

Weston Public Schools
 Board of Education Meeting
 Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
 September 15, 2014

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	Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources
Denise Harvey	Jackson Marvin, Student Representative
Elise Major	Jack Seigenthaler, Student Representative
Sara Spaulding	

I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

Philip Schaefer, Chairperson

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Schaefer, Board of Education Chairperson, and Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, welcomed and introduced our new Board of Education Student Representatives.

III. RECOGNITION

1. 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program

Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, introduced the students who have been named Semi-Finalists in the 2014-2015 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education recognizes the following students for their outstanding achievement in the 2014-2015 National Merit Scholarship Program:

<i>Jack B. Seigenthaler</i>	<i>National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist</i>
<i>Michael Sitver</i>	<i>National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist</i>
<i>Dennis H. Tracey</i>	<i>National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist</i>
<i>Micah J. Zirn</i>	<i>National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist</i>

Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (7-0)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the minutes from August 18. Ms. Harvey was absent.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the August 18, 2014 Regular Session. Motion by Ms. Major, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, 6 in favor – Mr. Schaefer, Mrs. Uzenoff, Mrs. Levin, Ms. Daniel, Ms. Major, Ms. Spaulding; 1 abstained – Ms. Harvey. (6-0-1)

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – No report

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. SAT/AP/ACT and College Acceptance Report

Dr. Craw, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Deorio, Principal of Weston High School, and Mrs. Starzyk, Director of Guidance, reviewed the *Weston High School Class of 2014 Statistical Report and Analysis of College Applications*. Dr. Craw noted that standardized test scores were similar to last year, with Weston students performing at a higher level than the Connecticut or United States average. Dr. Craw also announced that the SAT assessment is being redesigned, with the writing portion becoming optional. Mrs. Deorio discussed AP exam enrollment and test results. Weston had 577 students enrolled in a total of 18 AP courses, with 215 unique students taking AP exams. Of those sitting for exams, 15 students were AP Scholars, 19 AP Scholars with Honor, 37 AP Scholars with Distinction, and 7 National AP Scholars. Ninety-three percent of Weston students scored a 3 or higher on AP exams. Mrs. Starzyk reported on college application statistics and outcomes. The average number of applications per student increased from eight to nine and the percentage of students attending four-year colleges increased from 94% to 95%, while there was a slight decline in the percentage of students admitted to the most competitive colleges. Discussion by the Board followed.

2. Weston High School Trip to China

Dr. Craw, Assistant Superintendent, and Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, discussed the itinerary for the April 2015 Weston High School trip to China, which includes visits to Beijing, Xi'an, Qingdao, and Shanghai. Students must apply in order to participate in this trip. Travel insurance options are currently being explored.

3. Building Project Close-Outs

Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, discussed the close-out of the Weston Middle School windows and doors project, State project number 0053-157.

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 the Weston Middle School and adopting the following resolution, accepting the project as complete. Be it resolved that the Board of Education accepts the Weston Middle School project, State project number 0053-157 as complete. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (7-0)

4. Technology Lease Signatory

Dr. Keating explained the purpose and terms of the proposed lease agreement with TD Banknorth which will allow the schools to acquire varied and numerous technology items as described specifically in the agreement.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or designee to execute and deliver the lease purchase agreement with TD Equipment Finance in the amount of \$358,000, and any related documents on behalf of the Weston Board of Education as the co-lessee with the Town of Weston, and take all actions necessary and proper to complete the transaction. Motion by Ms. Major, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (7-0)

5. Discussion of FY 2014 Year-End Financial Report

Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, reviewed the Year-End Financial Report, which includes an outline of 13 funds transfers that require Board approval. Dr. Keating also recounted the money that would be returned to the town from tuition students, the special education supplemental appropriation, and reimbursements from state grants. Mrs. Pernice explained the variances in the special education budget in the areas of home-bound tutoring, consulting in-services, and professional education services (independent contractors who work with our students).

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the final financial report and transfers presented by Dr. Keating for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Ms. Daniel, all in favor. (7-0)

6. Weston Board of Education Policies, Regulations, and Bylaws

Mr. Brey, Director of Human Resources and Internal Counsel, reviewed the Weston Board of Education Policy 4121, Substitute Teachers. This policy is being expanded upon to clarify the categories of substitute teachers and explain the compensation, benefits, and required certifications for each.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting Monday, October 20, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, announced that a waiver for the administrators' evaluation plan has been approved by the CT State Department of Education. She also stated that the State Board of Education was currently reviewing non-traditional methods for students to earn graduation credit. Other topics discussed included an upcoming superintendent focus group on graduation requirements, in which Dr. Palmer will participate; a status update on Infosnap; and an update on the new VOIP phone system.

3. Principals' Reports

Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal highlighted the reintroduction of world language and student participation in summer reading. Ms. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, discussed new students, new family orientation, and Back-to-School Nights. She also thanked the PTO for redesigning the school entryway. Amy Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, talked about the sense of community students exhibited during the first few days of school, a marshmallow

challenge, and PBIS S.O.A.R. Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, announced upcoming events: the Club Fair, Back-to-School Night, Freshman 101, and the first home football game under the lights are happening this month. Pink Out Day, a college panel, and an administration of the PSAT will occur in October.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. WHS Student Representative Report

Mr. Seigenthaler and Mr. Marvin commented on the success of the changes in the school lunch program, feedback from the E wing renovation, the roll-out of the Campus Quad app, and Homecoming Week. Discussion by the Board followed.

2. Communications Committee

The meeting scheduled for September 11 was cancelled. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for September 23.

3. Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Uzenoff discussed the following topics from the September 10 meeting: implementation of student success plans for grades 6-12, reinstating the high school writing center, K-2 Spanish program success, a staffing update on Family and Consumer Sciences at the middle school, and blended learning at the middle school. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for October 8.

4. Finance Committee

Ms. Harvey discussed the following topics from the September 4 Finance Committee meeting: the end-of-year financial report, current year budget, an update on HVAC at the middle school pool, a possible employee assistance program, and the strategic plan. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for October 10.

5. Facilities Committee

Mrs. Uzenoff discussed the following topics from the September 3 and September 15 meetings: the success of the athletic stadium lights and turf on the lower field, and the readdressing of the sound system for the football stadium. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for October 8.

6. Policy Committee

Per Mrs. Levin, beyond what was discussed previously on the agenda, the Committee discussed Board Bylaw review. Copies of the bylaws for Board members will be forthcoming, with feedback due by the November meeting.

7. Negotiations Committee

Per Ms. Harvey, negotiation with the WTA continues.

8. CES

Ms. Daniel discussed CES' selection as a collaborative partner to provide turnaround services to two Bridgeport schools, the Luis Munoz Marin School and the Dunbar School.

9. CAFE

Nothing to report.

10. Weston Education Foundation

Ms. Harvey discussed the following topics from the September 8 meeting: encouraging grant requests, planning for recognition of WEF's twentieth anniversary, and receptions for grant recipients.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Levin, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor.
(7-0) Meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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