

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

June 3, 2019

I. Call to Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 6:31 PM at Weston Middle School by Mr. John Henry, Chair. In attendance were Mrs. Danielle Black, Mr. Alex Cobb, Ms. Anita Raman and Mrs. Rachel Stewart 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.

Executive Session

Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mrs. Black, the Weston School Committee voted to enter into Executive Session at 6:32 PM for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining matters, with the intent to return to open session, with Mrs. Black voting aye, Mr. Cobb voting aye, Mrs. Stewart voting aye, Ms. Raman voting aye, and Mr. Henry voting aye.

No action taken during Executive Session.

Upon motion made by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mrs. Black, the Weston School Committee voted to adjourn from Executive Session and go into open session at 6:56 PM, with Mrs. Black voting aye, Mr. Cobb voting aye, Mrs. Stewart voting aye, Ms. Raman voting aye, and Mr. Henry voting aye.

II. A. Call To Order in Open Session

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:04 PM at Weston Middle School by Mr. John Henry, Chair. In attendance were Mrs. Danielle Black, Mr. Alex Cobb, Ms. Anita Raman and Mrs. Rachel Stewart of the School Committee; Mrs. Cheryl Antoine and Ms. Onika Jenkins, Alternating METCO Representatives 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.

Also present was Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries.

II.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 noted that the Superintendent Evaluation would be postponed to the next meeting.

II.C. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Connolly congratulated Spanish FLES students for outstanding results in the 2019 Massachusetts Foreign Language Association's poster contest. Country School student Sami Prophete won first place in the Elementary Division and Emma Murphy, Azalea Marangoly, Sophie Sichani, Avril Ocampo, Himani Jamwal and Aimi Lee received Honorable Mentions. The posters will be on display at MaFLA's annual conference in the fall. Dr. Connolly provided a schedule of MIAA Tournament action Boys and Girls Lacrosse and Girls and Boys Tennis teams, noting that baseball is yet to be scheduled.

II.D. Subcommittee Reports – Mr. Henry reviewed the guidelines that apply during the public comment period, noting that those who wish to speak should wait to be recognized by the Chair, then identify themselves and provide address when recognized. He also reminded people to respect the confidentiality and privacy of students and the Weston school community.

II.E. Open Forum – No public comments.

III.A. Technology Report

Dr. McCanne noted he sent the Committee a full Technology Update but would focus at this meeting on four major topics. AUP Policy, Sustaining Resources, MCAS and Chromebooks, and Bubble of Device Needs. He provided an update to the Acceptable Use

Policy with new separate Guidelines for students in grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-12. In discussing sustaining resources, Dr. McCanne reported that technology currently consists of a \$73 million investment funded from the school budget, WEEFC, construction projects, and capital articles approved by the Town. Regarding Chromebooks and MCAS testing, Dr. McCanne reported that Google has announced it will no longer provide support for old Chromebooks and there might be an issue here with MCAS testing in 2021. Dr. Connolly expressed appreciation to Dr. McCanne and the Technology staff for their work preparing the Chromebooks and being ready to assist during MCAS testing.

Dr. McCanne addressed device needs in the district, noting that most of the faculty use MacBook Pro laptops that were purchased mostly in 2012, noting that 141 of those need to be replaced along with 32 student use laptops. He indicated some were upgraded a couple of years ago which extended their life. Dr. McCanne said there are other significant needs anticipated in 2021 with an estimated total of \$524,760. The Committee discussed. Questions arose regarding personal use of the faculty laptops and whether MacBook Pros are necessary for all faculty use, that perhaps some could have Chromebooks. Dr. McCanne provided some data regarding leasing computers and indicated he has researched what other districts are doing. Mrs. Black said there needs to be a commitment to cut costs, whether by having fewer computers or less expensive ones; Mr. Cobb suggested the district consider presenting faculty with incentives or options to purchase an upgraded computer if they wish to. Ms. Raman said the district should find out what the faculty really need in their computers and proceed accordingly. Dr. McCanne said decisions need to be made this summer, and he will discuss with Dr. Connolly. Committee members stressed the need for a well thought out plan.

The Committee discussed proposed revisions to Acceptable Use Policy. It was suggested that principals as well as Amy Kelly, Director of District Advancement, have opportunity to review the guidelines and provide feedback. Mr. Henry noted the proposed policy was an excellent first draft and the Committee will consider a vote on that policy. Mr. Cobb suggested looking at private school's policies regarding ramifications using private computers. Mr. Henry expressed appreciation to Dr. McCanne for the report and for the work of his staff.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Ms. Raman, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the report.

III.B. Approval of School Improvement Plans

Dr. Connolly noted the Committee received presentations of all five proposed School Improvement Plans and requested their approval of the proposed plans for Country, Woodland, Field and Weston Middle School, noting the high school plan was not ready for approval at this time. The Committee briefly discussed the plans and commended the principals and school councils for their work and informative documents. Mrs. Stewart indicated the presentations she attended were excellent and that she wished more parents attended.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Stewart, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve proposed 2019-2020 School Improvement Plans for Country School, Woodland School, Field School, and Weston Middle School.

III.C. Superintendent Evaluation (postponed to next meeting)

III.D. Facility Projects Update (Proctor Field, Case House, Case Complex) –

Mrs. Black reported that the Case House project is moving along and noted that the biggest issue currently is the composition of the stonework for the port cochere and where to find the correct color stones. No action taken.

III.E. Approval of Contract - Local 690 AFSCME (Cafeteria)

Mrs. Black thanked participants in the negotiations for the Cafeteria Workers Agreement, noting that negotiations had been completed, the Cafeteria representatives have signed, and negotiations were pleasant. She highlighted changes in the contract, noting that parties agreed to a 4.25% increase in salaries over three years (1.75, 1.25, 1.25), two additional paid holidays (Presidents Day and Patriots Day), a change in longevity, and elimination of profit-sharing language.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve and sign the Agreement Between Weston School Committee and Local 690 AFSCME (Cafeteria) effective August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2022.

III.F. Discussion of Open Meeting Law Complaints

Mr. Henry addressed two Open Meeting Law (OML) complaints received by the School Committee. He noted that such complaints may not always be discussed in open session, noting that the Committee will always act in the best interest of students and the community. He indicated that the first complaint alleged that the February 25, 2019 School Committee minutes had not sufficiently detailed comments present in the open forum. He noted that the complaint was filed more than 30 days after the alleged violation and as a result failed on procedural grounds. Mr. Henry then stated that the Committee reviewed the complaint on its merits but found no violation of OML, as according to the Mass General Laws, the minutes need only present a summary of matters discussed. He noted that legal counsel reviewed the minutes and indicated that Weston's minutes actually contain more detail than is required. Mr. Henry further noted that no member of the School Committee discussed the minutes with the transcriber. He noted that Weston Media films the meetings for the public to see.

Resident Dr. John McKenzie informed the Committee that there are excellent presentations on the Open Meeting Law available provided by the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Henry indicated that all School Committee members have attended training and noted that often during their summer retreat they have legal counsel update them on relevant legal matters. Resident Becky Dempsey asked why Weston Media was not filming this meeting. Mr. Henry noted that the School Committee is grateful for the coverage Weston Media provides for its meetings and indicated this is the first meeting he can recall when they have not filmed. Dr. McCanne reported that Weston Media is relocating to new facilities on Tuesday and just texted him that they did not have staff to cover this meeting.

Mr. Henry addressed the second OML complaint which alleged that the May 20, 2019 agenda did not mention OML complaint in the reason for the anticipated Executive Session. Mr. Henry noted that discussion of the OML complaint was decided on Friday, after the meeting had been posted. In retrospect, he said that best practice would have been to table the discussion to the following meeting or at least modify the previously posted agenda. He also noted that the issue was remedied by the current discussion of the complaint in open session. No action taken.

IV.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted 4-0-1, with Mrs. Black abstaining, to approve the minutes of May 20, 2019

IV.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 Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$1,932,753.11 by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

Mrs. Antoine indicated she is in the process of transitioning off as METCO Representative to the School Committee and will be mentoring Onika Jenkins during the transition. Mr. Henry thanked Mrs. Antoine for her dedication and service to the community.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Black, at 8:35PM the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn

Documents used by Committee:

- Technology Update
- Proposed new Acceptable Use Policies and Proposed Guidelines
- School Improvement Plans (Woodland, Country, Field & Middle Schools)