Pacheco mentioned the Skills Clinic was tough to get up and running officially. They did get some workouts up and running.

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

Mr. Pacheco announced that registrations closed last night. Numbers are good for baseball and softball so they can have 3 teams: varsity, JV, and middle school. Both tennis teams are fine for boy's and girl's tennis.

H. Superintendent Evaluation Process - Chair Stanton Cross informed everyone the committee will be having a Work Session.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday, February 2, 2023 and Thursday, February 16, 2023 Budget Work Session -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, February 2, 2023 and Thursday, February 16, 2023 Budget Work Session.

Motion by Orlando, seconded by Cabral

5/0/0

B. Review and Act Insurance for Computers - Mr. Tomah explained 3 different options for Chromebook insurance for a duration of 1 year.

Option 1 - \$31 per student/per Chromebook - all of option 2 and 3, plus adds mechanical failure and manufacturer defects

Option 2 - \$15 per student /per Chromebook - coverage includes accidental damage, cracked screens, liquid spills, liquid submersion, fire/flood damage, vandalism, natural disasters, power surge due to lightning

Option 3 - \$23 per student /per Chromebook - all of option 2, plus adds theft burglary and robbery

Mr. Tomah reported that option 2 is the cheapest covering about 90% of the issues. Mr. Tomah mentioned the lifespan of a Chromebook is approximately 4 years.

Ms. Pacheco asked if there can be a choice between the plans? Mr. Tomah will ask the company about this. Also asked was what will happen if there is an inability to pay?

The process of who will manage the insurance and claims was discussed. Mr. Tomah mentioned if the Technology Department takes on the management, it takes staff to take in the collection and distribution of funds. More overhead will be needed opposed to having the parent take care of it.

Chair Stanton Cross mentioned if the district mandates to have the insurance it is preferred to have the Technology Department handle it and see how this rolls out.

Discussion took place on students taking the devices home or leaving them in school. Elementary students presently keep them in school and middle and high school students take devices home.

Mr. Tomah recommends Option 2 (\$15) for elementary students and Option 3 (\$23) for middle and high school students.

Discussion took place on damage. Cracked screens and keyboard breakage was mentioned as a frequent problem constituting about 90% of problems. Chair Stanton Cross requested information to help to know where the damage is being done. This information should include grade level and details on the type of damage.

A motion was made to go with Option 2 (\$15) for elementary students and Option 3 (\$23) for middle and high school students.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Orlando

The motion was amended to have Option 1 (\$31) for grades 5-12 middle and high school students.

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

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Orlando Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Viveiros Yes

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WCS Bill Warrants: 2-24-23 & 3-10-23
School Attending Children Report
\$1656.80 School Breakfast Participation
Improvement Grant from Project Bread
Insurance for Computers

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary

