

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

December 6, 2016

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:00 PM at Case House by Mrs. Danielle Black, Chair. In attendance were Mr. Alex Cobb, Dr. Ed Heller, and Mr. John Henry of the School Committee; Mrs. Elizabeth Nagarajah, METCO Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Robert Tremblay, Jack Mullany, Student Representative to the School Committee; Superintendent; Mrs. Pamela Bator, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Not present: Dr. Sanjay Saini. Dr. Sanjay joined the meeting at 7:07 PM.

Also in attendance were Mr. Anthony Parker, Weston High School Principal; Mrs. Kathy Baker, Director of World Languages; and Dr. Kerry Dunne, History Department Head, and members of the History Department Faculty

I.B. Chairman's Report – Mrs. Black welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced members of the School Committee and Administration. She welcomed Jack Mullany as Student Representative and reviewed the evening's agenda. Mrs. Black indicated there would be a School Committee meeting on Monday, December 12 but the tentative meeting of December 19 would not be held.

I.C. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Tremblay reported on recent activities in the district. He congratulated the high school student athletes who were selected as *Boston Globe* and *Boston Herald* All Scholastics. Dr. Tremblay noted that development of next year's budget was underway with meetings of individual principals with Case House administrators. He also reported he has been meeting with various groups regarding start time and schedules and would be reporting on that next week. Dr. Tremblay informed the Committee that Michele Gay of Safe and Sound Schools would present to faculty and at two parent/community presentations next week.

Mr. Cobb asked if there were an update on high school science classes that had experienced large number of withdrawals or the learning assistants at grade 4. Dr. Tremblay indicated that he does not yet have data on the science class withdrawals. He said that Field School Principal Matt Lucey was working with his School Council to gather information and that the \Committee would be updated when data was available.

I.D. Subcommittee Reports – Mrs. Black reported the PTO and SAC would hold meetings this week and WestonPAC was scheduled to have an evening presentation on December 13.

I.E. Open Forum – No comments.

MAJOR BUSINESS

II.A. Discussion of Weston Education Enrichment Fund Committee Proposals

Mrs. Bator presented WEEFC grant proposals for Committee approval, highlighting proposals for several Creative Arts proposals, engineering grants, a preschool enrichment and physical activity, snowshoes for students at Woodland School, and principal discretionary funds.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Henry and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve WEEFC grant proposals as presented in memo of November 29, 2016, totaling \$14,974.29.

II.B. Weston Education Enrichment Fund Committee Mid-Year Report

Mrs. Allison Abrams, WEEFC Chair, presented an update on WEEFC fundraising efforts this year. She reported an increase of \$20,000 in donations over last year and increase in number of donor families, both made possible due to improved communication and matching grants

awarded by a high school and two middle school families. Mrs. Abrams reported there would not be an auction this year but there was a fundraiser, "All Hands In" planned in March for elementary families. She noted that Inspiration Grants for faculty would be rolled out in January. Members of the faculty present expressed appreciation to WEEFC for their support. Mrs. Black thanked Mrs. Abrams and the WEEFC board.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the WEEFC Mid-Year Report.

II.C. 2017-2018 Grade 6-12 Program of Studies

Mrs. Bator summarized the changes proposed to the Program of Studies, noting that proposed changes at the Middle School would not have any FTE implications and were only the addition of Grade 6 Latin, Grade 6 French, and Grade 6 Mandarin, if the Committee votes to change the year of selection of world language from Grade 6 to Grade 5. She reviewed high school proposed History/Social Studies changes, noting two new courses, two courses moving from one year to one semester, one course with a new name, and one deletion. The Committee briefly discussed the proposed World Language change. Mr. Cobb noted he thinks there are still too many language offerings with a declining enrollment. Mrs. Black noted this is one implementation from the World Language Review and that there will likely be other changes implemented in future years.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the change of selection of world language from sixth grade to fifth grade.

The Committee continued its discussion of History Department proposed changes, including discussion of Mr. Henry's concerns regarding meeting the needs of all students by having only College Prep and Advanced Placement offered to Grade 10 students. Dr. Heller noted there has never been consideration to have a School Committee policy to specify the number of levels or restrict the number of levels to two levels of a course.

Two students present, Jack Mullany and Naomi Cutter, both indicated that they were not substantially challenged in the College Prep level but did not want the rigor of the Advanced Placement option. Mr. Mullany suggested an imbedded honors option be offered. Mr. Monny Cochran of the History Department read a statement on behalf of the faculty supporting the proposals presented. He also said an imbedded option would create much additional work for the teacher. Discussion ensued.

Dr. Dunne indicated the department could run an additional section of Advanced Placement for sophomores if need be but requested they have the opportunity to work this year to gather data and implement the proposals presented while trying to also address a gap between Advanced Placement and College Prep classes. Mr. Cobb expressed his concern that parents would send students to private school as a solution to needs not being addressed. The Committee decided to postpone its decision on the Program of Studies until the next meeting.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to table discussion of the proposed additions, changes, and deletions to the 2017-2018 Grade 6-12 Program of Studies.

II.D. Facility Project Updates

Proctor Field – Mr. Cobb provided an update. He said preliminary designs are in, a full survey of the area is being conducted, and plans are being shared with relevant Town boards. He noted a meeting will be held in January with the Planning Board regarding site review for lighting and parking, meetings with the Zoning Board of Appeals would likely occur in February or March. He said that discussions will be held with abutters regarding lights and that he would reach out to the Pastor family regarding the project's impact on Pastor Park. He noted they have not decided on field composition yet. Mr. Cobb reported that they hope to go before voters in May with construction taking place in summer. He noted it would likely not be

completed for start of fall sports. He also indicated that the track is in need of repair regardless of the outcome of the project.

Case House – Mrs. Black said the PBC had selected a preferred Owners Project Manager and they are working on a contract. She noted that project is moving at a slower pace than Proctor Field.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve minutes of November 21, 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 \$1,902,449.47 by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

IV. Executive Session

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, at 8:57 PM the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of discussion of Collective Bargaining, with the intent to not return to Open Session, with Mr. Cobb voting aye, Dr. Heller voting aye; Mr. Henry voting aye, Dr. Saini voting aye, and Mrs. Black voting aye.

No action taken during Executive Session.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, at 10:45 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn from Executive Session with Mr. Cobb voting aye, Dr. Heller voting aye; Mr. Henry voting aye, Dr. Saini voting aye; and Mrs. Black voting aye.