

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE ONLINE MEETING

September 4, 2020

Webinar

<https://westonorg.zoom.us/j/94015330088>

Call to Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 8:03 am by Mr. John Henry, Chair. Participating were Mrs. Danielle Black, Vice 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.

Mr. Henry reviewed the agenda which consisted solely of discussion and vote on the tentative agreement with the Weston Education Association (WEA).

Tentative Agreement with WEA

Mr. Henry and Mrs. Black discussed the negotiation process leading to the tentative agreement with the WEA, a copy of which was delivered to school committee members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Henry first reported that WEA had approved the agreement at a meeting the previous evening. Mr. Henry and Mrs. Black then reviewed the key provisions of the agreement. They reported that the district was able to accommodate teachers requesting remote assignments and reviewed enhanced safety protocols for high risk teachers returning to in-person instruction. They also reviewed provisions regarding FFCRA child-care leaves, use of sick time, and safety protocols. The committee discussed the safety protocols, including air purifiers and HVAC protocols, as well as occupancy, PPE, snack and other procedures. The committee noted that many protocols were subject to development by implementation teams and later approval by WEA.

The committee then discussed the workload and schedule provisions of the agreement, including requirements relating to live-streaming of opening and closing circles at the elementary level and individual preparation time allotments. The committee discussed faculty assignments, remote learning academy class sizes and class offerings, meeting times and time in buildings. The committee discussed the decision to leave open the issue of whether in an all-remote scenario, teachers would be required to teach from their classrooms. Mr. Henry stated that he felt that negotiation would unduly delay the agreement and possibly jeopardize a hybrid start on September 15. The committee expressed some discomfort with this arrangement but agreed that it was a reasonable decision to enable an on-time hybrid start.

The committee then discussed the technology provisions of the agreement, including development of protocols for live-streaming, recording and broadcasting instruction. Mr. Henry reported that use of particular strategies would be developed by teams at each school including faculty and administrators. The committee then discussed provisions relating to students who are unable to attend in-person days.

Finally, the committee reviewed the schedule and sunset provisions. The committee thanked Mr. Henry and Mrs. Black for their efforts and success in reaching agreement. Mr. Henry and Mrs. Black noted that

negotiations would likely continue throughout the year as the district sought to increase in-person instruction and/or as the pandemic situation evolves.

MOTION: After discussion, upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Ms. Raman, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the tentative agreement with the WEA with Mrs. Stewart voting aye, Ms. Raman voting aye, Mr. Cobb voting aye, Mrs. Black voting aye, and Mr. Henry voting aye.

Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Ms. Raman, the School Committee Voted unanimously to adjourn with Ms. Raman voting aye, Mrs. Stewart voting aye, Mr. Cobb voting aye, Mrs. Black voting aye, and Mr. Henry voting aye.

Documents used by Committee:

- [Tentative Agreement with the Weston Education Association](#)