

Weston Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
March 16, 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
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. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. Discussion of Written Correspondence from Board Attorney**
- 2. Discussion of Confidential Matters Pertaining to Security**

III. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. RECOGNITION

Mr. Marvin, Board of Education Student Representative, presented Board of Education members with Weston socks in honor of Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation month.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the minutes from February 24.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the February 24, 2015, Regular Session. Motion by Ms. Levin, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (7-0)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan McNeill, Steep Hill Road.

Mr. McNeill thanked the Board for their time in reviewing facility space. He also requested a discussion of the benefits and drawbacks to moving grade 2 to Weston Intermediate School in the future.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Gifts

Dr. Palmer, as per Board Policy #3280, accepted, with appreciation, the following gifts:

- \$5,356.95 from the Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO for the purchase of books;
- \$16,555.20 from the Weston Intermediate School PTO for the purchase of Chromebooks;
- \$1,176.40 from the Weston Intermediate School PTO for the purchase of mobile charging carts;
- \$3,200.00 from the Weston Middle School PTO for a drama residency with Frank Ingrasciotta;
- \$2,700.00 from the Weston Middle School PTO for the a presentation provided to students by Mark Love of Engineers Teaching Algebra;
- \$3,207.00 from the Weston High School Boosters Club towards the purchase of a new scoreboard on the soccer/lacrosse field at Weston High School;
- \$1,635.00 from the Weston High School Boosters Club toward the purchase of track high jump/pole vault pits; and
- A \$1,224.00 supplemental grant from the Weston Education Foundation for the purchase of four Vex IQ Super Kits for the Weston Intermediate School robotics program.

2. Discussion of Use of North House and Central Office by District and Town

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, and the Board of Education discussed the following points with regards to use of Hurlbutt Elementary School's North House and Central Office by the District and Town:

- Moving second grade from HES to WIS in the future, including timing, cohort sizes at WIS, and cost savings resulting from a staff reduction at Hurlbutt;
- Honoring the current 5-year MOU for the Senior Center and at its expiration offering the seniors the first floor of North House with a longer-term MOU for the Senior Center that provides a clause for returning the space to district use in the event of student need;
- Not moving any offices to North House while the first floor is still in use by students;
- Estimating 10 years remaining life-span left on the portable Annex building, with ongoing maintenance;
- Determining permitted uses for the second floor of North House, including discussions with Parks and Recreation, Youth Services, and Social Services about the extent of visitation by outside vendors and any special space requirements;
- Clarifying errors published in the Forum;
- Offering half of the main floor of Central Office to the Town;

- Availability of 3800 sq feet of unfinished space in the basement of Central Office that could be utilized by Town offices;
- Requesting for a list of offices the Town would like considered for housing within District space;
- Agreeing that since East House cafeteria does not have a full kitchen, South House Cafeteria cannot be converted to another use; and
- Discussing the School Safety Infrastructure report and the process we would need to follow to stay within the guidelines.

3. Energy Update

Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, reviewed the Fifth Year Cost Avoidance and Environmental Impact Report and updated the Board on Weston Public Schools energy conservation, savings, and current projects. D. Keating also announced that Mr. Lustberg has begun providing energy education to the Middle School students through receipt of a grant.

4. Vote on Extension of Transportation Contract

Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, discussed extending the First Student contract with Weston Public Schools and highlighted modifications to the contract. Discussion by the Board followed on maximum ages of Type I and Type II vehicles.

Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves an extension of its contract with First Student, Inc. for the three year period of July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2018, with two additional extensions for July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, and July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, the latter of which are to be approved annually by the Board. Said contract shall reflect annual increases of 2.5% for FY 2016, 2.5% for FY 2017, 2.7% for FY 2018, 2.7% for FY 2019, and 2.7% for FY 2020, and other language changes as negotiated by the administration. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (7-0)

5. Sixth FY 2015 Financial Update and Approval of Transfers

Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a monthly financial report, including transfers for the original budget versus the expected budget as of December 1, 2024 based on the reforecast; transfers for the current financial report, including non-certified salaries at the middle school and high school, subsidizing the cost associated with the Mock Trial's national competition, an appropriation for SAT proctors, technology break/fix temporary personal, technology materials, overtime needed to clear District property due to severe winter weather; the asbestos abatement plan, and waste water permit application; and the internal services fund. Discussion by the Board followed on sick bank and unemployment transfers, the process and possibility for efficiencies for overtime for snow removal, and the excess cost grant.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the transfers as presented by Dr. Keating in the sixth FY 2015 financial report. Motion by Mrs.

Levin, second by Ms. Major, 6 in favor – Mr. Schaefer, Mrs. Uzenoff, Ms. Levin, Ms. Daniel, Ms. Spaulding, Ms. Major; 1 abstained – Ms. Harvey (abstained from voting only on the transfer relating to Mock Trial due to personal involvement in the program). (6-0-1)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – No report

IX. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, April 20, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, discussed Weston High School’s win at the State Mock Trial competition in which Jack Seigenthaler’s was named Most Outstanding Individual participant, and announced the National competition which will occur in May in North Carolina. Dr. Palmer also highlighted the draft C.E.S. Regional Uniform Calendar, announced the forthcoming assembling of a calendar committee, and discussed last week’s successful Tri-State math visitation and the positive feedback provided to us by the team. Discussion by the Board followed on the process used by C.E.S. to develop the calendar.

3. Principals’ Reports

Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, highlighted the all-school bingo game and the end of the informational writing unit in kindergarten. Ms. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, commented on the fourth-grade adaptive fairy tale unit, all-school snowman building, the Showstoppers musical, and professional development with Singapore math expert Dr. Ban Har. Ms. Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, discussed the Spectrum concert, sixth-grade action research projects, and Drop Everything and Organize. She also announced upcoming competitions for the Math League next Tuesday and Mock Trial on March 25, and advancement of our National Geography Bee winner. Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, discussed the Spectrum concert, announced Sophomore Science CAPT testing on Wednesday, *Barnum* opening night this weekend, the near-completion of course registration, and news about the indoor track teams’ national competition, where the boys relay team placed fifth, the girls team was honored as emerging elite, and the boys sprint medley was named emerging elite.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. WHS Student Representatives’ Report

Mr. Marvin discussed the first entirely student pit for *Barnum*, the beginning of spring sports, weather-related delays, and the Shine a Light campaign.

2. Communications Committee

Ms. Daniel discussed the following topics from the March 3 meeting: development of the May insert and ways to have more dialogue with the community.

3. Curriculum Committee

Per Mrs. Uzenoff, during the March 11 meeting, Board members met with Tri-State. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 1.

4. Finance Committee

Per Ms. Harvey, in addition to what was discussed previously in the agenda, the following items were discussed at the March 12 meeting: the FY 2016 budget presentations to the Boards of Finance and Selectmen, the March 31 public hearing, current rebidding of health insurance, purchases for security, awaiting a reply on the food service RFP, and a review of participation fees. Ms. Harvey also provided a summary of the sequential reductions for the Board of Education FY 2016 budget, which is currently at a 2.8% increase. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 8.

5. Facilities Committee

Per Ms. Spaulding and Dr. Keating, the following items were discussed at the March 4 meeting: an update on projects, lighting upgrades, security updates, fencing between the South House playground and the bus garage, a Weston graduate's request to use facilities, and Zenon plant permitting. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 7.

6. Policy Committee

Per Mrs. Levin, at the March 3 meeting there was a discussion of athletic and arts program fees. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 7.

7. Negotiations Committee – No report

8. CES

Ms. Daniel explained what CES does and services it provides. Per Ms. Daniel, the following items were discussed at the last meeting: regionalized special education, the regional calendar, and other regionalized services that may be beneficial. CES meets on the second Thursday of each month.

9. CAFE – No report

10. Weston Education Foundation

Ms. Harvey, Mr. Marvin recently requested information on the Foundation and an article in the Weston High School paper will be forthcoming. Logistics for WEF's main fundraiser, which is a kitchen tour, were discussed at the last meeting.

Ms. Daniel announced student work in the architecture exhibit at the Weston Historical Society and the development of a potential Weston History Bee.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0)
Meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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