

Weston Public Schools
 Board of Education Meeting
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
 October 21, 2013

Attendance:

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
Sara Spaulding	
Sonya Stack	<i>Absent:</i> Philip Schaefer, Chairperson

III. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. RECOGNITION

1. 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program

Mrs. Deorio introduced the students who have been named Semi-Finalists and Commended Scholars in the 2013-2014 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education recognizes the following students for their outstanding achievement in the 2013-2014 National Merit Scholarship Program:

<i>Asher Lee-Tyson</i>	<i>National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist</i>
<i>Alden Daniel</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Heydar A. Ensha</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Benson D. Kane</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>John J. Kerns</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Zev J. Koffsky</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Dominique M. Kren</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Alexander L. Krigsman</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Ethan Lee-Tyson</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Michael A. Light</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Joshua M. Malett</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Henry O. Morris</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Oscar C. Morris</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>James Murphy</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Trammell Saltzgaber</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Rachel C. Spencer</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Chase Troxell</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Zachary Weinstein</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>
<i>Andrea M. Yankovich</i>	<i>Commended Scholar Award</i>

Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

The Board also thanked Sonya Stack for her four years of service to the Board of Education.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the minutes from September 16 (Mrs. Uzenoff was absent from that meeting).

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the September 16, 2013 Regular and Executive Sessions. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Levin, 5 in favor – Mrs. Levin, Ms. Daniel, Ms. Harvey, Mrs. Spaulding, Mrs. Stack, 1 abstain – Mrs. Uzenoff. (5-0-1)

The Board voted to approve the minutes from October 8 (Mr. Schaefer and Mrs. Uzenoff were absent from that meeting).

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the October 8, 2013 Regular and Executive Sessions. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Daniel, 5 in favor – Mrs. Levin, Ms. Daniel, Ms. Harvey, Mrs. Spaulding, Mrs. Stack, 1 abstain – Mrs. Uzenoff. (5-0-1)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jara Negrin, Weston Road

Ms. Negrin spoke in favor of starting school after Labor Day and having fewer weather-related early dismissals and closures.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Teacher Evaluation Plan

Dr. Craw discussed the finalized 2013-2014 Teacher Evaluation Plan and specific revisions since his report at the October 21 meeting.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the updated 2013-2014 Teacher Evaluation Plan. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

2. Administrator Evaluation Plan

Dr. Craw discussed the 2013-2014 Administrator Evaluation Plan, which is an adoption of the State of Connecticut's SEED model and is available in its entirety on the State Department of Education website.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the 2013-2014 Administrator Evaluation Plan. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Mrs. Stack, all in favor. (6-0)

3. SAT/AP/ACT and College Acceptance Report

Dr. Craw, Mrs. Deorio, and Mrs. Starzyk reviewed the *Weston High School Class of 2013 Statistical Report and Analysis of College Applications*. Dr. Craw noted that Weston ranked third overall in DRG A for the 2013 SAT. Mrs. Deorio discussed an increase in the overall number of AP exams taken and strengthening the AP economics program. Mrs. Starzyk lauded a 20% increase in Early Decision applications over class of 2012, and an increase in the acceptance rate at “most competitive” schools.

4. Financial Report for First Quarter FY 2014

Dr. Keating reviewed the Financial Report for First Quarter FY 2014, including transfers for salaries and property/liability insurance for underground oil tanks.

5. Proposed 2014-2015 Calendar

Dr. Palmer provided an overview of the draft 2014-2015 calendar and explained reasons behind each proposed break and professional development day.

6. Ratification of Weston Administrators’ Association Contract

The Weston Administrators’ Association contract was presented for ratification by Ms. Harvey. Changes to the terms between the existing contract and the proposed tentative agreement were highlighted.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education ratifies the tentative agreement between the Weston Board of Education and the Weston Administrators’ Association (WAA) effective July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017, as presented by the Negotiations Committee, and authorizes the chairperson of the Board of Education to sign on its behalf the revised collective bargaining agreement with the WAA that reflects the terms of said agreement. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Mrs. Stack, all in favor. (6-0)

While Mr. Schaefer was unable to attend this meeting, he has authorized Ms. Harvey to state that he supports the ratification.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – No report

IX. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting Monday, November 25, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Palmer discussed a luncheon at Teachers College Columbia University, at which she and Dr. Craw were invited to give a presentation on their AIM work.

3. Progress of Enrollment Projections for Next Year

Mr. Brey provided a brief overview of changes that will be implemented in the forthcoming NESDEC report to improve transparency and effectiveness, particularly for outplaced students.

4. Principals' Reports

Mrs. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, discussed Math in Focus workshops for parents, a Weston Police presentation on internet safety for fifth-grade students and parents, and PTO grade-level break-outs at the monthly meeting. Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, reviewed the first PBIS celebration of the year, student field trips, and author Kevin Henkes' webcast for first-grade students. Mrs. Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, highlighted peace day activities, the annual Student Government Association food drive, and student field trips. Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, discussed the National Blue Ribbon award, the Chinese sister school delegation visit, and homecoming.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Communications Committee

Ms. Daniel reported that at the September 25 meeting, the Communications Committee discussed ways to reach out to public using the media. One example of which is to encourage high school students in the video lab to create a video of how technology is taught and used in the schools, and a second video on curriculum updates from Dr. Craw. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for December 11 at 4:00 p.m.

2. Curriculum Committee

The following items from the October 9 meeting were discussed by Mrs. Levin: a PowerPoint presentation from Dr. Craw on blended learning, an explanation of how to read CMT matrixes by Dr. Palmer, an outline of all K-5 assessments, Tri-State Consortium visits for math, and a possible visit from Bhutanese Students. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for November 13 at 8:00 a.m.

3. Finance Committee

The following items from the October 10 meeting were discussed by Ms. Harvey: the first quarterly report, security enhancements and an application for a state security grant, WHS windows and doors project, budget assumptions, and the proposed budget calendar, and the cost avoidance report. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for November 14 at 8:00 a.m.

4. Facilities Committee

The following items from the October 9 meeting were discussed by Mrs. Stack: the WHS windows and doors project, CL&P energy conservation study, solar panel project, global facilities study, cost avoidance report, progress report on security upgrades, and capital projects for 2014-2015. A separate, well-attended

meeting was held on the evening of October 15 for the stadium lights project. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for November 13 at 4:00 pm

5. Policy Committee

The following policies and regulations were discussed at the September 24 and October 15 meetings: admissions placement, nonresident attendance and tuition fees, and nonresident use of school facilities, Mrs. Levin also mentioned the Committee's discussion of recognizing donors for the possible football field lighting. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for November 12 at 8:15 a.m.

6. Negotiations Committee

There was nothing to report beyond what was discussed earlier in the evening.

7. CES

Ms. Daniel reported on the October 3 CES meeting. The regional calendar debate was discussed and the following policies were reviewed: affirmative action, professional development, eliminating CEUs, non-discrimination, student confidentiality, use of student-owned electronic devices, physical activity in schools, and school volunteers.

8. CAFE

Nothing to report.

9. Weston Education Foundation

Ms. Harvey reported that 120 people attended trivia night, which raised \$20,000 for the Education Foundation.

Mrs. Uzenoff announced a meeting to discuss education mandate relief on November 21 at 7:00 p.m. in Westport. The meeting is being held by State Representative Gail Lavielle who, along with Dr. Palmer, is part of a legislatively created task force to address the burden of state mandates on high-performing districts. Invited to this very important meeting are all area superintendents, Boards of Education, public officials, union leadership, administrative leadership, and other community stakeholders.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Levin, second by Mrs. Stack, all in favor.
(6-0) Meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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

Chairman

Secretary

Approved by the Board of Education November 25, 2013.