Westport School Committee
Executive Session
PLACE: WMHS – 2nd Floor Conference Room
DATE: Tuesday, August 6, 2024
TIME: 6:30 pm

Google Meet / Video call link: https://meet.google.com/fbx-ckhh-woj

MINUTES

Members Present: Gloria Cabral, Evan Gendreau, Jason Pacheco, Melissa Pacheco *(via Google Meet Link),* Christopher Thrasher

I. Call to Order - Chair Evan Gendreau opened the Westport School Committee Executive Session at 6:33 pm. with a quorum of the members present.

Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to MGL c. 30A, §21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Superintendent's Contract) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair declares. Members will not return to open session.

A motion was made to adjourn to Executive Session.
Motion by Cabral, seconded by Thrasher 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral	Yes	Gendreau	Yes	JPacheco	Yes	MPacheco	Yes	Thrasher	Yes

Ms. Pacheco verified she was alone.

1. Superintendent's Contract - Chair Gendreau reported that Superintendent Aubin is considering a potential retirement leaving December 2024. Chair Gendreau explained a new superintendent search would need to take place in the middle of a school year which is not an ideal time.

Discussion took place on terms to keep the superintendent longer. Mr. Aubin requested an increase of $10,000 for 2024-2025 and $10,000 for 2025-2026 leaving a year earlier than the present contract that goes through 2027.

It was noted there is money in the present budget to cover the salary increase this fiscal year and will not impact services.

Chair Gendreau informed everyone they would need to approve a new contract by amending the present term to 2024 - 2026 instead of 2024 - 2027 and increase the salary by $10,000 for each of the 2 years. The amended contract would need a vote by the committee in full session.

Mr. Pacheco mentioned this is worrisome due to the superintendent receiving a new contract for 3 years 8 months ago.

Discussion took place on what is involved with a new superintendent search. The search is about 6 months long, there are forums to gather community as well as staff engagement and can cost up to $25,000.

A motion was made to revise the current superintendent's contract by decreasing the term to 2 years July 2024 - June 2025 and July 2025 - June 2026 and add an additional $10,000 for each of those 2 years.

Motion by MPacheco, seconded by Cabral 4/1/0

Roll call vote:
Cabral Yes Gendreau Yes JPacheco No MPacheco Yes Thrasher Yes

Contract will be retroactive to July 2024.

Chair Gendreau shared the contract will be revised and then voted on in open session.

Chair Gendreau asked if there was anything further?

Ms. Pacheco thanked the Chair for his communication with the superintendent. Ms. Pacheco suggested Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) can do a zoom call to let the committee know what is involved in a new superintendent search when needed.

2. Approval of Minutes: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 and Wednesday, July 17 2024

A motion was made to accept the Executive Session Minutes for Tuesday, June 18, 2024 and Wednesday, July 17 2024.

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

Roll call vote:
Cabral Yes Gendreau Yes JPacheco Yes MPacheco Yes Thrasher Yes

II. Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn.

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

Roll call vote:
Cabral Yes Gendreau Yes JPacheco Yes MPacheco Yes Thrasher Yes

The Westport School Committee Executive Session ended at 7:04 pm.