

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

August 28, 2017

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:02 PM at Case House by Mrs. Danielle Black, Chair. In attendance were Mr. Alex Cobb and Dr. Ed Heller of the School Committee; Mrs. Cheryl Antoine, METCO Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; Mrs. Pamela Bator, Assistant Superintendent of District Advancement; Dr. Abbie Lareau, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Not present: Mr. John Henry, Dr. Sanjay Saini.

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

Mrs. Black welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced members of the School Committee and Administration, and reviewed the evening's agenda. She noted that Mr. Henry was still on vacation and Dr. Saini was out of town.

I.B. Chairman's Report – Mrs. Black indicated that some members of the School Committee would be in attendance at the Board of Selectmen meeting on September 12 to discuss an appointment to the Fields Committee and some would attend the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on September 13 to discuss a petition regarding 104 Boston Post Road.

I.C. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Connolly reported that three Weston students were selected to participate in the 2017 National Association for Music Educators (NAfME) All-National Honor Ensembles. Kendrick Kirby-Lee (Violin) was selected for the Symphony Orchestra, Ariel Silverman (French Horn) for the Concert Band and Mack Rodgers (Bass Voice) for the Mixed Choir. Performances will be held at Walt Disney World November 26-29. The NAfME All-National Honor Ensembles represent the top performing high school musicians in the country. Dr. Connolly reported that the fall season for high school sports started and that the new turf field was ready. She said she looks forward to teachers reporting on Wednesday and students starting next week. Mrs. Black requested that administrators provide feedback on the calendar changes implemented this year.

I.D. Subcommittee Reports

Proctor Field – Mr. Cobb reported that Field 1 has been finished and is up and running but there are some things remaining to be finished. He said they will send out an announcement when the project is completely ready and can adhere to the Fields use policy. He indicated that Proctor Field project is on schedule and that he is pleased with the pace of the project thus far. He said that the fields and track are not available for use by anyone at this time, however, and they hope to have project completed in late November.

Case House – Mrs. Black reported that a working group comprised of Dr. Connolly, Mrs. Mahr, Mrs. Bator, Mrs. Black, Gary Jarowski, the architect and the design team/project manager has been meeting throughout the summer and giving much thought to which personnel should work on which floor or in the building at all. She noted the challenges of converting a house with former bedrooms into efficient working spaces while adding an elevator without expanding the footprint of the building. She cited the goal of making sure programmatic needs are met while maintaining the fireplaces, open stairway, and historic features of the building. She noted the involvement of the historical commission and indicated a design should be ready for May Town Meeting.

Case Campus Master Plan – Dr. Heller reported on ongoing paving of the School Street and Field School driveways. He indicated that curbing would be installed next and sidewalks and lighting shortly thereafter, with an anticipated completion the last week of September/early October. He also reported on meetings he attended with the Traffic and Sidewalk Committee, attended by the Police Chief, and the conclusion is that traffic flow on Alphabet Lane should be one way at all times. He noted this is not an ideal solution but an improvement. They will evaluate further during the year. Dr. Heller indicated they are seeking to install temporary fencing for safety reasons when

school begins for the walkway between Field School and the public library. Dr. Connolly said she would follow up with Gary Jarowski, Director of Facilities.

I.E. Open Forum – Dr. John McKenzie encouraged people to look closely at the new website, critique it, and provide feedback.

II.A. Enrollment and Staffing Updates

Mrs. Mahr provided updated enrollments as of August 25. She noted that all elementary grades are within the preferred range or at target but that Grade 6 does have some large classes. Mr. Cobb noted that Grade 5 is a large class, so the administration might consider that and maintain sections at grade 6 in anticipation of next year. Mrs. Mahr indicated she would review enrollments with Mr. Gibbons and consider adding a section. She noted there were funds budgeted for an additional section of Kindergarten which would not be needed. Mrs. Black suggested an email be sent to families indicating that a change in classes might occur. Mr. Cobb requested the Committee remain updated.

II.B. School Start Time/Scheduling Innovation Steering Committee Update

Dr. Heller provided an update, noting the committee did meet during the summer. He indicated they plan to try to align the Middle and High School schedules while maintaining the 990-hour requirement. They plan to review long and short block schedule, the number of academic courses and AP courses students are allowed to take, graduation requirements, physical education requirements, and will consider trimester option. Dr. Heller said that during the process they will evaluate the purpose of and rigor of a Weston High School education. The Committee discussed when the public might be informed of the committee's progress and how they will have an opportunity to provide feedback. Mr. Cobb requested the working group provide a timetable for the next School Committee meeting as to when change might be implemented, noting that families should be made aware. Mrs. Black said that a presentation would be made at an October School Committee meeting and that she would speak to Mr. Henry about having a steering committee member attend a BWMPO meeting. Dr. McKenzie expressed disappointment by the lack of start time committee content on the new website and suggested the posting of a presentation made by Dr. Heller at the public library. No action taken.

II.C. School Committee Assignments

Mrs. Black reviewed Committee assignments for 2017-18. It was agreed that Mr. Cobb and Mrs. Black will serve on Budget Subcommittee; Mr. Henry and Dr. Heller will serve on the School Start Time/Scheduling Innovation Steering Committee; Dr. Heller will continue to attend EDCO meetings; Mr. Henry will work on the Town Report; and Mr. Henry will continue his work on School Committee policies, Mr. Cobb will serve as liaison for the Proctor Field and High School Track Project; Mrs. Black will serve as liaison for the Case House Renovation Project; Mr. Henry will remain as liaison to WEEFC; Mrs. Black will remain as liaison to WestonPAC; and Mrs. Black, with assistance from other Committee members on occasion, will attend PTO Board meetings.

II.D. Facility Projects Update (Proctor Field, Case House) – provided earlier in meeting, during subcommittee presentations.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve minutes of June 19; July 25; and August 3, 2017.

III.B. Business Actions – none.

IV. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb, at 8:11 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.