

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Weston Middle School
January 31, 2019

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 4:00 PM at Weston Middle School by Mr. John Henry, Chair. In attendance were Mr. Alex Cobb and Dr. Ed Heller of the Weston School Committee; Ms. Cheryl Antoine, METCO Representative to the School Committee; Jeff Beaudoin, Student Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; Dr. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; and Ms. Sheri Matthews, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Not present: Mrs. Danielle Black, Dr. Sanjay Saini.

Also present were Finance Committee members Ms. Lisa Reitano and Mr. John Sallay; Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Ms. Jen Faber, Woodland School Principal; Ms. Erin McGuire, Country School Principal; Dr. Dan Green Field School Principal; Ms. Jen Truslow, Director of Student Services; and Ms. Anne Zernicke, Assistant Director of Student Services;

Mr. Henry welcomed everyone, introduced members of the School Committee and Administration, and reviewed the agenda.

Budget Review

Elementary – Ms. Faber reported that elementary enrollments are continually being monitored and will continue to be. She indicated that the proposed budget includes funding for an extra section of Kindergarten at Country School and one for the current third grade (next year's Grade 4). Ms. Maguire noted that even with a level-funded budget they will be able to double the early math intervention. Dr. Green reported on the success of the instructional coach model and indicated he would like to have two such coaches. Dr. Connolly said that sometime in the spring principals will attend a School Committee meeting and discuss the role of instructional coaches, including data from teachers. Mr. Henry indicated he would like to hear about the impact of these coaches.

Regarding elementary capital projects, at Country School the boiler is being repaired and entryway security is being developed. The Woodland School site is undergoing studies for emergency access through the cemetery and engineering to replace single glazed windows. No projects at Field School.

METCO – Ms. Matthews presented a review of METCO funding, noting the majority of funding is awarded through DESE grant and is based on the previous year's October 1 enrollment. She said the salaries of the director and three liaisons is grant-funded. Any additional funds go toward transportation, but she noted the grant does not cover all transportation costs. Ms. Matthews noted that other funds to support METCO are from the Family Funds fundraiser, an anonymous grant, and a grant from St. Peter's Church.

Special Education – Ms. Truslow presented an overview of Special Education, noting the proposed increase in staffing for specialists is based on IEP's and student needs. She indicated she has not yet met with principals to review where learning assistants, who are assigned to students, will be needed. Ms. Truslow noted the out of district placement increase of 2.63% and also reported that ELL teachers work with students who speak 16 different languages.

Central Office – Ms. Matthews noted much turnover in Central Office this year, with two new Assistant Superintendents (Ms. Matthew and Dr. Carter), Director of District Advancement (Amy Kelly), Human Resource Director (Tim Heavey), Budget Analyst (Ben Wilkins) and Director of Health Services (Laurie Melchionda). She indicated a .4 increase in the Director of District Advancement position. Ms. Matthews informed the Committee that the budget is basically level funded, but secretary's longevity had not been included in this budget previously so was reallocated. Dr. Carter reported a level funded budget will support district professional development including the SEL initiative, responsive classroom and work in Data Wise.

Approved by School Committee 2.11.19

Grants and Revolving Funds – Ms. Matthews reviewed the grants, including health, METCO and Federal entitlement grants and WEEFC grants. Ms. Reitano encouraged photographs and publicity of WEEFC-funded events.

Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:01 PM.