

## MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE ONLINE MEETING

August 4, 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 3:03 PM by Mrs. Danielle Black, Vice Chair. Participating were Mr. Alex Cobb, and Mrs. Rachel Stewart of the School Committee, Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; and Dr. J. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. Mr. Henry, Chair of the School Committee, was not present.

Also present was Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Mr. John Gibbons, Middle School Principal; Mr. Philip Oates, Assistant Principal of Middle School; Mr. Paul Peri, High School Principal, and Ms. Amy Kelly, Director of District Advancement.

Dr. McCanne explained the process to ask a question during the forum.

### Forum

Mrs. Black began to present questions that were in the question and answer chat. Dr. Connolly discussed virus tracing and the possibility of students driving to school. Mr. Cobb and Mrs. Black noted that school committee and administration have been speaking to multiple companies about testing, however they are looking for rapid, reliable, and affordable option. Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Peri stated that both the middle school and high school were planning to offer a full program of courses in the hybrid model. Dr. Carter noted that there would not be cohorts at the high school, but that students would be arranged to minimize mixing during passing times. Dr. Carter then explained the leveling of math and language classes in RLA. Mrs. Black confirmed with Dr. Carter that there has been no cut in programming.

Ms. Anita Raman then joined the meeting.

Dr. Connolly then discussed protocol for someone testing positive, with Mr. Cobb noting that each circumstance will have different procedures. Dr. Carter discussed live streaming on a remote days in the hybrid model and options for teaching remote students. Dr. McCanne noted Weston has the technology to support live streaming, however it is a complicated process and details need to be worked out.

Dr. McCanne discussed ongoing professional development regarding the use of technology in addressing local and remote students. Mr. Cobb noted that video delivery of curriculum is an important issue to parents.

Dr. Connolly discussed a delayed school opening based on Governor Baker's orders and reported that school could start as late as September 16. Mrs. Black addressed that the ten professional days for faculty must be used all at once. Dr. Carter then addressed embedded honors, AP classes offered, training and teaching support for RLA teachers, and mixing RLA and hybrid students together. Dr. Carter and Dr. McCanne discussed training and workshops for faculty focusing on the use of technology tools including Zoom and Google. Dr. Carter then discussed training in teaching practices that are best for online teaching. Dr. Connolly then discussed video virtual school tours and school lunches.

Dr. Carter addressed plans for community building within Middle School RLA, the workload for AP classes, and plans for social development of RLA students. Mrs. Black confirmed that funding remained in place for clubs, activities and sports. Dr. Connolly then stated that the schools would have a liberal

application of absence and “N” rule policies to encourage students who are ill to stay home. Dr. Connolly also gave further explanation about educators’ concerns regarding livestreaming and broadcasting. Mr. Cobb, Ms. Raman, and Mrs. Stewart addressed different concerns and possible solutions regarding livestreaming. Dr. McCanne stated a draft protocol would entail having children turn off their microphones and cameras if parents did not give permission to record their child. Dr. Connolly explained that parent consent would be required for any student COVID testing.

Dr. Carter then addressed the timeline for the following weeks before school reopening. He stated that many answers to questions will be found in the reopening report due Monday. Mr. Cobb and Mrs. Stewart discussed releasing the report simultaneously to parents and the school committee. However, Dr. Connolly stated that because it is such a critical document, the school committee should have an opportunity to review it before the document becomes public.

Dr. Carter then discussed training for RLA and hybrid teachers. Mr. Peri and Mr. Gibbons discussed student input received and plans to solicit additional student voices. Dr. Carter explained the hybrid model and that it would be difficult to allow students to select teachers or their MT/HF cohort due to the need to balance classes. Mr. Cobb noted that in order to offer a full program at the high school, there will be less flexibility in moving around cohorts. Dr. Carter further discussed the hybrid model and the different modes of learning. Dr. Connolly stated that the MIAA had not yet announced plans for fall athletics, but that the schools were dedicated to offering some athletic experience for students. Dr. Carter addressed the need for consistency in expectations, rigor, assessments and grading in both hybrid and remote. Mr. Peri addressed concerns regarding the impact of different learning models on the college process. Dr. Carter and Mrs. Black confirmed that the full program of studies will be offered at the high school for both hybrid and RLA students. Mr. Gibbons discussed welcoming new students to the district.

Dr. Connolly discussed calculation of student GPA given the quarter of pass/fail grades. Mr. Peri stated he will reach out to guidance for information regarding transcripts. Dr. McCanne noted that students would have access to their emails in the coming weeks. Dr. Carter discussed that the hybrid structure was chosen to ensure that children had shorter breaks between attending in-person classes and that cleaning would occur daily. Dr. Connolly discussed staggered drop off times, busing, and possible solutions if a teacher contracts the virus.

Mr. Cobb stated many questions will be answered with the revised reopening plan coming out on Monday and the biggest key is everyone remaining patient and flexible. Mrs. Black noted that questions unanswered during this forum will be answered individually and the committee will work to post all the answers to those questions for everyone to see.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm.

Recording of Meeting provided by Weston Media