

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, March 7, 2024
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Westport Middle-High School Auditorium**

MINUTES

Members Present: Gloria Cabral, Nancy Stanton Cross, Antonio Viveiros

Members Absent: Evan Gendreau, Melissa Pacheco

Also Present: Kevin Aguiar Westport Elementary School Principal, Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal Westport Middle High School, John (Jack) Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Lori Melo Administrative Secretary, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, 11 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Stanton Cross opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:31 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

C. Acknowledgement of John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients - (taken out of order) Ms. Charette distributed letters and certificates to the five honorees of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

A. Student Representatives:

Ryan Keane reported term 3 progress report were posted to the Community Portal yesterday, Parent Teacher Conferences will be March 13, February newsletter has a link to MCAS testing dates, registration deadline for next year's LEAP Program is March 8, Spring sports registration is now open, congratulations to the Drama Club for the SpongeBob performance.

John Jack Keane reported the Sophomore class is selling Westport Wildcat t-shirts, Senior trip will be May 6 to Six Flags, Seniors will be holding a Powderpuff game March 28, Seniors are having a Krispy Crème Donut Fundraiser until March 20, Drama Club will be performing Sister Act on April 5,6,7, STEEL (Students That Exemplify Extraordinary Leadership) will be hosting a Prom Pop Up Shop March 9, Westport Music Boosters is having a Spring Candy Fundraiser until March 15, Westport Cornhole Tournament will be March 9, congratulations was given to Avery Carvalho for being awarded Daughters of the American Revolutions' Good Citizens Award and to Avery Avila for completing the Harvard University's Future Doctor Program, sports information was announced for girls basketball and co-op hockey, March 13 a Spring Sports Informational Session will take place.

B. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin gave a shout out to the entire faculty on Tuesday's Professional Development Day, where staff help present on SEL. Another shout out was given to the whole staff for the amount of time people put in for events to happen. Mr. Aubin shared that he is proud of the work being done in the district.

A thank you was given to the School Committee for their generous support of the Harvard Education Program that provides unique learning opportunities for students.

D. 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.

E. NEASC report - Ms. Charette reported there was a collaborate conference visit from New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) on December 5 and 6, 2023. The last evaluation was done in Spring of 2013. They were graded on foundational elements with an area of concern with writing curriculum.

Four priorities were outlined:

1. Written curriculum
2. Vision of graduate is known and understood by all members of the school community and develop a process to assess and communicate individual and whole school progress toward achieving the vision of the graduate.
3. Add new programs and modify existing programs and systems to support students with social emotional disabilities. (Westport does Response to Intervention (RTI))
4. School insures all students are active learners and lead their own learning.

Ms. Charette added that NEASC will be back in 2 years and the focus will be on work done toward these 4 priority areas.

F. Wildcat Performing Arts Proposal – Ms. Charette explained the Wildcat Performing Arts proposal. This course is a non-credit course for students in Drama Club or Pep Band in lieu of the VPA graduation requirement.

Chair Stanton Cross requested to place this item on the Action Agenda for the next meeting.

G. Leap Program Update – Ms. Charette reported that applications are due tomorrow for next year's LEAP program. Ms. Charette gave an update on the LEAP Program for this year. A total of 11 students participated. Five students were enrolled as early LEAP students and took all core classes and electives at the High School. These students will be getting 30 credits at the end of their 8th grade year, making them sophomores at the beginning of next school year. These 5 students also took on a Capstone Project. Six students were enrolled in the dual program and took core courses with 8th grade teams and took electives at the High School mostly in Art, Foreign Language, and Physical Education.

Ms. Charette shared the program has been highly successful. They had an informational session on February 15 with 30 families attending.

In addition, they obtained a grant for a LEAP Summer Institute Program from the Westport Education Foundation.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if the senior project as a graduation requirement has been removed? Ms. Charette is looking at the graduation requirements and will review them with the committee in the next few months.

H. Discussion of School Choice Program – Ms. Charette reported that this past year's school choice offered 10 students in grade 9, 10 students in grade 10, 5 students in grade 11, and 5 students in grade 12.

After reviewing this school year, Ms. Charette recommends to keep grades 9,10, and 11 the same, but have zero students for grade 12.

It was recommended to add 5 students in grades 7 and 5 students in grade 8.

I. Discussion of SePac Unified Sports at WES – There was a correction on the agenda. Agenda item should read I. Discussion of Unified Sports at WES - Chair Stanton Cross mentioned the committee requested more information on how Unified Sports was going to be implemented.

Mr. Aguiar went over the change from Chess Club to Unified Activities Advisor as well as core components to be considered a Unified Champion School. Whole School Engagement, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Unified Sports was also explained.

Chair Stanton Cross requested for this to be on the Action Agenda for next meeting to approve unified sports at WES and to authorize Mr. Aguiar to appoint Theresa Pacheco as Unified Activities Advisor and remove chess club. Mr. Aguiar will provide an update on other clubs.

J. WCS Bill Warrant: 2/23/2024 & 3/8/2024 - Chair Stanton Cross reported bill warrant dated 2/23/2024 in the amount of \$509,584.65 and bill warrant dated 3/8/2024 in the amount of \$186,459.91 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 on the bill warrants? There were none.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Minutes of School Committee Meeting – Thursday February 15, 2024 -

A motion was made to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes for Thursday February 15, 2024.

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

B. Review and Act on 5-week Bocci Session of Unified Afterschool Enrichment to be Funded by SePac for the grades 5-8 in Fall 2024 - Ms. Charette explained this program will start in Fall. Mr. Grandfield met with principals of the Massasoit League.

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

C. Review and Act on 24/25 School Year Calendar -

A motion was made to approve the 24/25 School Year Calendar.

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

D. Review and Act on School Choice Program for 24/25 School Year - After discussion, a motion was made to go along with the School Choice recommendations from Ms. Charette allowing 10 students in grade 9, 10 students in grade 10, 5 students in grade 11, 0 students in grade 12 as well as add 5 students in grades 7 and 5 students in grade 8.

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

E. Review and Act on Grade 1 Field Trip to Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI – May/June 2024 -

A motion was made to approve the Grade 1 Field Trip to Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI, May/June 2024.

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

F. Review and Act on High School Drama Club Field Trip – “Company” Musical at PPAC – April 2024 -

A motion was made to approve the High School Drama Club Field Trip “Company” Musical at PPAC on April 2024.

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

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 -

Superintendent Aubin invited the School Committee to a presentation at 10 am Monday from the Education Business Alliance on Westport’s neo-technical program. Ms. Melo will send a reminder out to members.

Chair Stanton Cross asked if the program about town meeting format has been re-scheduled? Ms. Charette reported the date will be either March 26 or March 27.

The banquet to honor the Westport soccer team champions will be March 14 at Whites of Westport. Superintendent Aubin reported they are still looking for business support for the banquet.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

The committee requests:

- Following items be placed on the Action Agenda for next meeting
Wildcat Performing Arts
Unified Sports at Westport Elementary School

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 Viveiros 3/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Stanton Cross Yes Viveiros Yes

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

John and Abigail Adams 2023-2024 Scholarship Recipients
WCS Bill Warrants: 2/23/2024 and 3/8/2024
Student Attendance Report by School 2.12.24 - 3.1.24
Staff Attendance Reports
New England Association of Schools and Colleges Report of Visiting Team for Westport Middle High School
Wildcat Performing Arts
School Choice 2023-2024
Unified Sports at Westport Elementary School / Mr. Aguiar
24/25 School Year Calendar Draft
Grade 1 Field Trip to Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI May/June 2024
High School Drama Club Field Trip "Company" Musical at PPAC April 2024

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary

