

Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, October 5, 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, Nathaniel Brown Teacher, Lisa Kaminski Director of Curriculum Instruction & Professional Development, John (Jack) Keane, Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Lori Melo Administrative Secretary, 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 6:30 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 reported the school year is off to a good start, 1st term progress reports will be available on the Community Portal October 9, grade 5 and 6 will have a dance on October 20, grade 7 and 8 dance will be in December, Middle School Student Council is in the election process, Westport Middle School Drama Club began auditions for SpongeBob the Musical, middle school field hockey started for the first time this Fall, there was an increase in numbers for the boys and girls soccer teams.

Alden Priestner reported Ms. Ruel invited families of the junior class to a college planning meeting, a happy Custodian's Day wish was sent out to all for their hard work in keeping the buildings clean, High School Drama Club awaits the arrival of a drama coach, it is an exciting as well as stressful time of year for seniors as Common App essays, college essays, art portfolios and applications need to be completed, October 9th 2023 there is no school, Walk for Westport will be October 29, 2023.

John (Jack) Keane reported there have been 25 days into the new school year and students have adjusted well, October 3 is the half way point to term 1 with progress reports October 9, student elections took place and congratulations to all that have been elected, Haunted Hallway will be on October 27 children are encouraged to come in costume, S.T.E.E.L. Students That Exemplify Extraordinary Leadership volunteered at the South Coast Harvest Festival and assembled Blessings Bags for the Rotary Club of Fall River, Westport Wildcat News will be coming out soon, a thank you from all involved students goes to Jane Dufault who is retiring as Music Boosters President, October 6 will be a Dig Pink Volleyball Event and wear pink to show support, Westport Mania Wrestling Event will be October 15, Fall season of sports is off to a great start, records were announced for girls' varsity field hockey, volleyball, and soccer as well as boys' varsity golf and soccer.

B. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin referred to an article in the *Washington Post* on the drop in life expectancy pointing out childhood obesity as a factor. The district initiated the Start Em Young Program with foresight to pursue the importance of health for the students.

C. Student Enrollment Update - Superintendent Aubin gave an update on student enrollment. As of October 1, a total of 1,507 students have enrolled. This represents an increase of 61 students.

Chair Stanton Cross requested to have an explanation of the numbers shown on the enrollment by grade handout.

D. WCS Bill Warrant: 09/22/2023 and 10/06/2023 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrant dated 9-22-23 in the amount of \$326,345.13 and bill warrant dated 10-6-23 in the amount of \$341,301.19 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 none.

E. Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Updates – Lisa Kaminski gave an update and shared a copy of a slide presentation given last week entitled *Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment An Update*. Presently it is on the school website and will be on the curriculum page of the website.

Some of the items mentioned:

Restructured 3rd grade so each classroom teacher teaches all 4 subjects and teachers have 1 core group of students

District has 3 reading specialists, tested whole school, and students were grouped by results of the data. Progress monitoring will be done soon. Ms. Kaminski will bring back additional data later in year to report progress.

Dibels assessment was used to test kids at beginning of school year.

Highlighted work over the past 15 months in Literacy, Numeracy, History, Civics & Citizenship.

Ms. Kaminski explained today's purposes of a public education.

Chair Stanton Cross requested to have benchmark progress at a future date.

Chair Stanton Cross requested to look into the purpose of the senior project and to see why and how it can be done differently to be impactful. Ms. Kaminski will have discussions with teachers and do a review. Creating a subcommittee to discuss the future of the senior project and summer reading was suggested. Chair Stanton Cross and Ms. Cabral would like to be on this subcommittee when established.

This item was moved up from action agenda.

IV. Action Agenda

C. Review and Act on Westport High School Gr. 8 & 9 Field Trip – February 2025, Costa Rica – Nathaniel Brown explained this trip is more STEM focused with biology, ecosystem, biodiversity, and conservation intertwined. It is also a fun cultural experience. The itinerary has been provided.

A motion was made to approve the Westport High School Gr. 8 & 9 Field Trip February 2025 to Costa Rica.

Motion by Viveiros, seconded by Cabral

4/0/0

III. Informational Agenda (continued)

F. Discussion of CIPC/5 Year Plan – Michelle Rapoza reviewed the list of capital improvements. There were additions made.

Chair Stanton Cross asked the committee to look over all the items listed. Every line item will need to be prioritized. The age of the item needing replacement should be added.

G. District Chromebook Policy for Student Handbooks (Revised) – First Read - Chair Stanton Cross advised members to review the policy. This item will be on the Action Agenda at the next meeting for approval.

H. Acknowledgement of a \$1500 Donation from Dharma Voyage for WHS Boat Building Club - Chair Stanton gave thanks for their support.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of Thursday 9/7/2023 -

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Thursday 9/7/2023.

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

B. Review and Act on a Donation of Drum Kit, Guitars, Amps and Keyboard to the WMHS Music Program from the Bellavance Family, in memory of Danny Bellavance, WCS Student. - Chair Stanton

Cross thanked the family for their generous donation.

A motion was made to approve the donation of Drum Kit, Guitars, Amps and Keyboard to the Westport Middle High School Music Program from the Bellavance Family, in memory of Westport Community Schools student Danny Bellavance,

Motion by Gendreau, 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 announced there were none.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

The committee requests:

- explanation of some numbers on enrollment by grade handout
- benchmark progress at a future date
- look into the purpose of the senior project and summer reading/set up subcommittee

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 7:22 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WCS Bill Warrants: 9-22-2023, 10-6-23

Student Enrollment

Updated District Chromebook Policy

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Update October 5, 2023

CIPC/5 Year Plan

District Chromebook Policy for Student Handbooks (Revised) – First Read

Westport High School Gr. 8 & 9 Field Trip February 2025, Adventure in Costa Rica

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary

