

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 11, 2011

I.A. Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 7:07 PM at Boston Police Headquarters, One Schroeder Plaza, Roxbury, by Dr. Ed Heller. In attendance were Mr. Richard Manley and Mrs. Maryanne Rogers of the School Committee; Mrs. Elizabeth Nagarajah and Mrs. Cheryl Antoine, Alternating METCO Representatives to the School Committee; Miss Sophia Wirth, Student Representative to the School Committee; Dr. Cheryl Maloney, Superintendent; Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Director of Finance and Operations; and Mrs. Amber Bock, Assistant Superintendent. Not Present: Mr. Court Chilton, Dr. Sanjay Saini.

Also in attendance were Mr. David Fuller, Director of Weston METCO, and members of the Weston METCO staff: Mrs. Riola Lazo, Ms. Teresa Dryden, Mr. Howard Horner, Ms. Lauren Byrne, and Mrs. Cristy Brackett.

I.B. Chairman's Report – Dr. Heller thanked the Boston parents for hosting the meeting and noted the evening's agenda would be primarily devoted to METCO items. He shared with School Committee members that their packets included background information on a requirement that local school committees review new private school programs, noting such a topic might be on the next agenda. He also mentioned the upcoming warrant articles for capital projects.

Dr. Heller informed everyone that this would be the last official meeting for Maryanne Rogers, who has served eight years as a Weston School Committee member. He noted she has been a model Committee member, always willing to take on a large workload and provide excellent advice. He thanked Mrs. Rogers for her service and efforts. Mrs. Rogers, who also served as PTO President, noted she had worked longer for the Weston schools than in her career.

I.C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Maloney reiterated Dr. Heller's comments about the Boston meeting and expressed appreciation to the parents for their attendance. She reported on a successful talent show fundraising effort for METCO that took place the preceding week and highlighted several recent Weston High School student achievements, noting that the Chorus sang the National Anthem at a recent Boston Celtics game; that although the Theater Company did not win the State Drama Festival, several students won awards; and that the Math Team was competing in the State Championship. She informed the Committee that English teacher Claire Schomp helped organize the first EDCO- sponsored Greater Boston Students of Color Achievement Network (GBSOCAN) High School Student Conference in March, noting that six students from Weston attended and shared their experiences with nearly 70 other students.

Dr. Maloney noted that Country School Art Day would be held on April 15, with the entire school community enjoying a day devoted to the arts of Japan. She noted Woodland Art Day would be on the 14th. She reported that Middle School sixth grader Connor Goggins participated in the State-wide GeoBee, coming in 7th place overall, and sixth grader Tina Ziobro won Honors in the Massachusetts Letters About Literature contest. Dr. Maloney mentioned that a number of Weston student athletes were recognized as *Boston Globe* DCL All Stars and All Scholastics, noting that "Weston students continue to excel no matter the venue."

I.D. Open Forum – held at conclusion of other business.

MAJOR BUSINESS

II.A Weston Education Enrichment Fund Committee

Mrs. Bock presented one WEEFC grant proposal for Committee approval.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Rogers and seconded by Mr. Manley, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the WEEFC grant proposal as presented, totaling \$565, per memo of April 5, 2010.

II.B. 2010-2011 Report on Weston METCO Program

Mr. Fuller presented the annual report of the METCO Program. He summarized the achievements of the students, reviewed his goals, indicators of success, academic achievement initiatives, and fundraising initiatives. He presented a program overview and reviewed the roles of the academic liaisons at each school. Mr. Fuller expressed appreciation to groups in the community, noting that the dedication and support of people in Boston and Weston contribute to the success of the Weston METCO Program. He thanked his staff and commended Cristy Brackett, METCO Community Coordinator, for her work. He noted that her position was eliminated in the FY12 budget.

The Committee briefly discussed the report as well as state funding concerns. Dr. Maloney noted the indicators of success – particularly the number of students taking Honors courses – show how focused efforts on achievement by Boston students have become. Mrs. Bock and Mr. Fuller encouraged parents to have their students attend the summer programs offered, to avail themselves of the resources being offered.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Rogers and seconded by Mr. Manley, the School Committee voted unanimously to receive the 2010-2011 METCO Program Annual Report.

II.C. Boston/Weston METCO Parent Organization (BWMPO) Report

Mrs. Cheryl Antoine thanked the Committee and Dr. Maloney for providing the opportunity to present the report. She reviewed the organization's mission statement and reviewed its regular and annual activities. She reviewed parent participation in BWMPO meetings, noting that Weston parents participate greater than those of other communities. Mrs. Antoine reviewed future goals, including more involvement of Weston METCO alumni and greater parental participation in the schools. Mrs. Nagarajah noted that having a topic at each BWMPO meeting has been a success in increasing participation. Mrs. Rogers commended both Mrs. Antoine and Mrs. Nagarajah for their work and attendance at meetings.

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

II.D. Report on METCO Budget and Funding

Mrs. Mahr discussed the uncertain status of the METCO budget for FY12 and recommended the Committee authorize the administration to submit the annual METCO grant application. She informed the Committee that she expected to have funding information by July 1 but noted the budget would cover only core staff and transportation and would not include funding for the Community Coordinator position.

MOTION: Upon motion made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Manley, the School Committee voted unanimously to authorize the school administration to submit the annual METCO grant application.

IV. Open Forum – (out of order of agenda)

Discussion took place regarding the Community Coordinator position, with Mr. Fuller expressing optimism that he will find a way to fund both that position and the “Got Books Program,” previously funded by WEEFC. He noted both of these would be addressed in an appeal letter to parents.

II.E. High School Science Facility Update

Mrs. Rogers presented a slide show on the proposed project, noting that she would present it to voters at the Weston Town Meeting beginning on May 9. She reviewed the project background,

objectives, and proposed benefits and noted that the entire high school would have sprinkler system as well as having improved ADA accessibility. Mrs. Rogers reviewed the project timeline, noting that bids were coming in now. Work on the project, if approved, would begin summer of 2011, with all new labs complete in June 2012, renovated labs in summer of 2012, and completed by the Fall of 2012 at an estimated cost of \$13 million. No action taken.

II.F. Field School Project Update

Dr. Heller described the Field School Project process to date, noting that for the past six years the Committee has been working on a plan to renovate or build a new Field School. He described the involvement of the MSBA and the work to date with architects, noting the school is in a designated historic district. Dr. Heller reported the School Committee reviewed conceptual ideas for renovating existing building and explored four alternative designs, considered them, and selected a preferred alternative to be built far to the back of current building, creating an elementary campus. He indicated that open space would result at location of current building. He presented a timeline for the project, noting the expectation to receive input and possible from the MSBA by end of May, pursue Town funding of \$35 million in Fall of 2011, with a new school building open by 2014. Dr. Heller indicated this project would become part of the Case Corner Master Plan, creating a “wrap around project” to improve parking and driving in the area. Dr. Maloney noted that the School Committee has devoted much meeting time to these projects. No action taken.

II.G. Green Repair Program Update

Dr. Maloney updated everyone on the Green Repair Program, noting that Weston qualified for funding and partial reimbursement of a new High School boiler and portion of Middle School roof, both projects to be completed by the Fall. Dr. Heller indicated that neither project was part of the operational budget. No action taken.

III.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Rogers and seconded by Mr. Manley, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 28 and April 5, as amended.

III.B. Personnel Information –
Job Descriptions

Mrs. Mahr reported that she had worked with a consultant to update job descriptions of the Weston Educational Administrative Assistants Association, indicating the Union had approved them and the process complete. She indicated they were available for review if requested.

Director of Student Services

Dr. Maloney reported that after two searches had been conducted for a new Director of Student Services, she was considering hiring an Interim Director for 2011-12 and launching a new search next year.

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. Rogers, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant for payment of \$3,497,891.35 by the Director of Finance and Operations.

IV. Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mrs. Rogers and seconded by Mr. Manley, at 8:56 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.