

Weston Public Schools
 Board of Education Meeting
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
 December 15, 2014

Attendance:

Ellen Uzenoff, Vice Chairperson	Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance & Ops. (departed 9:00 p.m.)
Dana Levin, Secretary/Treasurer	Jackson Marvin, Student Representative
Denise Harvey	Jack Seigenthaler, Student Representative
Sara Spaulding	
Elise Major	<i>Absent:</i> Philip Schaefer, Chairperson
Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent	Nina Daniel
Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent	Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources

I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM
Ellen Uzenoff, Vice Chairperson

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Uzenoff announced a change to the agenda: Item 1, WHS Student Representatives Report, under section IX, Committee Reports, will be the next item on the agenda.

WHS Student Representatives Report

Mr. Seigenthaler and Mr. Marvin commented on the Shine a Light campaign’s December-January fundraising for the Wounded Warrior Project, a win for the mock trial team, and the return of period “x” for the holidays, in which teachers host an activity for their students.

III. RECOGNITION – No report

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the minutes from November 17. Mrs. Uzenoff was absent.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the November 17, 2014 Regular Session. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Major, 4 in favor – Mrs. Levin, Ms. Harvey, Ms. Major, Ms. Spaulding; 1 abstained – Mrs. Uzenoff. (4-0-1)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – No report

Mrs. Uzenoff announced a change to the agenda: Item 3 Principals Reports, under section VII, Superintendent’s Report, will be moved to the first item under section VI, New Business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Principals’ Reports

Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, highlighted first-grade student writing and second-grade student Hour of Code participation. Ms. Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, requested community volunteers for this year's mentorship program and reported on the Veterans Day celebration; a visit from Alan Moskin, a World War II liberator; and the Cardboard Challenge. Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, discussed the rescheduling of the annual financial aid seminar, announced Thursday's junior planning seminar, and highlighted the annual film analysis unit, salsa dancing in physical education classes, a technology workshop for the senior center, student of the month recognition, and the alumni update. Mrs. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, was not in attendance.

2. Retirements

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, announced the retirement of two employees that have been with Weston for many years, and thanked them for their years of service.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes the retirement of Nancy St. Clair, 1.0 FTE School Counselor for Weston High School and Arline Beckoff, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher for Hurlbutt Elementary School, effective June 30, 2015. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (5-0)

3. Approval of Substitute Pay Proposal

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, discussed the draft proposal to increase substitute pay beginning January 1, 2015, as a pilot program, including an additional adjustment for substitutes at Hurlbutt Elementary School and Weston Intermediate School after the completion of 10 days of service. Dr. Palmer expressed concern over the difficulty of securing qualified substitute teachers and substitute paraprofessionals for Hurlbutt Elementary School and Weston Intermediate School. Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, discussed the possible funding of this initiative through the existing substitutes account. Discussion by the Board followed.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the proposal concerning substitute pay dated November 14, 2014. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (5-0)

4. Third FY 2015 Financial Update and Approval of Transfers

Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a monthly financial update. We are currently trending below the claim forecast in the Internal Services Fund. There were no transfers to present and no motion was required.

5. Update on Budget Development

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, spoke about factors that influence budget numbers, including general enrollment trends, staffing levels, salary and benefits increases due to union contractual obligations, food service bids, transportation contracts; the need to maintaining the integrity and quality of our educational system while maintaining fiscal responsibility; a district-wide focus on five key areas of work

(writing, math, STEM, pathways to success, and healthy learning environments); and the reframing/leveraging of technology within those areas. Dr. Palmer also discussed the capital budget, including the systems failures that are starting to emerge due to a slower repair schedule than what is recommended in the Kastle Boos study, and underground oil tanks that must be removed. Mrs. Uzenoff, Board of Education Vice Chairperson, discussed the recent meeting of the Capital Advisory Committee, and the district's need to have a refreshed study completed in order to stay on top of the stewardship of our facilities. Discussion by the Board followed.

6. Discussion and Possible Vote on Moving Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences from May to March

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, discussed moving the May 7 and 8 spring parent-teacher conferences to March 26 and 27 to align the conferences with progress reports. If this adjustment is successful, a proposed adjustment to the 2015-16 calendar would be brought forward in April. Discussion by the Board followed.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves moving the May 7 and 8 parent-teacher conferences to March 26 and 27. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (5-0)

VII. OLD BUSINESS – No report

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Budget Workshops are on Tuesday, January 13, 2015; Tuesday, January 20, 2015; and Thursday, January 22, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, January 26, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, announced preparations for a visit from the Tri-State Consortium, commented on STEM work and student achievement in the district, and thanked the Board for its work on vision and core beliefs at the recent workshop.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Uzenoff congratulated the Weston Trojans Youth Cheer Gold Team on their national championship.

1. Communications Committee

Ms. Spaulding reminded the Board of the upcoming January Realtors Open House.

2. Curriculum Committee

Dr. Craw, Assistant Superintendent, discussed the following topics from the December 10 meeting: updates on math and writing initiatives, a Tri-State visit in March to evaluate our math program, the writing portfolio project for tenth and eighth

grade, high school graduation requirements, an update on STEM and robotics clubs at the middle school and intermediate school, and National Computer Science Education Week. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 14.

3. Finance Committee

Ms. Harvey discussed the following topics from the December 4 Finance Committee meeting, in addition to those covered previously on the agenda: fundraising to replace the pole vault and high jump pits and working with the Boosters to replace signage on the lower field. Dr. Palmer announced that Weston was awarded a security grant and thanked the Weston Police department for their assistance with the application. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 9.

4. Facilities Committee

Per Ms. Major, there is nothing to report beyond what was discussed previously on the agenda. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 12.

5. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting will be in January.

6. Negotiations Committee

Per Ms. Harvey there is nothing to report.

7. CES – No report

8. CAFE

Per Ms. Major there is nothing to report.

9. Weston Education Foundation

Ms. Harvey discussed the following topics from the December meeting: the new website has been launched and annual letters have been sent out.

X. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (5-0)
Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

Minutes reviewed/approved by Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent.