

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
August 27, 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, Mr. Alex Cobb, Dr. Ed Heller, and Dr. Sanjay Saini of the School Committee; Mrs. Cheryl Antoine, METCO Representative to the School Committee; Jeff Beaudoin, Student Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; Dr. J. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; and Ms. Sheri Matthews, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

I.B. Chairman's Report – Mr. Henry welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced members of the School Committee and Administration, and reviewed the evening's agenda. Mr. Henry indicated there would be an Executive Session at the conclusion of regular business for discussion of Collective Bargaining with the Weston Education Association and that Mr. David Poras, WEA President would join the Committee in Executive Session.

I.C. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Connolly reported that she looks forward to students returning to school next Tuesday and faculty returning later this week. She expressed appreciation to the custodial staff for their hard work preparing the buildings. Dr. Connolly mentioned some of the projects at the schools this summer included erosion control and expanded outdoor classroom at Woodland School, landscaping at Country School, re-designed flattened outdoor surfaces at Field School, a new Science room, new roof, and re-surfaced gym floor at the Middle School, and a new kitchen floor at the High School.

Dr. Connolly reported that more than 80 faculty professional development workshops took place this past summer, including over 50 teachers trained in a four-day Lucy Caulkins writing program out of Columbia's Teachers College, 30 elementary teachers trained in Responsive Classroom, and the entire administrative team trained in Data Wise out of Harvard University. She noted there was also professional development time to look at and further align the curriculum both vertically and horizontally and to focus on social emotional learning of our students. Dr. Connolly reported that High School sports are underway and said the fields look great.

Dr. Connolly informed the Committee that twenty new faculty were hired along with a new principal at Field School. She reminded everyone of the new school start times and schedule and requested patience regarding bus schedules. She said on Thursday mornings, W Block at the Middle and High Schools, all faculty would be available for students. The Committee requested an email to parents be sent out regarding bus routes.

I.D. Subcommittee Reports – None presented.

I.E. Open Forum – Christen Lacey, parent and WestonPAC Chair, acknowledged the work of retiring Assistant Superintendent Pamela Bator, highlighting her work on behalf of students, fostering a culture of diversity and work on SEL. Mrs. Antoine thanked Mrs. Bator on behalf of Weston METCO. Mr. David Poras, WEA President, expressed appreciation to Mrs. Bator and also congratulated Dr. Connolly on her appointment as Superintendent. On behalf of the WEA, he welcomed Dr., Carter and Ms. Matthews to the administrative team.

II.A. Enrollment and Staffing Updates

Ms. Matthews provided updated enrollments as of August 27. It was noted that all Grade 3 classes are at 22 students. Ms. Matthews presented Middle and High School classes with fewer than 15 students, some that the Committee had previously approved. The Committee discussed. Mr. Cobb questioned if Weston should still offer four languages, expressing concern that it creates scheduling challenges and smaller classes in other areas. Dr. Connolly noted there is robust enrollment in all language classes at the Middle School but noted Mr. Cobb's point.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted 4-0-1, with Mr. Cobb abstaining, to approve Middle School classes presented and Intermediate Mandarin.

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

Mr. Henry discussed the new school start times and schedule of bus routes and indicated there could be some adjustments to the schedule after the first few weeks. He spoke about W Block on Thursdays and noted that Weston buses would follow the regular schedule while Boston buses would be an hour earlier on Thursdays. Mr. Henry reviewed the child care opportunity for students in grades 6-10 but noted the turnout for this has been very low. He indicated this would be evaluated on a semester to semester basis. Dr. Connolly said that doors at the Middle and High Schools would not open until 8:30am. Mr. Cobb requested the Police Department be alerted regarding the timing of light signals. Jeff Beaudoin reported that students are grateful for the later start time and presented a request that students be allowed in earlier. Mr. Henry said students will not be allowed in earlier unsupervised. Audience member Mr. John McKenzie encouraged the Committee to collect data on unexpected things. No action taken.

II.C. School Committee Assignments

Mr. Henry reviewed Committee assignments for 2018-19. He said Mr. Cobb and Mr. Henry will serve on Budget Subcommittee, Mr. Henry and Dr. Heller will serve on the School Scheduling Innovation Steering Committee; Mr. Henry will work on the Town Report and continue to work on School Committee policies. Mrs. Black will serve as liaison to the Permanent Building Committee for the Case House Renovation Project; Mr. Cobb will serve on Fields Steering Committee; Mr. Henry will remain as liaison to WEEFC; and Committee members will share responsibility to attend PTO Board and WestonPAC meetings.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Committee Assignments for 2018-19.

II.D. Appointment to EDCO Board

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Midge Connolly as voting member of the EDCO Board, for the 2018-19 school year.

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

Case House -- Mrs. Black updated the Committee on the Case House renovation project, reporting that 90% of the drawings are complete as well as budget estimates but noted there were "lots of moving parts" remaining. She noted next steps are 100% of the drawings to be completed and indicated the PBC plans to go to Fall Town Meeting with bid in hand. No action taken.

Proctor Field – Mr. Cobb reported that the walkway is being finished and the accessibility part of the project is still being implemented. He noted discussions are underway regarding irrigation at Pastor Park and plantings at Field 6. Some discussion occurred regarding maintenance of plantings.

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 July 12 and July 24, 2018.

III.B. Business Actions –
Certificate of Warrant

Ms. Matthews presented a Certificate of the Secretary, approval of warrants for payment.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$7,876,989.40 by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

Acceptance of Gift

Ms. Matthews informed the Committee of a donation of \$5,000 from the David E. Retik and Christopher D. Mello Foundation to be used for the David E. Retik Scholarship. Mr. Cobb noted

that David Retik, an alumna of Weston High School, was a victim of the 9/11 terrorist attack and a memorial bench with a plaque sits on the sloping hill above Proctor Field by Route 30. ([Link to information about David Retik and the foundation](#))

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept a gift in the amount of \$5,000 from David Retik and Christopher D. Mello Foundation.

Revision to Academic Calendar

Dr. Connolly informed the Committee that elementary principals requested the early release date for parent conferences be designated on November 7 rather than October 3 and requested Committee approval of the calendar revision.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black the School Committee voted unanimously to approve revised calendar as requested.

IV. Executive Session

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Mr. Cobb the School Committee voted to enter Executive Session at 7:40 PM for purposes of discussion of Collective Bargaining with David Poras, WEA President joining for start of session, with the intent not to return to Open Session, with Mrs. Black voting aye, Mr. Cobb voting aye, Dr. Heller voting aye; Dr. Saini voting aye, and Mr. Henry voting aye.

No action taken during Executive Session.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, at 8:30 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn from Executive Session with Mrs. Black voting aye, Mr. Cobb voting aye, Dr. Heller voting aye, Dr. Saini voting aye, and Mr. Henry voting aye.