

Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, January 18, 2024
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Auditorium

MINUTES

Members Present: Evan Gendreau, Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Stanton Cross, Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Gloria Cabral

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Jennifer Chaves Out of School Time Director, Stacey Duquette Principal Macomber School, Lisa Kaminski Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, John (Jack) Keane, Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Coordinator, Lori Melo Administrative Secretary, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 1 Community Participant

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Stanton Cross opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:36 pm. with a quorum of the members present, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Comments and Statements from the Public - Parent Dr. Gifford voiced appreciation on being heard about the issue of extended care for 3 and 4 year old's. She is hopeful that a vote for support on the expansion of the program will take place tonight.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representatives:

Ryan Keane reported 7th and 8th grade dance is January 19th, Westport High School Informational Night was held on January 17, 2nd term will end January 22 and report cards will be in the community portal, January 25 is an early release day.

John Jack Keane reported Senior class will host a Student and Staff Volleyball Tournament Fundraiser January 26, Junior class will host a Valentine's Paint Night on February 12, Sophomore class will have a Spaghetti Dinner and raffle on February 8, Freshmen class will have a Bingo Night February 9, athletic statistics for boys' and girls' varsity basketball, boys' and girls' junior varsity basketball and Co-op hockey varsity were reported, Co-op Swim Team has 3 athletes, congratulations went out to the Boston Globe and Boston Herald 2023 All Scholastic Soccer Players and Herald News Westport All Scholastic Golf Team winners.

B. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin informed everyone that Governor Healey will be providing a budget on January 24. This will give us an idea for the 2025 school year. There has been written correspondence to representative Schmid and Rodrigues for assistance with funding our Neotechnical programs.

C. Staff and Student Attendance Reports - Chair Stanton Cross reported that committee members received copies of the reports and asked if there were any comments or questions? There were none.

D. WCS Bill Warrant: 1/26/2024 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrant dated 1/26/2024 in the amount of \$393,386.46 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 on the bill warrant? There were none.

E. Senior Project Discussion - Chair Stanton Cross explained the committee has asked over the last 2 years what the relevance of this project is and how can this project be more impactful for students.

Ms. Kaminski went over a document explaining the Senior Capstone Project that is currently part of the Senior English curriculum and a graduation requirement. She outlined important learning experiences, outcomes, feedback from students and current thoughts and questions of Administration and ELA staff. Ms. Kaminski expressed this project is relevant for all students.

Discussion took place on whether to have the project be a graduation requirement.

Discussion on incorporating other subject areas for example math, science, and business was mentioned. Ms. Kaminski explained that students have done a variety of topics for their research projects.

F. Discussion of Early and Extended Day Disclaimer - Refer to Subcommittee for WES and MAC Student Handbooks - Chair Stanton Cross reported after reviewing emails and opinion on legal counsel it was recommended to place a disclaimer in the student handbooks describing the program and what the Extended Day Program can do. Ms. Chaves will get the disclaimer from legal to be added into the handbooks. This will be placed on the Action Agenda for next meeting.

Ms. Pacheco asked if there was a timeline? Ms. Chaves explained there are steps that are needed for licensing.

Ms. Chaves thanked the committee and gave an overview of the current program.

G. CIPC FY25 Funding Discussion - Ms. Rapoza was not in attendance to report on this item.

H. FY25 School Budget Discussion - Chair Stanton Cross reported the school budget is \$1.2 million over what the town's number is allotting. FinCom and the Select Board asked to provide cuts that were not mandated. These areas include Pre-K, full day K and transportation above grade 6.

Chair Stanton Cross reported they will vote on a budget that the school district needs. The FinCom meeting to discuss the budget is on February 7.

Discussion took place on setting up a Zoom meeting to have a budget workshop for parents and the community to participate in and get a better understanding on the budget process.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of the School Committee Meeting 1/4/2024 & SC Work Session 12-21-23 -

A motion was made to approve Minutes of the School Committee Meeting 1.4.2024 and SC Work Session 12.21.23.

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

B. Review and Act on OST Program to include Pre-School/Pre-K for Afterschool Care - Chair Stanton Cross explained that the function of the program will not be changed and we need to identify this as a disclaimer in the handbook.

A motion was made to approve the OST Program to include Preschool and Pre-K for afterschool care pending information from the Attorney that needs to go into the handbooks

Motion Pacheco, seconded by Gendreau 4/0/0

A motion was made to amend the OST Program to be a Pilot Program for remainder of the school year for Preschool and Pre-K contingent upon an addendum of a disclaimer on the functions of the program to be placed in the student handbooks for the district. In addition, rephrase the amended motion to add subject to school committee approval of the student handbook disclaimer to be presented to the committee at the next meeting.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Pacheco 4/0/0

Ms. Pacheco accepted the amendment to the motion.

A vote to accept the amendment on the motion was made by Ms. Pacheco with a second by Mr. Viveiros. 4/0/0

A motion was made on the amendment.
Motion by Viveiros, seconded by Pacheco 4/0/0

A motion was made to approve the amended motion.
Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Viveiros 4/0/0

C. Review and Act on CIPC FY25 Funding Requests - Ms. Rapoza was absent for further discussion.

Ms. Pacheco reported she attended a CIPC Meeting and there were some unused CIPC funds. A warrant article will be needed to move funds.

Chair Stanton Cross requested to move funding to Macomber and Westport Elementary School bathroom updates. Superintendent Aubin will request the number for unused CIPC funds from the town.

A motion was made to approve sending a request for unused CIPC funds.

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

D. Review and Act on the following grants: \$5940 Project Bread Grant for the School Breakfast Program, \$4400 from WEF for the High School Production of Sister Act & \$546 from WEF for AP Psychology Class Trip to Body Worlds in Boston -

A motion was made to accept Project Bread Grant and grants from WEF for the High School Production of Sister Act and for AP Psychology Class Trip to Body Worlds in Boston.

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

E. Review and Act on Revised Last Day of School – Grades 1-12 June 13, 2024 (Early Release Day) & K June 12, 2024 (Full Day) - Superintendent Aubin reported that the last day of school needed to be adjusted due to having closed for a water pump issue.

A motion was made to approve the revised last day of school.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Gendreau 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** - 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 Gendreau 4/0/0

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Viveiros Yes

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WCS Bill Warrant: 1/26/2024

Student Attendance Report by School 1.1.24 - 1.12.24

Staff Attendance Reports

Senior Project Information January 18, 2024

CIPC FY25 Requests

After School Program Attorney Letter

Project Bread Grant for the School Breakfast Program, Grant from WEF for High School Production of

Sister Act & Grant from WEF for AP Psychology Class Trip to Body Worlds in Boston

Change in Last Day of School Memo January 18, 2024

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary