

WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6:30 PM; Location: Weston High School Auditorium, 444 Wellesley St. in Weston, MA

This meeting was streamed in real time via Zoom. Recording may be found here: <https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/weston/video/642c6e0d8a68ff000837f6f5?page=HOME>

Questions or comments? Contact: SchoolCommittee@weston.org - www.westonschools.org

DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING

- [April 3 Negotiations Update](#)
- [Robotics Club GNCE Presentation 2022-2023 Worlds](#)
- [Illustrative Mathematics Implementation Update](#)

ATTENDING PANELISTS

School Committee: Mr. Kenneth Newberg (Chair), Ms. Attia Linnard, Ms. Maija Cirulis-Gooch, Mr. Jeffrey Lucas, Ms. Keitric Johnson (METCO Representative to the School Committee), and Ms. Cortney Leung (Student Representative to the School Committee). Absent: Alyson Muzila (Vice Chair).

Also attending: Dr. Kimo Carter (Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning), Ms. Sheri Matthews (Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations), Dr. Lee McCanne (Director of Technology and Libraries), Mr. Derrek Joyce (Secretary to the School Committee), Dr. Dan Green (Field School Principal), Ms. Tracy Manousaridis (Elementary Math Curriculum Specialist) and Mr. Cary Gumbert (GNCE Parent Representative).

OPENING BUSINESS

[Note: the meeting recording begins partway through the Superintendent's report but these minutes capture the entire meeting.]

Chairman's Report

Mr. Newberg calls the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and provides an overview of the meeting's agenda. He advises that, due to time constraints, the FY23 Budget Spending Update will be discussed at the April 25, 2023, general meeting.

Acting Superintendent's Report

In light of Dr. Connolly's absence, Dr. Carter provides district updates such as Stephen Nembirkow and Phil Oates being offered the roles of Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations and Middle School Principal, respectively; the status of the external science curriculum review, and student events. Dr. Carter does not provide Weston High School updates, noting Ms. Leung will be doing so.

Subcommittee Reports (01:52)

Ms. Leung provides updates regarding recent and upcoming events within the high school. Ms. Johnson reports on the joint Weston-METCO PTO meeting. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch provides an update on WEA contract negotiations and a presentation on Weston's current total teacher compensation package as compared to peer districts and the historical disconnect between salary increases and inflation.

Public Comment (28:12)

Ms. Desiree Jackson expresses concerns regarding a finalist for the Interim Superintendent role. Mr. Umut Ozcan, the parent of a current Weston student, discusses retaining quality teachers. Ms. Daina Selvig, the parent of a current Weston student and PTO Board member, asks that negotiations conclude, citing the WEA has put forth a proposal that she would now consider reasonable. Ms. Katie Strohacker, the parent of a current Weston student, also speaks to the WEA's recent proposal.

MAJOR BUSINESS (47:10)

Robotics Club National Competition Trip to Texas over April Break

Mr. Gumbert introduces the Robotics Club and the competition. The Robotics Club provides the committee and attendees with a history of the club and their journey thus far. **Ms. Linnard and Ms. Cirulis-Gooch jointly introduce a motion to approve the club's travel to Houston, TX for the national championship; Mr. Lucas seconds.** The Weston School Committee unanimously approves the motion.

Interim Superintendent Search (57:33)

Mr. Newberg provides a summary of the interim superintendent search to this point. Dr. Green announces Mr. John Gibbons, current Weston Middle School Principal; Mr. Paul Peri, current Weston High School Principal; and Dr. Karen Zaleski, current Hopkinton Director of Student Services are the finalists in the search. **Mr. Newberg motions to dissolve the screening subcommittee given its completed charge; Ms. Cirulis-Gooch seconds.** The Weston School Committee unanimously approves the motion to dissolve the Interim Superintendent Screening Subcommittee. The committee develops a plan for public interviews, both from the

larger committee and the community, and deliberation. To assist with this, **Mr. Newberg motions to create an interview question subcommittee responsible for collecting and organizing questions from the community; Ms. Linnard seconds.** The Weston School Committee unanimously approves the motion. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch, Mr. Lucas, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Leung volunteer for the interview question subcommittee. After agreeing to an interview schedule, **Mr. Newberg motions to finalize it; Ms. Cirulis-Gooch and Mr. Lucas jointly second.** The Weston School Committee unanimously approves the motion thereby setting the process and procedure for the public portion of the interim superintendent search.

Elementary Math Curriculum Update: Illustrative Math Rollout (02:04:18)

Ms. Manousaridis opens by providing an implementation timeline for the Illustrative Math Program rollout, spanning Spring 2021 through FY'24. Once reviewed, Ms. Manousaridis discusses the various successes of the program. In response to Mr. Newberg's question, Ms. Manousaridis advises the teachers have found this rollout hard, considering the work required to implement a new curriculum, but rewarding. Dr. Carter praises the work being done by Ms. Manousaridis and the team. He then discusses how the program will be incorporated into the Middle School. When asked how the committee could assist in the rollout, Ms. Manousaridis advises nothing is needed from the School Committee at this time beyond their continued support.

Student Opportunity Act (02:23:35)

Given the late hour, Dr. Carter offers to provide the school committee with a shortened version of his original presentation or to give the full presentation at the next general meeting. The Weston School Committee opts to hear the full presentation at the April 25, 2023, meeting, in light of both the current time and the next meeting's light agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA (02:24:20)

Mr. Joyce advises that the proposed meeting minutes dated February 2, 2023, were misdated and can be stricken from the record as a meeting had not taken place that day. With this change, **Mr. Newberg motions for unanimous consent on the consent agenda including the outstanding meeting minutes from previous sessions, student club proposals, and WEEFC grant.** There is no objection and the consent agenda is approved by unanimous consent. **Mr. Newberg motives for unanimous consent on the appointment of Stephen Nembirkow as the New Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations.** There is no objection thus the appointment is approved by unanimous consent.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING's AGENDA TOPICS — April 25, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

- FY23 Budget Spending Update
- Student Opportunity Act
- Sustainability Initiatives and Updates
- Program Review Updates
- Metrics Updates

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION (02:27:23)

Following the motion made by Ms. Linnard and seconded by Mr. Lucas, the Weston School Committee voted by roll call vote at 8:58 p.m. to adjourn to executive session and not return to open session for the purpose of discussing WEA Collective Bargaining strategy as doing so in open session would have a detrimental effect on bargaining position. Ms. Linnard voted aye, Ms. Cirulis-Gooch voted aye, Mr. Lucas voted aye, and Mr. Newberg voted aye.