

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

June 18, 2018

I. A. Call to Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:00 PM at Case House by Mr. John Henry, Chair. In attendance were Mrs. Danielle Black and Mr. Alex Cobb, of the School Committee; Mrs. Elizabeth Nagarajah, METCO Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; Mrs. Pamela Bator, Assistant Superintendent of District Advancement; and Mr. David King, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Dr. Sanjay Saini joined the meeting at 7:10 PM. Not present: Dr. Ed Heller of the School Committee.

Also in attendance were Mr. Anthony Parker, High School Principal and Mr. John Gibbons, Middle School Principal.

I.B. Chairman's Report – Mr. Henry welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced members of the School Committee and Administration. He reviewed the evening's agenda and said there would be no Policy Review and School Committee Assignments would be discussed later in the summer.

Mr. Henry noted that this was Mrs. Nagarajah's last meeting as METCO Representative and thanked her for her years of service. Mrs. Nagarajah expressed appreciation to the School Committee for allowing the METCO Representatives to be part of the Committee. She said the knowledge she gathered while serving was invaluable to parents and said it was an honor to share and be part of the committee.

I.C. Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Connolly highlighted recent events and achievements. She reported that WHS junior Arda Cataltepe, who won the Massachusetts National History Day Championship earlier in the year, finished sixth out of 100 entries in the national competition. Arda's project is a website entitled "The Room Where it Happened," an in-depth analysis of the Compromise of 1790. Dr. Connolly congratulated Arda and Mr. Monny Cochran, WHS history teacher, who served as Arda's independent study advisor.

Dr. Connolly reported that Andrew Yau was announced a winner of the American Mathematics Competition, noting that he was one of the top 12 out of 300,000 students who took the AMC and, as a result, has been invited to attend the month long Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program at Carnegie Mellon, where he will compete to represent the United States in international competition. She noted that of the 12 winners, Andrew was one of only two underclassmen.

Dr. Connolly informed the Committee that WHS history teacher Kim Young presented at National Geographic Explorers festival, and as she has done with many students, used the 360 camera donated by a WEEFC Grant in her well-received presentation.

Dr. Connolly reported that The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) has recognized Weston Public Schools for excellence in budget presentation with the Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for the 2018-2019 budget year. Dr. Connolly expressed appreciation to Mrs. Cindy Mahr for her outstanding work on the budget over many years and noted the award is a testament to her work.

I.D. Subcommittee Reports – None presented.

I.E. Open Forum – No comments.

II.A. Middle School J-Term Student Presentation (Calling All Activists)

A group of Grade 8 students gave a presentation regarding limiting the use of plastic in the school cafeteria and changes they would like within the school with a "goal to have Weston be a leader in doing what is right for the environment." They requested the elimination of plastic bottles and straws in the Weston Public Schools and presented the Committee with a petition signed by 700

citizens of Weston. Students thanked the School Committee for their support for the Middle School play space, updated science classrooms and for approving funding for water refilling stations. They also expressed appreciation for the Committee's vote to approve a later start time for Middle and High School. Mr. Henry thanked the students for their informative presentation and indicated the Committee would conduct research and speak with Food Services to collaboratively address the issues. He noted his personal support of doing what is best for the environment.

Dr. Connolly noted the student presentation was a result of the Middle School's J Term Project Based Learning Projects and noted there have been many impressive undertakings for J Term and Weston High School's June Academy. No action taken.

Business Items – taken out of order

Certificate of Warrant

Mr. King presented a Certificate of the Secretary, approval of warrants for payment.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$2,037,642.32 by the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

Acceptance of Gifts (Boosters, Basketball Scoreboard)

Dr. Connolly requested the Committee accept a gift of \$2,500 from Weston Boosters to pay Colleen Lanata for website work. She also requested the Committee accept gift from the Condakes Family in amount of \$16,000 for two high school basketball scoreboards, one a replacement and a new one for the other end of the gym. She indicated his donation is made in memory of the late Peter Condakes, a WHS and collegiate basketball standout. Dr. Connolly noted there were no naming rights attached, just a gift from the family to express appreciation to the schools. Dr. Connolly indicated that Director of Facilities Gary Jarobski was working out the details for the scoreboards.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept gift of \$2,500 from Weston Boosters and accept gift of \$16,000 from the Condakes Family for basketball scoreboards.

Exception to Policy BCB

Dr. Connolly requested the Committee make exception to its policy and allow the employment of Bryce McCanne, son of administrator Dr. Lee McCanne, as a lunch monitor at Field School through June 21, 2018 and as a temporary custodial employee through August 31, 2018. It was noted that Dr. McCanne would have no supervisory responsibility over Bryce.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to grant exception to Policy BCB

II.B Weston Education Enrichment Fund Committee

Dr. Connolly presented WEEFC proposals for Committee approval and highlighted grant requests from John Minigan and Chris Fehl as well as one for Land's Sake and Creative Arts.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve WEEFC proposals as presented per memo of June 12, 2018, in amount of \$41,126.00.

Mrs. Abrams presented WEEFC Annual Update. She reported on fundraising efforts for the year, the 48 grants funded this year, noting that half were new proposals, and described new efforts to be undertaken next year. including the return of a district wide fundraiser on April 6 at Weston Golf Club. Mrs. Abrams said improving communication remains a goal and noted that WEEFC would roll out a new logo in September. Mrs. Abrams thanked her Board, Mr. Henry, and all those who helped this year.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the WEEFC Annual Report 2017-18.

II.C Approval of High School 2018-19 School Improvement Plans

Dr. Connolly requested the Committee approve the revised School Improvement Plan for Weston High School. Some discussion ensued. Mrs. Christen Lacey, parent and audience member, spoke about the effects elimination of a weighted GPA might have and requested proceeding with caution. Mr. Parker noted members of the high school faculty would be participating in professional development workshops this summer to address the issue and they will be mindful of recalibration if weighted GPS is eliminated. Dr. Saini noted there will be unintended consequences no matter what is done. The Committee expressed appreciation to Mr. Parker for revising the SIP

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan for Weston High School.

New Item: Approval of School Trips for 2018-19.

Mr. Parker and Mr. Gibbons reported on student trips, both domestic and international, planned for the upcoming year. Mrs. Bator shared a website link that lists all Middle and High School trips that have run during the past several years and lists ones that will be offered in the upcoming year. Mr. Henry questioned Mr. Parker about a basketball trip this past year that came up unexpectedly. Mr. Parker indicated he would have further conversation with the Athletic Director and noted it was an external trip. Mr. Henry noted the Committee would prefer a placeholder on the list and not a late approval request.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the offering of proposed trips for 2018-2019.

Mr. Henry indicated it would be beneficial for parents to have advance notice of all the trips. Mr. Cobb encouraged the administration to continue to look at the master calendar to avoid conflicts, especially with athletics, concerts, etc.

II.D Update on Social and Emotional Learning

Mrs. Bator presented a brief overview of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in the Weston Public Schools. She noted that at the elementary schools, they have Open Circle, Responsive Classroom, and Social Thinking; at the Middle School, they practice RALI, a Weston developed program, and at the High School they utilize Restorative Practices and will have Challenge Success, noting that a group of administrators, faculty, parents and students will travel to Palo Alto in the fall to be trained further. Mrs. Bator noted there are also district wide practices that support SEL, including the DCAP, later start time initiative, affinity groups, lunch groups, ongoing professional development, and community engagement. She indicated that the work is supported by all educators and school personnel and said there will soon be a district wide SEL team formed.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the SEL Report.

II.E Discussion of Contract with Interim Superintendent

Mr. Henry indicated he would like the Committee's consent to begin discussions with Dr. Connolly regarding a new contract and requested the Committee authorize him to do so.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to authorize the Chair to enter into negotiations with the Superintendent for a new contract.

II.F Policy Review – none presented.

II.G. School Committee Calendar 2018-19

The Committee reviewed proposed meeting dates for 2018-19. No changes were made to the meeting dates, although Mr. Cobb noted having a meeting on Tuesday, May 7, between two nights of Town Meeting, was not ideal. Mr. Henry said they would keep the agenda light if it is determined the meeting is needed. No action taken.

II.H.. School Committee Assignments – to be discussed at workshop or later in the summer.

II.I.. School Committee Summer Workshop Agenda

Mr. Henry reviewed proposed agenda for the summer workshop. Mr. Cobb and Dr. Saini both indicated they would prefer the workshop agenda be substantive in nature and not items that can easily be covered in a regular evening meeting.

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

Case House - Mrs. Black said the PBC would meet with Traffic and Sidewalk Committee this week. She said the PBC is mindful of approaching deadlines to prepare for Fall Town Meeting. Proctor Field – Mr. Cobb said nothing to report on Proctor, but said the process for development of another 10 year Master Plan will soon be underway. He said there is also concern for tick control and use of pesticides and thought the Committee should be aware. There was brief discussion regarding training for concession stand use.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 4, 2018.

III.B. Business Actions –

Acceptance of Gift

Dr. Connolly requested the Committee accept gift to the High School Drama Program of \$2,500 from parents of Weston Drama students. She noted the contributors include Allison Friedman, Monica Gold, Julie Harrison-Mullany, Louise Carter, Mary LaValle, George Harper, Craig Strauss, Diane Anton, Donald Epperson, and Alex Jesurum.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept gift of \$2,500 from contributors named to support the High School Drama Program..

Non Aligned Salaries – not presented

—The Committee scheduled a meeting for Friday, June 22, at 12:30PM with Non-Aligned Salaries the agenda item.

IV. Executive Session – None needed.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, at 8:50 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.