

Weston Public Schools  
 Board of Education Meeting  
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center  
 April 18, 2016

**Attendance:**

Ellen Uzenoff, Chairperson	Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent
Philip Schaefer, Vice Chairperson	Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent
Elise Major, Secretary/Treasurer	Richard Rudl, Director of Finance & Operations
Jacqueline Blechinger	Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources
Denise Harvey	Eric Benninghoff, Student Representative
Daniel McNeill	David Silverman, Student Representative
Sara Spaulding	

**III. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. RECOGNITION**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board voted to approve the minutes from March 21. Ms. Harvey and Mr. McNeill were absent.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the March 21, 2016, Regular Meeting. Motion by Ms. Major; second by Mrs. Blechinger; 5 in favor – Mrs. Uzenoff, Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Major, Mrs. Blechinger, Ms. Spaulding; 2 abstained - Ms. Harvey and Mr. McNeill. (5-0-2)*

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – No Report**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Gifts**

Dr. Palmer, as per Board Policy #3280, has accepted, with appreciation, the following gifts from the Weston Intermediate School PTO:

- Registration for the Odyssey of the Mind after-school program;
- Five (5) Vex Robotic Super Kits;
- A Kidblog teacher subscription;
- Two (2) Magnetism and Electricity Kits; and
- 2016 Science Fair supplies.

**2. Vote on Alison Margo’s Leave of Absence Request**

Dr. Palmer discussed Ms. Margo’s request for a leave of absence and her support of the request.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves Alison Margo's leave of absence request for the 2016-17 school year. Motion by Mr. Schaefer, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (7-0)*

### **3. Retirements**

Mr. Brey, Director of Human Resources, discussed the Weston Teachers Association members who accepted the retirement incentive presented by the Board of Education.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes the retirement of the following certified staff effective on the later of June 14, 2016, or the last day of the teacher school year of 2016:*

- *Linda Allegretti, 1.0 FTE Fifth-Grade Teacher;*
- *Celeste Coulter, 1.0 FTE Fourth-Grade Teacher;*
- *Julia Hollins, 1.0 FTE English Teacher;*
- *Peggy Jorgensen, 1.0 FTE Project Challenge Teacher;*
- *Susan Pastor, 1.0 FTE Biology Teacher;*
- *Maxine Petrucelli, 1.0 FTE Library Media Specialist;*
- *Louise Stein, 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist; and*
- *Marcia Tubin, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher.*

*Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (7-0)*

### **4. Resignation**

Dr. Palmer announced the resignation of Sarah Holder from her special education teaching position.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes the resignation of Sarah Holder, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2016.*

*Motion by Ms. Major, second by Mr. McNeill, all in favor. (7-0)*

### **5. Vote on Proposed 2017-2018 Calendar**

Dr. Palmer presented the current draft calendar for 2017-2018, which was previewed at the March Board of Education monthly meeting. Board members discussed their disagreement with the regional calendar mandate.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the proposed 2017-2018 calendar. Motion by Ms. Major, second by Mrs. Blechinger, all in favor. (7-0)*

### **6. Vote on Proposed Changes to 2016-2017 Calendar**

Dr. Palmer presented the proposed changes to professional development days in the calendar for 2016-2017.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the proposed changes to the 2016-2017 calendar. Motion by Ms. Major, second by Mrs. Blechinger, all in favor. (7-0)*

**7. Non-Renewal of Long-Term Substitute Teachers**

In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-151, it was recommended that the following long-term substitute teachers not be renewed for the 2016-2017 school year. This action is necessary based on the duration of their long-term substitute employment, which approximates or exceeds ninety (90) days in the same assignment and does not reflect on their service to the Weston Public Schools.

*Motion: Moved that the contract of employment of the following long-term substitute teachers not be renewed for the 2016-2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action: Amy Jonsson, Kimberly Gregg, and Caitlyn Weir at Hurlbutt Elementary School; Peter Hadley and Stacie Reisner at Weston Intermediate School; and Karen Troost at Weston Middle School. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0)*

The Board noted that Caitlyn Weir should not be included in this non-renewal, as she is not a substitute teacher.

**8. Non-Renewal Long-Term Building Substitute Teachers**

In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-151, it was recommended that the following building substitute teachers not be renewed for the 2016-2017 school year. This action is necessary based on the duration of their long-term substitute employment, which approximates or exceeds ninety (90) days in the same assignment and does not reflect on their service to the Weston Public Schools.

*Motion: Moved that the contract of employment of the following permanent building substitute teacher not be renewed for the 2016-2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action: Gregg French at Weston High School. Motion by Mr. Schaefer, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0)*

**9. Non-Renewal Reduction in Force – Teachers**

In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-151, it is recommended that the following teachers not be renewed for the 2016-2017 school year. This action is attributed to the lack of an available position related to staff reduction(s) under consideration in the school district's budget and/or the return of a tenured teacher(s) from leave for the 2015-2016 school year.

*Motion: Moved that the following teacher not be renewed for the 2016-2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action: Christopher Pace at Weston High School. Motion by Ms. Major, second by Mrs. Spaulding, all in favor. (7-0)*

## **10. Non-Renewal of Teachers Hired Post-Retirement**

While Connecticut law allows for the hiring of retired teachers for positions, teachers who are hired out of retirement could accumulate tenure rights, and thus must be notified of non-renewal. This action does not reflect on their service to the Weston Public Schools.

*Motion: Moved that the contract of employment of the following retired teachers not be renewed for the 2016-2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action: Arlene Beckoff, Hurlbutt Elementary School, and Mary Jane Strasser, Weston Middle School. Motion by Ms. Major, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (7-0)*

## **11. Approval of Contract with Effective School Solutions**

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Brey, Director of Human Resources and Internal Counsel, discussed the one-year contract with Effective School Solutions. If Weston continues with the service next year, the contract will need to be amended or a new contract agreed upon. Discussion by the Board followed.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the entering into by the Board of a contract with Effective School Solutions for a term matching that of the 2016-17 school year, and for a fee for services equal to \$270,000, in form and substance satisfactory to the Board's counsel and the Superintendent, and authorizes the Superintendent to execute the contract on behalf of the Board. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Blechinger, all in favor. (7-0)*

## **12. Temporary Suspension of Policy 1325, Advertising and Promotion, to Allow Display of Sponsorship Banner at Varsity and Baseball and Softball Fields**

Mr. McNeill, Board of Education Member and Chair of the Policy Committee, discussed the request of the Diamond Club to sell sponsorships in the form of banners on the field. The Temporary suspension would allow five banners on each field this year, in order to further evaluate. Discussion by the Board followed.

*Motion: Moved that, pursuant to Weston Board of Education Bylaw 9314, the Weston Board of Education temporarily suspend the provision of Policy 1325, Advertising and Promotion, Section 2(A) that reads: "Approved advertising by private interests or outside organizations must be confined to the football field/track facility ("Football Field") and the lighted "Varsity Field" for the limited purpose of permitting the display of sponsorship banners at the varsity baseball and softball fields as a pilot for the current spring season. The number of banners permitted will be limited to five (5) banners at each field, and this temporary suspension will expire at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The placement of the banners will be subject to the provisions of Policy 1325, and Policy 1325 will remain in full force and effect except as temporarily suspended pursuant to this motion. Motion by Mr. McNeill; second by Ms. Harvey; 6 in favor – Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Major, Mrs. Blechinger, Ms. Harvey, Mr. McNeill, Ms. Spaulding; 1 opposed – Mrs. Uzenoff. (6-1)*

### **13. Ninth FY 2016 Financial Updates and Approval of Transfers**

Mr. Richard Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a monthly financial update. Transfers were presented for approval totaling \$71,751, four of which were in excess of \$5,000.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the transfers as presented by Mr. Rudl in the ninth FY 2016 financial update. Motion by Mr. Schaefer; second by Ms. Major; 6 in favor – Mrs. Uzenoff, Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Major, Mrs. Blechinger, Mr. McNeill, Ms. Spaulding; 1 abstained – Mrs. Harvey. Ms. Harvey abstained solely because of the transfer related to the Mock Trail, as her family is involved in the program. (6-0-1)*

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Weston Board of Education Policies, Regulations, and Bylaws**

Mr. Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources and Internal Counsel, reviewed:

- Weston Board of Education Policy 4119, Concussion Training for Athletic Coaches;
- Policy 5114, Student Discipline;
- Policy 4118.26, Restraint and Seclusion of Persons at Risk;
- Policy 5131.6, Alcohol Use, Drugs, Tobacco, E-Cigarettes, and Vapor Products;
- Policy 5131.7, Chemical Health for Student Athletes; and
- Policy 1256, Prohibition Against Smoking.

Nothing has changed in these policies since the First Reading. Mr. McNeill requested to postpone the approval of Policy 5131.6 to allow the Policy Committee to include Michelle Albright, Weston's Youth Services Director, in the policy's discussion at its next meeting. Discussion by the Board, Administration, and student representatives followed.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves Policy 4119, Concussion Training for Athletic Coaches; Policy 5114, Student Discipline; Policy 4118.26, Restraint and Seclusion of Persons at Risk; Policy 5131.6, Alcohol Use, Drugs, Tobacco, E-Cigarettes, and Vapor Products; Policy 5131.7, Chemical Health for Student Athletes; and Policy 1256, Prohibition Against Smoking. Motion by Mr. McNeill, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0)*

## **IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- 1. Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, May 16, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a special meeting on Monday, April 25, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. with an overview of district technology provided by Dr. Craig Tunks, Director of Digital Learning and Innovation.**

## **2. District Update**

Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, highlighted some of the takeaways from a Superintendents' Summit she attended and emerging technologies for classroom education. Dr. Palmer also announced that Commencement 2016 will occur on Monday, June 13, at 6:00 p.m. under the tent and the eighth-grade moving-up ceremony will be the previous Friday at 5:00 p.m. under the tent. Additionally, on April 26, the district will host Ken Kay, Executive Director of EdLeader21, for professional development regarding preparing the high school graduate to succeed in a global environment.

## **3. Principals' Reports**

Ms. Pattie Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, discussed the science fair, the fifth-grade strings and band debut concert, and the Showstoppers musical *The Jungle Book*. Mrs. Laura Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, announced the upcoming reveal of the book selection for the One School One Book program and highlighted the biography unit of study for second graders. Mr. Dan Doak, Weston Middle School Principal, announced upcoming events including the Not My Kid community conversation about current trends in substance abuse and how we can support our teens, and transition night for parents. Mr. Doak also highlighted recent music events, completion of eighth-grade writing portfolio, and career day. Mrs. Lisa Deorio, Weston High School Principal, discussed upcoming end-of-year events, the Spectrum Concert, the sold-out *Legally Blonde* musical, recent field trips and international trips, and career day.

# **X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **1. WHS Student Representatives' Report**

Mr. Eric Benninghoff discussed the Builders Beyond Borders trip, upcoming AP exams and internships, a documentary he is involved in on voting rights, Nile Rogers visit and performance sponsored by ADAP, and spring sports. Mr. David Silverman discussed internships, upcoming spirit week, technology for schools, and the importance of technology/phone-free time.

## **2. Superintendent Search Committee**

Mrs. Ellen Uzenoff, Board Chair, discussed the superintendent search and indicated we are on target for early May.

Mrs. Uzenoff also reminded community members of the upcoming Annual Town Budget Meeting (ATBM) Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. at Weston High School.

## **3. Communications Committee**

Per Ms. Sara Spaulding, there will be a Board member attending the Town Strategic Planning Committee meetings. In addition, Mrs. Uzenoff and Dr. Palmer are scheduled to attend upcoming PTO meetings to discuss the budget.

**4. Curriculum Committee**

Per Mr. Philip Schaefer, the Committee discussed the following items at the March meeting: graduation requirements, K-5 social studies curriculum renewal, the Weston High School trip to Spain, Math professional development, and the Weston Historical Society's veterans of World War II program. The next Committee meeting will be held on May 11, as the April meeting was postponed.

**5. Finance Committee**

Per Mr. Philip Schaefer, the following items were discussed at the April Committee meeting: the financial update, Internal Services Fund, the technology lease for the current year, and possible end-of-year requests. The next Committee meeting will be held on May 6.

**6. Facilities Committee**

Ms. Elise Major discussed the following items from the April Committee meeting: a gravel safety path on School Road, pool and grounds MOUs, oil tanks, and end-of-year facilities requests. The next Committee meeting will be held on May 13.

**7. Policy Committee**

There was nothing further to add beyond what was discussed previously on the agenda. Mr. McNeill thanked everyone who has contributed their time to the Policy Committee meetings. The next Committee meeting will be held on May 4.

**8. Negotiations Committee**

There was nothing to report.

**9. CES – Elise Major**

There was nothing to report.

**10. CABE – Daniel McNeill**

There are a number of pieces of legislation that are being discussed. Mr. McNeill will provide additional information upon request.

**11. Weston Education Foundation – Sara Spaulding**

There was nothing to report. The next meeting will be held on April 26.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.