

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Case House

January 23, 2017

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 4:03 PM at Case House by Mrs. Danielle Black, Chair. In attendance were Mr. Alex Cobb, Dr. Ed Heller and Mr. John Henry of the Weston School Committee; Dr. Robert Tremblay, Superintendent; Mrs. Pamela Bator, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent. Not present: Dr. Sanjay Saini.

Also present were Ms. Lisa Reitano and Ms. Sandra Metraux of the Finance Committee; Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Dr. Midge Connolly, Director of Student Services; Mr. Anthony Parker, Weston High School Principal; Mr. John Gibbons, Weston Middle School Principal; and Mr. Gary Jarowski, Director of Facilities.

Budget Review

Members of the School Committee and Finance Committee liaisons conducted initial review of the proposed FY18 Budgets for High School, Middle School, Technology, and Operations (Buildings and Grounds, Utilities, Transportation).

For the Middle School, Mr. Gibbons discussed the potential difficulty of maintaining or hiring staff with less than 1.0 FTE positions, especially if as low as .2, which could happen due to the addition of foreign language choice point moved to incoming Grade 6. He noted that he would cover any additional costs for Robotics and would not request funds from parents. The Committee discussed the proposed number of sections at Grades 6 and 7, noting there were seven sections proposed for 156 students at Grade 6 and eight sections for 162 students at Grade 7. The Committee discussed the proposed introduction of Chromebooks for Grade 6. Mr. Cobb requested a inventory of devices and summary of data. He also asked for a breakdown of the costs of the Washington D.C. trip.

For the High School budget, the Committee discussed funding for phased-in plans for the Learning Commons proposal presented by Dr. McCanne and Mr. Parker. They discussed the reductions in high school staffing and the timing of notifications to teachers, with Mr. Parker noting he was looking at all areas in order to find the required reductions. Much discussion ensued around how to avoid small class size sections and the scheduling process. Mr. Parker said he would speak with Marla Schay, Director of Guidance, to be sure that students are not counted in multiple classes and to discuss the calendar for scheduling. The Committee will have this as an agenda item in the spring.

Dr. McCanne shared a ten-year Technology Planning document. The Committee discussed. He also updated the Committee on the new website, noting that Grapevine would not be incorporated into it.

Mrs. Mahr and Mr. Jarowski answered Committee questions regarding Operations, including Buildings and Grounds, Utilities, and Transportation. No action taken.

No action taken.

WEEFC

Mrs. Bator presented an amendment to a previously approved grant.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve WEEFC grant in amount of \$8,500, as proposed in memo of January 23, 2017.

Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:54 PM.

Approved by School Committee 2.13.17