

Weston Public Schools
 Board of Education Meeting
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
 December 16, 2013

Attendance:

Philip Schaefer, Chairperson	Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent
Ellen Uzenoff, Vice Chairperson	Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent
Dana Levin, Secretary/Treasurer	Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance & Ops.
Nina Daniel	Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources
Denise Harvey	
Elise Major	<i>Absent:</i> Sara Spaulding

III. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. RECOGNITION – No Report

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the minutes from November 25 (Ms. Daniel was absent).

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the November 25, 2013 Regular and Executive Sessions. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Harvey, 5 in favor, 1 abstain. (5-0-1)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Darcy Barrera-Hawes, Merry Lane

Ms. Barrera-Hawes spoke against the co-mingling of public offices with our schools. As part of Weston Students First, she met with a representative of Governor Malloy’s office to request help in this matter.

Katie Gregory, Farrell Road

Ms. Gregory spoke against co-mingling of public offices with our schools. She cited recent news events involving school shootings.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Gifts

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

- *a mascot bee costume (\$110);*
- *stakes for memorial seating area tables (\$1,264);*

- \$12,500 for the LRC reimagining project; and
- square carpets for the first grade (\$3,283).

2. Retirement

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes and records the retirement of Sal LaRusso, 1.0 Weston High School Music Teacher, effective June 30, 2014. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

3. Resignation

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes and records the resignation of Selina Melnyk, 1.0 Hurlbutt Elementary School Teacher, effective January 1, 2014. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (6-0)

4. Annual Energy Update

Dave Lustberg provided the annual update on Weston Public Schools energy conservation and savings. Over four years, a net savings of \$1,565,626.50 has been realized. Weston High School was awarded with a certificate for having the greatest energy savings at 31%.

5. Special Education Budget Reforecast

Dr. Keating and Ms. Pernice discussed the special education budget reforecast, indicating a proposed deficit of \$230k and including \$225k in potential out-placements not currently factored into the total net special education budget presented. The district is mandated to provide special education for students from age 3 in preschool through the end of the school year in which the student turns 21 years of age.

6. Discussion and Vote on Request for Supplemental Appropriation

Dr. Palmer summarized key accounts and discussed the need for a supplemental appropriation given the unanticipated expenses of FY 2013-14.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education formally requests a supplemental appropriation from the Town of Weston in the amount of \$230,000 for the 2013-14 fiscal year. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (6-0)

7. 2014-2015 Budget Development Update

Dr. Palmer and Dr. Keating updated the Board on development of the 2014-2015 budget. The district is on target to complete the draft budget and deliver it to the Board on December 23.

8. Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations

Mr. Brey reviewed a first reading of the following Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations:

- A. Policy 4111, Recruitment and Selection of Certified Personnel;
- B. Regulation 4111, Recruitment and Selection of Certified Personnel; and
- C. Policy 4211, Recruitment and Selection of Non-Certified Personnel.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations

Mr. Brey reviewed the following Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations:

- A. Regulation 5118, Non-Resident Attendance and Tuition Fees;
- B. Regulation 5111, Admission/Placement;
- C. Policy 5111, Admission/Placement; and
- D. Policy 1330, Community Relations: Use of School Facilities.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves Regulation 5118, Non-Resident Attendance and Tuition Fees; Regulation 5111, Admission/Placement; Policy 5111, Admission/Placement; and Policy 1330, Community Relations: Use of School Facilities. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (6-0)

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting Monday, January 27, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. and Budget Workshop #1 Tuesday, January 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Palmer announced that the last day of school is now June 9 due to the recent snow day. She also discussed the ongoing joint facilities study (options to be reviewed in January, after a security consultant has reviewed the proposals) and the upcoming second meeting of the task force on mandate relief, of which she is a part. Dr. Palmer highlighted the regional symposium on technology and digital learning held by the superintendents of the Southern Fairfield County Superintendents' Association, and the Common Core information and resources posted on the district website.

3. Principals' Reports

Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, highlighted the first grade multi-disciplinary project on community workers, a continued focus on writing, and success in kindergarten writing. Ms. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, focused on AIM units for fourth and fifth grade, professional development in technology, and rolling out Google Docs and Google Drive. Mrs. Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, discussed the orchestra performance at the CAFE Convention, success of the Barnes and Noble fundraiser, the first trimester breakfast for students, and an upcoming SOAR pajama day. Mr. Doak, Weston High School Assistant Principal, commented on winter sports accomplishments, the annual film festival, and musical performances.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Communications Committee

The meeting scheduled for December 17 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.

2. Curriculum Committee

The following items from the December 11 meeting were discussed by Mrs. Uzenoff: science, tenth-grade writing portfolio, the reintroduction and restructuring of Spanish at Hurlbutt Elementary School for grades K and 1, visit to New Canaan to see their Spanish immersion program, and high school graduation requirements. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 8 at 8:00 a.m.

3. Finance Committee

The following items from the December 5 meeting were discussed by Ms. Harvey: budget development updates, State security grants, the Weston High School windows and doors project, revenue opportunities/foreign students, Mile of Safety payment, and substitutes for the lower schools. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 14 at 8:00 a.m.

4. Facilities Committee

The following items from the December 3 meeting were discussed by Mrs. Uzenoff: capital projects, the high school windows project, testing/remediation, the cost avoidance report, field lighting and sound, an upcoming visit to Staples High School, and security updates. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 15 at 4:00 p.m.

5. Policy Committee

Per Mrs. Levin, the policies readings from today's agenda were discussed at the December 3 meeting. Graduation requirements will be discussed at the upcoming meeting. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 7 at 8:15 a.m. Dr. Palmer and Mr. Brey added that all policies are in the process of being added to the website in a more easily accessed format.

6. Negotiations Committee

Nothing to report.

7. CES

The following items from the November 2 meeting were discussed by Ms. Daniel: uniform school calendar, job search program, consultants available for evaluations, and a December 5 C.E.S. Foundation event. The next meeting is scheduled for January 8. Ms. Daniel also distributed a flyer for the upcoming CES Board Forum.

8. CABE

Nothing to report.

9. Weston Education Foundation

Ms. Harvey announced that two grants were awarded: a musical composition grant for Jeff Holmes in the amount of \$5,000 to work with a professional composer to create a song, that when performed, will have a special dedication to AJ Cina, and \$2,500 to the middle school Project Lead the Way for their module on energy and the environment. Ms. Harvey also discussed new leadership effective January 1, with Eileen Sawyer serving as the new WEF Chair; new fundraising opportunities; and a presentation by Dr. Craw and Ms. Falber on AIM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Daniel, all in favor. (6-0) Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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

Chairman

Secretary

Approved by the Board of Education January 27, 2014.