

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, February 1, 2024
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Auditorium**

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal Westport Middle High School, Jennifer Chaves Out of School Time Director, John (Jack) Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Lori Melo Administrative Secretary, Alden Priestner Student Representative, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, 4 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Stanton Cross opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:39 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 second semester started on January 23 with term 2 report cards posted to the portal yesterday, February vacation is February 19-23, Math and Motion Vacation Math Camp will be February 20-23 at no cost to students, grade 8 civics forum will be February 13 at 6 pm., Westport Middle School Student Council is running a Candy Gram Fundraiser with proceeds going to Valentines for Veterans, February 13 at 6 pm. there will be a virtual meeting for grade 7 students and families on the LEAP Program, February 15 a meeting will take place with the boy's lacrosse head coach for information on the sport, Freshmen class will host a Bingo Night February 9.

Alden Priestner reported Calendar raffle sale concluded yesterday, Senior class is selling Valentine Sing-O-Grams for \$5 each, Senior class is doing a Krispy Kreme Donut Fundraiser from February 1 - March 20, calling all Westport businesses to place an ad in the Westport High Yearbook with deadline March 3, yearbooks are available for preorder with deadline May 10, Senior families are reminded that Senior portraits with Prestige should be scheduled February 26 - March 1, Middle High School is looking for committee members to join in partnering with No Place for Hate to work toward creating a more inclusive school experience, National Honor Society is selling Valentine raffle tickets.

John (Jack) Keane reported students will be choosing course selections soon, STEEL Students That Exemplifying Extraordinary Leadership will host a Prom Pop-Up-Shop March 9, students are encouraged to participate in all the fundraisers happening, Junior class will be selling candygrams and hot chocolate, Paint Night will be February 12, Saver's Clean Out Your Closets last drop off will be tomorrow, Sophomore class is hosting a Cupid's Cuisine Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner February 8, athletic statistics for boys' and girls' varsity basketball and Co-Op hockey were reported, congratulations went out to the Herald News Girls Soccer Player of the Year, First Team All Scholastic soccer players, Herald News All Scholastic First and Second Team players, Herald News First Team All Scholastic Team volleyball players, Herald News Boys Soccer All Scholastic First and Second Team winners, and player of the year, State Championship Boys Soccer Team banquet will be March 14 at Whites of Westport.

B. Superintendent Report - Superintendent Aubin reported today deputy chief Rebello was sworn in. Mr. Aubin sent congratulations and wishes to him for a successful tenure. A Literacy Night at Westport Elementary School was held with 300 parents and students participating. Mr. Aubin gave a shout out to all staff involved. Westport student athletes have been off the charts with a successful year.

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

Chair Stanton Cross reported that FinCom has been invited to the March 14 banquet for the soccer team. Donations are being accepted online to support the state championship soccer team banquet.

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? It was noted that there was an increase in absenteeism with the Teaching Assistants.

D. WCS Bill Warrant: 2/9/2024 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrant dated 2/9/2024 in the amount of \$123,954.22 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. Wildcat Health and Fitness Proposal - Ms. Charette is proposing for next school year a non-credit course called Wildcat Health and Fitness. This course is for athletes at the freshmen, junior varsity, and or varsity level. Students will be enrolled in this course in lieu of Physical Education and Health 9/10 or Physical Education and Health 11/12. It will allow more room/freedom in student's schedules.

Ms. Charette asked if there was any feedback, questions, or suggestions?

It was clarified this is a noncredit course. Every student gets a contract that needs to be signed off, by several people.

Ms. Charette explained that students will still have a full course load, can take other offerings and will get the PE requirement. New courses will be offered next year for example Home Living and Digital Blogging.

Chair Stanton Cross asked how the new 6 period schedule is going? Ms. Charette explained they are navigating through the changes and have begun a resiliency program for credit recovery. They are looking at student data and using the intervention process. There has been more engagement and more homework. Ms. Charette explained going from 4 subjects to 6 subjects they introduced academic support blocks and are using Edgenuity to help make up credit deficiencies.

Ms. Charette reported the LEAP Program (Leadership and Educational Advancement Program) with 16 students is doing well.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Out of School Time Disclaimer to update WES and MAC Student Handbooks - This is a disclaimer to be placed in the handbooks and has been reviewed by the attorney.

Discussion took place on the disclaimer.

A motion was made to approve the disclaimer with suggestions to replace "our" with the word "the" 2 times in the first paragraph and remove the bolded line at the bottom that says policy approved.

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

B. Review and Act on Minutes of the School Committee Meeting - January 18, 2024 -

A motion was made to approve the January 18, 2024 School Committee Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Cabral 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 -

Chair Stanton Cross reported last night, she along with Mr. Aubin and Mr. Gendreau attended the FinCom / Selectboard collaborative meeting. Chair Stanton Cross suggested for everyone to watch it on the cable access TV channel.

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 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Gendreau Yes Pacheco Yes Stanton Cross Yes Viveiros Yes

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WCS Bill Warrant: 2/9/2024

Student Attendance Report by School 1.15.24 - 1.26.24

Staff Attendance Report

Wildcat Health and Fitness

Access and Inclusion Disclaimer for WES and MAC Handbooks 2.1.2024

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary