

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE ONLINE MEETING

August 3, 2020

Webinar

<https://westonorg.zoom.us/j/84740364921?pwd=eFd6VWpvZEpmM0VUTlIWTVM1aHQxZz09>

Call to Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:05 pm by Mr. John Henry, Chair. Participating were Mrs. Danielle Black, Chair, Mr. Alex Cobb, Ms. Anita Raman, and Mrs. Rachel Stewart of the School Committee; Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; Dr. J. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; and Ms. Sheri Matthews, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

Also present was Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries, Amy Kelly, Director of District Advancement, Jennifer Truslow, Director of Student Services, La Toya Rivers, METCO Director, Paul Peri, High School Principal, John Gibbons, Middle School Principal, Dan Green, Field School Principal, Jennifer Faber, Woodland School Principal, and Erin Maguire, Country School Principal.

Forum

Ms. Rivers began by presenting questions emailed to her in advance. Dr. Carter. Connolly discussed personal protective equipment, lunch and snack procedures and cleaning protocols related to eating. Dr. Carter then discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the district's equity and inclusivity issues as well as posting of remote learning schedules. Dr. Connolly then discussed mask protocols, the hope to provide video tours of schools prior to reopening, and transportation protocols, including safety, seating, siblings, and bus monitors. Dr. Carter then discussed the anxiety caused by parents and students not knowing the district's plan for reopening, as well as the time frame for parent selections of a schooling model for their children.

Dr. Connolly then discussed small group sessions or pods for Boston students and Ms. Black discussed efforts to assist parents in coordinating pods. Dr. Carter addressed concerns regarding physical education and discussed plans for robust PE classes. Dr. Connolly discussed plans to help build connections and community for students attending remotely. Ms. Rivers then presented preliminary data from Boston parents regarding their model preferences.

Dr. Connolly and Amy Kelly then discussed ways to make children feel safe given the pandemic, and further discussed looking to the Board of Health and CDC for safety guidelines. Dr. Connolly then addressed transportation concerns, particularly for working parents, and noted the difficult issues facing parents who require childcare that may not be available in the pandemic. Dr. Carter then discussed the anticipated high school schedule and related transportation concerns. Mr. Henry noted that the district would develop protocols for moving between hybrid and all remote modes of instruction, as well as plans if an outbreak occurred at school. Dr. Carter then discussed class sizes and parent conferences which would in most cases occur remotely. Dr. Connolly then discussed temperature checks and related protocols.

Dr. Carter then addressed Remote Learning Academy(RLA), noting that it would be significantly different than the emergency procedures seen in the spring. He also discussed pre-recorded instructional material and meeting the individual needs of students, particularly those with accommodations. Dr.

Connolly then discussed drop-off, noting that buildings would not be open early. Dr. Carter addressed expected procedures and timing for students who wish to move from RLA to the hybrid model. Dr. Carter then discussed the alignment of curriculum across RLA and hybrid.

Dr. Connolly then further discussed how parents could connect regarding learning pods, and that the district did not plan to take students' temperatures before they enter buildings due to issues with accuracy and usefulness. Dr. Connolly and Amy Kelly discussed whether the district planned to engage an equity and inclusion consultant. Mr. Henry, Mr. Cobb and Ms. Black then discussed options for parents who drop off children then want a place to work in town until pick-up. Dr. Connolly then discussed the status of holding spots for students who withdraw from METCO for the year, as well as academic and social/emotional support for METCO students.

Dr. Carter then discussed at what points during the year students may be able to move from hybrid to RLA or RLA to hybrid. Ms. Truslow then discussed the priority of in-person services for students on IEPs or who otherwise struggled in the remote learning environment. Dr. Carter and Dr. Connolly then discussed school day hours at the elementary level, as well as the need to keep joy in the learning process. Dr. Connolly discussed hand washing and glove protocols. Dr. Carter discussed movement of teachers to cohorts of students at the elementary and middle school levels, while high school students would move among different classes.

Dr. Connolly discussed the impact of social unrest on students and the learning environment. Dr. Carter discussed the number of hours of zoom classes expected in RLA. Mr. Henry stated that protocols would be developed regarding steps taken if a teacher or student tested positive for COVID 19. Dr. Carter and Dr. Connolly then discussed school supplies, including the purchase of pencil boxes for each elementary student. Dr. Carter then discussed live-streaming in remote and hybrid teaching, online resources for students and parents, and the status of the MCAS exam. Dr. Connolly then discussed bathroom protocols.

Mr. Henry noted that the expected start of school for students would be September 15 due to additional professional development days allocated by the state. He also stated that the administration hoped that faculty would begin professional development on August 31.

Ms. Truslow then discussed eligibility evaluations for students who may require services, noting timelines and process. Mr. McCanne discussed device choices for online learning and Dr. Connolly addressed considerations for parents who are deemed essential workers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Recording of Meeting provided by Weston Media