

# MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Case House

January 26, 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 for Curriculum and Instruction; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Not present: Dr. Sanjay Saini.

Also present were Mrs. Elizabeth Nagarajah and Mrs. Cheryl Antoine, METCO Representatives to the School Committee; Ms. Lisa Reitano and Ms. Sandra Metraux of the Finance Committee; Dr. Midge Connolly, Director of Student Services; Mr. Matt Lucey, Field School Principal; Ms. Jennifer Faber, Woodland School Principal; Ms. Erin Maguire, Country School Principal; and Ms. La Toya Rivers, Director of METCO. Also present were several members of the Weston METCO staff.

Mrs. Black reviewed the agenda and indicated that Grants and Revolving Funds would be discussed at the next regular meeting. She said the Committee would meet on Monday, January 30, at 7:00 PM to discuss next steps for the Superintendent position.

## Budget Review

Members of the School Committee and Finance Committee liaisons conducted initial review of the proposed FY18 Budgets for Elementary Schools, Special Education, Central Office (Curriculum and Instruction, Finance, Superintendent), and METCO.

Mrs. Mahr provided an overview of the METCO budget and how it is funded from a combination of grants, gifts and the general fund. Discussion ensued regarding how the budget might be presented as a program-based budget so that the Committee could understand better and determine how to provide the right support for students without using leftover funds to fund programs. Mrs. Mahr reported that Weston was funding \$175,000 for METCO in FY17. Ms. Rivers noted that all districts' transportation costs are not covered by the State grants. She described the role of academic liaisons and reported that Weston is fortunate to have the liaisons as part of the faculty. She also said students in the Weston METCO program participate after school much more than other communities. Mrs. Black noted the importance of continuing to address the achievement gap.

In discussing Elementary Schools, Mr. Cobb requested the principals closely watch enrollments. They discussed sectioning and class size and the need to replace parts of the boilers at both Country and Woodland Schools. Ms. Faber discussed walkthroughs that have been conducted with Officer Kellie Connarton and Safe and Sounds Schools consultant Michele Gay. She also spoke about safety concerns regarding the hill behind the gym wall. Parents present spoke about class size concerns and finding money elsewhere in the budget to add sections. Mrs. Black indicated the Committee would plan to review its class size policy but not likely this year. Mr. Cobb said the concept of a floating teacher will be explored and noted the way class size was addressed this year at Grade 4 was not acceptable.

The Committee discussed the Special Education budget. Dr. Connolly reported the Special Education population is remaining with a growth in the High School Bridges Program. Ms. Christen Lacey, WestonPAC Chair, expressed appreciation for the support of the community over the past several years.

Mrs. Mahr reviewed Central Office budget, noting no substantial changes are proposed.

## Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:57 PM.

*Approved by School Committee 2.13.17*