

**Westport School Committee
Budget Work Session
DATE: Thursday, January 18, 2024
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: 2nd Floor Conference Room, Westport Middle-High School**

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4098 9776

MINUTES

Members Present: Gloria Cabral (arrived at 5:29 pm. via Zoom link), Evan Gendreau, Nancy Stanton Cross, Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Melissa Pacheco

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Lori Melo Administrative Secretary, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager (via Zoom link), Melissa Sousa Executive Assistant for Business Services

I. Call to Order - Chair Stanton Cross called the Budget Work Session to order at 5:14 pm.

II. Discussion of FY25 CIPC -

Ms. Rapoza went over the CIPC FY25 Requests under Safety and Security priorities.

Ms. Rapoza met with Mr. Aubin and they updated the air conditioning for MAC and WES to be removed from the list. Currently the list has security front doors for Macomber and Westport Elementary School, bathroom updates for MAC and WES, pavement for WES, and vehicle for maintenance.

Discussion was held on the items presented on the CIPC list.

Chair Stanton Cross asked a question on security doors. Ms. Rapoza looked at past purchases and noted funds were spent 4 years ago on doors. Superintendent Aubin stated the doors put in do not have the capability for safety as the doors proposed which would contain someone in the entry way with a locking system in addition to other safety features. It was agreed to take off the 2 items concerning the MAC and WES front doors.

The rest of the list was approved with more funds allocated to the MAC and WES bathrooms.

Ms. Rapoza mentioned the town is recommending \$400,000 in funds.

ARPA funds need to spend by June 2024 and cannot be extended. Items need to be Covid related.

Ms. Rapoza informed everyone that some ARPA funds have already been approved which include \$180,000 for 2 vans and \$140,000 for walkie talkies. Chair Stanton Cross would like more details on how many devices and what exactly is included with these walkie talkies. Expanding on the security capabilities with walkies should be looked into.

It was noted that the school department already paid \$250,000 for school fiber optics. The town placed this under a school line item for ARPA funds. The town needs to be informed about this.

Mr. Viveiros mentioned an item to possibly add is a road for buses to go down through the campground area.

III. Discussion of FY25 School Budget

Ms. Rapoza went over budget reductions totaling \$1,268,181.

Chair Stanton Cross wants to explore every option and requested to see more cuts coming from the middle high school. A request to see student/teacher ratios was made.

Ms. Rapoza emailed Ms. Charette to provide numbers for student/teacher ratios at the middle high school.

Chair Stanton Cross informed the committee at the next School Committee Meeting February 1, 2024 a vote on budget number needs to be taken. Chair Stanton Cross is recommending a level service budget at \$2.1 million dollars with no cuts to Pre-K and K.

IV. Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion by Gendreau, seconded by Viveiros 3/0/0

The Budget Work Session ended at 6:22 pm.