



3-23-20 Board of Education Update

The Westport Board of Education <do_not_reply@westportps.org>
Reply-To: do_not_reply@westportps.org

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 7:14 AM

Dear Westport School Community,

There is no question that we are in an unprecedented situation and we are all struggling to adapt to our new reality. Working together with grit and compassion we can meet the challenge of this moment, provide continuity for our children, support the herculean efforts of our teachers, administrators and staff, and plan for a future when we are free to resume our normal lives.

We on the Board are filled with enormous gratitude for the work of our educators. Our team has reinvented educational delivery for our children essentially overnight. While our distance learning plan continues to be improved, we must acknowledge the enormity of this undertaking. And we appreciate the added burden on parents who are now taking on a greater role in their children's education. We know that distance learning can never replicate what we do in school, but we are working with our administration and faculty to continually improve our practice.

The Board will be holding a special meeting this evening at 7:00 PM to discuss the school calendar and specifically whether to convert the April break into school days. We will be meeting via Zoom and it will be televised and streamed as usual. We will take public comment via Googledoc and will post the link in advance of the meeting.

On April 1 the Board of Finance will meet to vote on our 2020-2021 fiscal year budget request.

On April 2 the Board of Education will meet again. Our agenda will include our response to the Board of Finance's budget decision, an update on remote learning, an update from the CMS Building Committee, and an update on our plans for a before school program to accommodate our shift to later start times.

We are enormously pleased to tell you that on April 2 we are also planning to vote on the appointment of our new permanent superintendent. We can all be heartened by this opportunity to look to the future and contemplate the growth and dynamism our new educational leader will bring to the district. We look forward to celebrating in person as soon as we can.

Please be well and continue to social distance and diligently follow the instructions of our local leadership. Let us continue working together to stay safe, to educate our children, and to support one another through this challenging situation.

Sincerely,

Candice Savin, Chair
Jeannie Smith, Vice Chair
Elaine Whitney, Secretary
Karen Kleine
Vik Muktavaram
Youn Su Chao
Lee Goldstein

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