

## MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 28, 2017

### Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 8:06 AM at Case House by Mrs. Danielle Black, Chair. In attendance were Mr. Alex Cobb, Dr. Ed Heller, and Mr. John Henry of the School. Not present: Dr. Sanjay Saini of the School Committee.

Also in attendance were Dr. Robert Tremblay, Superintendent; Mrs. Pamela Bator, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; and Dr. Midge Connolly, Director of Student Services.

### MAJOR BUSINESS

#### Re-Vote on Revised FY18 School Budget

Mrs. Black informed the Committee that, due to a revision to the solar savings estimate for FY'18, the Town Manager requested the Committee re-vote the approved budget to include the additional savings. She indicated that both town and school share in the savings, with a savings of \$29,628 attributable to the schools.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted to approve revised proposed budget for FY'18 of \$39,272,757 an increase of \$526,116, or 1.36% over FY17.

#### Discussion regarding Social Media and Website

Discussion took place regarding comments posted on Facebook.

Mr. Cobb reported that there is a perception that drama is underfunded and undergoing “dramatic cuts.” It was noted that this is incorrect as there are no reductions in the arts. The 0.3 FTE release time for high school drama was discussed as beneficial, and it was noted that WEEFC provides “enormous support” for the drama program, by way of inspiration grants and funding for costumes and technical support.

Another discussion occurred regarding the decision to offer Social Science as a semester course, with it being noted that these semester offerings were voted on at a regular, public School Committee meeting. Dr. McKenzie spoke to the challenge of locating School Committee minutes on the Town’s website and suggested that the Town might link to the minutes posted on the schools’ site.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to request the Finance Committee remove its letter from the town website until it is corrected.

The Committee discussed the 2.5 FTE reduction to take place at the high school, necessitated due to shrinking enrollment. They noted the need to review class size data. Dr. Connolly will follow up with Principal Anthony Parker.

Mr. Cobb recommends posting something on Facebook to direct people to accurate data. Mr. Henry suggested the Committee post a response that open meeting law requires School Committee to deliberate in open session, not on social media.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously that individual members of the School Committee will not have a policy discussion on social media, such as Facebook.

Parent and Weston PAC Chair Christen Lacey suggested the School Committee website be used to highlight messages.

Dr. McKenzie suggested the need for a communications committee. He said there is no link to the school website from the Town website.

Appointment of Dr. Connolly to EDCO Board

Mrs. Black requested the Committee vote to appoint Dr. Connolly to replace Dr. Tremblay as the voting member on the EDCO Board.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to appoint Superintendent Marguerite (Midge) Connolly as voting member of the EDCO Board, effective April 1, 2017

Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, at 8:46 AM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.