



WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To: Westport Board of Education Members
From: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools
Re: April 5, 2021 Board of Education Meeting
Date: April 1, 2021

Provided below for Board consideration is an overview of the meeting agenda items for April 5, 2021. As we have done for previous meetings, the meeting will be held remotely with public access through live streaming and public comments and questions submitted electronically.

Discussion

1. Health Update and School Reopening Model Update

Sue Levasseur and I will provide a health update on COVID-19 cases, the vaccination clinics, travel guidance and end of year activities. We will also provide an update on how we are revisiting many of our mitigating practices, considering which, if any, can be eliminated. The final vaccination clinic will be held on Thursday April 8. Sue will have information on the performance of the April 1 clinic. Additionally, Sue and I will update the Board on progress towards a vaccination clinic and overall efforts to vaccinate our high school population.

2. Update on Facilities Projects

Following the presentation at the previous meeting, I made the recommendation that the Board engage the town to discuss the capital program management proposal the full Board and the Finance and Facilities Committee have discussed. It was understood that CFO, Elio Longo, Director of Facilities, Ted Hunyadi, and I would meet with First Selectman Jim Marpe, Town Finance Director, Gary Conrad and Town Director of Public Works, Pete Ratkiewich. In this meeting the group had consensus about the necessity of this proposal to broaden the capacity of the Board of Education Facilities Department, particularly in light of the near \$100 million capital maintenance program. There was also consensus that the town might also benefit from such services. It was agreed that the next steps would include researching a sample RFQ and RFP from other districts securing such services. The potential funding options of the services were explored. Among the options discussed were special appropriations and possibly using the funds set aside by the town for capital program management. Finally, it was agreed that any efforts to advance this proposal should not modify any of the current governance structures in place for the Board of Education with regards to responsibility for management of its facilities. Mr. Marpe and I will review our joint meeting and engage in discussion with the Board for consideration of next steps in the process.

3. Consideration of Modification to FY 2022 BOE Adopted Budget

Given the action of the Board of Finance in reducing the Board of Education budget increase by \$975,284, it is expected that action will be taken Monday evening following the deliberations at the Board of Education meeting on Thursday April 1.

4. Teaching and Learning Committee Update

The Teaching and Learning Committee met recently to discuss modifications to the middle school math pathways, and the ESSER II Grant program. Along with Dr. Buono, the Committee will update the Board on their recent meeting.

Discussion/Action

1. Board Consideration of Legal Counsel

Culminating a thorough and comprehensive search process, the Board will take action on the selection of legal counsel. The services of the firm selected will begin on July 1, 2021.