

Weston Public Schools
 Board of Education Special Meeting
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
 February 25, 2014

Attendance:

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

**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 23, January 25, and January 27.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the January 23, 2014 Budget Workshop #2, the January 25, 2014 Budget Workshop #3, and the January 27, 2014 Regular and Executive Sessions. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (6-0)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Harry Spencer, Lyons Plain Road

Mr. Spencer spoke about his family’s support of the sound mitigation project, and desire to optimize the turf field use through the installation of lights. He explained reasoning that Westport’s field cannot compare to the field in Weston.

Lisa Feinberg, Attorney on behalf of Parade Ground Court Residents Lawrence and Sheryl Schwartz

Ms. Feinberg spoke about the impact of the field lights on the residents of Parade Ground Court. She requested additional specifications.

Marc Sandy Block, Parade Ground Court

Mr. Block described the lights as an unfair burden on the residents of Parade Ground Court and described his concerns, including the safety of students participating in evening football games and insurance increases.

Ian Gomar, Pheasant Hill Road

Mr. Gomar argued against some of the previously stated objections against the field lighting project and urged the Board to move forward.

Brian Porter, Parade Ground Court

Mr. Porter stated that he is an advocate for sports in Weston, but is opposed to the installation of permanent lights as presented and urged a delay in vote. He requested specific clarifications in the proposal.

Fred Lawrence, Pilgrim Lane

Mr. Lawrence feels that the lighting project would have a pronounced positive impact on the Town, and commented on some of the previous statements in opposition to the project.

Karen Mitchell, Joanne Lane, President of Weston Lacrosse Club

Ms. Mitchell explained that many lacrosse coaches are dads who work, and cannot coach until evening hours and that there is a need for safe playing space.

Steven Semaya, Parade Ground Court

Mr. Semaya would like to enter his email of yesterday to the Board into the record and spoke against the stadium lighting proposal and requested a tabling of the vote until an environmental impact study could be conducted by a neutral third party. He expressed his concern about quality of life impact, particularly for his young children, and unanticipated operating costs.

Michael Carter, Sachem Road, President of Weston Sports Commission and Member of the Weston Board of Finance

Mr. Carter thanked the Board for their work on the sound mitigation and commented on some of the concerns expressed previously. He is empathetic to the neighbors' requests for greater specificity. He spoke to someone originally opposed to lights in Westport who spoke positively about it.

Jonathan Kamisar, Parade Ground Court

Mr. Kamisar spoke against the lights project due to the impact on adjacent neighbors. His preference is to improve turf on the soccer field before adding lights to the football field. He feels that the lights are also unattractive.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resignation

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes the resignation of Amy Capalbo, 0.8 FTE Weston High School Biology Teacher, effective June 30, 2014. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (6-0)

2. Presentation and Vote on Approving Installation of Lighting on Stadium Field

Dr. Keating, Dr. Craw, and Mr. Berkowitz gave a presentation on proposed stadium field lighting. Dr. Craw and Mr. Berkowitz discussed how the stadium lights will support and enhance the school district's athletic program. Dr. Keating discussed project funding and designed specifications. Dr. Palmer presented a revised *Weston High School Stadium Lights Educational Specifications* document, which included changes to the scope of usage to give more specifics. Discussion by the Board followed.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the installation of lights at the Weston High School Stadium Field and the educational specifications as presented to the Board of Education at its meeting on February 25, 2014. Motion by Ms. Major, second by Mrs. Levin.

Discussion of a back-to-back weekend night restriction followed.

Motion to Amend: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the installation of lights at the Weston High School Stadium Field and the educational specifications as presented to the Board of Education at its meeting on February 25, 2014 with the following changes:

- 1. Deletion of "or community" under primary district usage paragraph three, and*
- 2. Addition of a new paragraph four "unless there are extraordinary circumstances, back-to back evening games will not occur on Friday and Saturday nights."*

Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Spaulding. (6-0)

Amended Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the installation of lights at the Weston High School Stadium Field and the educational specifications as presented to the Board of Education at its meeting on February 25, 2014 with the following changes:

- 3. Deletion of "or community" under primary district usage paragraph three, and*
- 4. Addition of a new paragraph four "unless there are extraordinary circumstances, back-to back evening games will not occur on Friday and Saturday nights."*

Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Levin. (6-0)

3. Review and Approval of Plans and Specifications for Weston High School Windows and Doors Project

Mr. Erik Wilson from KG&D Architects presented the proposed plans, specifications, project costs, and project schedule for the Weston High School Area E Windows and Doors Project. Discussion by the Board followed.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the plans and specifications for the Weston High School Windows and Doors Project

#157-0052. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (6-0)

4. NEASC Report - Tabled

5. Approval of Request to Reallocate Funds for WMS Pool HVAC Upgrade Project

Dr. Palmer explained that the location of the proposed HVAC system changed from indoors to outdoors, resulting in a cost increase.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education requests that the Board of Finance authorizes the reallocation of \$60,000 to the HVAC Upgrade Project at the middle school pool from funds remaining in the following projects:

WMS Portable Removal:	\$12,000
WMS Pool Lockers:	\$6,500
WMS Elevator ADA Upgrades:	\$16,000
WMS Gym Locker Room Renovation:	\$10,000
WMS Drainage Study:	\$15,500
Total requested to be transferred to Pool HVAC System:	\$60,000

Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (6-0)

6. Strategic Plan Update – Tabled

7. Third FY 2014 Financial Update

Dr. Keating provided a monthly financial update, including the extraordinary expenses associated with snow removal, including sand, salt, equipment repairs, and energy.

8. Special Education Financial Update

Dr. Keating provided a detailed update on special education accounts.

9. Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations

Mr. Brey reviewed the following Weston Board of Education policies and regulations:

- A. Policy 4111.1, Minority Recruitment;
- B. Policy 3150, Budget Procedures and Transfer of Funds; and
- C. Regulations 4119.11 – 4218.11, Administrative Regulations Regarding Discrimination Complaints (Personnel).

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations

Mr. Brey reviewed the following Weston Board of Education policies and regulations:

- A. Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements;
- B. Regulation 6146, Graduation Requirements; and
- C. Policy 4118.11-4218.11 Non-Discrimination.

There were no changes since the first reading.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements; Regulation 6146, Graduation Requirements; and Policy 4118.11-4218.11 Non-Discrimination. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting Monday, March 17, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

2. District Update – No Report

3. Principals' Reports - Tabled

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Communications Committee

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 27 at 8:30 a.m.

2. Curriculum Committee

The following items from the February 12 meeting were discussed by Mr. Schaefer: the middle school swimming module, K-12 theatre arts, and the tenth-grade writing portfolio project. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 8:00 a.m.

3. Finance Committee

The following items from the February 13 meeting were discussed by Ms. Harvey: current budget request, the FY 2013 audit report, the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on our district, and an upcoming CABE webinar on the ACA. Other items discussed at the meeting were discussed previously in tonight's agenda. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 6 at 8:00 a.m.

4. Facilities Committee

Per Mr. Schaefer, there is nothing to report beyond what was discussed previously on the agenda. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 4 at 4:00 p.m.

5. Policy Committee

Per Mrs. Levin, there is nothing to report beyond what was discussed previously on the agenda. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 4 at 8:15 a.m.

6. Negotiations Committee

Nothing to report.

7. CES

Nothing to report.

8. CAFE

Student Leadership Awards application deadline is March 31. The program was expanded this year to include middle school students.

9. Weston Education Foundation

Items discussed at the last WEF meeting focused on transition and short-term priorities, such as the bylaws, plans for future fundraising, branding, logos, the website, publicity, and operations.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0) Meeting adjourned at 11:21 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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

DRAFT