



## Learning How Series

How Do Schools Work?



## Weston School Committee

- **Danielle Black**  
Chair, Weston School Committee
- **Ed Heller**  
Vice-Chair, Weston School Committee
- **Sanjay Saini**
- **John Henry**
- **Alex Cobb**



## Weston Public Schools: Case House Cabinet

- **Pam Bator**  
Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning
- **Cindy Mahr**  
Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
- **Midge Connolly**  
Director of Student Services
- **Lee McCanne**  
Director of Technology & School Libraries



## Weston Public Schools: School-Based Leadership

- **Erin Maguire**  
Principal, Country School (Grades PreK-3)
- **Jen Faber**  
Principal, Woodland School (Grades PreK-3)
- **Matt Lucey**  
Principal, Field School (Grades 4-5)
- **John Gibbons**  
Principal, Weston Middle School (Grades 6-8)
- **Anthony Parker**  
Principal, Weston High School (Grades 9-12)

# Federal, State & Local School Oversight

## The Role of the Federal Government

The **Federal Government** does not exercise direct authority over the nation's education system -- instead, states and local communities are responsible for their educational institutions.

- Exercise leadership in promoting educational policies and reform efforts of national scope
- Administer federal assistance programs authorized and appropriated by Congress
- Enforce federal civil rights laws as they pertain to education
- Provide information and statistics about education at the national and international levels
- Provide technical expertise to the United States Department of State, United States Department of Homeland Security, other federal agencies and Executive Office of the President in conducting the foreign affairs of the United States as these pertain to education and within the limited scope of federal power in this area

*Source: United States Department of Education*

# Federal, State & Local School Oversight

## The Role of the States

**State Governments** are responsible for direct oversight of the education systems in their states, including execution of necessary political, administrative and fiscal functions.

- Provide funding for public education at all levels
- License or charter private schools and public and private institutions of higher education
- Provide oversight and guidance to local school boards
- Set broad policies for school-level curricula, texts, standards, and assessments (but not higher education)
- Oversee the provision of educational services for persons living with disabilities, adults needing basic education services, and other special needs populations
- Set the standards for examining and licensing persons seeking to work in any regulated professional occupation
- Elect or appoint some or all of the members of the governing boards of public higher education institutions and state boards

*Source: United States Department of Education*

# Federal, State & Local School Oversight

## The Role of the Locality

**Local School Boards/Committees** are responsible for the actual operation of public schools.

- Implement and enforce state laws and policies
- Develop and implement educational policies
- Develop annual fiscal budget for school operations
- Hire/Terminate the Superintendent of Schools

*Source: United States Department of Education*



## The Superintendent of Schools

**Public School  
Superintendents**

Public school superintendents are non-elected, executive and chief administrative officers who are charged with the responsibility of organizing and managing human and material resources within an extremely complex, multi-power system.

**Communication**

Superintendents who are not strong communicators and who fail to engage the wide array of community stakeholders in their vision are likely to be ineffective school leaders.

**Competencies**

Communication itself does not drive the forward vision for school improvement. Key competencies are essential for navigating a dynamic political system.





## Advancing the Educational Agenda

### Educational Altruism

The Grand Vision.

The perspective of what the critical needs are of the system to effectively prepare students for the rigors of post-secondary learning and to equip them with the essential skills they need to be productive members of society.



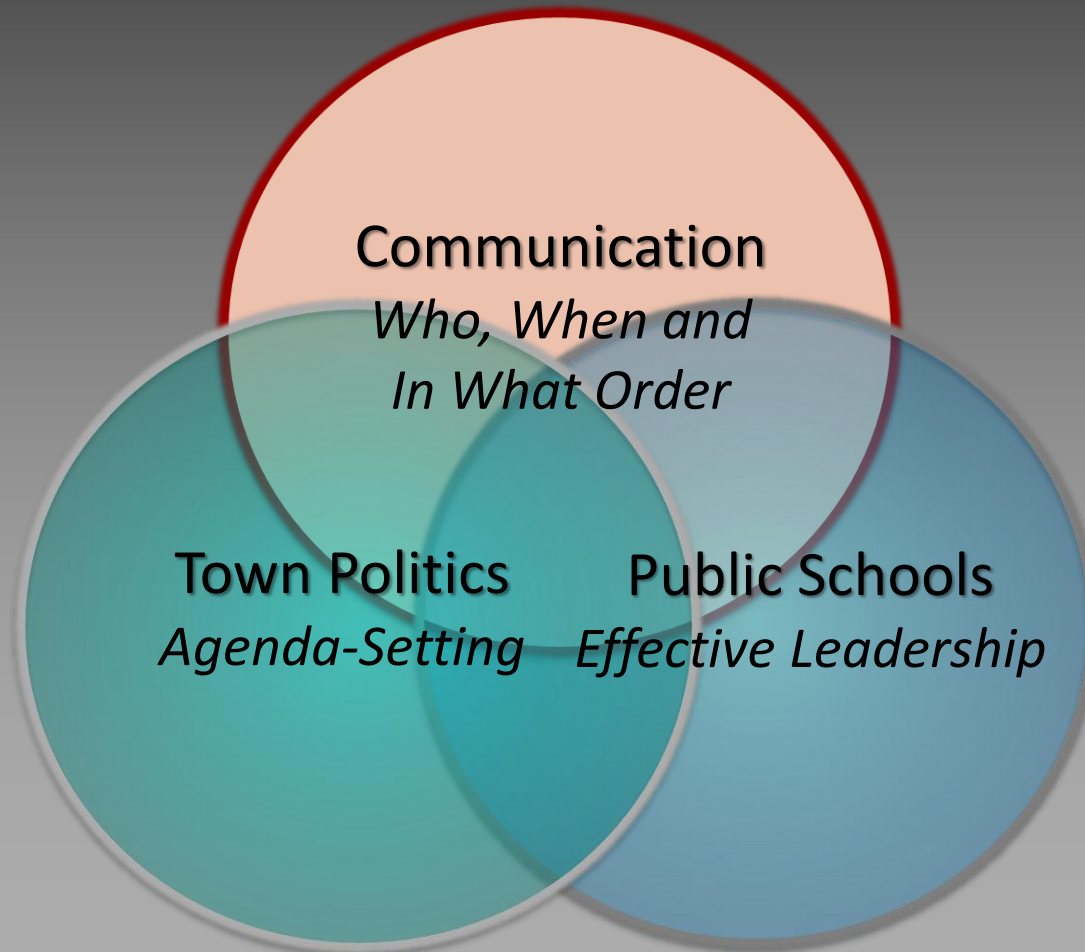
### Local Governance “Buy-In”

The Practical Application.

The notion of “buy-in,” an idiom with no literal meaning, signifies general agreement or support for an idea or decision.



## Necessary Lenses for Change & Innovation





## Opportunities for Innovation, Change and Improvement

- Pre-K-12 Structure of the Weston Public Schools
- Start Time at the Secondary Level
- Length of Day at the Elementary Level
- Curriculum and Grade Level Management
- Declining Enrollment and Rethinking Teaching & Learning
- Embracing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills
  - Collaboration
  - Creativity
  - Critical Thinking
  - Communication

# The Future of Teaching & Learning?





## Learning How Series

### Upcoming Events

- How Do We Feed Our Students?
- How Is Curriculum Changed?
- How Has Learning Changed?
- How Does Technology Support Learning?
- How Has Teaching Changed?

## **HOW DO WE FEED OUR STUDENTS?**

**NOVEMBER 14, 2016 • 7 – 8:30 PM • REGISTRATION NEEDED**

Join our Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Cindy Mahr, and members of Food Services to learn about how our meals are developed AND have dinner with us.

## **HOW IS CURRICULUM CHANGED?**

**JANUARY 23, 2017 • 7 – 8:30 PM**

Join our Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, Pamela Bator, to learn about and discuss the process of curricular evaluation and content change. How does our program review process, curriculum cabinets/councils, and professional development work?

## **HOW HAS LEARNING CHANGED?**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2017 • 7 – 8:30 PM • REGISTRATION NEEDED**

Come be a student for an evening! Join a group of teachers (one elementary, one middle, and one high school) representing different content areas. The twist is YOU are the student! Rotate through these three mini-classes to experience learning today.

## **HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT LEARNING?**

**MARCH 13, 2017 • 7 – 8:30 PM**

Join our Director of Technology and School Libraries, Lee McCanne, to learn about a variety of ways technology is used in classrooms today to engage and support student learning.

## **HOW HAS TEACHING CHANGED?**

**APRIL 3, 2017 • 7 – 8:30 PM**

Join our Director of Student Services, Midge Connolly, and our Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Pamela Bator, to discuss differentiation for all students, the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan, Special Education, and 504s.



## Learning How Series

**THANK YOU**