

Weston Public Schools
 Board of Education Special Meeting
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
 February 24, 2015

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	Jackson Marvin, Student Representative (arrived 8:09 p.m.)
Denise Harvey	
Elise Major	<i>Absent:</i> Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources
Sara Spaulding	Jack Seigenthaler, Student Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

Philip Schaefer, Chairperson

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECOGNITION – No report

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the minutes from January 20 and 22.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the January 20, 2015, Work Session; January 20, 2015, Budget Workshop; January 22, 2015, Work Session; and January 22, 2015, Budget Workshop. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0)

The Board voted to approve the minutes from January 29. Ms. Harvey was absent.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the January 29, 2015 Special Meeting. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Major, 6 in favor – Mr. Schaefer, Mrs. Uzenoff, Mrs. Levin, Ms. Daniel, Ms. Major, Ms. Spaulding; 1 abstained – Ms. Harvey. (6-0-1)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – No report

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resignation

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, and members of the Board thanked Erik Haakonesen for his years of service to the Weston Board of Education, and wished him well in his new position with Bridgeport Public Schools.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes the resignation of Erik Haakonsen, Director of Technology for Weston Public Schools, effective February 27, 2015. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (7-0)

2. Internal Assessment Report

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools thanked, those involved in this endeavor and provided an overview of the importance of this work. Dr. Craw, Assistant Superintendent, introduced the Curriculum Instructional Leaders (CILs) in attendance. He provided a qualitative report on the implementation of district performance assessments and an update on the AIM initiative. Beginning with a partnership with Teachers College five years ago, we have progressed to a refinement and evaluation stage of the AIM implementation plan. The performance assessments, which were highlighted by CILs, are grades 2, 5, and 8 cornerstones; grade 7 population study; and grade 10 writing portfolio. The goal is to have a cornerstone at each grade level. Currently, a grade 8 writing portfolio is being piloted. Discussion by the Board followed.

3. Fifth FY 2015 Financial Update and Approval of Transfers

Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a monthly financial report, including one transfer to cover the cost of replacing the tricaster at the middle school library.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the transfers as presented by Dr. Keating in the fifth FY 2015 financial report. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (7-0)

Dr. Keating also gave an update on the status of the Board of Education proposed budget for FY 2016, which has been reduced from a 3.17% increase to a 2.80% increase. Reductions since the initial presentation by administrators of a 3.17% budget include: adult education, MERF, changes due to the resignation of the Director of Technology, and removal of gap funding for ESS. Discussion by the Board followed regarding the reductions, as well as a statement by Mr. Schaefer that it did not need to formally vote on the reduction.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, March 16, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, acknowledged the work of the administrative team in developing the FY 2016 budget over the past five months. She also discussed her recent full-day visits to each of the schools to make herself accessible to staff for feedback, questions, and concerns. Lastly, she made the following announcements: a rescheduled meeting on vision statement work to be held on Friday; the last day of

school is currently June 11; and on April 1 the date of commencement for Weston High School will be set.

Erik Haakonsen, Director of Technology, provided an update to the Board on technology, based on questions raised at last night's Board of Selectmen meeting. After recycling end-of-lifecycle devices, the addition of 630 requested Chromebooks will bring the total number of digital devices for general student use to 997 (42% of anticipated enrollment). He also discussed the benefits and limitations of Bring Your Own Device. Discussion by the Board followed.

3. Principals' Reports

Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, highlighted the 100th day of school and a presentation by Andrea Noble to the PTO on reading levels. Ms. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, commented on Black History Month projects and Dr. Craw's lesson on squishy circuits. Ms. Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, discussed the National Geography Bee, seventh grade study of the Harlem Renaissance, mock trial, and robotics club. Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, announced tonight's boys' basketball win, tomorrow's mock trial against Ridgefield, eighth-grade transition night, the March production of *Barnum*, and the hosting of an exchange student in partnership with Rotary International.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. WHS Student Representatives' Report

Mr. Marvin discussed Winter Spirit Week, the Shine a Light campaign, and the upcoming annual food drive and April Spirit Week.

2. Communications Committee

Ms. Daniel reported on the communications survey results that were discussed at the February 19 meeting. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 3.

3. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Schaefer discussed the following topics from the February 11 meeting: STEM/STEAM program needs, an update on the March Tri-State visitation, information on the 2015 K-5 summer literacy institute, Weston High School new course offerings for 2016-17, and results of a social studies survey. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 11.

4. Finance Committee

Per Ms. Harvey, in addition to what was discussed previously in the agenda, the following items were discussed at the February 12 meeting: the security grant, our food service program, the health insurance rebid, and an update on excess cost grant. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 12.

5. Facilities Committee

Per Ms. Major and Dr. Keating, in addition to what was discussed previously in the agenda, the following items were discussed at the February 11 meeting: a look ahead at summer projects, completion of the auditorium inspection, continued lighting adjustments by MUSCO, and the Zenon plant recertification. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 11.

6. Policy Committee

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 3.

7. Negotiations Committee – No report

8. CES – No report

9. CAFE – No report

10. Weston Education Foundation – No report

X. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Major, all in favor.
(7-0) Meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.