

Weston Public Schools
 Board of Education Special Meeting
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
 March 17, 2014

Attendance:

Philip Schaefer, Chairperson	Sara Spaulding
Ellen Uzenoff, Vice 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	<i>Absent: None</i>

**I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM
 Philip Schaefer, Chairperson**

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECOGNITION – No Report

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board will vote to approve the minutes from February 25.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the February 25, 2014 Regular Session. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Harvey, 6 in favor, 1 abstain. (6-0-1)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Katie Gregory 7 Farrell Road

Ms. Gregory spoke against co-mingled space at Hurlbutt Elementary School, and expressed concern that not enough transparency in process has been adhered to in the expansion of the Senior Center.

Tim Lawler, Hidden Meadow Road

Mr. Lawler requested that the Board of Education be more openly vocal regarding plans for co-mingling at Hurlbutt Elementary School.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Craw provided a progress report on the District Strategic Plan, providing key accomplishments in each of the four areas of the plan, as well as security/safety and next steps. To date, 64% of the plan has been completed. Discussion by the Board followed.

2. Update on Implementation of Common Core and Smarter Balanced Assessments

Dr. Palmer provided an update on the implementation of Common Core and the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) in Connecticut. She stated that Weston Public Schools has been very active in aligning with the Common Core over the last two years. SBA testing in Weston is being deferred to May to avoid disruption of our school schedules due to the week-long delay at the State level for technology systems preparation, which is preventing testing this month as scheduled. She also discussed teacher evaluation, which links SBA with teacher effectiveness, and the current waiver Weston received for this requirement. Discussion by the Board followed.

3. Building Project Closeouts

Dr. Keating discussed the close-out of the Weston High School building project, State project number 157-043 in order to move forward with the State audit process.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves filing the form ED049F and the final grant application for a school building project with the Bureau of School Facilities for Weston High School and adopting the following resolution, accepting the project as complete. Be it resolved that the Board of Education accepts the Weston High School project, State project number 157-043 as complete. Motion by Ms. Daniel, Second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (7-0)

4. Fourth FY 2014 Financial Update and Approval of Transfers

Dr. Keating provided a monthly financial update, including special education services and winter accounts. One transfer, in technology, required approval.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the transfers set forth in the fourth financial report of FY 2014. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor. (7-0)

5. Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations

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

- A. Policy 5145, Non-Discrimination (Students);
- B. Regulation 5145, Administrative Regulation Regarding Discrimination Complaints (Students);
- C. Bylaw 9120, Officers; and
- D. Bylaw 9121, Chairperson.

6. NEASC Report

Mrs. Deorio presented the NEASC Accreditation Report of April 7-10, 2013 for Weston High School. She explained that we are accredited and are currently two-thirds through the process. What is remaining is a first brief report due in August 2014 to address some of the facilities recommendations that are already in progress, a two-year report in April 2015 to address the highlighted recommendations, and a five-year report in April 2018 to show that many of the recommendations have been

completed. Commendations include course offerings, beautiful facilities and resources, and the curriculum instructional leaders and assessments we have in place.

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 4111.1, Minority Recruitment;
- B. Policy 3150, Budget Procedures and Transfer of Funds; and
- C. Regulations 4118.11 – 4218.11, Administrative Regulations Regarding Discrimination Complaints (Personnel).

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves Policy 4111.1, Minority Recruitment; Policy 3150, Budget Procedures and Transfer of Funds; and Regulations 4118.11-4218.11, Administrative Regulations Regarding Discrimination Complaints (Personnel). Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0)

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting Monday, April 21, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Palmer discussed the details of a preliminary mandated C.E.S. regional calendar that is before the State for approval for 2015-2016, announced that bids are out for the high school E-wing renovation, and announced that an update will be forthcoming for parents on the topic of Hurlbutt Elementary School. Discussion by the Board followed.

3. Principals' Reports

Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, highlighted Read Across America week, which coincided with Dr. Seuss' birthday. Ms. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, discussed fourth-grade invention projects, fifth-grade experiments with embedded tasks, and an all-school dance party for earning 100 paws. Mrs. Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, discussed the *Long Walk to Water* One School, One Book project and their guest speaker, and acknowledged the hard work of the Mock Trial team. Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, announced that we ranked first in the State for our AP exam scores, success of the recent eighth-grade orientation night, and the upcoming *Carousel* performance by Company.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Communications Committee

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 26 at 8:00 a.m. to discuss ways to reach out to the community and plan for a realtors' open house that is scheduled for May 21.

2. Wellness Committee

The following items from the March 7 meeting were discussed by Ms. Daniel: Family University Night scheduled for April 9, online posting of recent drug and alcohol survey results, Special Olympics on May 10, and the Brown Rice award received by Weston High School.

3. Curriculum Committee

The following items from the March 12 meeting were discussed by Ms. Uzenoff: the K-12 theatre arts program opportunities for students, staffing recommendations, and facilities maintenance scheduling; the curriculum portion of the Strategic Plan; and math placement process for incoming sixth-grade students. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 9 at 8:00 a.m.

4. Finance Committee

Per Ms. Harvey, the Committee held their regular monthly meeting on March 6 and held a special meeting on March 14. In addition to what was covered previously on the agenda, uniform chart of accounts was discussed. An executive session will be needed to discuss the 117k for additional security that was removed from the proposed budget. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 10 at 8:00 a.m.

5. Facilities Committee

The following items from the March 4 meeting were discussed by Ms. Uzenoff: lighting and sound project, Zenon plant maintenance and cleaning in June, North House roof replacement, Strategic Plan review of facilities, formation of a Turf Committee for replacement of the high school soccer field turf, discussion of user fees, plans to replenish the sink fund, the high school windows and doors project, the CL&P energy conservation study for which an audit is being finalized at the high school, the middle school pool project, and the Senior Center. Ms. Uzenoff stressed that at this time the Facilities Committee, Board, and Administration are only exploring options and that nothing is being done prior to the security risk analysis. She further stressed that before any steps are taken there will be thorough communications going out. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 9 at 4:00 p.m.

6. 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 April 8 at 8:15 a.m.

7. Negotiations Committee

Nothing to report.

8. CES

Per Ms. Daniel, the following topics were discussed at the March 6 meeting: the regional calendar, impact of Affordable Care Act on school districts, CAFE on the Hill, and the Choice Program in Weston and Fairfield.

9. C A B E

Ms. Major announced that C A B E declared March as Board of Education appreciation month and thanked her fellow Board members for all of their dedication and hard work.

10. Weston Education Foundation

Per Ms. Harvey, WEF continues to work on projects, including website redesign and bylaws, and brainstormed the possible hosting of a donor reception event in the early fall.

X. A D J O U R N M E N T

Motion: Motion to adjourn by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0) Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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