

Weston Public Schools
 Board of Education Special Meeting
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
 January 29, 2015

Attendance:

Philip Schaefer, Chairperson	Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent
Ellen Uzenoff, Vice Chairperson	Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance & Ops.
Dana Levin, Secretary/Treasurer	Jackson Marvin, Student Representative (departed 6:49 p.m.)
Nina Daniel	
Elise Major	<i>Absent:</i> Denise Harvey
Sara Spaulding	Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent	Jack Seigenthaler, Student Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM
Colleen A. Palmer, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education elects Philip Schaefer as the Chair of the Board of Education for the term of January 2015 through December 2015. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Daniel, all in favor. (6-0)

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education elects Ellen Uzenoff as the Vice-Chairperson of the Weston Board of Education. Motion by Mr. Schaefer, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (6-0)

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education elects Dana Levin as the Board Secretary/Treasurer. Motion by Ms. Major, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (6-0)

IV. RECOGNITION – No report

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the minutes from December 8.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the December 8, 2014 Work Session. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (6-0)

The Board voted to approve the minutes from December 15. Mr. Schaefer and Ms. Daniel were absent.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the December 15, 2014 Regular Session. Motion by Ms. Major, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, 4 in favor – Mrs. Uzenoff, Mrs. Levin, Ms. Major, Ms. Spaulding; 2 abstained – Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Daniel. (4-0-2)

The Board voted to approve the minutes from January 13. Ms. Major was absent.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the January 13, 2015 Budget Workshop. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Spaulding, 5 in favor – Mr. Schaefer, Mrs. Uzenoff, Mrs. Levin, Ms. Daniel, Ms. Spaulding; 1 abstained – Ms. Major. (5-0-1)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – No report

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion Regarding Shared Space at Hurlbutt Elementary School

Mr. Schaefer, Board Chairperson, briefly touched on the original motion from 2012, and its background.

Motion: At its meeting on December 17, 2012, Weston Board of Education tabled indefinitely: “any action and discussion by the Weston Board of Education regarding agenda Item IX, Shared Space of Hurlbutt Elementary School.” Moved that the Weston Board of Education take this item from the table for discussion and possible action. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (6-0)

2. Discussion on Response to Board of Selectmen’s Questions Regarding District Facilities Utilization

Mr. Schaefer, Board Chairperson, discussed the Board of Selectmen’s request to review our facilities and the Board’s work in reviewing all information prior to the upcoming Tri-Board meeting. Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, provided an overview of the draft document crafted in response to the Town’s memo and the specific questions asked. She discussed the sequence of events, beginning in 2012, leading up to the present discussions and factors to consider in school facilities usage, including the deed for HES property, reimbursement for non-educational use of a facility constructed with a State grant, and the cost of refurbishment of school space to other uses. She also discussed enrollment and capacity at WIS and HES. The final memo is due to the Board of Selectmen Saturday morning. Discussion by the Board followed.

3. FY 2016 Operating Budget Discussion and/or Adoption

Mr. Berkowitz, Athletics Director, answered Board questions on girls’ gymnastics. Additional discussion by the Board followed on a marimba request, the copy center, and long-range planning.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the FY 2016 budget in the amount of \$48,864,472, which is an increase of \$1,499,616 over the FY 2015 budget or an additional 3.17%. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor. (6-0)

- 4. Approval of Authorization to Apply for a State of Connecticut Technology Grant**
Mr. Haakonsen, Director of Technology, discussed a grant for technology upgrades to support transition to the new standards offered by the State of Connecticut.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education authorizes the district administration to apply for the State of Connecticut Grant for technology upgrades on its behalf. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (6-0)

5. Resignation

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes the resignation of Meredith Hallgren, 1.0 FTE Teacher for Hurlbutt Elementary School, effective June 30, 2015. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (6-0)

6. Fourth FY 2015 Financial Update and Approval of Transfers

Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a monthly financial update. Transfers were for an audio provider for Company's fall production, updating the high school library collection, additional VEX kits for robotics, and equipment repairs.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the transfers as presented by Dr. Keating in the fourth FY 2015 financial report. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (6-0)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, announced the Tri-Board meeting scheduled for next Tuesday. She also announced that, in event of delayed opening due to snow, there will be no early dismissal for professional development on Friday.

3. Principals' Reports

Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, highlighted students learning Spanish words in association with current units of study in other subjects and the upcoming 100th day of school. Ms. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, commented on the combined intermediate and middle school chorus concert, an assembly on altruism and empathy, and community service initiatives. Ms. Watkins,

Weston Middle School Principal, discussed computer science week, PBIS activities, and the robotics club. She also announced the upcoming weekend performances of *The Music Man, Jr.* Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, announced eighth-grade family orientation night on February 25 and the advancement of the mock trial red team. She also discussed today's SGA-sponsored staff appreciation day.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. WHS Student Representatives' Report** – No report
- 2. Communications Committee**
Ms. Daniel discussed the success of the Realtors Open House. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 19.
- 3. Curriculum Committee**
Ms. Uzenoff discussed the following topics from the January 21 meeting: math renewal update, March Tri-State visit, modifications to K-5 reading, and implementation of the high school writing center. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 11.
- 4. Finance Committee**
Per Mr. Schaefer, there is nothing to report beyond what was discussed previously on the agenda. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 12.
- 5. Facilities Committee**
Ms. Uzenoff discussed the following topics from the January 12 meeting: summer projects, the operating budget request, shared space and long-term planning, and minutes approval. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 11.
- 6. Policy Committee** – No report
- 7. Negotiations Committee** – No report
- 8. CES** – No report
- 9. CABE**
Ms. Major discussed the recent Legislative Breakfast at Staples High School.
- 10. Weston Education Foundation** – No report

X. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: Motion to adjourn by Ms. Major, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (6-0)
Meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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

DRAFT