

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 26, 2012

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 6:40 PM at Case House by Mr. Rick Manley, Chair. In attendance were Mrs. Danielle Black and Dr. Ed Heller of the School Committee; Dr. Cheryl Maloney, Superintendent; Mrs. Amber Bock, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Director of Finance and Operations. Joining the meeting after order was called were Dr. Sanjay Saini at 6:45PM and Mr. Court Chilton at 6:55PM. Mrs. Elizabeth Nagarajah, METCO Representative to the School Committee, and Ms. Sophia Wirth, Student Representative to the School Committee, joined meeting at approximately 7:00PM.

Also in attendance: Mrs. Cheryl Antoine, Alternating METCO Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Mr. Mitch Finnegan, Director of Health and Physical Education.

I.B. Chairman's Report – Mr. Manley noted it was a full agenda so would forego a report.

I.C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Maloney highlighted two student achievements. She informed the Committee that senior Lily Fishman was selected as the only Gold Key recipient in the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards, noting she would receive a \$2,000 Writing Scholarship for her writing portfolio. Dr. Maloney also reported that senior Caroline Shin has been recognized as one of the “most talented young artists (and writers) in the nation,” and named a National Art Portfolio Winner by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers and will be honored as a national Silver medalist at Carnegie Hall in early June.

Dr. Maloney distributed the School Committee calendar for the rest of the year, information on the upcoming METCO finalist visits, and a publication on METCO funding history.

I.D. Open Forum – No comments.

MAJOR BUSINESS

II.A. EDCO Collaborative Reorganization

Ms. Dorsey Yearley, EDCO Director, presented a proposal to restructure the EDCO Collaborative and the Education Collaborative of Greater Boston, Inc. She shared their history, noting the latter is a private not-for-profit collaborative and EDCO is a public collaborative and indicated that recent legislation on collaboratives requires a number of changes, including the dissolution of such partnerships. Ms. Yearley presented a cost/benefit analysis of the proposal and outlined the recommended vote that is required of each EDCO district School Committee in order to address the proposed change.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to dissolve the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc. by June 30, 2012 or as soon as legally possible thereafter, and further that our representatives for the EDCO Collaborative and the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc. be authorized to take all necessary steps to transfer all programs, contracts and available assets, including the Seefurth Fund, from the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc. to the EDCO Collaborative by the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2012, or as soon as legally possible thereafter.

II.B. Green Seal Presentation on Field Contamination

Jim Luker from Green Seal presented a brief history of the fields behind the Community Center and Field School, noting that arsenic discovered is likely a result of agricultural use of Case Estates. He reviewed the findings from the testing report as well as plans for removal of contaminants from the field. He indicated that all soil will be removed and contained in roll-up boxes, that work will take place over two weeks in July at which time the field will not be

available for use. He noted that contractors will be required to control dust 24/7. He reviewed the traffic pattern for removal of contaminated soil and indicated the cost estimate of \$175,000 includes replacing contaminated soil with new soil. The RFP advertising will begin next week, with a late April decision anticipated.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the Green Seal report.

II.C. Health and Wellness Program Review Report

Pat McDiarmid, Committee Chair of the Health and Wellness Review conducted in October 2011, presented findings and recommendations. The Committee briefly discussed the report. Ms. McDiarmid said that while a clearer scope and sequence should be developed, Weston is an excellent example of a coordinated system. Ms. Barbara Kelly, a member of the review committee, noted that Weston's elementary physical education program is excellent. She referenced the recommendation to add elementary health, but hoped it would not be added at the expense of physical education time. It is anticipated that the PE/Wellness Dept. will present their response to the report in late spring or early fall.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Chilton, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the Health and Wellness Program Review Report.

II.D. Discussion of Proof of Residency Protocol

Dr. Maloney and Mrs. Mahr reviewed the process for new family registration and addressed concerns that have been raised regarding residency validation. No action taken.

II.E. 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 Mr. Chilton, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve WEEFC grant proposals as presented, totaling \$13,450, per memo of March 20, 2012-Revised.

II.F. Proposed WEEFC Board 2012-13

Mrs. Joan Heilbronner, WEEFC Chair, presented the proposed WEEFC board for 2012-13. She noted that the terms of current board members Jennifer Lemley, Charlie Pohl, and Kelly Renner would be ending. She described the nomination process and reviewed the credentials of the proposed new board members.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the Weston School Committee voted to approve the appointments of Joanne Melikian-Cate, Laura Miller and Todd Rassiger to the WEEFC Board

II.G. Report on Funding of Middle School Tablet Program

Dr. McCanne presented the plan for funding the additional grade of iPads next year, including money that is budgeted in FY '13 (\$30,000) and available funds from this year's budget. Mrs. Mahr noted that due to a \$300,000 surplus in utilities, she should be able to redirect \$82,000 toward the tablets, with another \$9,000 anticipated by year's end. Dr. McCanne noted the tablets used this year would be assessed for damages and will he have a final report at the end of the year. No action taken.

II.H. FY12 Budget – Third Quarter Review

Mrs. Mahr presented an update to the FY12 budget, summarized deficits resulting in adjustments to salary and other compensation, supplies and services and the surplus in utilities.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Chilton, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the FY12 Third Quarter Budget as presented.

II.I. Discussion of and Vote on the Proposed FY13 Budget

The Committee completed its discussion of the FY13 budget

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed FY13 budget in the amount of \$34,299,594, an increase of \$951,933 or 2.85% over FY12.

II.J. Facilities Project Updates

High School Science Lab Project

Mrs. Black updated the Committee, noting that bids for furniture have gone out. She reported that Compass has given a draft schedule and is working with the faculty, administration and technology staff. Mrs. Bock noted that they have held off decision on some purchases in the engineering program until after the science self study. No action taken.

Field School Project

Dr. Heller reported that the Field School project has reached the 100% Design Development stage. He informed the Committee that the submittal required at this point by our agreement with the MSBA has been made and a process called Value Management has formally begun to simplify design and to assure compliance with the project budget. No action taken.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Manley and seconded by Mr. Chilton, the School Committee voted unanimously to authorize Ed Heller as the School Committee representative to the Field School project to execute on behalf of the School Committee all MSBA Budget Revision Requests to allow the transfer of funds from line item to line item within the project budget as required for the design and construction of the school. Such budget revision requests also require the authorization of the Superintendent of Schools and the Town Manager.

Dr. Heller mentioned the discussion regarding a roundabout at Wellesley Street/Case House intersection, which will not be acted on at Town Meeting, noting that it will be folded into the Case Complex Master Plan rather than the Field School Project.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Chilton and seconded by Mrs. Black the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 6, February 28, and March 8, 2012

III.B. Personnel Information and Actions – None.

III.C. Business Actions

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 Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$3,115,428.26 by the Director of Finance and Operations.

V. Executive Session

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, at 8:30PM the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of discussion of Legal Issues and Collective Bargaining, not to return to Open Session, with Dr. Heller voting aye; Dr. Saini voting aye; Mrs. Black voting aye; Mr. Chilton voting aye; and Mr. Manley voting aye.

No action taken during Executive Session.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Chilton and seconded by Dr. Saini, at 9:10PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn from Executive Session with Dr. Heller voting aye; Dr. Saini voting aye; Mrs. Black voting aye; Mr. Chilton voting aye; and Mr. Manley voting aye.