

## MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE ONLINE MEETING

August 5, 2020

Webinar

<https://westonorg.zoom.us/j/84740364921?pwd=eFd6VWpvZEpmM0VUTlIiWTVM1aHQxZz09>

### Call to Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 3:00 pm by Mr. John Henry, Chair. Participating were Mrs. Danielle Black, Vice Chair, Ms. Anita Raman, and Mrs. Rachel Stewart of the School Committee, and Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent. Mr. Alex Cobb, School Committee member, was absent.

Also present was Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Ms. Amy Kelly, Director of District Advancement; Ms. Jennifer Truslow, Director of Student Services; Ms. Anne Zernicke, Assistant Director of Student Services; Ms. Marla Schay, Director of Guidance Services; and Mr. Patrick Kelly, Special Education.

Mr. Henry explained the process for asking questions during the forum. Dr. Connolly noted that the administration does not have all the answers yet and that while the administration will answer all they can, the situation is everchanging. Dr. Connolly also mentioned Ms. Truslow and other specialists will be taking questions this forum. She also thanked everyone for their wishes on her recovery. Ms. Truslow reported that the administration had met with faculty regarding student services issues.

### Forum

Mr. Henry began by presenting questions that were in the question and answer chat. Ms. Truslow discussed bringing in students who need extra in person time, taking mask and sensory breaks, and comforting a student. Ms. Kelly discussed approaches to handling dysregulated students. She then addressed how faculty and administration will handle IEP testing, noting that the department intended to conduct in-person testing. Ms. Schay discussed the process for SAT and Act testing locations and accommodations. Ms. Truslow discussed student services' input on student transitions, registration, providing face masks/shields for students, and an example of strategy sessions for a student. Dr. Connolly talked about touring schools, whether in person or virtual. Ms. Kelly explained online assessment tools for students. Dr. Connolly discussed mask breaks and inclement weather. Ms. Truslow gave an example of a language-based classroom and advice on dealing with fully remote student. She then discussed planning around language-based and other support for remote students, including socially-distanced group gatherings for remote students. Dr. Connolly explained cleaning procedure for outdoor tents.

Ms. Truslow addressed eligibility criteria for additional in-person support. Ms. Truslow then discussed what a student's classroom will look like, what RLA consists of, who to contact for IEPs, and protocols for students who visit the nurse's office regularly. Dr. Connolly addressed concerns about increasing mental health needs. Ms. Truslow discussed compensatory services for services not rendered in the spring of 2020. Ms. Schay then discussed SAT testing in late August. Dr. Connolly described plexiglass barriers and when the decision on picking a learning model may be due. Mrs. Black noted facilities has been working with principals on securing supplies that the schools need for reopening. Ms. Truslow described a scenario for a child who may need more in person support and ensured parents one to ones will still occur whether remotely or in person. Dr. Connolly discussed the cleaning protocol in between cohorts,

RLA zoom sizes, and unmasked children. Dr. Connolly made a note about zoom sizes that it is imperative to follow up with individual students or small group of kids to meet them where they are instructionally.

Dr. Connolly addressed mask mandate for Weston students. Ms. Truslow discussed students meeting their service providers. Mr. Patrick Kelly explained students may have met their teacher last year at the end of school. Ms. Truslow then discussed providing in-home or in-school student services for RLA students. Dr. Connolly clarified mask mandate for lower elementary students, tools used for assessing students, and switching between hybrid and RLA. Ms. Truslow spoke about paraprofessionals/aides in hybrid model, modified instruction for RLA, plans in place for student support teams, Weston staff working with remote students, and de-escalation tactics for anxious students. Ms. Black discussed use of online platforms for RLA. Dr. Connolly noted that Ms. Truslow and the student services team have had an immense amount of training in de-escalation strategies. Ms. Truslow spoke about rejected IEPs and that team chairs will contact families at or before school reopening.

Dr. Connolly explained the procedure for a student that contracts the virus. Ms. Truslow discussed de-escalation training for learning aides and social skill training for students. Ms. Raman asked about teaching social cues on zoom and Ms. Truslow responded teachers will cultivate a classroom culture/etiquette. Dr. Connolly discussed snack breaks and plans for normalizing differences whether neurological or physical. She stated the sole goal for administration is reopening schools and safety of students, however these topics are still important and a priority for administration. Ms. Truslow addressed who specifically will qualify for more in person support.

Dr. Connolly addressed bullying, the selection of digital learning platform, places for elementary students to eat other than the classroom, and communication for food allergies. Ms. Truslow then discussed teacher assignments.

Mr. Henry thanked everyone for joining and speaking at this forum. He noted that any follow up questions should be emailed to any administration/staff/school committee members. The email for school committee members is [schoolcommittee@weston.org](mailto:schoolcommittee@weston.org).

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Recording of Meeting provided by Weston Media