

WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Zoom Livestream Meeting

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Questions or comments? Contact: SchoolCommittee@weston.org -
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DOCUMENTS USED

- [June 12, 2023](#)
 - This document contains info regarding:
 - WEA Negotiations
 - Proposed SY23–24 School Committee Meeting Dates
 - School Committee SY22–23 Goals
 - Director of Equity and Professional Learning
- [Music Program Review 22-23 Presentation](#)
- [Bullying Prevention SC 2023](#)
- [SC Engagement in Social Media, June 2023](#)

ATTENDING PANELISTS

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

Also attending: Dr. Kimo Carter (Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning), Mr. Stephen Nembirkow (Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations), Dr. Lee McCanne (Director of Technology and Libraries), Mr. Derrek Joyce (Secretary to the School Committee), Mr. Chris Memoli (WPS Director of Music K-12), and Dr. Dan Green (Field School Principal).

OPENING BUSINESS

Chairman's Report

With a quorum of the Weston School Committee present, Mr. Newberg calls the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and provides an overview of the meeting's agenda. He advises that the Children's Center of Weston (CCW) FY24 contract will not be discussed as announced at the last meeting and there is no longer a need for an executive session towards the end of the meeting. Mr. Newberg reminds attendees how to participate in Public Comment for the virtual meeting. He also welcomes Mr. Stephen Nembirkow, as this is his first Weston School

Committee meeting, and notes that Dr. Connolly was unable to make the meeting due to illness. Mr. Newberg concludes by highlighting key areas of the WEA agreement due to public interest.

Superintendent's Report (09:33)

As acting superintendent, Dr. Carter opens by welcoming Shannon Dickerson and Brian Buck, the newly appointed Woodland School Principal and Middle School Vice Principal, respectively. The then lists various events happening in the district to celebrate the end of the school year.

Subcommittee Reports (12:50)

Ms. Cirulis-Gooch, serving as the representative to the Rec Master Plan Steering committee, advises that the middle school and high school tennis courts are in need of maintenance, but due to uncertainty as to who is responsible for the maintenance, further discussions need to occur beforehand. She also provides the update that the ongoing Field 1 Lights project will not be seeking School Committee approval prior to the end of the fiscal year as anticipated. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch concludes by noting the last SEPAC-sponsored lunch for caretakers and parents is approaching. Ms. Johnson advises that 11 METCO students graduated on June 2, and there were 4 recipients of the John Hudson Scholarship this year.

Public Comment (16:11)

As no attendees wished to speak, there was no need for Public Comment at this meeting.

MAJOR BUSINESS

Music Program Internal Review (16:22)

Mr. Memoli opens by describing the program's growth for the past 25 years and thanks the WPS Music team as they are the reason for the program's success. He then lists the areas of focus for the internal review. In summary, the curriculum findings were excellent but the district is looking to find ways to be even more successful. Mr. Memoli describes some of the metrics used to measure the program's success, including the efficient course scheduling and FTEs, inclusive teaching practices with many award winning students, and community outreach. He advises that the amount of professional development provided is sufficient; however, the teachers could use more in general. Dr. Carter advises the next step is the external review, for which a team will be assembled this coming summer.

Anti-Bullying Policies/Prevention Plan Update (47:14)

Dr. Green provides a background on the bullying prevention plan, as well as the laws behind it, before discussing the process and types of research the committee conducted to make the updates. He then outlines key changes to the plan, including language changes to match DESE's verbiage, policies and procedures related to staff bullying, and an emphasis on training, outreach, and reporting. Next steps include obtaining more data from Field School students and families, implementing more parent-facing resources, and professional development for WPS

staff. Dr. Green and the School Committee discuss reporting structures and methods to make resources easily accessible.

Policy Proposals (01:16:28)

Mr. Newberg opens the floor for discussion on the School Bus Safety Policy; as no members bring forth comments or questions, **he then motions to approve School Bus Safety Policy EEAE as written and proposed at the last meeting. Mr. Lucas seconds the motion.** Via roll call vote, the present School Committee members unanimously vote aye and the motion passes.

Mr. Newberg opens the floor for discussion regarding the proposed revisions for Sections J and H of the School Committee Policy Manual. The School Committee opts to wait until the second read to discuss in more depth. Mr. Newberg clarifies that the policies deemed “on hold” will be reviewed next year, pending follow-up with former Vice Chair Alyson Muzila.

School Committee Meeting Calendar for SY23–24 (01:20:47)

Mr. Newberg opens the floor for discussion on the School Committee Meeting Calendar. Over the course of the discussion, the committee tentatively agrees on the dates of August 1–3 for their summer retreat and, separately, planning an informal meet and greet with the full committee, incoming interim superintendent Dr. Zaleski, and Mr. Nembirkow where business will not be discussed. As there are no further comments or questions on the proposed dates, **Mr. Newberg motions to approve the School Committee Meeting Calendar for SY23–24. Mr. Lucas seconds the motion.** Via roll call vote, the present School Committee members unanimously vote aye and the motion passes.

School Committee Year-End Review (01:28:00)

Mr. Newberg reviews each School Committee goal from SY22–23 individually and in minor detail, noting if he felt the committee reached that goal. In summary, the Weston School committee was able to accomplish their first four goals and make moderate to great progress on the rest. Dr. Carter provides an update on the DEI Equity Audit, as the School Committee’s DEI-centered goal was dependent on that report. Mr. Lucas advises that the new member handbook is fully drafted and with Mr. Newman for feedback, as the latest member. Given this update, the School Committee considers this ninth goal accomplished, pending no significant feedback from Mr. Newman. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch recommends setting fewer goals for SY23–24 to allow the committee to focus on accomplishing more.

Mr. Lucas presents on the committee’s social media presence this past school year, reviewing account metrics (e.g., follower counts, demographics, peak times of review, post counts, and post themes). He concludes by providing his recommendations on how to proceed with the accounts. Dr. McCanne discusses archiving requirements.

MASC Conferences (01:45:56)

Mr. Newberg reminds the committee that any members who wish to attend a conference must obtain prior approval.

- Summer Conference: As Mr. Lucas is the only member who is able to attend, **Mr. Newberg motions to authorize Mr. Lucas's reimbursement for all reasonable and necessary costs related to attending the conference; Ms. Linnard seconds the motion.** Via roll call vote, the present School Committee members unanimously vote aye and the motion passes.
- Fall Conference: As all committee members are interested in potentially attending the conference, **Mr. Newberg motions to authorize each member's reimbursement for all reasonable and necessary costs related to attending the conference; Ms. Linnard seconds the motion.** Via roll call vote, the present School Committee members unanimously vote aye and the motion passes.
- MASC/MASS Fall Conference Delegate: **Mr. Newberg motions to elect Mr. Lucas as the Weston School Committee's primary delegate at the conference, with Mr. Newberg serving as his backup; Ms. Linnard seconds the motion.** Via roll call vote, the present School Committee members unanimously vote aye and the motion passes.

Director of Equity and Professional Learning: New Role / Job Description (02:03:04)

Mr. Newberg explains that due to reasons not listed in previous meeting minutes, the position of Director of District Advancement was changed to Director of Equity and Professional Learning. Because the transition was not listed in School Committee records, Mr. Newberg explains that the Director of District Advancement position currently exists as a vacant and unfunded role per Policy GCA. Mr. Newberg recommends abolishing the Director of District Advancement position to prevent further confusion. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch clarifies that this is being discussed at this time due to the current Director of Equity and Professional Learning's announcement that she will be leaving the district at the end of FY23. **Mr. Newberg motions to abolish the position of the Director of District Advancement as created in 2018 and abandoned in recent years; Ms. Cirulis-Gooch seconds the motion.** Via roll call vote, the present School Committee members unanimously vote aye and the motion passes.

Prior to discussing the job description for Director of Equity and Professional Learning, Mr. Newberg opens the floor for discussion. Ms. Linnard suggests bringing Dr. Zaleski to the table before making a decision on the final job description. Mr. Lucas advises that, if left unfilled, a number of the position's state-mandated responsibilities will need to be performed by other staff. Dr. Carter set the expectation that, given the amount of work performed by that role and the fact that the Office of Teaching and Learning would be responsible for the work specified in the proposed job description, the committee should consider hiring a new candidate before the end of this summer. Dr. Carter suggests approving the position as is with the caveat that it has a term of one-year. He explains that this would give Dr. Zaleski time to fully evaluate the position and make an informed decision. The School Committee opts to postpone further discussion until the July 12, 2023, meeting pending input from Dr. Zaleski.

Consent Agenda (03:17:45)

Mr. Newberg moves to the consent agenda and asks if any items need to be removed for individual discussion. Mr. Lucas provides background on the WEEFC grants up for approval. **Ms. Linnard motions to approve the consent agreement as presented, including payment of Payroll Warrants numbered 4723 and 4923 for \$1,585,465.12 and \$1,585,975.35, respectively; Approval of WEEFC Grants: AP Psychology Gaming Experiment, WMS Spike Prime Robots, Case Estates Legacy Sustainability Garden, Steps 2 Success, Weston Schools Power Down: Student Led Energy Conservation; WEA Memorandum of Agreement for July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, WEA Memorandum of Agreement for July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026, WEAAA Memorandum of Agreement for July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, WAPA Memorandum of Agreement for July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, Local 690 AFSCME (Buildings and Grounds) Memorandum of Agreement for July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, and Local 690 AFSCME (Cafeteria Workers) Memorandum of Agreement for July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023; and School Committee minutes for June 5, 2023. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch seconds the motion.** Via roll call vote, the present School Committee members unanimously vote aye and the motion passes.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING's AGENDA TOPICS — June 29, 2023, Zoom Livestream Meeting

- MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey Data (Info/Vote)
- Update to Secondary Class Sectioning Projections and Proposed Overrides (Vote)
- Anti-Bullying Policies/Prevention Plan Update (Vote)
- Revised FY'24 Budget Approval (Vote)
- Proposed 2023 - 2026 WEA Contract as modified by ratified MOA (Vote)

ADJOURNMENT (02:35:43)

Following the motion made by Mr. Newberg and seconded by Ms. Cirulis-Gooch, the Weston School Committee voted by roll call vote at 9:05 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch votes aye, Ms. Linnard votes aye, Mr. Lucas votes aye, and Mr. Newberg votes aye.