

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

June 19, 2017

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:03 PM at Case House by Mrs. Danielle Black, Chair. In attendance were Mr. Alex Cobb, Dr. Ed Heller, and Mr. John Henry of the School Committee; Jack Mullany, Student Member of the School Committee; Dr. Midge Connolly, 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.

Also in attendance were Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Mr. Anthony Parker, Weston High School Principal; Mr. John Gibbons, Middle School Principal; Ms. Kerry Dunne, Grade 6-12 History Department Head; and Mrs. Kathy Baker, Director of World Languages.

Mrs. Black welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced members of the School Committee and Administration, and reviewed the evening's agenda.

I.B. Chairman's Report – Mrs. Black thanked everyone for a successful school year and acknowledged the roles of administrators, faculty, students and parents.

I.C. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Connolly recognized the students present who participated in the Cuba trip during June Academy and would be presenting later. She noted that tomorrow was the last day of the school year, with celebrations taking place tomorrow and during the past weeks on both campuses. She reported that many third, fourth and fifth grade students won awards in the Continental Math League, noting the results had not been publicly released yet so she could not name the students. Dr. Connolly congratulated the Boys Tennis Team and coaches for winning the Division 3 State Championship.

Dr. Connolly updated the committee on administrative personnel, noting that candidates for the Middle School Assistant Principal position would be visiting the school on Friday and that the paperwork process was underway to request a waiver from DESE to allow the hiring of a retired principal to serve as Field School Interim Principal.

Mr. Parker reported that the first year of June Academy was almost over. He acknowledged the work of many involved to ensure its success and informed the Committee that surveys were being conducted by all participants. He anticipates some tweaking in the program for next year. Mr. Parker expressed appreciation to the School Committee for its support and for the confidence of the administration in allowing the program to take place. He noted there would be a showcase on June 21 for the academy and a summer workshop devoted to planning for next year. Students Ariel Silverman and Hannah LeBarron shared their experiences on the eight-day June Academy trip to Havana Cuba with 23 students and four chaperones.

Dr. Connolly reported that she is working on a proposal to reallocate and make changes in the Case House Administration and, when finalized, will communicate the plans with the community.

I.D. Subcommittee Reports – Mr. Henry reported that the School Start Time/Scheduling Innovation Steering Committee is having "Reimagining the Day" as its focus.

I.E. Open Forum –

II.A. WEEFC Proposals

Mrs. Bator presented proposals for Committee approval. She highlighted a proposal by choral director Therese Provenzano to have a composer work with Weston's chorus to perform a one-of-a-kind composition, funding for five more kits for club level Robotics at the Middle School, Creative Arts Comic Book Genius residency at the Middle School, white boards for Space Math at the Middle School, and remote control cars for Middle School Algebra classes.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve WEEFC proposals as presented, in memo of June 13, 2017, totaling \$18,160.50.

II.B. International Trip Proposals

The Committee discussed international student trips being planned for the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. Bator indicated there were no new trips being presented but that some were being tweaked. She noted the Prague Spring trip would include two nights in Slovakia rather than time in Amsterdam and would be a June Academy course led by History Department Head Kerry Dunne and Video teacher Ted Garland. Other June Academy trips discussed were a trip to China, led by Mandarin teacher Ma Ya Tao and Art teacher Julie Hom-Mandell and a proposed trip to South Africa, led by English teacher Henry Moon and Biology teacher Carla Sirkin, dependent on student interest. Mrs. Bator indicated she could report back in January on which trips would be taking place. Ms. Baker indicated that the Middle School trip to Ecuador, led by Spanish teacher Amy Mongiello, may be relocated to Peru in future years, Mrs. Bator also presented trips taken that are not international, including DECA trip to California, Grade 8 Washington DC trip, and June Academy trip to Camp Sunshine. Mrs. Bator said she is gathering data on student travel from other districts. Mrs. Mahr noted the School Committee policy states that all school trips that have late night/overnight, not just international, must have School Committee prior approval. The Committee discussed.

Mr. Parker indicated that June Academy might have three-four trips this year, with no more than five. He noted that the three trips proposed would have approximately 30 students total traveling. Mr. Cobb suggested that the Middle School trips are disruptive to learning, that the trips impact other classes, require substitute teachers, chaperones and affect PBL. He suggested the School Council might consider this something to review. Mrs. Bator mentioned that not all travel proposals made the cutoff date to be included and asked if the Committee might entertain additional proposals. Mrs. Black and Mr. Henry both requested the high school offer travel opportunities that were less costly, and consider when student athletes may participate. They suggested travel to national parks, the Pacific Northwest, Civil Rights trip to the South.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve proposed trips for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mrs. Bator expressed appreciation to Ms. Baker for her assistance in providing the student travel information.

II.C. Middle/High School Course Enrollment & Sectioning Discussion

Mrs. Mahr presented class size data on high school courses with greater than 25 and fewer than 12 students enrolled. She noted that a School Committee vote is necessary for courses with less than 12 students. Included in courses with greater than 25 students were one AP Spanish Lit, music electives, and physical education. With fewer than 12 students were some sections of AP French, AP Spanish, AP Latin, Conceptual Chemistry, Algebra II, and Jazz Ensemble. Mrs. Mahr noted the Committee previously approved some of the low enrolled courses. The Committee discussed. Mr. Parker noted that the high school cut 2.7 faculty this year and 1.5 last year. Mr. Cobb stated that certain electives do not have priority, that resources should be allocated to academics rather than low-enrolled electives. Mrs. Black said the Program of Studies should indicate what courses are running every other year. Mr. Parker requested clear direction if the Committee considers changing its policy. Mrs. Black said the Committee could consider discussion of the policy as a summer agenda item.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted 3-1, with Mr. Cobb voting against, to approve one section of Algebra II at 11 students, one section of Jazz Ensemble at 11 students that currently have enrollments under 12.

Mrs. Mahr reviewed elementary enrollments and potential pending registrations. She noted she receives weekly updates from principals, noting that kindergarten was budgeted for seven sections but now has only six. She indicated that all elementary classes are below the Committee's target number.

II.D. Technology Update

Dr. McCanne presented a Technology Update. He summarized how technology is used, how technology supports instruction, device management, and cost and reduction strategies. He indicated they are committed to the longevity of device distribution and noted they are conducting diagnostics on 6th grade iPads to gather information. Dr. McCanne shared the new website, which he noted would be activated this summer. The Committee discussed use of Chromebooks versus iPads. The Committee thanked Dr. McCanne for his presentation.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the Technology Update of June 19, 2017.

II.E. Policy Review – Second Reading of Restraint Policy

Mr. Henry reviewed the Restraint Policy, noting the revisions would put policy in compliance. He said he would revise further and present at next meeting. No action taken.

II.F. School Committee Calendar 2017-18

Mrs. Black said she would review draft agenda, including presentation of School Improvement Plans. Mr. Henry suggested SIP's be presented during regular School Council meeting time. No action taken.

II.G. School Committee Summer Workshop Agenda

Mrs. Black noted the summer workshop was scheduled for July 25. She requested Committee members let her know what they would like on the agenda, which should include some type of training. No action taken.

II.H. Facility Projects Update (Proctor Field, Case House)

Proctor Field – Mr. Cobb updated the Committee on progress, noting the architect has provided its recommendations.

Case House – Mrs. Black said they would be meeting in July, so no new information until then.

Case Campus Master Plan – Dr. Heller said work would begin as soon as school is out. He said the Traffic and Sidewalk Committee would review school day traffic pattern on Alphabet Lane. Mrs. Mahr said they need to talk with principals.

II.I. Town of Weston Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee

Mrs. Black noted that the Board of Selectmen voted last week to amend the membership structure of the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee to allow "presidents or presidents' designees from Weston Baseball League, Weston Youth Lacrosse, and Weston Youth Soccer as voting members. They requested the School Committee do the same.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted unanimously to amend the membership structure of the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee to allow "presidents or presidents' designees" from Weston Baseball League, Weston Youth Lacrosse, and Weston Youth Soccer as voting members.

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 June 5, 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 Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$5,719,712.53 by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

Acceptance of Gift

Mrs. Mahr presented a request that the Committee approve a gift from Weston Boosters to pay Colleen Lanata to maintain the Boosters web site.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the gift amount of \$2,521 to Weston Public Schools from the Weston Boosters for payment to Colleen Lanata for her work.

Non-aligned Salaries

Dr. Connolly presented a recommendation for salary and wages for staff members who are not part of any bargaining unit. She indicated an average increase of 1.76% for supervisory personnel, a 1.5% average increase for support staff, and 1.95% increase for others, with no changes in substitute teachers.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve non-aligned salaries as presented.

School Year 2017-18 Rental and Tuition Fees

Mrs. Mahr presented her recommended rental and tuition fees for 2017-18. She reviewed rate changes for the ACCESS Program, Pre-school tuition, SOAR Program, non-resident tuition, non-immigrant (F1) visas, instrumental music fees, and restructured rates for preschool stay days. She noted a particularly large change in the F! Visa charges and Minuteman transportation. Mrs. Black asked about the new turf field and whether there would be a new rate. Mrs. Mahr indicated fees for the new turf field and lights would be re-visited in winter. She also noted that school lunch prices would remain the same as last year.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee vote to accept the fees as proposed for the 2017-2018 school year, with fees for turf field and lights to be revisited sometime in winter 2018.

Children's Center of Weston Lease Agreement

Mrs. Mahr reported that the CCW Lease Agreement was the same as the past year's and requested Committee approval.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted to approve the one-year lease agreement with Children's Center of Weston for the 2017-2018 school year as proposed.

IV. Executive Session

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, at 10:30 PM the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of discussion of Personnel Matters, 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.

No action taken during Executive Session.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb, at 11:15 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn from Executive Session with Mr. Cobb voting aye, Dr. Heller voting aye, Mr. Henry voting aye, and Mrs. Black voting aye.