

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

February 13, 2017

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:02 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; Jack Mullany, Student Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Robert Tremblay, 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 of the School Committee. Mrs. Cheryl Antoine, METCO Representative to the School Committee, participated remotely.

Also in attendance were Ms. Lisa Reitano and Ms. Sandra Metraux, Finance Committee members, and Dr. Midge Connolly, Director of Student Services.

I.B. Chairman's Report – Mrs. Black welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced members of the School Committee and Administration, and reviewed the evening's agenda. She indicated that Dr. Saini would try to join the meeting later. Mrs. Black noted that Dr. Connolly, candidate for the Interim Superintendent position, was scheduled to spend Wednesday, February 16 in the schools, with open forums for the public at 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

I.C. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Tremblay commended the Middle School for its recent production of *Suessical the Musical*. He noted he attended some of the science lecture series arranged by High School teacher Leah Gordon, the recent ALICE training for High School faculty and staff, and the Social Thinking presentation sponsored by WestonPAC.

I.D. Subcommittee Reports – Mrs. Black noted that SAC would meet on Thursday, postponed a week because of the snow day.

I.E. Open Forum – Dr. McKenzie requested clarification on the structure of the candidate forums.

MAJOR BUSINESS

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

Mrs. Bator presented WEEFC project grant proposals for Committee approval. She noted all schools were represented in these proposals and were a mix of new and repeat grants. She spoke about the support for World Language Week, a Creative Arts proposals for poetry at the Middle School, and the grant to fund the Grades 6-12 Wellness Survey. Mrs. Bator requested the Committee approve funding for the survey this year, noting they would look at possible alternatives for acquiring health assessment data in future years. The Committee discussed.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve WEEFC grant proposals as presented in memo of February 7, 2017, totaling \$24,478.

II.B. Second Reading of Concussion Policy

Mr. Henry indicated he had not received any comments or feedback regarding proposed changes to the concussion policy. He noted changes made were to have the policy change from Athletic Concussion Policy to Concussion Management Policy to address all students, not just athletes. Some discussion took place regarding concussion protocols followed. Dr. Heller noted the Committee does not approve protocols, just policies. Dr. Tremblay said he would speak to Nurse Leader Patty Wright to be certain all schools follow the same protocols. Mrs. Christen Lacey shared some scenarios of students with concussions, or any medical situation, and requested there be a consistent approach for treatment among the schools and teachers within the schools. Mr. Henry noted that it is incumbent for building administrators and the system to ensure that all the Committee's policies are applied consistently, for curriculum as well as health reasons. Some discussion ensued. Student Jack Mullany noted that students do not want to miss important tests

or a big game, that it is important to prioritize the protocols and set boundaries. Committee members expressed interest in having Athletic Director Mike McGrath, along with Athletic Trainer Andrew Rizza and Mrs. Wright, make a presentation on the protocols at an upcoming School Committee meeting.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller the School Committee voted unanimously to approve revised Policy JJIF, Concussion Management Policy.

II.C. Update on Start Time/Scheduling Innovation Steering Committee

Mr. Henry reported the initial meeting of the committee was three weeks ago with another meeting scheduled this upcoming week. He said the committee is hard at work and noted that subcommittees would be formed that would involve additional people. Mr. Henry noted that many communities are reviewing start time. Ms. Metraux said she would like to see the written scope of the committee, and Dr. Heller noted it was in development. No action taken.

II.D. Discussion of Town Report

Mrs. Black reported that Mr. Henry has been working the administrative team to develop the submittal for the annual Town Report and has requested Committee members provide him with written comments, which some have done. Mr. Henry noted he would send the report to the Town Manager's Office when he has incorporated the comments, once the Committee approves.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the Annual Report of the School Committee for the Town Report with modifications.

II.E. Discussion of Proposed FY18 School Budget

Mrs. Mahr presented an overview of Grants and Revolving Funds, including grants for Special Education and SBIRT, and discussed the Global Education Fund and revolving funds.

The Committee discussed the proposed FY18 budget and potential areas for budget reduction. Mrs. Mahr noted there would be some retirements and personnel changes that could reduce the budget by \$100,000 and a savings in Special Education of \$90,000. She also informed the Committee of new funding necessary to transport Weston students to attend Minuteman High School in Lexington, with an anticipated expense of approximately \$20,000 for a new bus driver. The Committee suggested she contact other nearby districts to explore cost-sharing the transportation. The Committee discussed costs of some of the METCO academic support programs, including a transition program on test-taking strategies for freshmen. They discussed proposed costs for Technology, the new High School Learning Commons proposal, and the concept of hiring a floating elementary teacher. Mrs. Mahr said there will be a proposal put forth for summer registration and how the Committee would like it reported. Some discussion on how other districts handle the impact of summer registration, and Mrs. Black requested the administration gather information from other districts on their process.

The Committee decided to schedule an additional meeting on Tuesday, March 7, to continue budget discussion. Topics for the discussion will be the High School Learning Commons, Transportation to Minuteman, Technology Costs (including discussion of Chromebooks and iPads), academic support for METCO, and Floating/Reserve Teacher idea. Mr. Cobb noted that he wants to be sure that curriculum is driving technology. He asked Finance Committee members if they would like further review of anything else. Leadership structure and school buses low ridership are areas they mentioned. Mr. Cobb suggested people contact Representative Alice Peisch to express support for circuit breaker reimbursements. No action taken.

Dr. Saini joined the meeting at 8:15 PM.

II.F. Facility Project Update

Proctor Field - Mr. Cobb said they are continuing to have productive meetings regarding design and plans to incorporate storage into the basement area. He noted upcoming meeting with the

Planning Board and the Conservation Commission prior to going before the Zoning Board as well as a discussion with the Finance Committee later this week. Mr. Cobb said there was a good presentation and rally at the high school and noted that the project would be discussed at the Spring Sports meeting, Recreation Board and Selectmen. He said the sports wall design will be at full height request and will fit nicely with the plans.

Case House – Mrs. Black reported that design fees are higher than budgeted so they are working to reconcile the numbers and indicated that the Facilities operational budget may be able to bridge the gap.

Case Campus – Dr. Heller said Package 4, which includes Case House parking, sidewalks, School Street driveway, redesigned library entrance, and lighting, was in design selection phase and would have a bidder walkthrough.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve minutes of January 9; January 23, January 26, and January 30, 2017.

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 \$3,973,250.20 by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

IV. Executive Session

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Henry, at 9:04 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, and Mrs. Black voting aye.

The Committee discussed Collective Bargaining and related concerns. No action taken during Executive Session.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Saini, at 10:39 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.