

# MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

June 4, 2012

## I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:04 PM at Case House by Dr. Ed Heller, Vice Chair. In attendance were Mrs. Danielle Black, Dr. Sanjay Saini, and Ms. Rosemary Tomaso of the School Committee; Dr. Cheryl Maloney, Superintendent; Mrs. Amber Bock, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Director of Finance and Operations. Not present: Mr. Rick Manley (who arrived at 7:38pm).

Also in attendance were Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Mr. Larry Murphy, Grade 6-12 Science Department Head; and Ms. Patricia Wright, Nurse Leader.

## I.B. Chairman's Report – Dr. Heller welcomed everyone.

## I.C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Maloney reported on the 2012 Weston High School Graduation and congratulated the 175 graduates, noting wonderful speeches given by the students and Mr. David Fuller. She informed the Committee that a senior athletic banquet was held this year for the first time, noting it was a great event, very personal and positive. Dr. Maloney provided an update on Athletics, reporting that Boys Track won the State Championship, and that boys lacrosse, tennis and baseball are still competing in post-season tournaments.

Dr. Maloney reported that she is working closely with the Town of Weston 300 committee to involve the schools in this year-long celebration of the founding of Weston and has invited a representative to come to the June 18 School Committee meeting to share updates and plans.

## I.D. Open Forum – No comments.

## MAJOR BUSINESS

## II.A. WEEFC End of Year Report

Mrs. Joan Heilbronner, WEEFC Chair, presented the annual report of WEEFC. She reported that while donations are down overall, they seem to be stable and participation has increased. She updated the Committee on the alumni data base and website, noting that an alumni counsel is needed to sustain the initiative.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Mrs. Tomaso, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the WEEFC Report.

## II.B. WEEFC Proposals

Mrs. Bock presented WEEFC proposals for Committee approval.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve WEEFC proposals as presented, per memo of May 21, 2012, in amount of \$23,468.00.

Mr. Rick Manley, Chair, joined the meeting at 7:38PM.

## II.C. Science Self Study Report

Mrs. Bock and Mr. Larry Murphy, with the assistance of consultant Ms. Ronit Carter, presented a summary of the Science Department Self-Study, the first phase of the Program Review that will take place in October 2012. They presented goals and highlights. Mr. Murphy noted that Design, Technology and Engineering is a central focus of new national standards. Mrs. Bock presented emerging system-wide recommendations, including a goal to complete a K-12 scope and sequence of standards and learning goals and assessments, to develop a K-12 design technology and engineering continuum, and to embed literacy and research skills within science curriculum work. Other recommendations are to increase elementary time dedicated to science beyond the current 1-2 hours per week and to consider new textbooks and additional courses/electives at the secondary level. Mrs. Bock noted next steps are to complete survey work, present a charge for the Program

*Approved by School Committee June 18, 2012*

Review, and to welcome an external review committee in the fall. The Committee discussed the report, asked many questions, and indicated they were looking forward to the external review.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the report.

II.D. Food Allergy Committee Report

Dr. Maloney and Ms. Wright presented the report and recommendation for a new School Committee policy based on the work of the district-wide Food Allergy Committee. Dr. Maloney noted this is to be considered first reading of the policy, which could be approved at the next meeting. Mr. Manley requested that the policy be reviewed “periodically” rather than “annually.” Dr. Maloney noted the policy would be posted on the website and brought to parents’ attention. No action taken.

II.E. Technology Annual Report

Dr. McCanne summarized projects completed this year, noting the implementation of the 1:1 iPad project at grade 7, extensive monitoring of information technology systems, a tech support ticketing system, a centralized Storage Area Network (SAN) System, a server virtualized in SCAN, and a new parent communication system (Weston Grapevine). He described projects that are underway, including the website, Teacher Web, Google calendar subscription, High School science wing technology, and new Student Information System. He also discussed a plan to embark on a new system to access control of doors and buildings as well as plans for security cameras. The committee discussed.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the Technology Report.

II.F. Approval of School Improvement Plans

Mr. Manley noted that the Committee had received presentations of all five proposed School Improvement Plans and recommended the Committee approve them at this time.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve proposed 2012-2013 School Improvement Plans for Country School, Woodland School, Field School, Weston Middle School, and Weston High School.

II.G. Approval of Teacher Evaluation Memorandum of Understanding

Mrs. Bock presented the MOU for changes to the teacher evaluation process, as mandated by the state. She commended the joint WEA/Administrative committee that has been working on revising the evaluation protocol for two years. She noted that the WEA voted to approve the MOU on May 29 but removed the rubrics for the present time. Dr. Heller indicated this committee’s work was “a great example of collaboration” and recommended approval of the agreement, subject to resolving the rubrics.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the Teacher Evaluation Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

II.H. Facilities Project Updates

High School Science Lab Project

Mrs. Black updated the Committee on the science lab project, noting it was on budget and on time at this point.

Field School Project

Dr. Heller reported on the Field School project, indicating that design stage was still in process, that this week staging of the building process would be discussed, and next week they would address some concerns people have regarding the outside of the building. No action taken.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 21, 2012.

III.B. Personnel Information

Dr. Maloney informed the Committee that Ms. Katharine Odell, currently serving in the Wellesley Public Schools, had been hired as the new Elementary Literacy Specialist. She noted she is “competent and talented.” Dr. Maloney apprised the Committee of the search process for a new Woodland School Principal, noting she and a team from Weston visited the Cunniff School in Watertown, where Dr. Cynthia Crimmin currently serves as principal, and had a very positive visit.

III.C. Business Actions

Certificate of Warrant

Mrs. Mahr presented a Certificate of the Secretary, approval of warrants for payment.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$474,193.48 by the Director of Finance and Operations.

School Year 2012-2013 Rental and Tuition Fees

Mrs. Mahr presented a recommendation for rental and tuition fees for next year, noting a 2% increase in Children’s Center rental to cover additional cost of utilities, as well as an increase for fees for lifeguards, kitchen use, and some other areas. Mrs. Mahr noted that she would distribute the Children’s Center lease agreement for Committee signature once the new fee structure is approved.

MOTION: Upon motion made by and seconded by, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve fees as listed in the memo of May 30, 2012 for the School Year 2012-2013.

The Committee signed lease agreement with the Children’s Center.

Acceptance of Gift

Mrs. Mahr reported two donations of \$1,000 each to be used to offset METCO program costs.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept donation of \$1,000 from the Ryan Family Charitable Foundation and \$1,000 from the Julia & Seymour Gross Foundation.

IV. Executive Session

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Tomaso and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted to enter into Executive Session at 9:45 PM for purposes of discussing Personnel, Collective Bargaining and Legal matters, not to return to Open Session, with Mrs. Black voting aye; Dr. Heller voting aye; Mr. Manley voting aye; Dr. Saini voting aye; and Mrs. Tomaso voting aye.

No action taken during Executive Session.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Tomaso, at 10:05 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn, with Mrs. Black voting aye; Dr. Heller voting aye; Mr. Manley voting aye; Dr. Saini voting aye; and Mrs. Tomaso voting aye.