

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 9, 2012

I. A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:05 PM at Case House by Mr. Rick Manley, Chair. In attendance were Mrs. Danielle Black and Dr. Ed Heller of the School Committee; Mrs. Elizabeth Nagarajah, METCO Representative to the School Committee; Ms. Sophia Wirth, Student Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Cheryl Maloney, Superintendent; Mrs. Amber Bock, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Director of Finance and Operations. Not Present: Mr. Court Chilton, Dr. Sanjay Saini.

Also in attendance: Mrs. Cheryl Antoine, Alternating METCO Representative to the School Committee; Mr. Gerard McCarty, Director of Facilities; Ms. Patricia Wright, Nurse Leader; Mr. Andrew Rizza, Athletic Trainer; and other members of the health services staff.

I.B. Chairman's Report – Mr. Manley welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year.

I.C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Maloney congratulated senior Grace Huckins on her selection as a Siemens Foundation scholarship winner in 2011 for the state of Massachusetts and indicated Grace is a candidate for national recognition. Dr. Maloney noted also that Grace is one of the students taking part in the WGBH High School Quiz Show, to be broadcast in April. Dr. Maloney reported that the WEEFC STAR Awards Program, where parents can donate to WEEFC in recognition of individual staff members, has gotten off to a great start. She indicated that 139 different staff members have been named recipients of 177 STAR Awards thus far. She congratulated Saliah Serrette, a member of the girls' varsity basketball team, who was a featured athlete on High School Sports Weekly; and photography students Alex Burgess and Mathew Atkins on their acceptance into Drexel University's National High School Photography competition. Dr. Maloney provided an update on winter athletics teams and shared photographs of the new Varsity Alpine Ski Team, which she reported did well in the first competitive race.

Dr. Maloney informed Committee members that the National School Board Association's annual conference would be in Boston this year, noting a special rate if registration occurs by January 31. She mentioned the first of two Positive Coaching Alliance Workshops was taking place this evening and the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast on January 16, a fundraiser for Weston METCO, at which Dr. Maloney would be a speaker.

I.D. Open Forum – Resident Peter Hill presented a request that the School Committee review its policy on CORI checks to allow greater flexibility in hiring. He presented the Wellesley policy as an example that the Committee might consider adopting. Mr. Manley thanked Mr. Hill and said they would take it under advisement. Mr. Hill also requested the district provide better communication for parents in divorce situations so that all parents receive information and might have opportunities participate in their child's education.

MAJOR BUSINESS

II.A. Weston Education Enrichment Fund Committee Proposals

Mrs. Bock answered Committee questions about some of the proposed grants. Mrs. Black noted her excitement at this group of grants,

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve WEEFC grant proposals as presented, totaling \$6,905, per memo of January 3, 2012.

II.B. Capital Facilities Report

Mr. McCarty presented an update on the long term capital facilities report and indicated where and when repairs and upgrades are anticipated. He noted that items labeled Priority 1 would be

addressed in FY13. He reported that the contractor on the high school project had been able to take advantage of recent good weather. He also reported on the contaminated soil at the Field School/Community Center site, noting the estimated cost of removal is approximately \$150,000. Mr. McCarty noted it would take a week to complete removal, which would hopefully be done in summer when school is out and no camps taking place. He indicated that timing the removal is dependent on funding, yet to be determined.

II.C. Concussion Policy

Dr. Maloney presented a draft of Policy JJIF, Athletic Concussion Policy and its regulations, noting the policy was developed last summer by the nurses and Mr. Rizza, following the guidelines set forth by the State Department of Public Health. She noted that all school districts must notify the DPH by March 1, 2012 that an approved policy is in place. In the meantime, the draft is being used as an Interim Policy. The Committee requested some changes in the protocols to be followed to make them clearer and discussed the policy. They noted the policy should be placed on the web for public review and indicated the Committee would review and vote on February 6.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the first reading of Policy JJIF, Athletic Concussion Policy and its Regulations, JJIF-R.

II.D. Budget Presentation/Overview

Dr. Maloney presented an overview of the proposed budget for FY 2013. She acknowledged all who assisted in the budget development process, especially Mrs. Mahr. Dr. Maloney reviewed the budget guidelines and noted the general assumption that the Town wants a quality education for its children. Dr. Maloney reported the proposed budget represents a 2.65% increase over FY12's budget and includes a limited number of improvements in areas of teaching and learning, support services, and technology. Dr. Maloney also reviewed staffing and program changes, unfunded budget requests, and noted potential concerns regarding enrollment, utilities, Special Education, and State and Federal grants. Mrs. Mahr requested any comments or questions be emailed to her. Dr. Maloney noted the budget would be discussed by the budget subcommittee at two meetings – January 23 and January 26. She reviewed the timetable for budget discussion and approval. No action taken.

II.E. Update on State and Federal Grants

Mrs. Mahr and Mrs. Bock presented an update on grants and indicated its inclusion in the budget books. She noted the expectation that most grants would be level funded, with the exception of the POWAH and REMS grants which would not be funded any longer.

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

II.F. Facilities Project Updates

High School Science Lab Project

Mrs. Black updated the Committee on the science lab project, noting that the good weather allowed masonry work to be done and would hopefully get the project back on schedule. She noted that Mr. McCarty and Compass Management were closely monitoring the schedule. No action taken.

Field School Project

Dr. Heller said project has been in design development, with the next major stage to be exterior finish and site work. Mrs. Black indicated that the PBC approved air conditioning in Field School, funded in the approved budget, being done partially due to the medical needs of many students. Dr. Heller also reported that the final report of the Case Campus Master Plan should be issued shortly. No action taken.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 5 and December 8, 2011, as amended

III.B. Personnel Information and Actions

Mrs. Mahr reported that an individual has been offered the position of Farm to School Coordinator/Nutrition Analyst and would hopefully join the staff and be located at Woodland School in late March. She reviewed the individual's qualifications for the position. Dr. Maloney informed the Committee that long-time staff members Mr. Dennis McCowan, Grade 6-12 Mathematics Department Head; Mr. David Fuller, Weston METCO Director; and Ms. Jane Clayton-Matthews, Middle School Guidance Counselor, would be retiring in June.

III.C. Business Actions

Acceptance of Gifts

Mrs. Mahr informed the Committee of a donation of \$1,000 made by Bodo and Kerstin Liesenfeld to be used at Principal Christine Price's discretion for Kindergarten projects at Country School.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the gift of \$1,000 from Bodo and Kerstin Leisenfeld for Kindergarten projects at Country School.

Mrs. Mahr informed the Committee of a donation of \$500 to the METCO Scholarship Fund from proceeds collected at the snack shack from the Class of 2012

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the gift of \$500 from the Class of 2012, funds to be deposited to the METCO Scholarship Fund

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 \$4,611,951.83 by the Director of Finance and Operations.

IV. Executive Session

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, the School Committee voted to enter into Executive Session at 8:48 PM for purposes of discussing legal matters, not to return to Open Session, with Mrs. Black voting aye; Dr. Heller voting aye; and Mr. Manley voting aye.

No action taken during Executive Session.

Mr. Manley requested the Committee return to Open Session for an additional business item.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Manley and seconded by Dr. Heller, at 9:46 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to return to Open Session, with Mrs. Black voting aye; Dr. Heller voting aye; and Mr. Manley voting aye.

Permanent Building Committee

Mr. Manley noted the Selectmen would be appointing Mr. James Polando to a three term on the Permanent Building Committee and requested School Committee approval.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Manley and seconded by Dr. Heller, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of James Polando to

serve on the Town's Permanent Building Committee to a three year term expiring January 15, 2015.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Black, at 9:50 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.