

Attendance:

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

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

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Matters Pertaining to Security

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. RECOGNITION

1. Mr. Schaefer, Board Chair, recognized Nina Daniel for her four years of service to the Weston Board of Education.

Mr. Schaefer, Board Chair, recognized Ms. Daniel for her service to the Board of Education and presented her with a token of the Board’s appreciation. Ms. Daniel thanked the Board and acknowledged its collaborative spirit, discussed all the hard work that has been accomplished in the last four years, and commented on her previous work with Weston for Fiscal Responsibility. The individual Board members expressed their sentiments to Ms. Daniel and wished her well.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education recognizes Nina Daniel for four years of outstanding service to the students, families, and staff of Weston Public Schools. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (6-0)

Mr. Schaefer welcomed Mr. McNeill, who is filling the vacancy left by Ms. Daniel, to the Board of Education.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The Board voted to approve the minutes from June 29.

Mrs. Uzenoff, Ms. Daniel, and Ms. Major were absent. Mr. McNeill abstained as he became a Board member on September 1.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the June 29, 2015, Special Meeting and Executive Session. Motion by Ms. Harvey; second by Mrs. Levin; 4 in favor – Mr. Schaefer, Mrs. Levin, Ms. Harvey, and Ms. Spaulding; 2 abstained – Mrs. Uzenoff and Mr. McNeill. (4-0-2)

2. The Board voted to approve the minutes from August 17.

Ms. Spaulding was absent. Mr. McNeill abstained as he became a Board member on September 1.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the August 17, 2015, Regular Meeting and Executive Session. Motion by Ms. Harvey; second by Mrs. Levin; 4 in favor – Mr. Schaefer, Mrs. Uzenoff, Mrs. Levin, and Ms. Harvey; 2 abstained – Mr. McNeill and Ms. Spaulding. (4-0-2)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – No report

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Gifts

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, announced that, as per Board Policy #3280, she has accepted, with appreciation, a Steinway piano valued at \$75,000 and piano bench valued at \$1,000, for the Weston High School music program. The items were generously donated by Mr. David Allon.

2. Update on Beginning of 2015-16 School Year

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, discussed highlights from the first 19 days of school, including the addition of a bus to a route affected by bridge repairs; installation of central air conditioning in the main gymnasium at the high school; continued work on the focus areas of math, writing, STEM, and pathways to success; WHS being named the number one high school in Connecticut by *Newsweek*; and ongoing work of the Master Planning Team. Dr. Palmer also presented enrollment figures on September 11 compared to expected figures and last year's enrollment, and announced an upcoming review of assessments.

3. Tri-State Report

Dr. Craw, Assistant Superintendent, presented the math K-12 Tri-State Consultancy Report from the Tri-State Consortium's March 2015 visit, including Tri-State's process, performance indicators, commendations and areas of growth. Commendations were in the areas of professional learning, student achievement and support, and community outreach and support. Areas of growth are differentiation, data, and vertical alignment. Mr. Craw also discussed the next steps, which are reviewing the Tri-State Report with each school, developing action plans incorporating strategies to address recommendations, sharing the findings of the

report with the Weston community, and preparing for a two-year follow up consultancy with Tri-State. Discussion by the Board, Superintendent, and CILs followed on asynchronous collaboration, survey participation rates, trends in accelerated/honors math placements, the possibility of changing accreditation bodies from NEASC to Tri-State, utilization of QR (quick response) codes and videos as a teaching strategy, and communicating the change in math processes for parents who were taught differently.

4. Weston High School Proposed International Field Trip

Dr. Craw, Assistant Superintendent, and Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, discussed the proposed WHS trip to Spain for April 2016. Student interest is high, and the cost is \$3,500 per student. Discussion by the Board followed on travel insurance.

5. Second FY 2016 Financial Update and Approval of Transfers

Mr. Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a monthly financial update. Transfers totaling \$234,255 were presented for approval. Transfers were necessary to cover facilities repairs and contracted services, hiring a behavioral analyst and a kindergarten teacher, repair of cameras at the high school, a membership fee increase, the ordering of additional books needed for courses with increased enrollment at the high school, additional Vex kits at the middle school, and sending a district team to the EdLeader21 conference. Discussion by the Board followed.

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

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, October 19, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

2. District Update

Dr. Palmer deferred to the principals for this month's district updates.

3. Principals' Reports

Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, highlighted the PBIS program and thanked the PTO for the new Hurlbutt t-shirts. Mrs. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, discussed the writing program. Mr. Doak, Weston Middle School Principal, spoke about the new technology and engineering space and the rollercoaster design challenge. Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, encouraged parents to attend the upcoming back-to-school night and Freshmen 101 program; discussed the new writing center; and introduced the two new Board of Education Student representatives, David Silverman and Eric Benninghoff; and highlighted their accomplishments.

Mr. Benninghoff and Mr. Silverman talked about the start of the school year from a student perspective and their work as student government presidents to make that experience positive for the student body. They announced homecoming and Spirit Week, the Shine-a-Light fundraising initiative partnering with Pink Aid in October and a Bridgeport school in November to raise funds for the purchase of communication devices for nonverbal students, tech workshops for senior citizens, and the implementation of student announcements emails instead of PA system announcements. They also announced their goals of encouraging local community participation in high school events and beginning a student column at The Weston Forum. Mr. Benninghoff also shared his experience at his first meeting as a student member of the State Student Advisory.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Communications Committee

There was nothing to report. The Committee will hold its first meeting for the 2015-2016 school year on September 22.

2. Curriculum Committee

Per Mrs. Uzenoff, there was nothing to report beyond what was covered by Dr. Palmer, Dr. Craw, and Mrs. Deorio previously on the agenda.

3. Finance Committee

Ms. Harvey highlighted the following items from the September 10 meeting: financial statement format, the financial update, custodial cleaning RFP, wastewater RFP, financial projections of district, technology grant update, and copier contract. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16.

4. Facilities Committee

Mrs. Uzenoff highlighted the following items from the September 9 meeting: completion of summer projects, Lights Committee report from Ms. Major, capacity of high school science labs, screening/camouflage for pool dehumidification system, pool expense reanalysis, exploring non-personnel space in the elementary school (for servers, archival purposes, etc.), refreshing the Kastle Boos report, and air conditioned common areas of schools. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14.

5. Policy Committee

There was nothing to report. The Committee will hold its first meeting for the 2015-2016 school year on October 7. At this meeting they will set a date for the review of bylaws and discuss which policies to review this year.

6. Negotiations Committee

Per Ms. Harvey, negotiations continue with AFCSME.

7. CES

There was nothing to report.

8. CAFE

There was nothing to report.

9. Weston Education Foundation

Ms. Spaulding highlighted the following items, which were discussed at the last WEF meeting: an overview of WEF's history and an upcoming mailing of fundraising letters.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor.
(6-0) Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

DRAFT