

Weston Public Schools  
 Board of Education Work Session  
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center  
 December 8, 2014

**Attendance:**

Philip Schaefer, Chairperson	Dr. Kenneth Crow, Assistant Superintendent
Ellen Uzenoff, Vice Chairperson	Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance & Ops.
Dana Levin, Secretary/Treasurer	Erik Haakonsen, Director of Technology
Nina Daniel	Lisa Deorio, Weston High School Principal
Denise Harvey	Amy Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal
Sara Spaulding	Pattie Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal
Elise Major	Laura Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal
Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent	<i>Absent:</i> Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources

**I. Discussion of District Vision, Goals, and Core Values**

Dr. Palmer summarized the work of the Master Planning Team thus far, and the Principals summarized the discussions on vision and core values held with their respective schools.

The Board discussed numerous concepts that describe Weston Public Schools, including the following:

- Rigorous
- Cutting-edge
- Innovative
- Students that are socially responsible
- Continuous improvement
- Adaptive, flexible, dynamic
- Small, personal
- Inspires life-long learners
- World-class

The Board discussed what sets our schools, staff, and students apart from those in neighboring districts:

- We know our students
- Students know we care and therefore feel supported and have more confidence
- We care for every child
- We cultivate the potential of each student so they are able to reach a greater level of success
- Students feel safe and inspired in their learning environment
- Weston Pubic Schools enables students to recognize and pursue their strengths
- “Smallness” means more opportunities to participate in co-curricular activities of interest, leadership development, and other personal development
- What we say we are doing, we are doing, not just saying it

- There is a sense of community, belonging, and personal responsibility
- Faculty are innovating as educators to lead the way as educators, even beyond our district
- We foster student adaptability/resilience/perseverance/grit/tenacity
- Students are creative/innovative
- Students exhibit tolerance and self-advocacy
- The level of interaction between students and faculty builds confidence that extends into higher learning
- Students feel prepared for and excel in highly rigorous programs at top institutions of higher learning

The Board discussed thoughts to consider in crafting a vision statement:

- We provide the tools to achieve success
- Many school districts will share a common vision of where they want students to go, the difference is in multiple pathways to success
- We should distinguish ourselves from our competition
- Students must feel comfortable and safe in order to push them to their intellectual best
- Configuration and budget changes do not affect the vision, but the delivery will change
- Key definitions must be given, such as “mission” versus “vision” and “individualized” versus “personalized”

The Board discussed revisions to the draft vision statement that was created by the Master Planning Team, including: it should be in the future tense as it is a goal and we are not there yet; and a strong action verb is needed to define us. The Board discussed possible phrases for inclusion in the revised vision statement: “awaken a love of learning for every child,” “shed light on the complexities of the world they will inherit,” and “independent, inquisitive, and innovative learners.”

## **II. Discussion of Future Outlook**

The Board discussed trends it needs to be mindful of as it considers its future in 5-10 years, including enrollment, changing needs of higher education, technology, fiscal resources, and special education. It reviewed enrollment data and discussed the possible transition of grade 2 to Weston Intermediate School.

## **III. Next Steps**

After notes from the meeting are synthesized, Board volunteers will meet with the Administrative team to revise the draft vision statement.

## **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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