

## MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

February 27, 2017

### Call To Order

A meeting of the Weston School Committee was called to order at 6:42 PM at Case House by Mrs. Danielle Black, Chair. In attendance were Mr. Alex Cobb, Dr. Ed Heller, and Mr. John Henry of the School. Not present: Dr. Sanjay Saini of the School Committee.

Also in attendance were Dr. Midge Connolly, Director of Student Services; Mrs. Pamela Bator, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Mr. Anthony Parker, Weston High School Principal; Mr. John Gibbons, Weston Middle School Principal; Mr. Matt Lucey, Field School Principal; Ms. Erin Maguire, Country School Principal; Ms. Jen Faber, Woodland School Principal; and Ms. Jen Truslow, Assistant Director of Student Services.

Chairman's Report – Mrs. Black welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced members of the School Committee. She indicated that there was a single item on the evening's agenda, the School Committee interview of Dr. Connolly for the position of Interim Superintendent, followed by Committee discussion and vote.

Open Forum – No comments.

### MAJOR BUSINESS

#### Interim Superintendent Interview

Mrs. Black read a statement of Dr. Connolly's credentials, including her educational and professional background. She said the Committee would conduct an interview for an hour and fifteen minutes followed by audience opportunity to ask Dr. Connolly questions prior to the Committee's discussion and vote.

Committee members asked Dr. Connolly questions on a variety of topics including her thoughts on Weston's strengths and where she might want to make changes. Dr. Connolly indicated the community's involvement in education and activities and the opportunity for resources as strengths, while she sees a need for targeted professional development for faculty growth. They discussed her leadership style and Entry Plan, with Dr. Connolly saying she would want to be in the schools, to spend time walking the buildings, and to meet regularly with principals and members of the administrative team. She said she looked forward to gaining experience in negotiations and budget areas. They discussed her experience and thoughts on technology, the achievement gap, personnel, evaluations, social/emotional student concerns, and support for METCO. When asked, Dr. Connolly said that now is the right time in her personal life to consider this opportunity, noting she has served at all levels of the schools and has always had the goal of becoming a superintendent. She said she would plan to attend activities and community events and expects to spend many evenings in the district, while reiterating that a superintendent needs to spend time in the schools.

Members of the audience had opportunity to ask questions. These included a question from Dr. John McKenzie about Dr. Connolly's most influential teacher and questions to the Committee about the Interim Superintendent position. Dr. Connolly noted that she would resign her position of Director of Student Services if she is appointed Interim Superintendent. Members of the Committee noted that while they would be appointing an Interim Superintendent, they could, during the next two years, decide whether to conduct a new search for a permanent superintendent or extend the contract of the Interim. Following the interview, the Committee held a discussion on whether to vote to appoint Dr. Connolly.

**MOTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Henry, the School Committee voted to discuss the appointment of Dr. Marguerite (Midge) Connolly to a two year, Interim Superintendent.

Each member present spoke in support of Dr. Connolly. Mr. Henry noted her success in improving Student Services and her collaborative ways. Mrs. Black stated that the "district has a lot of alphas, both parents and teachers" and needs a superintendent that can listen. She noted the experience Dr. Connolly

has with WestonPAC and the Middle Management Committee. Mr. Cobb said she is reflective and has enjoyed the time he has spent with Dr. Connolly.

MOTION: Upon motion by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Cobb, the School Committee voted to appoint Dr. Marguerite (Midge) Connolly to a two year, Interim Superintendent position, subject to successful contract negotiations and to authorize Mrs. Black to conduct those negotiations.

Adjournment

MOTION: Upon motion made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Heller, at 8:09 PM, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.