

Weston Public Schools
 Board of Education Meeting
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
 December 21, 2015

Attendance:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM
Philip Schaefer, Board Vice-Chairperson

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECOGNITION

1. 2016 Superintendent of the Year

Mr. Philip Schaefer, Weston Board of Education Vice-Chairperson, and Dr. Joseph Cirusuolo, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Executive Director, recognized Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, as Connecticut's 2016 Superintendent of the Year. Mr. Cirusuolo presented Dr. Palmer with a chair and discussed the process behind this prestigious award. Senators Tony Boucher and Tony Hwang, and State Representative John Shaban read and presented Dr. Palmer with a State citation, Mr. Schaefer presented Dr. Palmer with gift from the Weston Board of Education, and individual Board members expressed their appreciation for Dr. Palmer's years of dedicated work in Weston. Nina Daniel, First Selectman, congratulated Dr. Palmer on her award.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education recognizes Dr. Colleen Palmer, Connecticut's 2016 Superintendent of the Year, for her outstanding service to the students of Weston. Motion by Ms. Major, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The Board voted to approve the minutes from November 16.

Ms. Sara Spaulding was absent from the November 16 meeting.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the November 16, 2015, Regular Meeting. Motion by Ms. Major; second by Ms.

Harvey; five in favor – Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Major, Mrs. Blechinger, Ms. Harvey, Mr. McNeill; one abstained – Ms. Spaulding. (5-0-1)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Levin, Georgetown Road. Mrs. Levin congratulated Dr. Palmer, spoke about her memories of the superintendent search five years ago, and highlighted Dr. Palmer's merits and accomplishments.

Andy Lemus, Local 371 Union, Representing Shamrock Janitors. Mr. Lemus spoke on behalf of increased wages and benefits for the Shamrock janitors and requested that the Board speak to Shamrock to renegotiate a contract.

Ron Petronella, Local 371 Union, Representing Shamrock Janitors. Mr. Petronella requested help from the Board of Education to increase the wages for Shamrock's employees.

Brandon Rakowski, Weston High School Senior. Mr. Rakowski echoed what was said by Mr. Lemus and Mr. Petronella, and requested that Weston Public Schools work with Shamrock to increase wages for Shamrock's employees.

Jesse Kallins, Weston High School Junior. Mr. Kallins spoke in favor of making personal finance a graduation requirement for Weston High School.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Effective School Solutions (ESS) Presentation

Ms. Lois Pernice, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, provided a presentation on Effective School Solutions. She discussed the mission of ESS, the development/history of ESS, districts in NJ and CT where ESS has a presence, aggregate data on the effectiveness of ESS results, provided services, and what ESS would look like in Weston Public Schools. Discussion by the Board followed.

2. Weston Board of Education Policies, Regulations, and Bylaws

Mr. Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources and Internal Counsel, provided a first reading of Weston Board of Education Policy 3323, Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations); Policy 5137, Physical Activity and Student Discipline; and Policy 4111.3, Background Checks. Discussion by the Board followed.

3. Fifth FY 2016 Financial Update and Approval of Transfers

Mr. Richard Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a monthly financial update, including transfers totaling \$111,880. Healthcare claims are trending favorably, and it is anticipated that the internal services fund will continue to grow.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the transfers as presented by Mr. Rudl in the fifth FY 2016 financial update. Motion by Mrs. Blechinger, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (6-0)

4. Discussion and Vote on New Weston High School Courses

Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent, and Mrs. Lisa Deorio, Weston High School Principal, discussed six courses that have been reviewed by the Curriculum Committee:

- Environmental Science;
- Music Theory;
- Creative Computer Applications;
- Statistics;
- AP Computer Science A; and
- AP Psychology.

Approval by the full Board will allow the courses to be considered for inclusion in the program of studies over the next several years pending budget priorities. These courses would only result in a 0.1 FTE staffing increase. Discussion by the Board and feedback from the Board of Education Student Representatives followed.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the courses under agenda item XI. 4. as presented by Dr. Craw and Mrs. Deorio for Weston High School. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (6-0)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. 2017 Capital Budget Request

Mr. Richard Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations, discussed the revised draft FY 2017 Capital Budget Request. This request has been reduced from the previous version. The biggest change has been in the area of air conditioning in the schools, as an engineering study is required prior to beginning these projects. Discussion by the Board followed.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Budget Workshops are on Tuesday, January 12, 2016; Tuesday, January 19, 2016; and Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. The Budget Workshop Snow Date is Saturday, January 23, 2016. Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, January 25, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Palmer announced that the forthcoming budget will be less than 2% this year, and discussed security items, including feedback from certified traffic consultants due in January, the SRO, a security review in collaboration with the Weston Police Department and an outside consultant, an enhanced communication system, and NIMS training for Central Office administrators. Dr. Palmer also announced that the outline of the 2017-18 regional calendar has been received, and provided key dates

including a start date of August 31.

3. Principals' Reports

Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, highlighted examples of critical thinking and problem-solving in the K-2 curriculum. Ms. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, discussed the variety of learning experiences in technology in grades 3-5. Mr. Doak, Weston Middle School Principal, talked about a philanthropy grant that allowed author Kate Klise to visit the middle school, a French pen pal exchange program, and school counselors beginning to work with all of the middle school students in Naviance. Mr. Doak also congratulated the students involved in the musical concerts held this month. Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, announced the annual film festival month, Greek tragedies covered in humanities classes, the upcoming X period day, exciting field trips, a tenth Michaels' Cup, and alumni news.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. WHS Student Representatives Report

Mr. Benninghoff congratulated Dr. Palmer on her award and thanked her for meeting with them to discuss Choice, voiced support for the janitorial staff, and updated the Board on community service initiatives. Mr. Silverman commented on K-5 hour of code participation and middle school use of Naviance. He also highlighted the high school's focus on the UN's sustainable development initiative, and provided information on school improvement committee results and recycling projects at the high school.

2. Communications Committee

Ms. Spaulding discussed the following items from the December work session: moving the open house to spring and a possible column in the *Weston Forum*. The next meeting will be in January.

3. Curriculum Committee

Per Mr. Schaefer, there is nothing to report beyond what was discussed previously on the agenda. The next meeting will be on January 20.

4. Finance Committee

Per Ms. Harvey, in addition to the items discussed previously on the agenda, the Whitewater wastewater contract was also discussed at the December meeting. The next meeting will be on January 21.

5. Facilities Committee

Mrs. Major discussed the following items from the December meeting: monthly project status update, air conditioning and engineering studies, the FY 2017 capital

budget, exterior lights that were fixed by CL&P, senior center signage, and moving the meeting time. The next meeting will be on January 8.

6. Policy Committee

Per Mr. McNeill, there are 18 legislative actions that impact district policies, so there is much work to do for the Committee. The next meeting, scheduled for January 8, will be rescheduled to another date in January.

7. Negotiations Committee

Per Ms. Harvey, discussions continue with AFSCME.

8. CES

There was nothing to report.

9. CAFE

Per Mr. McNeill, the CAFE/CAPSS Convention in November was enlightening and throughout the sessions, there was a recurring theme of a shift to individualized learning.

10. Weston Education Foundation

Per Ms. Spaulding, donations letters are out, and at last week's meeting there was a presentation by 360 Alumni.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.
Motion by Ms. Major, second by Mr. McNeill, all in favor. (6-0)*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.