

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
July 22, 2016

Call to Order

A workshop meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 8:05 AM at the Weston Community Center by Mrs. Danielle Black, Chair. In attendance were Mr. Alex Cobb, Dr. Ed Heller, and Mr. John Henry of the School Committee; Dr. Robert Tremblay, Superintendent; Mrs. Pamela Bator, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Not Present: Dr. Sanjay Saini of the School Committee.

Executive Session

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Mr. Henry, at 8:06 AM the School Committee voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session for purposes of discussion of personnel and collective bargaining, with the intent to return to Open Session, with Dr. Heller voting aye; Mr. Cobb voting aye; Mr. Henry voting aye; and Mrs. Black voting aye.

No action taken during Executive Session.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Henry, at 8:57 AM, the School Committee voted unanimously to return to Open Session, with Dr. Heller voting aye; Mr. Cobb voting aye; Mr. Henry voting aye; and Mrs. Black voting aye.

Open Session – Mrs. Elizabeth Nagarajah and Mrs. Cheryl Antoine, METCO Representatives to the School Committee, joined the meeting. Resident Dr. John McKenzie was also in attendance. Mrs. Black reviewed the meeting’s agenda items.

MAJOR BUSINESS

Superintendent’s Entry Plan & Preliminary Goals 2016-2017

Superintendent Robert Tremblay presented his Entry Plan. He noted Mrs. Black’s comment during the superintendent search process that they were “looking to move the district from great to exceptional” and indicated that there is always room for improvement. Dr. Tremblay reviewed the various members of the schools and community he has held meetings with, including lengthy conversations with Interim Superintendent John Brackett in order to have a seamless transition. He indicated he has met with union leadership, Town leadership, school staff, School Committee members, administrators, Selectmen, members of Finance Committee, PTO leaders, and others as well as attended events prior to the end of the school year. Dr. Tremblay mentioned the community’s willingness to support innovation and WEEFC’s potential role. He noted the ongoing evaluation of the organizational leadership structure and review of middle management and a goal to improve communication and district branding with a brochure and on the website.. Mr. Cobb offered to assist with communication. No action taken.

Discussion of Legislation re: Opioid Policy

Mrs. Black noted recent legislation requiring the adoption of a School Committee policy on substance use prevention and education. Mr. Henry said he will present a draft policy on August 29 as well as updates of other policies as recommended by MASC No action taken.

Discussion of School Committee Goals for 2016-2017

The Committee discussed a list of topics generated from meetings last year including Proctor Field, School Start Time, Enrollment Projections, and Continuation of Elementary Leadership Review.

Proctor Field: Mr. Cobb said a working committee has been formed for the Proctor Field Project that includes Mr. Cobb, Ben Polimer, Athletic Director Mike McGrath, and Tona White, noting that Bill McCabe had withdrawn from the committee.. He indicated they have prepared an RFP to go out for designers but that he expected they would not be ready for November Special Town Meeting and may have to delay until Spring of 2017 Town Meeting. He noted that all Town Committees will be looped

in. Mrs. Mahr noted there is a School Committee policy on lights to which that they might want to refer.

School Start Time Committee: Mrs. Black discussed the possible formation of a committee to study the school start times. The Committee discussed and indicated it would discuss the scope and committee size at the August 29 meeting. They noted that any changes in the start time would likely not be implemented until the 2018-19 school year.

Enrollment Projections: The Committee discussed ways to project enrollments with higher degree of accuracy, noting the Finance Committee's concerns about declining enrollments. Mrs. Mahr noted she was reviewing how other districts do their projections.

Continuation of Leadership Review: Mrs. Black noted the "sunset provision" in the WEA contract regarding middle management positions at the elementary and middle school levels. The Committee discussed the formation of a continuation of the Leadership Review Committee.

Kindergarten Enrollments

Dr. Tremblay provided updated kindergarten enrollments and requested the Committee approve a seventh section of kindergarten for 2016-17, noting the estimated \$94,000 cost has already been budgeted.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to add an additional section of kindergarten, bringing total to seven, to include the addition of two METCO students.

Mr. Cobb left the meeting at 11:30AM.

Case House Renovation Project

Mrs. Black noted the plans under discussion include the demolition of the Case House large conference room, with the intent to move meetings to school buildings.

Certificate of Warrant

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

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$4,233,100.18 by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Agreement Between the School Committee and Buildings and Grounds

Mrs. Mahr informed the Committee that negotiations had been reached with the Buildings and Grounds unit. She indicated there were some language changes and salary increases of 1.5% in year one, 1.25% in year 2, and 1% in year 3.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the Agreement Between the Weston School Committee and Local 690 AFSCME (Buildings and Grounds), effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019.

Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:40 AM.