Westport School Committee
Executive Session
PLACE: Virtual
DATE: Monday July 22, 2024
TIME: 9:00 am

Google Meet / Video call link: https://meet.google.com/jzj-eexw-ecw

MINUTES

Members Present: Gloria Cabral, Evan Gendreau, Jason Pacheco, Christopher Thrasher
Members Absent: Melissa Pacheco
Others Present: Thomas Aubin Westport Community Schools Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal Westport Middle High School, Shawn Flood Westport Federation of Teachers, Joshua Coleman Attorney, Lisa Kaminski Director of Curriculum Instruction and Professional Development, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Coordinator, Lori Melo Executive Secretary, Ann Pimentel-Hathaway Westport Federation of Teachers, [redacted]

I. Call to Order - Chair Evan Gendreau opened the Virtual Westport School Committee Executive Session at 9:05 am. with a quorum of the members present.

Chair Gendreau read the following statement:
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.

A motion was made to adjourn into Executive Session.

Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to MGL c. 30A, §21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares

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

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

A motion was made to invite Thomas Aubin, Laura Charette, Joshua Coleman, Shawn Flood, Lisa Kaminski, Lori Melo, Kristin McDaniel, Ann Pimentel Hathaway and [redacted] to the table.

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

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

Everyone verified there are alone.

1. WFT Grievance Hearing Level 3 - Mr. Flood from the Westport Federation of Teachers explained this grievance is about filling a vacancy for a summer school teaching position. This position was given to another applicant with less seniority. Both applicants had equal qualifications according to Mr. Flood. Mr. Flood is asking to give this position to the griever and thus make whole.

[redacted]

Attorney Coleman asked if there was anything further the Westport Federation of Teachers wants to share?

[redacted]

Mr. Aubin explained that while seniority plays a factor, it is not the only determination. When qualifications are equal, then seniority.

Mr. Thrasher asked for clarification on the issue determining qualifications.

Ms. Charette gave some background context. They look at what the student's needs are then posted positions for Summer School. The position in question had History and Resiliency School as part of the qualifications.

Ms. Charette explained Edgenuity the virtual online platform and Resiliency School. These are two separate platforms.

Ms. Charette explained the teacher hired has experience with Resiliency School last year and Summer School. In addition, during the school year this person also takes care of the Edgenuity platform. Ms. Charette shared she worked with the candidate not chosen for 16 years and knows his experience.

Mr. Thrasher had a question on the process to review online applications.

Ms. Charette mentioned there was a question on whether Summer School was going to take place. This was not known right away.

Attorney Coleman asked if there were any questions?

[redacted]

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

II. Adjourn - Meeting did not adjourn and rolled over into a Breakout Session / Executive Session at 9:21 am. using a different Google Meet Link.