

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, June 4, 2024
TIME: 6:00 p.m.**

PLACE: Westport Middle-High School - Second Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

Members Present: Gloria Cabral, Evan Gendreau, Jason Pacheco, Christopher Thrasher

Members Absent: Melissa Pacheco

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Jennifer Chaves Out of School Time Program Director, Lisa Kaminski Director of Curriculum Instruction and Professional Development, Lori Melo Administrative Secretary, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, 0 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Evan Gendreau opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:00 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 8th graders went to Washington D.C. today, grade 8 Promotion Ceremony is June 12, Cold Stone Creamery fundraiser will be held on June 12 from 12-9, Annual Kids Challenge will be June 9 at 10 am.

Alden Priestner reported May18 was the prom at the Fall River Country Club, May 30 was Book Awards for the Juniors, Academic and Department Awards were given on May 30, class of 2024 received over \$300,000 in scholarship money, June 1 graduation was held, top ten students were announced.

John Jack Keane reported last day of school is June 14 with an early dismissal, final exams June 11-13, end of term 4 is Friday June 14, MCAS testing is almost completed, last week was a celebration of student athletes and scholars, June 13 will be a Karaoke Night, for athletics spring sports came to a close, scores were announced for boys varsity baseball team, girls varsity softball, lacrosse team, boys varsity tennis, and girls varsity tennis teams.

B. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin shared recent information from the Boston Globe showing a high number of Westport home sales. There is concern seeing this data and the potential for larger enrollment numbers in the schools with less money in the budget.

Chair Gendreau asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee? There were none.

Chair Gendreau recognized several retirements and thanked them for their service to the district.

C. Committee Liaison Reports - Chair Gendreau explained this item will be on future agendas to give members the opportunity to share updates on what is happening in their committees.

Chair Gendreau shared the Audit Committee will be meeting soon.

Mr. Pacheco reported attending the Cable Advisory Board where they discussed reorganizing the staff and providing a high definition cable channel.

Mr. Thrasher shared an agenda for the Long-Term Building Committee will be posted next week.

D. Westport Community Schools Bill Warrant 5-31-2024 - Chair Gendreau reported bill warrant dated 5.31.2024 in the amount of \$406,282.42 was emailed to school committee members for review. Members also have a hardcopy of the bill warrant.

Chair Gendreau asked if there were any questions on the bill warrant? There were none.

E. Student and Staff Attendance Report - Chair Gendreau reported that committee members received copies of the reports and asked if there were any comments?

Mr. Thrasher noticed a drop off at the end of the school year and asked if this happens every year? Superintendent Aubin explained there is nothing out of the ordinary.

F. Discussion of ESSER Funds – Ms. Rapoza went over all the items in relation to the ESSER funds expenditures totaling \$46,077 that must be spent by August 31, 2024.

Ms. Kaminski explained expansion of 2 programs using ESSER funds. First, the Ignite Program is high dosage tutoring from the state that was used for K students and would now like an expansion to middle school students. This program gives 15 minutes of tutoring every day to 30 students. Second, is IReady Classroom math for expansion to Grade 3

G. Discussion of Moving District Offices and Usage of Fields -

Discussion took place on items listed in a Memorandum of Agreement concerning the district's decision to move out of the Old High School. The district is heading in this direction due to budget issues.

Mr. Thrasher mentioned there is no money for any kind of conversions for building code compliance. He shared concerns with this move and asked if it was possible to have employees remain in a small section of the building. Mr. Aubin explained there is a staff shortage.

Discussion took place on having a meeting with the town and it is in the best interest to work together to move forward on this issue. Chair Gendreau mentioned the district is willing to work with the town to schedule a work session.

Mr. Pacheco asked about the use of the old high school as a polling place for elections? Ms. Rapoza said using the new school may be possible. Chair Gendreau will confirm polling place with the town.

Chair Gendreau asked if there were any questions? There were none.

Ms. Rapoza mentioned if anyone wants to add suggestions send them in.

H. Update on the OST Program – Ms. Chaves reviewed the Westport Community Schools Out of School Time Program 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Year document. Ms. Chaves explained the program maintains itself and is sustained through a revolving account and is not in the regular school budget. A request for an increase for the 2024-2025 school year is being made and has not happened since 2021. This program will relocate to Macomber School if a move from the Old High School is implemented.

Chair Gendreau asked how the implementation of the pilot Pre-K is working? Ms. Chaves explained it is doing good, however this was added in March so it was hard to get parents to change their schedules.

Mr. Thrasher asked for a breakdown between self-pay and vouchers. Ms. Chaves verified that a total of 26% have a PACE voucher and are subsidized.

Mr. Pacheco asked if there would be a summer program? Ms. Chaves responded yes.

I. Curriculum Update – Ms. Kaminski shared reading data since the creation of Reading Specialist's positions. The Ignite Program and using interventionists has helped to raise up reading success numbers. Ms. Kaminski explained the term "ambitious growth" is meeting a higher level from 1 testing benchmark to another. They are presently doing end of year Dibels assessments.

Ms. Kaminski suggested a podcast entitled *Sold the Story*.

Mr. Thrasher asked if there are any highly rated programs? Ms. Kaminski shared they are using the Wonder Program for grades K - 4 for comprehension and the Ignite Program for the decoding piece.

Mr. Thrasher noticed lower numbers for 4th graders who were dealing with COVID and asked if there are any interventions? Ms. Kaminski shared the Ignite Program has helped and pointed out these students had the most ambitious growth.

Chair Gendreau asked if there were any comments or questions? There were none.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on WMHS 8th Grade Trip to Washington DC- Tuesday, June 10 2025 – Friday, June 13, 2025 -

A motion was made to table this item.

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

B. Review and Act on SC Meeting Minutes Tuesday 5.14.24 & SC Budget Work Session Minutes 5.21.24 -

A motion was made to approve the SC Meeting Minutes Tuesday 5.14.24 and SC Budget Work Session Minutes 5.21.24.

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

C. Acknowledgement of Soccer Championship Donations totaling \$14,281 -

A motion was made to accept the Soccer Championship Donations totaling \$14,281.

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

D. Review and Act on Food Service Director job description and position for FY25 - Ms. Rapoza provided the job description for Food Service Director. Ms. Rapoza shared she has been filling in with these duties along with her other duties and can't give what is needed. Ms. Rapoza explained this position is no additional expense to the general budget and comes out of a revolving account.

Mr. Pacheco shared his concern with recent budget cuts implemented and now hiring for a new position.

Mr. Thrasher shared his sentiment on making the cuts and would not support this if funds were from the general budget.

Discussion took place on the funds having a spending timeline, following certain criteria, and not impacting the general budget.

A motion was made to approve the Food Service Director position as presented.

Motion by Cabral, seconded by Thrasher 3/1/0
JPacheco No

E. Review and Act on a \$1500 Grant from the Project Bread for the School Lunch Program - Ms. Rapoza explained this grant is to expand the district's summer needs and covers salaries for breakfast and lunch programs.

Chair Gendreau asked if there were any questions? There were none.

A motion was made to accept the \$1500 Grant from the Project Bread for the School Lunch Program.

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

F. Review and Act on receipt of \$1000 Scholarship for Health Sciences Award in Memory of George Gobel -

A motion was made to accept the \$1000 Scholarship for Health Sciences Award in Memory of George Gobel.

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

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes J Gendreau Yes JPacheco Yes Thrasher Yes

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

WCS Bill Warrant: 5.31.2024

Student Attendance Report by School

Staff Attendance Reports by School

Recommended Use of ESSER Funds

Moving Out of Old High School Memorandum of Agreement dated May 29, 2024

Year In Review Reading

Westport Community Schools Out of School Time Program 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Year

WMHS 8th Grade Trip to Washington DC Tuesday, June 10 2025 – Friday, June 13. 2025

Soccer Championship Donations \$14,281

Food Service Director job description

\$1500 Grant from Project Bread for School Lunch Program

\$1000 Scholarship for Health Sciences Award in Memory of George Gobel

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary