

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

December 11, 2018

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:01 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; Jeff Beaudoin, Student Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; Ms. Sheri Matthews, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations; and Dr. J. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning;

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. He indicated there would be no Policy Review and noted there would be an Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining.

I.C. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Connolly highlighted recent events and accomplishments in the district. She reported that Grade 6 Spanish students took the AAPPL Proficiency Assessment in Listening and Reading to evaluate Weston's FLES curriculum and to ensure he targeted proficiency outcomes are being met. Based on the number of contact hours at the elementary level (approximately 200 hours over five years), the proficiency target is the Novice-mid level. Director of World Languages Kathy Baker reported that 52% of students met the target in listening skills and 56% of students met the target in reading skills. She noted that, in addition, 47% of students exceeded the target in listening and 44% of students exceeded the target in reading. Dr. Connolly reported that Weston's FLES program affords students a solid foundation in Spanish, which then boosts their learning and proficiency levels during the middle and high school years. She noted the World Language Department appreciates the School Committee's continued support.

Dr. Connolly reported that 25 Weston students opted to compete in the Massachusetts Mathematics Olympiad in October, and Weston High School had an amazing nine students qualify for the level 2 exam by scoring in the top 100 in the state, by far the most qualifiers Weston has ever had, surpassing the previous high of five. Qualifiers were: Senior Alexander Shashkov, Juniors Ezra Gordon, Jinyi Huang, Albert Wu, Andrew Yao, Sophomores Ben Chen, Anthony Cui, Neil Malur, Daanish Qureshi, with a special recognition to Andrew Yao for scoring a perfect score of 150 for the second straight year.

Dr. Connolly shared the news that WHS junior Adi Saligrama won the Congressional App Challenge for the Fifth Congressional District. His app, KnowBias, helps detect and determine the nature of political bias in a text. Adi will travel to Washington, D. C. for the award ceremony in the spring.

Dr. Connolly announced the appointment of Ms. Amy Kelly as the new Director of District Advancement. She indicated that Ms. Kelly replaces Pam Bator who retired in August and will begin work in Weston on January 2, 2019. She said Ms. Kelly will provide leadership in the planning and implementation of social emotional learning, bullying prevention and intervention, and equity, diversity, inclusion, as well as access initiatives. Ms. Kelly received her BA from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, a MEd from Boston College, and CAGS from Lesley University. Dr. Connolly said the administration is very excited about the opportunity to bring Amy Kelly to the Weston Team.

I.D. Subcommittee Reports – Mr. Henry noted this would be the Committee's last meeting at Case House due to the upcoming renovations. He said meetings beginning in January would take place at the Middle School Amy Potter Center, with the exception of the two late January budget sessions to be at the Middle School Library.

I.E. Open Forum – No comments.

- II.A. Discussion of Weston Education Enrichment Fund Committee Proposals
Dr. Carter presented WEEFC proposals for Committee approval and highlighted several including a High School Canvas Shoe Art Project, purchase of music instruments at Middle and High Schools, High School Anatomy field trip to the Stratus Center, funding for Rehearsal for Life Assembly for Grade 7, WHS Vietnam War Oral History Workshop, funds for World Language Week 2019, and a science and coding proposal Establishing “Roots” for grade 1. Dr. Carter said teachers are trying to integrate modeling into math classes wherever possible but noted an internal math review is being undertaken this year. Mr. Cobb suggested that coding should be thought of as a language, not just part of math curriculum.
- MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve WEEFC proposals per memo of December 11, 2018 totaling \$16,452.28.
- II.B. Updated FY 19 Census, Enrollment Information & FY20 Enrollment Projections
Ms. Matthews presented updated Table J of the 2018-2019 Enrollment Report and Projections Report to include the number of births (71) in 2017. She indicated this would be used to help predict future enrollments but noted it is still a guessing game. She reported a current projection of 2052 students for next year but will continue to review. Dr. Connolly shared elementary classroom data as of December 1, noting the seven sections of grade 3 are at 22 students each. She also discussed possible cuts at the Middle and High School and indicated principals will work on where best to propose the cuts.
- MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the 2018-2019 Enrollment Report and Projections.
- II.C. Discussion of Facilities/Security
Dr. Connolly updated the committee regarding security planning and developments, noting areas in particular warrant a study, the High School courtyard and how to close off, and a study to look into the entrance at Country School. She said they will also consider having high school students have swipe access to the building so that doors could be locked. Dr. Connolly said that there may be one study this year and one next. Mr. Cobb indicated there is still a need to study the road egress between Woodland School and the cemetery. Mr. Henry said perhaps the Town can help with that as well. The Committee also discussed cell phone coverage at the school campuses. No action taken.
- II.D. Policy Review (None presented)
- II.E. Facility Projects Update (Proctor Field, Case House, Case Complex)
Case House – Mrs. Black expressed appreciation to the Townspeople for their vote to approve the Case House renovation project. She said the PBC met and voted to request the Town Manager enter into an agreement with the lowest bidder. She said they voted to include Alternate 1 at \$10,000. She indicated an estimated 14-month duration for the project and noted Case House staff would be moving during vacation. No action taken.
Recreation Master Plan – Mr. Cobb noted an initial, preliminary meeting was held. He noted a resident came forward and asked about a policy on advertising on town fields. Mr. Henry said he would review the School Committee policy.
- 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 November 19, 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 \$2,011,882.71 by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

Acceptance of Gift

Ms. Matthews requested the Committee accept a gift of \$2,000 from the Wagner family to the Weston Public Schools to be used where it is most needed.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept \$2,000 as proposed from the Wagner family.

Exception to Policy BCB, Conflict of Interest

Ms. Matthews requested the Committee grant an exception to Policy BCB to allow the employment of Bryce and Benton McCanne, children of Lee McCanne, Director of Technology, and the employment of Ms. Matthews' son, Michael Foster, during holiday break (December 2018-January 2019) to work for Mr. Gary Jarobski in the Facilities Department to assist with the Case House packing up and relocation. She indicated that neither Ms. Matthews nor Dr. McCanne would have any supervision over their children.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve waiver of Policy BCB to allow the employment of Bryce McCanne, Benton McCanne, and Michael Foster during holiday break.

IV. Executive Session

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb at 7:50 PM the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of - Discussion of Collective Bargaining, with the intent to not return to Open Session, with Mr. Cobb voting aye, Dr. Heller voting aye, Dr. Saini voting aye, Mrs. Black voting aye, and Mr. Henry voting aye.

No action taken during Executive Session.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb, at 8:21 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn from Executive Session with Mr. Cobb voting aye, Dr. Heller voting aye, Dr. Saini voting aye; Mrs. Black voting aye, and Mr. Henry voting aye.