

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, August 3, 2023
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Auditorium**

MINUTES

Members Present: Gloria Cabral, Evan Gendreau, Nancy Stanton Cross, Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Melissa Pacheco

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Lori Melo Administrative Secretary, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 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. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin gave the following updates:
Basketball court floor redone. Irrigation system pump installed. Looking into leasing portable lights for night games on Fridays. Met on July 21 with representatives of Cape Cod Community College to start a dual enrollment program for aviation mechanics. This will involve adult learners as well for School Year 2024. There was a meeting with Council on Aging and Recreation Department to open the walking track for the community.

B. WCS Bill Warrant: 7-28-2023 & 8-11-2023 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrants dated 7-28-23 in the amount of \$228,567.04 and 8-11-23 in the amount of \$73,475.56 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 none. Any further questions can be directed to the Business Office.

C. First Read of "Section D" Policies Recommended by MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) - Chair Stanton Cross reported "Section D" Policies are in the packet and are up for the First Read. If there are any questions put them through the Superintendent's Office. These policies will go on the next agenda.

Superintendent Aubin informed everyone questions were sent to Glen Koocher from MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) on section 30B which refers to the law for repurchasing or disposing of equipment. They are waiting for clarification on the changes made.

D. IT/Chromebook Update – Mr. Tomah gave an update that there are 60 Chromebooks still outstanding. The department expects to get this number down soon.

Discussion was held on insurance for the Chromebooks benefits and impacts. Mr. Tomah reported they had a meeting and it was decided to continue what is being done now. They will charge for breaks. In order to implement insurance, there were issues with the climate for funding and upfront costs, all decisions were weighed.

Student in grades 5-12 will take Chromebooks home, younger grades will keep them in school.

Chair Stanton Cross mentioned that the issue of insurance was voted on by the committee and the members wanted to have insurance. Students should have ownership of property.

Chair Stanton Cross would like this issue to be referred to the Policy Subcommittee to add an addendum on how ownership is handled. It was suggested to take a look at how other districts handle these issues.

E. Subcommittee Updates - Ms. Cabral reported the Policy Subcommittee met and reviewed Section D policies. Cable Committee is on hold waiting for lawyer's recommendations on a contract renewal.

Chair Stanton Cross reported they are sending out formal invitations to the Westport Federation of Teachers to begin the negotiations process. Chair Stanton Cross reported the Campground Committee will be doing something soon.

Mr. Viveiros reported the Long-term Building Committee will meet next week.

F. WCS (Westport Community Schools) Staff Handbook for the 23-24 School Year - Chair Stanton Cross reported this item will be on the action agenda at next meeting. Chair Stanton Cross asked about staff's handling of technology? Mr. Tomah reported that it has been good.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Tuesday, July 11, 2023 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Tuesday, July 11, 2023.

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

V. **Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices** - Superintendent Aubin shared an email was received from Lees Market sending an invitation to look at their utilization of hydroponics.

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

Superintendent Aubin shared receiving an email from the Westport town manager suggesting to start the budget process right now. The district was informed to begin minus the \$500,000 free cash.

Chair Stanton Cross reminded everyone there were budget cuts from last year, so the budget will start at a deficit. In addition, the district will be into contract negotiations soon. Chair Stanton Cross urged people to become engaged, 83% of the budget is earmarked for salaries.

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

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

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Gendreau Yes Stanton Cross Yes Viveiros Yes

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WCS Bill Warrant: 7-28-2023 & 8-11-2023

First Read of "Section D" Policies Recommended by MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees)

WCS (Westport Community Schools) Staff Handbook 23-24 School Year

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary

