

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 3:00 PM 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; and Dr. J. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.

Also present was Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Dan Green, Field School Principal; Jennifer Faber, Woodland School Principal; Erin Maguire, Country School Principal; and Amy Kelly, Director of District Advancement.

Mr. Henry detailed the process to ask a question for this forum and gave an overview of the school committee's plans for reopening in the fall. Mr. Henry reported that the administration continues to recommend a hybrid model, noting issues to be addressed including distancing, mask requirement, creation of a medical advisory group, use of video in instruction, CCW, and space restrictions.

Dr. Connolly thanked the efforts of administration for their time and planning toward reopening schools. She discussed the planning work of the school-based implementation teams. She noted that the administration hoped to start hybrid and move to all-in for grades K-3, but that they would be flexible to handle changes and any possible required move to remote instruction. Dr. Connolly then stated that the administration hoped to start professional development for faculty on August 31st with students starting September 14th-16th.

Forum

Mr. Henry presented questions that were in the question and answer chat. Dr. Carter discussed supplementary materials for Remote Learning Academy (RLA) and whether specials will occur for RLA students. Dr. Connolly then discussed protecting teachers from cross contamination, enforcing rules for masking wearing, and the possibility of dropping classroom schedules early. Dr. Connolly also spoke about the benchmarks for having students back in school full time. Mr. Henry answered questions regarding leaves for teachers over a certain age and the plan for reopening elementary school. Mrs. Black and Mr. Cobb both discussed plans for testing and trying to find the most accurate/affordable option out on the market.

Dr. Carter discussed the difference between both learning models, hybrid/RLA, and gave an estimation of the number of days/hours of in-school time for students. Dr. Connolly spoke about how teachers can support the needs of students, eye protection for students, and enforcing immediate communication about the virus. Mr. Henry discussed the tentative start date for faculty and students. Dr. Carter explained that an all remote model will be available even if the hybrid model works. Dr. Connolly answered how a classroom will be structured for a fulltime model and what techniques will be implemented to comfort a child.

Dr. Carter discussed the hours of a school day, what a hybrid option may look like, and if there is a decision timeline for parents choosing between RLA or hybrid. Dr. Connolly explained how the school

will deal with students who have IEPs. Dr. Carter then discussed how specials will work and how faculty handle academic or learning gaps with students. Dr. Connolly addressed how substitutes will work and whether students will be able to choose their hybrid cohort schedule. She noted that students in the same family will have the same schedule/alignment. Dr. Connolly also explained who will take over a classroom if a teacher contracts the virus and what extra precautions can be taken for a student with medical needs.

Dr. Carter discussed an approximate date for teacher assignment, the types of supplementary materials parents will be provided, and the expectations for hybrid and RLA students. Dr. Connolly discussed mask breaks for students and noted that students will follow all safety protocols. Dr. Carter discussed protocols for an absent child in the hybrid model, the amount of time students will spend outside, and limited use of shared classroom materials.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm.

Recording of Meeting provided by Weston Media.