

SUMMARY OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE - NOVEMBER 23, 2020 - ONLINE MEETING

Documents Used At Meeting:

- Revised Restraint Policy (for approval)
- Received Policy Regarding Students Experiencing Homelessness (for approval)
- Received Policy Regarding Students from Military Families (for approval)
- Received Policy Regarding Students in Foster Care (for approval)
- Draft SY 2021-22 Calendar (for approval)
- WEEFC Grants (for approval)
- Meeting minutes from 11/9 (for approval)

Opening: Vice-Chair Anita Raman, presiding over the meeting, reviews the meeting agenda.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Connolly shares music department updates, celebrating student accomplishments. She also shares that Weston students have been awarded the Greater Boston Food Bank's "2020 Nally Award" for raising over \$10,000 towards ending local hunger by creating an exercise challenge. She shares a video from GBFB featuring the 30 students.

Subcommittee Reports:

- Ms. Muzila speaks to the new Equity Committee which had its first meeting this month.
- Ms. Stewart speaks to the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee's meeting.

Major Business:

- Dr. Connolly shared that WPS has applied for and received state-funding to begin testing symptomatic students, faculty and staff for COVID-19 at scale. She also shared findings from recent surveys of parents and teachers about testing; a vast majority would be willing to do regular testing. The Medical Advisory Board continues looking into testing.
- Dr. Connolly explained that the district continues to prioritize safely expanding in-person learning, but WPS is not yet prepared to set a definitive date to implement an expansion. As rates continue to rise, the town Board of Health advises us to stay the current course.
- Dr. Carter spoke to ongoing efforts at the middle and high schools to expand the use of best practice under the hybrid model, in partnership with teachers. The middle school is planning to adjust its schedule, allowing for more flexibility to livestream hybrid classes.
- Dr. Connolly responded to committee questions and comments regarding holiday travel, underscoring the importance of reading state guidelines. WPS accommodates students who need to stay home for COVID-related reasons, and will communicate those plans. Dr. Connolly agreed to send out another survey about travel and related isolation plans.
- Ms. Angela Smagula, district legal counsel, spoke to the revised restraint policy. After a few changes informed by the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, the school committee approved the policy but plans to revisit it and its related protocols next month.
- The committee also approved policies regarding students 1) experiencing homelessness 2) from military families and 3) in foster care; these passed without changes being made.

Question & Answer Period: Members and administrators responded to questions regarding any plans to go remote if needed, the middle school schedule, testing, in-person learning, and more.

Other Business: The committee approved the draft of the 2021-2022 school year calendar, the 11/9/2020 minutes, a Warrant, and two WEEFC Grants. The WEEFC grants were for 1) an online nature program for pre-K students, and 2) WEEFC donated air-purifiers in classrooms.