

**Westport School Committee  
Budget Work Session  
DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 2024  
TIME: 5:30 p.m.  
PLACE: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Westport Middle-High School**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Gloria Cabral, 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, Melissa Sousa Executive Assistant for Business Services

**I. Call to Order** - Chair Stanton Cross called the Budget Work Session to order at 5:42 pm.

**II. Discussion of FY25 School Budget** - Discussion took place on the FY25 School Budget. Selectboard added \$100,000, however official vote has not been taken.

Last figure for the Proposed FY25 School Budget is **\$22,652,207** (includes \$400,000 free cash and the \$100,000).

Discussion took place on areas for potential reductions.

Start Em Young Program was discussed. This program is operational with ESSER funds until June 2024. To keep the program going, coordinator duties will be added to the responsibilities of the Athletic Director. Chair Stanton Cross recommended to start bringing in Westport students as interns and pay minimum wage. Students can use this experience on a resume for college applications. Cultivating this internship is a win-win. This program is enrichment afterschool and not considered a club. There are no fees charged at this time. Discussion took place on the possibility of adding a cost to the participants in the future.

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

Discussion took place on recommended use of ESSER funds. There is a remaining balance of \$46,995 that needs to be expended before 8/31/24.

There were questions on the Math software expansion to grade 3 and the Ignite Program. A request to have Ms. Kaminsky Director of Curriculum speak on these programs at the next meeting was made. There are concerns about being able to sustain programs in future budgets and avoid creating a structural deficit for the district.

Using ESSER funds to wrap the 2 transportation vans was mentioned.

**III. Adjourn** - A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion by Viveiros, seconded by Cabral

4/0/0

The School Committee Budget Work Session ended at 6:37 pm.

