

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
February 25, 2019

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:05 PM at Weston Middle School by Mr. John Henry, Chair. In attendance were Mrs. Danielle Black, Dr. Ed Heller and Dr. Sanjay Saini of 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. Not present: Mr. Alex Cobb of the School Committee.

Also present were Mr. Anthony Parker, Weston High School Principal, and Ms. Lisa Reitano of the Town of Weston Finance Committee.

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.

I.C. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Connolly welcomed everyone back from February vacation and provided an update on winter season athletics. She reported that the Boys Indoor Track team are Division 4 State Champions, the Girls team finished fifth at the State meet and Bharathi Subbiah jumped 18'5 in the long jump to be the Division 4 State Champion. Dr. Connolly reported that both Girls and Boys Swim/Dive teams finished third in Division 2 States, and Dale Nickerson is Division 2 State Diving Champion. She reported that Girls Basketball team members participated in Coaches vs. Cancer 3pt. Challenge and finished with the third most money raised in the country.

Dr. Connolly read a quote from a parent regarding the Special Olympics meet hosted by Weston, "I just wanted to follow up with you about the great qualifier that Weston had. The kids in the program were some of the best volunteers we had ever had. They interacted with the kids in a way that was respectful and interested. Each of them went out of their way to make the kids feel special. I hope that you will forward that feedback to their sponsor. They were great!" Dr. Connolly noted this is another indication of students who go "above and beyond."

I.D. Subcommittee Reports – None presented.

I.E. Open Forum – Parent Kathy Davidoff read and presented the School Committee with a statement on her family's experience regarding bullying and prevention in the Weston Public Schools. She said, "as a community we must do better," and spoke about the district's noncompliance in providing data to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Ms. Davidoff requested the district look at the Safe and Sound School model and have transparency, accountability, and family partnerships. Another parent, Lisa Lappi, spoke about the lack of responsiveness her daughter experienced as well. Both parents expressed concern for the health and safety of students. Mr. Henry noted the district had submitted the required data to DESE but it was coded incorrectly. He said the problem was fixed and, in the future, will be done so accurately. He also indicated the Committee would discuss this topic at a future meeting rather than address this evening. Dr. Connolly expressed confidence that current policies are in place and noted the hiring of Ms. Amy Kelly, Director of District Advancement who will oversee Social and Emotional Learning.

II.A. Approval of High School June Academy Trips

Mr. Parker spoke about growing interest for trips to take place during June Academy, noting that although the Committee last spring approved several 2019 June Academy trips, he would present two additional ones for Committee approval. Mr. Parker presented a trip to Washington DC sponsored by Close-Up, a national program, which would be chaperoned by History faculty, and a trip to Acadia National Park, chaperoned by physical education teacher Jennifer Brodeur. He reviewed costs and itineraries. The Committee discussed the trips. Mr. Parker also presented modifications to the previously approved Civil Rights trip. Mrs. Black noted that these trips would address the students' request for more opportunity to travel within the United States.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve proposed trips to Washington DC and Acadia National Park and the modified Civil Rights trip, all for June Academy 2019.

II.B. Correction to 2019-2020 School Calendar

Dr. Connolly presented a revised calendar, noting that the previously approved calendar had listed the number of days incorrectly.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the revised 2019-2020 school calendar.

II.C. Discussion of Superintendent's Proposed FY20 School Budget

Dr. Connolly said elementary enrollment numbers are continually being reviewed and could result in a staffing decrease and noted the 1.0 FTE at the High School is yet to be determined. Mr. Henry said that Ms. Matthews would provide a new budget packet for the Committee within the next few days. Mrs. Black noted that scheduling needs to be completed before the contractual deadline to notify faculty of reductions. Dr. Connolly indicated the administration's awareness of this and said Mr. Heavey, Director of Human Resources, is preparing accordingly. Mr. Henry indicated budget discussion would continue at the next meeting and will be on the agenda of the Finance Committee meeting on March 7. No action taken.

II.D. Discussion of the Town Report

Mr. Henry said the draft of the Town Report had been shared with the Committee. He expressed appreciation to Dr. Carter for the curricular updates and highlights of district initiatives. Mr. Henry requested Committee members send him any feedback or comments. No action taken.

II.E. Discussion of Land Parcel at 751-761 Boston Post Rd.

Mr. Henry indicated the School Committee was asked to discuss a parcel of land at 751-761 Boston Post Road to determine if the schools might need access to the land for a future school site. He noted the property is designated as farmland and, prior to it being sold for development, the Town and its committees have right of first refusal. The Committee discussed the property and its location.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to acknowledge that the School Committee discussed and considered property at 751-761 Boston Post Road for a future, potential school site and deemed it to be unnecessary.

II.F. Case Estates Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Henry said the Committee was asked to consider future need for a waste water treatment plant at the Case Estates, which includes Case House, Land Sake Farm, the Brook School Complex, Community Center, elementary schools, public library, and three houses. He noted there can be no increase in building projects without a waste treatment facility. The Committee discussed and the sense of the Committee was that it would only be an advantage to have the treatment plant in order to allow expansion of properties. Mr. Henry said he would report the School Committee's discussion to the Selectmen. No action taken.

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

Case House – Mrs. Black said the project is moving along, noting a few surprises (additional asbestos, discovery of a steel beam). She said they are currently working on the exterior for an accessible walkway.

Case Complex – Dr. Heller asked about the signage for the complex, noting signs were ready.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Saini and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve minutes of February 11, 2019.

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 Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$2,067,519.10 by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

IV. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Dr. Heller, at 8:06 PM the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of discussion of Collective Bargaining, not to return to regular session, with Dr. Heller voting aye, Dr. Saini voting aye, Mrs. Black voting aye, and Mr. Henry voting aye.

During Executive Session, the Committee discussed negotiation strategies for AFSCME, WEAAA, WAPA, and WEA Collective Bargaining Units. No action taken during Executive Session.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, at 8:46 PM the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn from Executive Session, with Dr. Heller voting aye, Dr. Saini voting aye, Mrs. Black voting aye, and Mr. Henry voting aye.

