

**Westport School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
DATE: Thursday, February 15, 2024  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Auditorium**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Gloria Cabral, Evan Gendreau, Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Stanton Cross (*left at 7:15 pm.*), Antonio Viveiros

**Also Present:** Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Nate Brown Teacher, John (Jack) Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Coordinator, Lori Melo Administrative Secretary, Wendy Miranda Special Education Coordinator, Rick Monast Teacher, Alden Priestner Student Representative, Nancy Tavares Special Education Coordinator, 4 Community Participants

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** - Chair Stanton Cross opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:35 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**

**IV. Action Agenda** (*taken out of order*)

A. Review and Act on WMHS International Trip to Portugal, Spain and Costa Roca Feb/April 2025 – Rick Monast and Nate Brown -

Mr. Monast explained to the committee the idea of making the eco adventure trips and cultural trips all eligible for grades 8-12. Presently grades 8 and 9 are eligible for eco adventure trips and grades 10,11,12 for the cultural trips. By adjusting the grades this will eliminate missing out on trips that have high student interest

Discussion took place on this idea of changing the eligibility of the grade levels.

Ms. Pacheco would like there to be 2 separate trips, unless space is needed.

A motion was made to adjust to grades 8-12 for the present Costa Rica trip and any future trips thereafter, pilot for 1 year, then revisit.

Motion by Stanton Cross, seconded by Cabral 5/0/0

Returned back to the:

**III. Informational Agenda**

A. Student Representatives:

Ryan Keane reported February vacation is next week, Math and Motion Vacation Math Camp will be held February 20-23 from 8 am. - 2 pm., no school March 5 for elections and staff training, thanks to everyone who supported Bingo Night, Freshmen fundraiser on March 1 at Panera's in North Dartmouth, purchase food and 25% of sales will go to the class

**The School Committee Meeting was suspended at 6:50 pm. and people evacuated due to a fire alarm.**

**The School Committee Meeting resumed at 7:15 pm.**

**Chair Stanton Cross left at this time 7:15 pm. and Vice Chair Pacheco took over running the meeting.**

Ryan Keane continued - registration for middle school sports will be open with tryouts starting March 18, Mr. Brown will be touring Belize with middle school students over February break, Westport Drama Club is presenting SpongeBob the Musical February 29, March 1 and March 2, middle school students made over 100 valentines that were delivered to Veterans, student council is creating a Motivated in March calendar with suggestions of mindful activities and motivation for the long month of March.

Alden Priestner reported Senior Class is doing a Krispy Creme Donut Fundraiser from today until March 20, Westport businesses are encouraged to place an ad in the high school yearbook, May 10 is the deadline to order a yearbook, Senior families are reminded to sign up with Prestige for a photo from February 26 - March 1, committee members are needed for assistance with the middle high school partnership with No Place For Hate, high school will be hosting a PowderPuff Game of flag football on March 8.

John Jack Keane reported students continue to choose course selections over the next few weeks, third term progress reports will be released on March 1, STEEL (Students That Exemplify Extraordinary Leadership) is hosting a Prom Pop Up Shop March 9, Junior Class is selling candygrams in month of February, tomorrow is last day for hot chocolate served at lunches, players and sponsors are needed for a Cornhole Tournament on March 9, Winter sports season is winding down, athletic statistics for boys' and girls' varsity basketball and Co-Op hockey were reported, congratulations went out to Finn Hall for the Swimming South Sectionals Championship.

D. Unified Sports Presentation by SePac – (taken out of order)

Kerrie Moreau from SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) shared a letter concerning the hopes and vision of a unified schools and sports program. Ms. Moreau met with the district principals and is presently working out the details.

Vice Chair Pacheco asked if there were any questions?

Mr. Gendreau asked how the funding aspect would work? Ms. Moreau explained it depends how teams are formed for the unified sports with transportation as the biggest concern.

Vice Chair Pacheco requested information on how the program would work.

Wendy Miranda and Nancy Tavares from the Special Education Department came to the podium.

Ms. Miranda explained she met with Principal Charette, SEPAC and Special Olympics representatives, and also reached out to Dartmouth High School to see how they began their program. There are 3 components for a school to have this program. 1. unified sports, 2. inclusive youth leadership and 3. whole school engagement. We are already doing many of these requirements in the district.

Mr. Viveiros asked when could this program start?

Ms. Miranda explained they could create a Bocce Club in conjunction with the existing Advocats Club and could get this running in the Fall. Start off small with potential for growth. Ms. Miranda and Ms. Charette will take the lead for the middle and high school.

Ms. Miranda was asked to get more information on how programs like this are budgeted.

B. Superintendent Report - Superintendent Aubin reported the joint rule of 10 fell on Wednesday February 7, 2024. There were 3 bills in front of the legislators that are now going into the study category. Bill 1. Act to increase circuit breaker reimbursement from 75% - 90%. Bill 2. Act to increase Special Education transportation from 75 - 90%. Bill 3. Act to adjust cost thresholds includes transportation. This will mean there will not be a lot of support for the Special Education budget any time soon.

C. Staff and Student Attendance Reports - Vice Chair Pacheco informed the committee these reports are in the packets for review. Mr. Viveiros noted high absenteeism with the Teaching Assistants at 86%.

E. Nursing Substitute Rates - Kristin McDaniel reported to the committee there is a nursing shortage nationwide. Several districts were surveyed resulting in an average of \$175 a day.

F. First Read Revised Homebound Instruction Policy IHBF - Vice Chair Pacheco reported this was a revision to an existing policy.

**IV. Action Agenda**

B. Review and Act on Wildcat Health and Fitness Proposal - Vice Chair Pacheco explained this program is for students engaged in sports. This would be a non-credit course and would meet requirements for Physical Education.

A motion was made to approve the Wildcat Health and Fitness Proposal.  
Motion by Gendreau, seconded by Cabral 4/0/0

C. Review and Act on Nursing Substitute Rates - After discussion above.

A motion was made to approve \$175 as a daily rate for Substitute Nurses.  
Motion by Viveiros, seconded by Cabral 4/0/0

D. Review and Act on Revised Homebound Instruction Policy IHBF - After discussion above.

A motion was made to approve the First Read Revised Homebound Instruction Policy IHBF.  
Motion by Cabral, seconded by Viveiros 4/0/0

E. Review and Act on Donation of a Tabletop Drill Press and Tabletop Band Saw for the WMHS from Mr. Pete Guiney valued at \$300

A motion was made to accept the donation of a tabletop drill press and tabletop band saw for the Westport Middle High School from Mr. Pete Guiney valued at \$300.

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

F. Review and Act on Minutes of the School Committee Meeting – February 1, 2024, School Committee Budget Work Sessions- January 18, 2024 & February 1, 2024

A motion was made to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2024, School Committee Budget Work Sessions on January 18, 2024 & February 1, 2024.

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

G. Review and Act on WMHS Field Trip to PPAC – “Frozen” on March 7, 2024 -

A motion was made to approve the Westport Middle High School Field Trip to PPAC – “Frozen” on March 7, 2024.

Motion by Viveiros, 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** - 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:

Cabral Yes Gendreau Yes Pacheco Yes Viveiros Yes

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

## **MEETING DOCUMENTS**

Student Attendance Report by School 1.29.24 - 2.9.24

Staff Attendance Report

Nurse Substitute Rates

Homebound Instruction Policy IHBF

Letter Westport SEPAC

Donation Tabletop Drill Press and Tabletop Band Saw for WMHS from Mr. Pete Guiney valued at \$300

WMHS Field Trip to PPAC – “Frozen” on March 7,2024

Wildcat Health and Fitness Proposal

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*