

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
June 20, 2016

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:04 PM at Case House, 89 Wellesley Street, Weston, by Mrs. Danielle Black, Chair. In attendance were Mr. Alex Cobb, Dr. Ed Heller, Mr. John Henry, and Dr. Sanjay Saini of the School Committee; Mrs. Elizabeth Nagarajah, METCO Representative to the School Committee; Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent; Mrs. Pamela Bator, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

Mrs. Black welcomed everyone and introduced members of the School Committee and Administration. She reviewed the evening's agenda.

I.B. Chairman's Report

Mrs. Black commented on another successful year in the district. She thanked Dr. Brackett for his work in Weston the past year, noting it was "beyond our expectations" with a great atmosphere in the schools and with faculty, administration and students.

I.C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brackett reported that three Weston students – Andrew Haimovici, Kendrick Kirby-Lee, and Ariel Silverman – were selected to participate in the 2016 NAFME All-National Honor Ensembles to be held in Dallas in November.

I.D. Subcommittee Reports

Permanent Building Committee: Mrs. Black said the RFP for the Case House project would go out in July 2016.

Proctor Field and Track: Mr. Cobb reported on the continued work of the Proctor Field design team. The team is preparing an RFP to be distributed soon. Mr. Cobb also noted that it has been determined that the current artificial turf field surface material has reached the end of its expected life and will need to be replaced in the immediate future, and we should expect to include this in the budget for the next fiscal year. Mr. Cobb also mentioned that he had visited with the Recreation Commission to discuss the Recreation Commission's comments at Town Meeting, which were in opposition to the warrant article, and to clarify if this was indeed the Commission's position. Mr. Cobb explained to the Commission members that this was a School Committee project, and he would be happy to meet with them so they could better understand the project.

I.E. Open Forum – No comments

II.A. WEEFC Proposals

Mrs. Bator presented WEEFC proposals for Committee approval.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve WEEFC grants as presented, totaling \$36,906.60, per memo of June 16, 2016.

II.B. ELA External Program Review – Approval of Charge

Mrs. Bator presented a draft charge for the ELA external review, expected to be conducted in late fall. The Committee discussed and suggested changes.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the Charge to the ELA External Program Review Committee, subject to changes proposed.

Audience member Dr. John McKenzie suggested posting openings for the external program review committee.

II.C. Superintendent's Final Report on Goals

Dr. Brackett presented his final report on the annual goals that were approved by the School Committee, noting that the district is "positioned to be a world class school district in every way, due in part to what we did together this year." Accomplishments include changes in Student Services, increased use of data, leadership review, timeline of operations, smooth transition to a new superintendent, successful collective bargaining, safety protocols, external cameras, communications, and the Why Not Weston survey and report. Dr. Brackett thanked the School Committee and the community for the opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent this past year.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the Superintendent's Final Report on Goals.

II.D. Second Review (and Approval) of Policy on External Security Cameras

The Committee reviewed the proposed policy. Edits were made to the last sentence in paragraph four – delete "calendar" to read, "The Weston Public Schools security cameras will be in operation throughout the year."

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted 4-0, with Dr. Saini abstaining, to approve Policy ECAD with language changes.

II.E. School Committee Calendar 2016-17

Mrs. Black reviewed proposed meeting dates. The Committee decided to schedule a meeting on Tuesday, December 6, rather than Monday, December 5, a possible second night of Special Town Meeting, added December 19 as a tentative meeting date, and deleted March 6, the same night as the Town Caucus. No action taken.

II.F. School Committee Summer Workshop Agenda

The Committee discussed plans for their annual summer workshop meeting, with a date of July 22 being considered. Tentative topics for discussion include discussion of leadership structure, start time, transition, and setting goals with a 1-3 year plan. An Executive Session is anticipated. No action taken

II.G. Ratification of Union Contract(s)

Mrs. Mahr reported on successful negotiations with the Weston Education Association (WEA). She indicated that a three year agreement had been reached with salary increments of 2.0 percent per year.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the Agreement between the Weston School Committee and the Weston Education Association, for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019.

Mrs. Mahr reported on successful negotiations with the Weston Aides and Paraprofessionals Association (WAPA). She indicated that a three year agreement had been reached with salary increments and increases of 1.5 percent in year one, 1.25 percent in year two, and 1.0 percent in year three.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the Agreement between the Weston School Committee and the Weston Aides and Paraprofessional Association, for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019.

Mrs. Mahr reported on successful negotiations with the Weston School Bus Driver Association. She indicated that a three year agreement had been reached with salary increments and increases of 1.5 percent in year one, 1.25 percent in year two, and 1.0 percent in year three.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the Agreement between the Weston School Committee and the Weston School Bus Driver Association, for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cobb noted suggested changes in the subcommittee report regarding the Proctor Field working group membership.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the amended minutes of June 6, 2016.

III.B. Business Actions
Certificate of Warrant

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

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$1,960,042.32 by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

School Year 2016-17 Rental and Tuition Fees

Mrs. Mahr presented her recommended rental and tuition fees for 2016-17. She reviewed rate changes for the ACCESS Program, Pre-school tuition, SOAR Program, non-resident tuition, non-immigrant (F1) visas, instrumental music fees, and restructured rates for preschool stay days. The Committee discussed and had questions about the F1 visa. Mrs. Mahr indicated she would provide the Committee with a memo to explain the resident, non-immigrant program. She reviewed rental rates for custodian fees and rental cost for multi-purpose field and fields with lights, noting a new fee for field lining that is comparable to Recreation Department fees. Mrs. Mahr noted an increase of fifteen cents for Middle and High School lunches and an increase in transportation provided for late buses for Meadowbrook School and Roxbury-Weston transportation costs.

Mr. Henry expressed concern that preschoolers are transported on Weston school buses on highways without seat belts. Mr. Cobb noted that Weston buses do not transport preschoolers who attend the preschool program in our schools. Dr. Brackett recommended the Committee sign the contracts for the upcoming year and review for the future. Mrs. Nagarajah noted the safety concerns are valid but expressed her concern about the future of the program if Weston buses were not available to transport the children, whose safety is overseen by a bus monitor. Mr. Cobb noted that Roxbury-Weston is a private pre-school not affiliated with METCO.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee vote to accept the fees as proposed for the 2016-2017 school year.

Roxbury-Weston Programs, Inc. Transportation Agreement

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee vote to approve the Transportation Agreement between the Roxbury-Weston Programs, Inc. and the Weston Public Schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

Children's Center of Weston Lease Agreement

Mrs. Mahr informed the Committee that Beth Perry, Director of the Children's Center of Weston (CCW), has proposed a one-year pilot program to accept grade 6 students who are CCW alumni or have siblings in CCW. She recommended that CCW's lease be level-funded for next year.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted to approve the contract with Children's Center of Weston, including the proposed one-year pilot program for grade 6 students.

Non-aligned Salaries

Dr. Brackett presented a recommendation for salary and wages for staff members who are not part of any bargaining unit. He recommended an average increase of 1.7% for support service employees; an average increase of 1.8% to non-unit administrative support personnel; an average of 2% for administrators, noting that two assistant principals and one elementary principal's salary include market adjustments; a 1.5% increase for lunch aides, learning assistants, home tutor, and Middle School bus supervision; an increase of 1.75% hourly rate for early literacy and math assistants; and substitute teacher rates of \$100 per day for first 20 days, \$115 for days 21-90; \$130 per day for 91 days on, and a rate of \$225 per day after 20 consecutive days in same assignment.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve non-aligned salaries as presented.

IV. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Saini, at 9:06 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.