

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
January 22, 2019

Call to Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 5:02 PM at Woodland School by Mr. John Henry, Chair. In attendance were Dr. Ed Heller and Mrs. Danielle Black of the School Committee; Jeffrey Beaudoin, Student Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; Dr. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; and Sheri Matthews, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Not present: Dr. Sanjay Saini and Mr. Alex Cobb of the School Committee.

Also in attendance were Ms. Lisa Reitano and Mr. John Sallay of the Town of Weston Finance Committee.

Mr. Henry welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated the only agenda item would be Presentation of the Proposed FY20 School Budget.

Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed FY'20 School Budget

Dr. Connolly presented an overview of the proposed school budget for FY 2020, noting the budget was developed with the input of staff and administrators and thanked them, especially Ms. Matthews, for their assistance. She indicated the proposed budget, with an increase of 3.74% over FY19, meets the guidelines approved by the School Committee.

Dr. Connolly reported that elementary enrollment remains robust and the proposed budget increase provides for additional elementary sections if needed to adhere to School Committee class size policy. She indicated there are proposed increases in tuition for special education out of district placements and funds to purchase new textbooks for high school World Language and Science Departments.

Dr. Connolly noted that salaries are the most significant line item in the proposed budget, which includes contractual obligations, an increase to Transportation due to the purchase of buses with seat belts, and funds allocated to the recently approved compensation package for drivers. Dr. Connolly noted that this is a negotiation year for all Collective Bargaining units; thus, the salary reserve for negotiations is reflected in the "District Wide" line item. Dr. Connolly said the budget includes provisions to offset reductions in state aid and revolving funds.

Dr. Connolly noted that the elementary sectioning assumes the same summer move-in rate the district has experienced the past two summers. She indicated the .4 FTE increase for the District Wide Director of District Advancement, a position focused on student social and emotional well-being. Dr. Connolly said it is critical to adjust the position to full time to support our students and district.

Dr. Connolly acknowledged that she and the administrative team worked collaboratively to keep the rate of growth as low as possible. She said that while the elementary schools represent the higher percentage of enrollment at 42.4%, the high school budget continues to be significant given the array of course offerings. She noted that reductions at the middle school will be across the board, but the high school has yet to determine where best to reduce.

Dr. Connolly noted that the proposed budget includes some planned building projects, including funding for the vestibule at Country School to improve visibility at the entrance and funding for an egress security study for the high school courtyard. The Committee briefly discussed.

In response to inquiries from Mr. Sallay and Ms. Reitano, Ms. Matthews indicated that the budget presentation would be available online on Wednesday and that Table K of the Enrollment Report had been updated. No action taken. Mr. Henry noted review sessions on January 28 and 31.

Other Business

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Ms. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 7, 2018, subject to the changes noted by Mr. Henry.

Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Henry, at 5:25 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.