

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, July 23, 2024
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual**

Please click this URL to
join. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86311651473?pwd=E3i3iJLD7jaKQF8fNUPkPg4icb7iI8.1>

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MINUTES

Members Present: Gloria Cabral, Evan Gendreau, Jason Pacheco, Melissa Pacheco (*arrived at 6:15 pm.*), Christopher Thrasher

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Lori Melo Administrative Assistant, 8 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Evan Gendreau opened the Virtual School Committee Meeting at 6:08 p.m. with a quorum of the members present, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Gendreau read the following:

On March 29, 2023, Governor Maura Healey signed into law Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, which includes a two-year extension of the option for public bodies to hold remote meetings, effective immediately. This legislation simply extends the current option for remote meetings through March 31, 2025, and does not otherwise affect the ability of public bodies to conduct their meetings remotely through video and/or audio conferencing under Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021.

II. Comments and Statements from the Public - There were none.

III. Informational Agenda

A. Superintendent Report – Report passed over.

B. Committee Liaison Reports - Members reported no updates.

C. Discussion of Moving District Offices - Chair Gendreau informed everyone that the Selectboard met last night. There is a potential for an increase in costs for insurance, however the quote has not come in at this time. This has made it difficult to decide on the move entirely and remains a big unknown. There also is a consideration of the timeframe to move all offices over. There may be a possibility for some kind of assistance from costs the School Department is bearing right now with the old building.

Chair Gendreau recommends a partial move with district student facing positions. Moving would be the Curriculum Director, Special Education, Food Service Manager, Superintendent's Office, and Registrar remaining is the Business Office, Human Resources and Out of School Time Program. This allows moving a few staff to the new building and maintain a presence at the old building. The goal for moving was to save \$90,000 and support staff.

Ms. Pacheco arrived here at 6:15 pm.

Chair Gendreau asked for the committee's thoughts on the move.

Mr. Thrasher shared he is upset there is no insurance costs quote at this time. He feels moving student facing staff to the new building is in the best interests of students and faculty and would like to proceed with a partial move. Mr. Thrasher shared warrant articles have been set aside for utilities costs. An issue on reaching the occupancy number may have town offices move in sooner rather than later. There will be a building walkthrough with the Long-Term Building Committee and the Board of Selectmen on August 6.

Ms. Pacheco shared staying and not incurring additional costs makes the most sense. This means not paying additional insurance costs if the insurance number comes back high.

Chair Gendreau shared there is a time frame issue due to the Selectboard not knowing availability of any money in the warrant articles to offset costs until their next meeting. The town could potentially absorb higher end of the insurance. Chair Gendreau shared they are looking at the least impact on students and will re-assess finding the best option for next year.

Ms. Cabral agrees with a partial move. It would be harder for everyone if all were to move at the same time.

Mr. Pacheco agrees with what was said and hope there are no additional costs. They have been upfront with the move and will save money.

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

IV. Action Agenda

B. Act on District Move - (taken out of order) - Discussion was held above.

A motion was made for the School Committee to consider a partial move to have student facing administration including Curriculum Director, Special Education, Food Service Manager, Superintendent's Office, and Registrar move leaving Business Office, Human Resources and Out of School Time Program.

Motion by Thrasher, seconded by Cabral 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Gendreau Yes JPacheco Yes MPacheco Yes Thrasher Yes

Ms. Pacheco added that the understanding is remaining at the old high school building should have no additional costs to the district.

A. Review and Act on SC Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, July 9, 2024 -

A motion was made to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes dated Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

Motion by JPacheco, seconded by Thrasher 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Gendreau Yes JPacheco Yes MPacheco Yes Thrasher Yes

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 Thrasher, seconded by MPacheco 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Gendreau Yes JPacheco Yes MPacheco Yes Thrasher Yes

The Virtual School Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

