

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 14, 2009

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:06 PM at Case House by Dr. Ed Heller, Chair. In attendance were Mr. Rick Manley, Mrs. Maryanne Rogers, and Dr. Sanjay Saini of the School Committee; Mrs. Elizabeth Nagarajah, METCO Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Cheryl Maloney, Superintendent; Mrs. Amber Bock, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Director of Finance and Operations.

Also in attendance was Mrs. Cheryl Antoine, alternating METCO Representative to the School Committee; and Dr. Regis Miller, Director of Student Services.

- I.B. Chairman's Report – Dr. Heller welcomed all present to the first official School Committee meeting of the academic year. He spoke about his travels to Uganda this summer with the team of Weston administrators, faculty, and students, noting it provided him with opportunity to see teachers in action in a special, educational environment. He commended everyone involved in the organization of the trip. Dr. Heller reported that Alphabet Field was under construction, with completion expected by end of October. He noted this was the last of the Town/School athletic fields committed to by the Town Fields Committee.

Dr. Heller proposed that future School Committee agendas this year include time for brainstorming/discussion topics of interest to Committee members and requested members submit topics in advance. He noted there should be time for this as no program reviews are scheduled this year.

I.C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Maloney expressed appreciation to Dr. Heller and the Town Fields Committee for their work. She also expressed gratitude to the donors who contributed. Dr. Maloney reported on a successful opening of the school year, noting the excellent condition of the buildings and grounds, the enthusiasm and energy of the faculty, and eager students ready for a productive and positive year. She informed the Committee that faculty participated in 110 summer workshops during the past summer, coordinated by Mrs. Bock. Dr. Maloney congratulated Weston senior Jennifer Sieber on her selection to the National High School Honors Orchestra, and Mrs. Julie Hom-Mandell, WHS art teacher, on being “saluted”, along with her students for their recognition by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.

Dr. Maloney indicated she had received positive comments about the summer science internship program.

- I.D. Open Forum – Resident Mr. Peter Hill spoke about a proposal to consider a program at the Middle School for children of divorce. Dr. Maloney indicated she has asked Mr. John Gibbons, Middle School Principal, to speak with the Guidance Department on ways to proceed. Mr. Hill extended his willingness to help coordinate a program. Dr. Saini suggested that items from the Superintendent Report be submitted to the *Town Crier*.

MAJOR BUSINESS

II.A. Presentation of Futures HealthCore Clinical Services Analysis

Dr. Miller presented the commendations and recommendations provided by an outside consultant hired to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of Weston's therapy delivery system. She indicated some of the recommendations that were being addressed and noted that the state requires one area of Special Education be assessed each year. The Committee discussed the report and commended Dr. Miller for the summary provided.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Manley and seconded by Mrs. Rogers, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the report.

II.B. Field School Project Update

Dr. Heller updated the Committee on the Field School Project, noting that the MSBA had not yet met to discuss Weston's application. He noted that a charrette was held in July with members of the historical commission present and indicated that the state historical commission would also be involved in the project. Dr. Heller reported the MSBA would meet later in September and he expected the Field School proposal to be discussed then.

II.C. Superintendent's Goals 2009-2010

Dr. Maloney presented proposed district goals for the 2009-2010 school year. The Committee discussed the proposed goals and made some suggestions for revisions. No action taken.

II.D. Discussion of Long Range Plan

Dr. Maloney presented a revised draft of the proposed Long Range Plan 2009-2014. She noted she would attend a faculty meeting at each school to review the goals in the proposed plan, post the draft on the website for review, and solicit feedback from the parent community. Dr. Maloney reviewed each of the goals, and the Committee discussed. She indicated that the timeline was naturally dependent on unforeseen circumstances that might arise, with some goals being accomplished sooner and some later than proposed. Dr. Saini suggested Dr. Maloney provide an overall theme. No action taken.

II.E. Discussion of H1N1 Plan

Dr. Maloney reported that she and Mrs. Patty Wright, School Nurse Leader, have met with the Town's Local Emergency Planning Committee, participated in conference calls, and presented plans to address the likely return of the H1N1 flu. She noted that the Town would hold vaccination clinics for at risk community members, including school age children. She also noted that some of the protocols have changed, notably that the state wants schools to remain open. She indicated the website would be updated as needed. Dr. Maloney commended Mrs. Wright for her "outstanding" work thus far as School Nurse Leader. No action taken.

II.F. School Calendar 2010-2011 (Initial Review)

Dr. Maloney presented the first draft of the 2010-2011 school calendar, noting that the calendar would need to be adjusted if the Middle School schedule were to change. She noted the calendar followed the same format as the current year, with teachers and students reporting prior to Labor Day. She noted one change was to add an elementary early release day on the first Wednesday of June. Dr. Maloney indicated the calendar would be put on the website for review by staff and parents as well as presented to the PTO. The Committee discussed. No action taken.

II.G. Weston Education Enrichment Fund Committee

Mrs. Bock presented WEEFC mini-grant and project proposals for School Committee approval. She highlighted several proposals, including four new ones.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Manley, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the WEEFC proposals, totaling \$5,393.23 per proposed memo of September 8, 2009.

Mrs. Bock indicated that a WEEFC board member appointed last spring had resigned and presented a request that the Committee appoint Jennifer Lemley to the WEEFC Board. Mr. Manley noted that the normal process of soliciting members had been followed in the spring, and Ms. Lemley was an applicant for the position at that time.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Rogers and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to appoint Jennifer Lemley to serve as a Board Member on the Weston Education Enrichment Fund Committee.

III.A. Personnel Information – No report.

III.B. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Rogers and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of July 13, 2009.

III.C. Business Actions

Student Activity Account

Mrs. Mahr presented the list of activities for each school that are accounted for through the Student Activity Agency Accounts, per School Committee Policy SAAA.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Rogers and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the list of activities for Weston High School, Weston Middle School and the Elementary Schools to be managed under the Student Activity Agency Accounts.

Acceptance of Gift – Town Garden Club Donation

Mrs. Mahr presented a recommendation that the Committee accept the gift of a sprinkler system for the High School Courtyard. She reviewed the improvements that have been made to the courtyard during the past decade. Mrs. Mahr said that the Garden Club would include plantings with any funds remaining. She noted she would send a letter of appreciation.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Manley and seconded by Dr. Saini, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the gift from the Town Garden Club for the purchase and installation of an in-ground sprinkler system (valued at approximately \$1,200).

Certificate of Warrant

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

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Manley and seconded by Mrs. Rogers, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$4,854,211.75 by the Director of Finance and Operations.

Future Meetings

Dr. Heller reviewed proposed dates of a School Committee Workshop with legal counsel. October 6 seemed to be the best date for members present, time to be determined.

Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Rogers and seconded by Mr. Manley, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:00 PM.