

**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Administrators Present:**

David Abbey            Interim Superintendent  
Anthony Buono        Asst. Superintendent, Teaching and Learning  
Elio Longo\*            Chief Financial Officer  
John Bayers            Director of Human Resources  
Ann Leffert            Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services

\*Participated by phone

**Administrators Absent:**

Tina Mannarino, Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Personnel Services

**PUBLIC CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 7:33 p.m., Staples High School, Cafeteria B (Room 301)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**MINUTES:** February 3, 2020

Elaine Whitney moved to approve the minutes of February 3, 2020; seconded by Jeannie Smith and passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

School Start Time Recommendation

Elaine Whitney moved to request additional information prior to the vote on the proposed start time changes:

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education directs the Superintendent of Schools to explore the cost and feasibility of offering before-school supervision and/or programming for elementary school students to address the difference in the current start times and the proposed new start times at each elementary school as recommended by the School Start Time Committee, with such option(s) to be available beginning with the FY 2020 – FY 2021 school year.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney  
**SECOND:** Karen Kleine  
**RESULT:** Failed  
**VOTE:** 2-5 (Elaine Whitney and Karen Kleine in favor; Candice Savin, Jeannie Smith, Vik Muktavaram, Youn Su Chao and Lee Goldstein opposed)

Candice Savin moved to adopt the recommendation of the School Start Time Committee and the Superintendent of Schools:

**Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the School Start Time Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves changing the school start times as follows, beginning with the FY 2020 – FY 2021 school year:**

- **Staples High School will begin at 8:00 a.m.;**
- **Bedford and Coleytown Middle Schools will begin at 8:30 a.m.;**
- **Saugatuck Elementary School will begin at 8:30 a.m.;**
- **Coleytown, Greens Farms, Kings Highway, and Long Lots Elementary Schools will begin at 9:00 a.m.; and**
- **Stepping Stones Preschool will begin at 9:30 a.m.**

**MOTION:** Candice Savin  
**SECOND:** Vik Muktavaram  
**RESULT:** Passed  
**VOTE:** 5-2 (Candice Savin, Jeannie Smith, Vik Muktavaram, Youn Su Chao and Lee Goldstein in favor; Elaine Whitney and Karen Kleine opposed)

FY 2021 Education Budget

5-Year Capital Forecast

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, adopts a 5-Year Capital Forecast for FY 2020 - FY 2021 through FY 2024 - FY 2025, as amended at the meeting of February 10, 2020, said forecast to be appended to the minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2020.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney  
**SECOND:** Candice Savin  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 7-0

FY 2020 - FY 2021 Board of Education Operating Budget

*Motions on individual line items:*

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education reduces by \$79,450 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 100 for assistant principals at the elementary level, reflecting a 0.5 FTE reduction of a general education Assistant Principal.**

**MOTION:** Vik Muktavaram

**SECOND:** Lee Goldstein

**RESULT:** Failed

**VOTE:** 3-4 (Vik Muktavaram, Youn Su Chao and Lee Goldstein in favor; Candice Savin, Jeannie Smith, Elaine Whitney and Karen Kleine opposed)

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education increases by \$172,200 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 104 for science coaches at the elementary level, and correspondingly increases \$56,000 in budget line 200 for employee benefits, reflecting restoration of the current 2.5 FTE complement of such coaches.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney

**SECOND:** Candice Savin

**RESULT:** Passed

**VOTE:** 4-3 (Candice Savin, Jeannie Smith, Elaine Whitney and Karen Kleine in favor; Vik Muktavaram, Youn Su Chao and Lee Goldstein opposed)

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education increases by \$66,880 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 104 for literacy coaches at the middle school level, and correspondingly increases \$28,000 in budget line 200 for employee benefits, reflecting restoration of the current 1.0 FTE complement of such coaches.**

**MOTION:** Youn Su Chao

**SECOND:** Lee Goldstein

**RESULT:** Passed

**VOTE:** 5-2 (Candice Savin, Jeannie Smith, Vik Muktavaram, Youn Su Chao and Lee Goldstein in favor; Elaine Whitney and Karen Kleine opposed)

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by \$25,000 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 323 for the Innovation Fund, reflecting no funding for the upcoming year.**

**MOTION:** Youn Su Chao

**SECOND:** Vik Muktavaram

**RESULT:** Passed

**VOTE:** 5-2 (Candice Savin, Elaine Whitney, Vik Muktavaram, Youn Su Chao and Lee Goldstein in favor; Jeannie Smith and Karen Kleine opposed)

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by \$90,000 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 510 for regular education bus monitors, reflecting discontinuation of this service for regular education students.**

**MOTION:** Vik Muktavaram

**SECOND:** Jeannie Smith

**RESULT:** Passed

**VOTE:** 6-1 (Candice Savin, Jeannie Smith, Elaine Whitney, Vik Muktavaram, Youn Su Chao and Lee Goldstein in favor; Karen Kleine opposed)

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by \$36,000 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 736 for smartboards.**

**MOTION:** Vik Muktavaram

**SECOND:** Lee Goldstein

**RESULT:** Passed

**VOTE:** 4-3 (Elaine Whitney, Vik Muktavaram, Youn Su Chao and Lee Goldstein in favor; Candice Savin, Jeannie Smith, and Karen Kleine opposed)

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education decreases by \$20,000 the funding proposed by the Superintendent of Schools in budget line 735 for furniture.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney

**SECOND:** Candice Savin

**RESULT:** Passed

**VOTE:** 5-2 (Candice Savin, Elaine Whitney, Vik Muktavaram, Youn Su Chao and Lee Goldstein in favor; Jeannie Smith and Karen Kleine opposed)

*Final motion on total operating budget:*

**Be it resolved, that the Board of Education requests an appropriation from the Board of Finance and the Representative Town Meeting for its operating budget for FY 2020 - FY 2021, in the amount of:**

- **\$120,146,051 for the portion of the operating budget for all expenses other than facilities costs, reflecting a \$3,971,718 and 3.42% increase from the corresponding FY 2019 - FY 2020 budget amount of \$116,174,333;**
- **\$3,107,446 for the portion of the operating budget for facilities costs, reflecting a \$1,031,315 and 49.67% increase from the corresponding FY 2019 - FY 2020 budget amount of \$2,076,131;**
- **Said amounts above comprising a total FY 2020 - FY 2021 operating budget appropriation request of \$123,253,497, reflecting a \$5,003,033 and 4.23% increase.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney

**SECOND:** Vik Muktavaram

**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously

**VOTE:** 7-0

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At 11:27 p.m., Candice Savin moved to continue with the remaining of the agenda items, as it was past 10:30 p.m.; seconded by Vik Muktavaram and passed unanimously.

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Gifts

**Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts with gratitude and appreciation the donation of \$6,850.10 by the SES PTA for the purchase and installation of theatrical lighting in the Saugatuck Elementary School auditorium.**

**MOTION:** Candice Savin  
**SECOND:** Jeannie Smith  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 7-0

Approval of Paraprofessional Contract, 7/1/2019 – 6/30/2022

**Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the collective bargaining agreement between the Westport Board of Education and the Westport Education Association of Paraprofessionals, representing all paraprofessionals employed by the Westport Public Schools, for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney  
**SECOND:** Karen Kleine  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 7-0

**ADJOURNMENT:** Candice Savin moved to adjourn at 11:31 p.m.; seconded by Vik Muktavaram and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Whitney, Secretary, Board of Education  
(Minutes written by Lisa Marriott)