

MINUTES OF THE WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING, JANUARY 17, 2023

Recording:

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/weston/video/63c80cad8843b0008da4b0b?page=HOME>

Call to Order

Mr. Ken Newberg calls the meeting to order. Also participating are Ms. Alyson Muzila, Ms. Attia Linnard, Ms. Maijia Cirulis-Gooch, and Mr. Jeff Lucas of the School Committee, as well as Ms. Keitice Johnson, METCO family rep. are in attendance including Paul Peri and John Gibbons, Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; and Ms. Sheri Matthews, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations; and Dr. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; and Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and Libraries. Susan Erikson, Keatrice Johnson/METCO, and Lisa Reitano and Mathew Seltzer of the town's finance committee, and also Student rep, Courtney Leung. were also in attendance.

Chair Report

Mr. Newberg says the committee has been invited to have representation on a multi-year, town-wide, master improvement plan project. He invites members to reach out via email if they would like to participate. He mentions the updated FAQ document related to the WEA negotiations have been posted.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connolly mentions the current high school theater production and athletics are going well.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Lucas mentions an approved WEEFC grant, which is on the consent agenda.

Public Comment

Sarah Cahill opposes PE waivers at any grade as she believes they would be detrimental to the physical development of students and have an adverse impact on instructors.

Superintendent's Recommended FY24 Budget

Dr. Connolly presents her recommended FY24 budget. Mr. Newberg speaks to the need for an assessment of software/technology costs, ensuring they are aligned with current needs. Ms. Muzila comments on utility consumption and energy efficiency, recommending a focus on both technology and behavioral changes. Ms. Gooch suggests a zero-based budget process to start and suggests creating a budget for a professional development plan. She also asks questions about the role of Director of Equity and Professional Learning. Mr. Lucas wants to ensure there is alignment between the budget and the strategic plan. Mr. Newberg confirms the budget will be further discussed in the committee's next several meetings.

Science Department External Questions

The committee approves the proposed questions for the external review of the science department.

Annual School Report

Mr. Lucas is developing the first draft of the 2022 school report, and he highlights some of the differences between this draft and previous years' reports. The 2022 report will be voted on in a future meeting.

School Committee Policy Manual Revisions

As a first read, the committee discusses the proposed revisions to section K of the policy manual. Ms. Muzila takes over as meeting chair as Mr. Newberg leaves to participate remotely via phone. Dr. Carter introduces the IHA instructional program policy for a first read.

School Committee Governance

Mr. Lucas introduces the draft self-assessment tool created in a Google Form. Ms. Muzila explains the tool is for the committee to internally evaluate their own performance, and she suggests we use the tool as a beta test. Mr. Newberg suggests we contact MASC about the self-assessment process to ensure we do not violate Open Meeting Law. Mr. Lucas then introduces a School Committee Norms and Beliefs document as a draft for first read.

Expansion of Sports PE Class Substitution Pilot

Ms. Muzila begins discussion of the revisions to [Policy IKF](#), which would the PE substitution pilot from seniors to juniors. Dr. Carter shares survey results of HS students, who shows a strong preference to expand the substitution pilot; he also shares that the Wellness Department faculty strongly prefer the pilot not be expanded. The committee then discusses the pros and cons of expansion, its legality, and the desire for additional data. Ken recommends rescheduling the vote on the expansion to a future meeting.

Limiting the Coaching of Direct Relatives in Varsity HS Sports

Ms. Gooch moves to approve the proposed revisions to the GBEA policy, which is seconded. The committee approves the revisions.

WEEFC Grant Requests

The committee approves the WEEFC grant requests.

Adjournment to Executive Session

Mr. Newberg conducts a roll call vote to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy. It is not the committee's intent to return to public session. The committee votes to enter the session.