

Weston Public Schools
 Board of Education Meeting
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
 January 25, 2016

Attendance:

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

III. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. RECOGNITION

1. 2016 National Hispanic Scholar

Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, and Lisa Deorio, Weston High School Principal recognized Weston High School student Evan Rico as a National Hispanic Scholar. Mr. Rico scored in the top 2% of all Hispanics/Latinos on the PSAT.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education recognizes Evan Rico for his outstanding achievement in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Motion by Mr. Schaefer, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (7-0).

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The Board voted to approve the minutes from December 15.

Philip Schaefer and Denise Harvey were absent. The minutes were corrected to change the start time to 4:00 p.m.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the December 15, 2015, Executive Session. Motion by Ms. Major; second by Ms.

Spaulding; 5 in favor – Mrs. Uzenoff, Ms. Major, Mrs. Blechinger, Mr. McNeill, and Ms. Spaulding; 2 abstained – Mr. Schaefer and Ms. Harvey. (5-0-2)

2. The Board voted to approve the minutes from December 21.

Ellen Uzenoff was absent. The minutes were corrected to change a name misspelling of Andy Lemus.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the December 21, 2015, Regular Meeting. Motion by Ms. Major; second by Mr.

Schaefer; 6 in favor – Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Major, Mrs. Blechinger, Ms. Harvey, Mr. McNeill, and Ms. Spaulding; 1 abstained – Mrs. Uzenoff. (6-0-1)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – No report

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made to amend the agenda.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education adds the following agenda item under Old Business: Suspension of Board of Education Policy 3323, Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations). Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0)

1. FY 2017 Operating Budget Discussion and/or Adoption

The Board debated enrollment and whether the budget should increase to include additional or contingency teachers for Hurlbutt and/or Weston Intermediate School. It also discussed a high school course that was not included in the budget due to low enrollment, how to improve gate receipts for athletics, ESS services, college on-site visits, testing for the talented and gifted program, technology staffing changes, firewall replacement, upgrading the school website, legal fees, and the capital budget. The Superintendent's proposed budget was increased to include salary and payroll taxes for an additional teacher and approximately two-thirds the cost of a Finalsite upgrade (with the balance of approximately \$15,000 to come from potential funds available from the FY 2016 operating budget).

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the FY 2017 Operating Budget in the amount of \$49,317,488, which reflects a 1.68% increase over FY 2016. Motion by Ms. Spaulding, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0)

2. Resignation of Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, Effective July 1, 2016

Dr. Colleen Palmer expressed her deep appreciation to the Board for its support and inspiration throughout her tenure.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education accepts the resignation of Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2016. Motion by Ms. Major, second by Mrs. Blechinger, all in favor. (7-0)

3. Gifts

Dr. Palmer, as per Board Policy #3280, announced that she has accepted, with appreciation:

- 30 music stands valued at over \$1,000 for the Weston High School music program and
- A \$4,000 grant from WestonArts for tenth-grade students to participate in Shakesperience.

4. Discussion of Sidewalks on School Road

Ms. Elise Major, Facilities Committee Chair, discussed the renewed interest in the construction of sidewalks on School Road, working in concert with the Town and using outside funding and grants. This concept is only in the exploratory stages.

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

Mr. Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources and Internal Counsel, reviewed Weston Board of Education Policy 6121 Non-Discrimination: Instructional Program. This policy has not been updated since 1991 and was not inclusive of all groups protected by the State of Connecticut.

6. Sixth FY 2016 Financial Update and Approval of Transfers

Mr. Richard Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a monthly financial update, including transfers totaling \$48,945. The Internal Services Fund balance continues to see claims that have leveled out and the fund remains very healthy.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the transfers as presented by Mr. Rudl in the sixth FY 2016 financial update. Motion by Mr. Schaefer, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (7-0)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources and Internal Counsel, reviewed Weston Board of Education Policy 3323, Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations); Policy 5137, Physical Activity and Student Discipline; and Policy 4111.3, Background Checks. There was a minor technical change to Policy 3323.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves Policy 3323, Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations); Policy 5137, Physical Activity and Student Discipline; and Policy 4111.3, Background Checks. Motion by Mr. McNeill, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0).

2. Temporary Suspension of Board of Education Policy 3323, Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations)

Motion: Moved that, pursuant to Weston Board of Education Bylaw 9314, the Weston Board of Education temporarily suspends Board of Education Policy 3323, Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations) as it applies to the process of retaining an agency to assist the Board in a search for the Superintendent of Schools ("the Search Firm"). This suspension will expire upon execution of the contract with the Search Firm. Policy 3323 will remain in effect for all other purchases described in the policy. Motion by Mr. Schaefer, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0)

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, February 23, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, commended the administrative team for their work in developing the FY 2017 budget. Dr. Palmer also announced forthcoming development of a Calendar Committee to plan for the 2017-18 calendar, and the upcoming launch of the Let's Talk interactive program for community communication with the district.

3. Principals' Reports

Mrs. Laura Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, highlighted the school's caroling-style winter sing along, a student visit to the Senior Center, and student self-directed writing over winter break. Ms. Pattie Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, discussed the school's annual holiday sing along, which included some instrumental solos; the winter chorus concert; the first fifth-grade orchestra concert; and a staff versus student volleyball game. Mr. Dan Doak, Weston Middle School Principal, talked about global citizenship at the middle school, including reading and writing about teen activism, the Guardians of the Water Galaxy interdisciplinary grade 6 unit, and seventh-grade social studies curriculum focused on the UN Sustainable Goals. My Doak also announced this weekend's Short Wharf production of *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* Mrs. Lisa Deorio, Weston High School Principal, discussed the course registration schedule, eighth-grade family night, pop-up programs over mid-terms in support of healthy learning environments, and the Shine a Light initiative that is raising funds to provide assistive technology to Apples Preschool in Norwalk.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. WHS Student Representatives Report – No report

2. Communications Committee

There was nothing to report.

3. Curriculum Committee

Per Mr. Schaefer, the following items were discussed at the January meeting: digital learning initiatives, annual State assessments, and a Tri-State update. The next meeting will be on February 10.

4. Finance Committee

Per Ms. Harvey, there is nothing to add beyond what was previously covered on the agenda. The next meeting will be on February 12.

5. Facilities Committee

Mrs. Major discussed the following items from the January meeting: sidewalks, an update on ongoing capital projects, wall pads in the middle school New Gym, and use of the pool. The next meeting will be on February 9.

6. Policy Committee

Per Mr. McNeill, policy review continues. The next meeting will be February 3.

7. Negotiations Committee

Per Ms. Harvey, discussions continue with AFSCME.

8. CES

Per Ms. Major, the following items were discussed at the January meeting: the CAFE Area 6 Legislative Breakfast, State-level initiatives, and the lack of fiscal benefits relating to the regional calendar.

9. CAFE

Mr. McNeill reminded Board members of the upcoming Legislative Breakfast and that RSVPs are due.

10. Weston Education Foundation

Per Ms. Spaulding, Dr. Kenneth Crow, Assistant Superintendent and Dr. Craig Tunks, Director of Digital Learning and Innovation, presented on the learning commons.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.