

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
September 26, 2016

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:02PM at Case House by Mrs. Danielle Black, Chair. In attendance were Mr. Alex Cobb, Dr. Ed Heller, Mr. John Henry, and Dr. Sanjay Saini of 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. Mrs. Cheryl Antoine, METCO Representative to the School Committee, joined the meeting at 7:10PM.

Also in attendance was Mrs. Elizabeth Nagarajah, METCO Representative to the School Committee.

I.B. Chairman's Report – Mrs. Black welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced members of the School Committee and Administration. She noted that a student representative was not yet elected. She reviewed the evening's agenda.

I.C. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Tremblay reported on well attended back to school nights. He mentioned anti-bullying presentations for Middle and High School students to occur on Tuesday and expressed appreciation to WEEFC for supporting the grant for Mr. Tom Thelan, a bullying victim, to come to Weston. Dr. Tremblay said that the school year is off to a good start.

I.D. Subcommittee Reports

Proctor Field – Mr. Cobb reported that the working group has interviewed three excellent candidates for the project and will meet in a public, posted meeting on Wednesday to deliberate and select one candidate. Mr. Cobb requested any questions be sent to him. He said thorough reference checking is underway, to be completed by Fields Coordinator Ben Polimer.

Case House – Mrs. Black said the PBC has narrowed the field of candidates for Case House renovations down to four architects and will complete its interviews on October 4. She noted that Facilities Director Jerry McCarty is conducting reference checks, and that Mr. Henry Stone from the Historical Commission would be attending the interviews.

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.

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 September 20, 2016, totaling \$7,710.

II.B. Initial Discussion of 2016-2017 School Calendar

Mrs. Mahr presented the first draft of next year's proposed school calendar. Mrs. Black reviewed School Committee policy, which states that when Labor Day occurs prior to September 5th, the start date for students will be the Tuesday after Labor Day; when Labor Day occurs on September 5th or later, the start date for students will be the Wednesday before Labor Day. Labor Day falls on September 4, 2017, which would have the first day of school for students as Tuesday, September 5, 2017.

She noted that draft calendar follows this year's pattern of professional development days and holds one PD day on Tuesday, January 16, the day after MLK Day, and one on Monday, March 12. Mrs. Bator reported that the professional development days would be school-based rather than district-wide days this year. Mrs. Mahr spoke about the No Kindergarten days in May and noted they had been moved to Wednesdays this year from Mondays. She said that will be reviewed later. The Committee discussed the proposed calendar. Mr. Cobb

questioned if some holidays, such as Columbus Day and Veterans Day, must be days off for students. He also asked the administration consider having a professional development day on the day after the holiday recess, January 2, 2017 rather than following MLK Day. Dr. Saini suggested that the days of low attendance be looked at as possible service days. Mr. Cobb spoke of the opportunity to have flipped classrooms on days of no school due to inclement weather. Dr. Tremblay said he would look into whether a day like that would count toward the 180 required days. Dr. Saini suggested a task force be developed. The Committee also discussed the practice of a rolling start that Weston follows where not all students start on the first day of school. She said would discuss freshman orientation at a SAC meeting. Dr. Tremblay said he would review with the administration and would share an additional proposed calendar and seek feedback from parents and staff prior to the next School Committee meeting. Mrs. Nagarajah spoke in favor of a service day, and noted students would not be as likely to stay out of school if that were in place. Mr. Cobb requested the administration develop two calendars to share with public and parents and seek feedback. No action taken.

II.C. FY18 Budget Guidelines

Mrs. Mahr presented proposed FY18 budget guidelines, which will serve as the basis for the administration in its development of FY18 budget recommendations and shared feedback she received from the Finance Committee. The Committee revised the goals to read, "Maintain the Rate of Budget Change at a Responsible Level" in place of "...Budget Growth.." and deleted the phrase, "particularly in the current economic climate."

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposed revisions and approve the FY18 Budget Guidelines

II.D. Approval of Superintendent's Goals 2016-2017

Dr. Tremblay discussed revisions to his proposed goals and indicated some minor tweaks still to be made. He spoke about the goal for district branding and a new web design, the organizational structure, scheduling/alignment, and middle management. He indicated he would like any feedback on the proposed goals by the end of the week. Mr. Cobb asked that Dr. McCanne come to the next meeting and provide an update on the status of the new district website. He said he would email Mrs. Black and Dr. Tremblay what questions he has and wants addressed.

II.E. Reappointment to the Permanent Building Committee

Mrs. Black informed the Committee that resident Robert Ferguson had been appointed for a one year term to replace John Messervy on the PBC, and that term expires on October 10. She said the School Committee, therefore, has been requested to reappoint Mr. Ferguson to the PBC for a three year term. She indicated the Board of Selectmen will meet on the 29th to reappoint him as well.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Robert Ferguson to the Town of Weston Permanent Building Committee.

II.F. Facility Project Updates

The projects were discussed earlier in the evening. No action taken.

Mrs. Black shared proposed dates for the upcoming Town Financial Summit and received feedback from Committee members, to be shared with the Town Manager. Dr. Saini noted he was not available for any of the dates but other Committee members indicated their flexibility to attend any of the dates.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 12, 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 Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$1,868,350.96 by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

IV. Executive Session – none needed.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Dr. Saini, at 8:03PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn