

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

June 4, 2018

I. A. Call to Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:02 PM at Case House by Mr. John Henry, Chair. In attendance were Mrs. Danielle Black, 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; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Not present: Mr. Alex Cobb and Dr. Sanjay Saini of the School Committee.

Also in attendance were Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Ms. Jen Truslow, Director of Student Services; Ms. Anne Zernicke, Assistant Director of Student Services; Ms. Kathy Baker, Director of World Languages; and Ms. Lisa Reitano of the Weston Finance Committee.

I.B. Chairman's Report – Mr. Henry welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced members of the School Committee and Administration. He explained that Dr. Connolly would be arriving around 8:00PM and noted that this would be Mrs. Mahr's last School Committee meeting.

I.C. Superintendent's Report – (presented later in meeting, upon Dr. Connolly's arrival)
Dr. Connolly congratulated the 147 members of the Weston High School Class of 2018 who graduated on June 1. She noted that it was a wonderful and special ceremony with great speeches and cooperating weather. Dr. Connolly reported that Maria Morong, ELL teacher at Field and Woodland Schools, was recently awarded a Linda Schulman Innovation grants at the MATSOL Annual Conference for her project is entitled, "Developing Academic Conversation and Editing Skills Through a Mock Caldecott". Maria was awarded the grant to purchase picture books for students to analyze and use as topics for writing and debate next year.

Dr. Connolly presented highlights of competition in the 2018 Spring Varsity Athletic season, reporting that seven of the eight spring teams will be or just recently competed in the MIAA State Tournament. She reported that Boys Track won the State D4 Championship and the girls team finished 2nd in the State, noting that both teams won the DCL League Small Division. She said Boys & Girls Lacrosse will play their 1st tournament games this week (Girls at Medway Tuesday and Boys at Dover-Sherborn Wednesday) and Boys & Girls Tennis teams will play their 1st tournament matches on Tuesday (Girls at North Reading and Boys home vs. Watertown). She also noted that Baseball just finished their regular season on Sunday at 12-8 and await Tuesday's tournament seeding.

Dr. Connolly thanked Mrs. Mahr for her many years of dedicated service on behalf of the students of the Weston Public Schools, noted she would be missed, and wished her well.

I.E. Subcommittee Reports
Start Time/Scheduling Committee – Mr. Henry said they are working on a transitional program for one hour before school opens at the Middle School with sign ups taking place as early as next week.

I.F. Open Forum – No comments.

II.A. Student Trip Proposals

Ms. Baker presented four proposed trips for student travel during the 2018-19 school year. She presented two high school trips to take place during June Academy, one to Argentina led by Nick Pezzote and Kerry Dunne and one to Martinique led by Sophia Kulas. There was some discussion about safety concerns in Argentina and how students would be selected for the trips. Middle School trips to Rome during April vacation and a trip for Grade 8 students to Quebec during February break were presented and discussed. Discussion occurred about the history of students wanting parity per language of study of grade 7/8 trips.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve student trips as proposed for the 2018-19 school year.

II.B Student Services Annual Report

Ms. Truslow presented the annual program report of Student Services. She informed the Committee that 371 students were eligible for a variety of student services this year, with the greatest percentage of those having a specific learning disability (reading, dyslexia, writing, or math). Ms. Truslow informed the Committee that this year, as of May 11, there were 66 English Language Learners in the district. She shared a comparison of Weston's MCAS results representing students with disabilities with other nearby districts and noted Weston's Grade 10 math students in Advanced were the lowest among the districts and raises the question what other districts are doing. Ms. Zernicke presented an update on Weston Windows integrated preschool program with 49 students enrolled in total this year, 17 on those on IEPs. She noted there is currently a wait list of 17 students for next year and 45 families already on a wait list for 2019-2020. There was discussion regarding early intervention and private preschools. Ms. Truslow spoke to the strength and success of this year's model of having a Language-Based Classroom per grade at grades 2-5. The Committee briefly discussed Student Services and thanked Ms. Truslow and Ms. Zernicke for their report and presentation.

Ms. Truslow extended congratulations and appreciation to Nurse Leader Patty Wright, noting she is retiring this year.

MOTION: Upon motion by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the Student Services Annual Report.

II.C WestonPAC Update

Ms. Christen Lacey, WestonPAC Chair, welcomed board members present. She presented an update of WestonPAC's work the past year and mentioned areas of concern and how they are being addressed. She commended the system for its implementation of Foundations, discussed the achievement gap and ways it is being addressed, and spoke about addressing students' mental and emotional health. Ms. Lacey reviewed the speakers WestonPAC had this past year, noting a collaboration with the PTO and schools as well as efforts for communication outreach.

Ms. Lacey expressed appreciation to Mrs. Wright, Dr. Abbie Lareau, Mrs. Mahr and to the many long-time members of the Transportation Department who have retired this year.

MOTION: Upon motion by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the WestonPAC Update.

II.D Approval of School Improvement Plans

Dr. Connolly requested the Committee approve the School Improvement Plans for Country, Woodland, Field and Middle Schools as presented during May. She noted the High School School Improvement Plan would undergo some revision to be presented for approval at the next meeting. Dr. Heller mentioned the improved format of this year's plans.

MOTION: Upon motion by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the 2018-2019 School Improvement Plans for Country School, Woodland School, Field School, and Weston Middle School.

II.E Superintendent Evaluation

Mrs. Black shared the process for evaluation of the Superintendent and reviewed the rubric used. She reported that Dr. Connolly's overall evaluation for reporting purposes is "Proficient," although there were some categories of Exemplary. She shared some comments from evaluators and indicated efforts to improve community outreach had been undertaken. Mrs. Black indicated she would enter the My Learning Plan portal (Weston's evaluation management system) and fill out

the Superintendent Evaluation. Mr. Henry noted that Dr. Connolly had to make many difficult decisions this year regarding administration and said her leadership has had a positive influence on the district. He also indicated he welcomes feedback from the community on what is being done well and what might be improved. Mr. Henry noted that the Committee may want to move forward with negotiating a long-term contract with Dr. Connolly and would seek legal advice on how to proceed.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Henry and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept evaluation designating Dr. Connolly as Proficient for reporting purposes and authorize Mrs. Black to enter the final report to My Learning Plan.

There was brief discussion regarding use of the term Exemplary versus Proficient in evaluations. Mr. Henry indicated his belief that Exemplary should rarely be used in order to continue to encourage growth.

II.F Technology Update

Dr. McCanne presented highlights from the annual Technology Update. He noted, in the area of Safety and Security, that all year, every year, teams in the district and all buildings work on keeping schools and children safe. He reported that new PA systems were being implemented in all buildings, additional cameras were being installed, and other areas of communication, building access, and integrating protocols were being revised. Dr. McCanne highlighted areas of the report including testing, hardware and device planning, and noted the need for a discussion with the Committee about budget process for FY20.

MOTION: Upon motion by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the Technology Report.

II.G Discussion of Kindergarten Sectioning

Mrs. Mahr reviewed kindergarten enrollments and requested the committee approve a seventh section for 2018-19. She noted the additional section would be at Country School and have an approximate cost of \$106,326.

MOTION: Upon motion by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve funding of additional section of Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year.

II.H Approval of Appointments of Assistant Superintendents

Dr. Connolly recommended the appointment of Dr. James “Kimo” Carter as Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, effective July 1, 2018. She reviewed his credentials, noting that Dr. Carter showed a deep knowledge and connectedness to students.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Dr. James “Kimo” Carter as Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, effective July 1, 2018.

Dr. Connolly recommended the appointment of Ms. Sheri Matthews as Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, effective July 31, 2018. She shared her credentials and reported Ms. Matthews showed knowledge and responsibility and an enthusiastic desire to be part of the Weston school community.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Sheri Matthews as Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, effective July 31, 2018.

II.I. Policy Review –

Mr. Henry presented Policy IKB – Homework Policy for second reading and Committee approval, noting that the implementation guidelines would be developed in the summer.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy IKB Homework Policy.

II.J. Facility Projects Update (Proctor Field, Case House, Case Complex)
Case House - Mrs. Black updated the Committee on meeting with Traffic and Sidewalk representatives. She said a working group has been formed.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 21, 2018.

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 Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$2,268,295.00 by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

School Year 2018-2019 Rental and Tuition/Fees

Mrs. Mahr presented a schedule of proposed fees and rental rates and reviewed them with the Committee. She noted that concession stand and lights usage should continue be monitored and reviewed by Ms. Matthews and recommended the Committee be provided with a data update in October. She also noted the unknown Minuteman Transportation costs at this point, that should be available in August.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the fees for the 2018-2019 school year as proposed.

IV. Executive Session – None needed.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, at 9:55 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.