

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, April 6, 2023
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Auditorium**

MINUTES

Members Present: Gloria Cabral, Melissa Pacheco (*arrived at 6:42 pm.*), Nancy Stanton Cross, Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Michelle Orlando

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal WMSHS (*left at 7:30 pm.*), Jennifer Chaves Extended Day Director (*left at 7:50 pm.*), John Jack Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, Alden Priestner Student Representative, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Nancy Tavares Special Education Coordinator (*left at 7:50 pm.*), Anthony Tomah, Technology Director, 30 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 -

Student Sophomore Class President Henry Gillette spoke on behalf of the students on changing the block scheduling. They gathered 257 student signatures and 200 online signatures opposing the change in block scheduling.

A total of 6 other students came to the podium to speak about issues concerning the change in scheduling.

Chair Stanton Cross explained the procedure on not having a debate on comments and statements. There has been no final vote taken. Chair Stanton Cross noted appreciation for the students expressing themselves on the topic.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representatives:

Ryan Keane reported MCAS testing has begun and will conclude by May 10, Grade 8 will pilot Civics MCAS in May, no school April 7, Early Release April 11, April 17-21 is vacation, Grade 8 will start choosing classes for next year after vacation, Grade 5,6,7 will have a dance Friday April 28, WMHS Spring Choral Concert will be May 22, WMHD Spring Band Concert will be May 23, WMHS Band will perform in the Westport Memorial Day Parade May 29, Athletics Awards Night for Middle and High School will be May 30, 8th grade students will go to Washington, DC May 30-June 2, 8th gr. Semi-formal will be June 9 at Rachel's Lakeside, Middle Scholl Student Council is preparing for a Ronald McDonald House Fundraiser, best of luck goes out to the Spring Sports teams, Grade 8 Promotion Ceremony will be June 14 at 9 am.

Alden Priestner reported on March 31 a successful Senior Dinner was held, Drama Club is planning end of year Student Cabaret, Medical Club and Red Cross will hold a blood drive April 8, Medical Club will host a Miles for Muscular Dystrophy event May 6, congratulations goes out to Art Teacher Mrs. Lambert for being named Class of 2023's National Honor Society's Teacher of the Year, there will be a Math In Motion 2 Vacation Camp for grades 3-10, UCONN, Gettysburg College and the Army will visit the high school for Juniors in April, college acceptances for Seniors has reached over 60 different colleges and universities.

Jack Keane reported quarter 4 has begun, class selections for next year have begun for grades 10 and 11, MCAS testing for grade 10 Math will be May 16,17 and grade 9 Biology will be June 6,7, Student Success Night will be April 13, High School students will be going to Japan April 14, Senior Class and Athletic Boosters will host Mr. Westport Show on May 5, Senior final exams will be May 24, 25 and last day of school for Seniors May 26, Jr./Sr. Prom will be May 26 at Rosebrook in Wareham, Athletic Awards Night is May 30, High School Graduation will be June 3 at 11 am., Sophomore Class is collecting clothes, household goods with drop off on April 14, STEEL hosted a successful Prom Pop Up Shop on April 1, a thanks was given to MAC/WES PTO for hosting the Harlem Wizards game event this past week, Spring Sports has begun with best wishes to all teams.

B. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin reported attending a Southcoast One Educational Committee Meeting where discussion was held on 2 areas; future of School to Career and School to College Pathways. Superintendent Aubin mentioned at the start of the 2024 school year Westport will have a robust educational platform. Superintendent Aubin will keep the committee informed in this area.

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 4-7-23 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrant dated 4-7-23 in the amount of \$185,914.83 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? Chair Stanton Cross will be sending questions to Ms. Rapoza and mentioned if any others had questions to also send them in to Ms. Rapoza.

E. Discussion of School Choice Participation – *(taken out of order)*

Ms. Charette recommends to open up School Choice to grades 9 and 10 with a total of 10 seats in each grade. Ms. Charette recommends only these 2 grades because of taking the MCAS as part of the graduation requirement to receive a diploma. Ms. Charette also suggested to keep the numbers lower in the higher grades for a better transition for the students.

Discussion took place on having School Choice for grades 9,10, 11 and 12 and the number of seats.

Ms. Charette reported the District cannot deny any student based on records, academic records, attendance, etc. The selection is a totally blind process.

Chair Stanton Cross noted this year is very different than previous years with the closing of Bishop Connolly.

D. Discussion of Private Schools/Open House Promotion Update – Ms. Charette mentioned this will be arranged in the Spring if the committee votes to approve School Choice.

F. Discussion of LEAP Program – Ms. Charette reported they had an informational session on Tuesday April 4 explaining the Leadership and Educational Advancement Program. They have 2 different pathway options: 1. Dual Enrollment or 2. Early Enrollment. Ms. Charette went over the process. Applications are due April 28 and enrollment numbers will be based on course availability.

(Ms. Charette left here at 7:30 pm.)

IV. Action Agenda *(taken out of order)*

D. Review and Act on Revised WCS Policy JLCD – Administering Medication to Students –

Ms. Tavares gave a brief overview on the policy and the criteria that needs to be met for the Department of Public Health application. This policy update is putting back what was previously removed and inserts non-licensed personnel would be able to administer medication.

A motion was made to approve WCS Policy JLCD – Administering Medication to Students.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Cabral

4/0/0

E. Review and Act on Increase of Out of School Time Daily Rates –

Proposal #1 - Ms. Chaves requested an increase in the full day rate from \$50 to \$55 and half day rate from \$25 to \$30.

F. Review and Act on Change in Summer and Vacation Camp Hours –

Proposal #2 - Ms. Chaves requested a change in the summer and vacation camp hours from 7 am. - 4:30 pm. to 8 am. - 4:30 pm. This would reduce the program by 1 hour.

Discussion took place on the impact for working parents. Providing staff early for the extra hour or even a half hour will be looked into.

G. Review and Act on Change in Grade Levels –

Proposal #3 - Ms. Chaves requested a change in grade levels to the OST Program from the present K-Grade 6 to K - Grade 4. The Department of Early Education and Care promotes learning environments geared toward K-4, so this program should focus on lower levels.

A motion was made to approve Proposals 1, 2 and 3 for the Out of School Time Program (OTS).
Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Cabral 4/0/0

Chair Stanton Cross asked if there was any further discussion? There was none.

(Ms. Tavares and Ms. Chaves left here 7:50 pm.)

Return to Informational Agenda -

G. Discussion of 2 ½ Override - Chair Stanton Cross encouraged everyone to watch the FinCom meeting from this week.

Chair Stanton Cross reviewed the budget numbers.

Discussion took place on an alternative proposal.

Chair Stanton Cross explained the 2 ½ procedure.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if there was any more discussion? There was none.

H. Discussion of SRO -

Chair Stanton Cross explained the situation with the SRO. The district was informed a private duty officer at a cost of \$26,000 could be used for the rest of the school year. Chair Stanton Cross explained the letter that went out to parents about the SRO was written on Friday before the Nashville shooting took place.

Superintendent Aubin reported that the Leadership Team met with the Police Dept. and reviewed the Nashville shooting and how it relates to the building. It was noted there is a difference between an SRO and a Police Detail Officer.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Wednesday, March 22, 2023 Joint Meeting, Thursday, March 23, 2023, and Tuesday, March 28, 2023 Work Session -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

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

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday, March 23, 2023, and Tuesday, March 28, 2023 Work Session.

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

B. Review and Act on WHS Gr. 9-12 Field Trip – April 24, 2023 - Providence Performing Arts Center – Providence, RI -

A motion was made to approve the WHS Gr. 9-12 Field Trip on April 24, 2023 to the Providence Performing Arts Center – Providence, RI.

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

C. Review and Act on a Donation of a \$200 Yamaha Percussion Kit to the WMHS from the Zuber Family -

A motion was made to accept the Donation of a \$200 Yamaha Percussion Kit to the WMHS from the Zuber Family.

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

H. Review and Act on Participating in School Choice for the 2023-24 SY -

A motion was made to Open School Choice for Grade 9 - 10 seats, Grade 10 - 10 seats, Grade 11 - 5 seats, Grade 12 - 5 seats.

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

I. Review and Act on 2 ½ Override - This item was removed.

J. Review and Act on Revised 2023-2024 SY District Calendar - A revision to have March 5 Election Day and no school changes the last day of school for grades K-11 to June 12, 2024.

A motion was made to approve the Revised 2023-2024 SY District Calendar.

Motion by Pacheco, 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 gave a shout out to Michelle Thomas Kindergarten Teacher who helped save the life of a choking colleague Mrs. Medeiros by performing the Heimlich maneuver.

Chair Stanton Cross thanked Ms. Orlando for her service to the committee and coming back on board.

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 8:27 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WCS Bill Warrants: 4-7-23

LEAP Program

WCS Policy JLCD – Administering Medication to Students

Out of School Time Daily Rates, Summer and Vacation Camp Hours, OST Change in Grade Levels

WHS Gr. 9-12 Field Trip on April 24, 2023 to Providence Performing Arts Center – Providence, RI

Donation of a \$200 Yamaha Percussion Kit to the WMHS from the Zuber Family

2023-2024 District Calendar

School Choice for the 2023-24 SY

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary