

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

February 6, 2012

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:04 PM at Case House by Mr. Rick Manley, Chair. In attendance were Mrs. Danielle Black, Mr. Court Chilton, Dr. Ed Heller, and Dr. Sanjay Saini of the School Committee; Mrs. Cheryl Antoine, METCO Representative to the School Committee; Ms. Sophia Wirth, Student Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Cheryl Maloney, Superintendent; Mrs. Amber Bock, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Director of Finance and Operations.

Also in attendance: Mrs. Elizabeth Nagarajah, Alternating METCO Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Mr. Anthony Parker, High School Principal; and Mr. John Gibbons, Middle School Principal.

I.B. Chairman's Report – Mr. Manley proposed Monday, July 23 as the date of the summer workshop and requested Committee members let Dr. Maloney know of their availability.

I.C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Maloney reported on the recent Middle School student production of “Fiddler on the Roof,” noting it was “phenomenal” and “one of the best productions with excellent timing, energy, and humor.” She informed the Committee that at the recent Martin Luther King Breakfast, she spoke about diversity and the achievement gap and had made the speech available, upon request, to Senator Susan Fargo. She noted it was also on the district website.

Dr. Maloney congratulated high school student Matthew Atkins who won third place in the Drexel University Photography Competition and reported on the success of Weston music students at the All-State Music Auditions and the Eastern Massachusetts Junior District Festival. She noted that the High School Chorus is one of 50 groups or individuals selected out of 4,000 entries to sing the National Anthem at a Celtics game on Wednesday, March 28. Dr. Maloney also congratulated Mr. John Minigan, High School English and Drama teacher, and playwright, on the acceptance of one of his plays for performance by the Hotbed Theater in London.

Dr. Maloney provided an update on varsity athletics, noting that the boys indoor track team won the DCL Small League Championship, Girls Hockey qualified for the State tournament, Wrestling had three boys qualify for the State Tournament, and the Boys Ski Team would hopefully qualify for the state tournament, while the Girls Ski Team had three skiers who have qualified as individuals.

I.D. Open Forum – Resident Stuart Woodworth informed the Committee of a student currently attending Weston High School who he believes does not live in Weston. He indicated he had sent a letter to Committee members and would like to discuss. Committee members noted they had not yet received such a letter. Mr. Woodworth indicated he would come forward at another meeting to discuss. Resident Peter Hill noted there had been positive input regarding the new traffic signs. He also asked if the Committee had any input regarding the CORI matter he brought up at the previous meeting. Dr. Maloney said she had sent Mr. Hill an email on the topic.

MAJOR BUSINESS

II.A. Weston Education Enrichment Fund Committee Proposals

Mrs. Bock answered Committee questions about some of the proposed grants.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve WEEFC grant proposals as presented, totaling \$22,027.50, per memo of January 31, 2012.

II.B. Tablet Pilot Mid-point Report

Dr. McCanne updated the Committee on the results of surveys of seventh grade parents, faculty and students regarding use of tablets to support teaching and learning. He informed the Committee that both middle School and district administrators recommend expansion of the tablet program to eighth grade and, based on the positive findings, presented four scenarios to expand the initiative next year. The Committee discussed at length the various options, including one where Weston would purchase all tablets and provide to students, one where parents would purchase or lease tablets, one in which Weston would lease tablets and charge a fee, and one where Weston would lease and provide software. Dr. McCanne reviewed the funding for each scenario. The Committee decided to continue the discussion at a meeting on February 28, at 8:00 AM. Dr. McCanne noted he would provide spreadsheets with data on the funding options.

II.C. Advanced Placement Courses

Mr. Parker shared comparison data on AP scores and practices from other districts, including how they prepare students for the exams. He noted that some districts do not require students to take the exams, as Weston does. He said he would continue to conduct research, that this report might be considered "part 1." The Committee thanked Mr. Parker for providing the information.

II.D. Progress Report on Superintendent's Annual Goals

Dr. Maloney presented a mid-year progress report on the Annual Goals. She invited questions from the Committee. The Committee commented positively on the new format of the report.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Chilton and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the report.

II.E. Discussion of Town Report

Mr. Chilton led a brief discussion about this year's proposed submittal from the schools for the annual Town Report. He reported it was due by the following Wednesday, noting that any changes needed to be made before then.

II.F. Public Hearing on Adoption of School Choice

The School Committee conducted its annual discussion regarding participation in the School Choice program. Mr. Manley reviewed Dr. Maloney's recommendation that the district not participate in School Choice for the 2012-2013 school year, citing the funding structure of the program and student enrollment issues.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Chilton and seconded by Mrs. Black, the Weston School Committee voted to not participate in the 2012-2013 Massachusetts School Choice Program.

II.G. Concussion Policy – 2nd Reading

Dr. Maloney presented a draft of Policy JJIF, Athletic Concussion Policy and its regulations, as revised. Dr. Heller indicated he was not sure the regulations were clarified enough and would like a timeline and sequential next steps. Dr. Maloney said she would request Ms. Patty Wright, Nurse Leader, to revise the regulations.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Mr. Chilton, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy JJIF, Athletic Concussion Policy.

II.H. Discussion of the Proposed FY13 Budget

Mrs. Mahr noted the budget increase was revised to 2.85%, mainly a reflection of lane changes and salaries, representing approximately \$70,000. She indicated she would share the budget update with the Finance Committee. No action taken.

II.I. Facilities Project Updates

High School Science Lab Project

Mrs. Black updated the Committee on the science lab project, noting she had walked the construction site. She requested committee members to let her, Dr. Maloney, or Mrs. Bock know

if they would like to take a tour some afternoon. Mrs. Black noted there was no longer propane on the job site. She updated the committee on the worker who had been injured, noting he had burns but no damage to his eyes or respiratory system. She also noted the protesters on site, members of the Carpenters Union, protesting because the job is using non-union sub-contractors. No action taken.

Field School Project

Dr. Heller reported that the Field School Project is still in detail design phase. He noted the contaminated site on the field would require mediation. Dr. Maloney indicated the field was closed to all activity. No action taken.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Saini and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 9; January 23; January 26, 2012.

III.B. Personnel Information and Actions

Dr. Maloney reported on the status of the searches for a new METCO Director, Mathematics Department Head, and Elementary Science Specialist, noting that resumes were being reviewed and screening committees would be interviewing selected candidates during the next month.

III.C. Business Actions

Acceptance of Gifts

Mrs. Mahr informed the Committee of a donation of \$1,140 from the Patrick Devlin Memorial Foundation to be used for Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training of bus drivers.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Chilton and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the gift of \$1,140 from the Patrick Devlin Memorial Foundation.

Mrs. Mahr informed the Committee of a donation of \$435.67 to the Middle School garden, made by the Class of 2015 as a departing 8th Grade gift.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the gift of \$435.67 from the Class of 2015 to be deposited into the Middle School Principal's Gift Fund.

Certificate of Warrant

Mrs. Mahr presented a Certificate of the Secretary, approval of warrants for payment.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Mr. Chilton, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$364,469.38 by the Director of Finance and Operations.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Saini and seconded by Mr. Chilton, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:13 PM.