

Weston Public Schools
 Board of Education Meeting
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
 November 16, 2015

Attendance:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM
Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent of Schools

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education elects Philip Schaefer as the Board Vice-Chairperson. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (6-0)

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education elects Elise Major as the Board Secretary/Treasurer. Motion by Mrs. Blechinger, second by Mr. Schaefer, all in favor. (6-0)

Ms. Harvey commented on her experiences with the Board of Education as a PTO president, PTO BOE representative, and Board member, and highlighted the benefits of non-partisan collaboration in operations and decision-making. Mrs. Uzenoff thanked Ms. Levin for her years of service.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The Board voted to approve the minutes from October 19.

Mrs. Blechinger was not yet a member of the Board of Education.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the October 19, 2015, Regular Meeting and Executive Session. Motion by Mr.

Schaefer; second by Ms. Major; 5 in favor – Mrs. Uzenoff, Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Major, Ms. Harvey, Mr. McNeill; 1 abstained – Mrs. Blechinger. (5-0-1)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brandon Rakowski, Weston High School Senior Class President. Mr. Rakowski spoke in favor of expanding the Open Choice program in Weston to bring the percentage of students up to 4% in order to increase diversity and to enhance opportunities in the Open Choice program.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

The Student Representatives Report was moved to Item 1 under New Business.

1. WHS Student Representatives' Report

Mr. Benninghoff spoke about his State Student Advisory Council on Education meeting in Hartford and ideas that could be brought forth to Weston High School. Mr. Silverman discussed Save the Children sponsorships through student government, support for students with family and friends in Paris, and enhancing the Weston Community through an expanded Open Choice program.

2. NESDEC Demographic Study Presentation

Mr. Brey reviewed the NESDEC Annual Enrollment and Projections Report. This report is the updated enrollment history and forecast from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC). These enrollment projections, developed annually, provide important data for program, budget planning and staffing for the 2016-2017 school year. Factors affecting enrollment include migration in/out of schools, retention in the same grade, births in the community, new house construction, residential turnover, spikes/declines in real estate sales and leases, drop-outs and transfers, and economic conditions in the Tri-State area. Discussion by the Board followed. A request was made for NESDEC to account for the proposed future reconfiguration of grades in the lower schools.

3. Communications Budget

This item was tabled until the December meeting.

4. 2017 Capital Budget Request

Mr. Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations, discussed the draft FY 2017 Capital Budget Request, including Tier 1 and Tier 2 requests. A Capital Committee meeting will be held on November 30. Discussion by the Board followed on the need for air conditioned spaces.

5. Fourth FY 2016 Financial Update and Approval of Transfers

Mr. Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a monthly financial update. Transfers totaling \$184,382 were presented for approval in the areas of special education, pupil services, salary differentials, district administration, degree level

changes, and curriculum.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the transfers as presented by Mr. Rudl in the fourth FY 2016 financial update. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Blechinger, all in favor. (6-0)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Budget Assumptions Approval

Mr. Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations, reviewed the revised draft copy of FY 2017 Board of Education Operating Budget Assumptions. Discussion by the Board followed.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the FY 2017 Operating Budget Assumptions. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (6-0)

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, December 21, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, highlighted the budget development process and enrollment, the recent Teacher of the Year ceremony at The Bushnell honoring semi-finalist Adrienne Dunn, and the Choice program.

3. Principals' Reports

Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, discussed Halloween festivities and Veterans Day activities. Mrs. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, highlighted Veterans Day activities for students in grades 3-5 and Run for Life. Mr. Doak, Weston Middle School Principal, spoke about recent field trips. Mr. Filip, Weston High School Assistant Principal, reported on the National Honor Society Halloween party, Veterans Day activities, upcoming counseling events, athletic successes, and Company's recent production of *You Can't Take it With You*.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Communications Committee – No report

2. Curriculum Committee

There was nothing to report. The next meeting will be on November 18.

3. Finance Committee

Per Ms. Harvey, the following items were discussed at the November meeting, in addition to the items discussed previously on the agenda: the internal services fund stabilization amount, a transition meeting with the insurance consultants,

negotiations, insurance bid timing, and the draft multi-year model. The next meeting will be on December 8.

4. Facilities Committee

Mrs. Uzenoff discussed the following items from the November meeting: the capital budget, budget assumptions, completion of summer and maintenance projects. The next meeting will be on December 9.

5. Policy Committee

There was nothing to report.

6. Negotiations Committee

Per Ms. Harvey, discussions continue with AFSCME.

7. CES

There was nothing to report.

8. CABE

Per Mr. McNeill, the CABE/CAPSS Convention is on Friday.

9. Weston Education Foundation

Per Mrs. Uzenoff, Ms. Spaulding informed her that fundraising letters are going out next week.

10. Wellness Committee

Mr. McNeill shared the focus of the Wellness Committee and some of the initiatives they are exploring, including expanding the lunch program. Mr. McNeill also announced details of the upcoming Family University.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.