

## MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE ONLINE MEETING

2/10/2021 at 8 A.M. (Rescheduled from 2/3/2021)

**Zoom Link:** [Westonorg.zoom.us/j/94015330088](https://westonorg.zoom.us/j/94015330088)

**Full Recording:** [Weston.vod.castus.tv/vod/](https://weston.vod.castus.tv/vod/)

### Call to order & Opening Business

A meeting of the Weston School Committee is called to order by Mr. John Henry, Chair. Participating were Ms. Anita Raman, Vice-chair, Mr. Alex Cobb, and Ms. Rachel Stewart of the School Committee; as well as Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; Dr. J. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; and Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and School Libraries; Keitric Johnson, METCO representative; plus SAC student representatives.

Mr. Henry, presiding over the meeting, jumps right in and calls on the students to share their perspectives.

### Major Business

One student expresses that most students she has talked to are hesitant to expand the day, and then gives several reasons she has heard for why students are hesitant. Another student says adding more hours in school would be helpful, but not more online hours. She rejects expanded livestreams, suggesting mixed-group live streams are confusing and take away from instruction.

Another student agrees, adding that teachers focus more on in-person students during live streaming. Another student adds that from her personal experience as a remote student, an extended school day will exacerbate excessive screen time. Mr. Henry responds that an upcoming survey from the district will help gather further perspectives and make schedule changes responsive to student needs.

Mr Henry then invites students to discuss ideas for a COVID-safe class gathering in-person in the spring, and graduation. Students share suggestions and considerations. Dr. Connolly adds that Principal Peri has been working hard on coordinating this. Mr. Henry emphasizes the need for students to feel together as a community and pledges to work with WHS and the facilities dept. to make something possible. They also discuss the possibility of a social-distanced prom, explaining that it is difficult but not impossible.

Students and administrators go on to discuss Wednesday schedules, live-streaming requirements and more. Dr. Carter responds to some instructional matters raised by students. Students also shared insights on technology challenges and they discussed possible solutions.

The discussion winds to a close after several minutes of additional discussion on these topics, which included students, school committee members and administrators. As the clock strikes 8:30, Mr. Henry thanks the students for their insights, and the committee adjourns their meeting.