

## WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM

This meeting was held in real time via Zoom. Recording may be found here:  
<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/weston/video/6509f949997ec800084cd901?page=HOME>

Questions or comments? Contact: [SchoolCommittee@weston.org](mailto:SchoolCommittee@weston.org) -  
[www.westonschools.org](http://www.westonschools.org)

### DOCUMENTS USED

- [Superintendent's Report](#)
- [Sleep Research Presentation](#)
- [Screening Committee Composition](#)

### ATTENDING PANELISTS

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

Also attending: Dr. Karen Zaleski (Interim Superintendent), Dr. Kimo Carter (Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning), Mr. Stephen Nembirkow (Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations), Dr. Lee McCanne (Director of Technology & School Libraries), Mr. Derrek Joyce (Secretary to the School Committee), Ms. Shannon Sheldon (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator), and Mr. Andrew Rizza (Head Athletic Trainer, Weston High School).

### OPENING BUSINESS

#### **Chairman's Report** (00:00)

With a quorum of the Weston School Committee present, Mr. Newberg calls the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He opens by inviting attendees to sign up for public comment. He then advises that he met with the administration this past week to set the major agenda items for the 2023–2024 school year.

#### **Superintendent Report** (01:23)

Dr. Zaleski opens by thanking the bus drivers and transportation department for their hard work and discussing bus drills. She then advises Weston High School Athletics is Ranked #2 in the State for small schools and congratulates the Athletics department for this accolade. She concludes by highlighting different areas of the schools she visited this past week.

### **Subcommittee Reports** (14:24)

Ms. Cirulis-Gooch discusses the PTO Board Meeting that was held earlier in the day and encourages all listeners to join the PTO. She then advises the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee is working hard to submit funding applications for the tennis court project. She summarizes next steps for the project, listing various meetings to gain stakeholder support. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch concludes by noting the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee has decided against pursuing the Field 1 lighting request at this time. Ms. Johnson advises BWMPO has had two meetings at this point and is preparing for their Parents Night Out event, occurring on October 21, 2023. Ms. Linnard advises the Stipend Committee is making progress. Mr. Newman advises WEEFC had their first meeting of the year, which primarily focused on their Fall Fundraiser and an additional request for the Middle School Robotics Lab. Ms. Leung provides updates regarding recent and upcoming events within the high school, including recent athletics successes, extracurricular club fair, and the upcoming activity block.

### **Public Comment** (19:00)

No attendees wished to speak.

## **MAJOR BUSINESS**

### **Field Trip Request: Quiz Bowl in Plymouth, NH** (19:13)

As the School Committee received the written request, Mr. Newberg simply explains that because students would be crossing state lines, the committee must approve the field trip. **Mr. Newberg moves to approve the field trip as presented.** The Weston School Committee unanimously votes in favor of the motion, with Ms. Cirulis-Gooch voting aye, Ms. Linnard voting aye, Mr. Lucas voting aye, Mr. Newman voting aye, and Mr. Newberg voting aye.

### **Sleep Study Presentation** (19:44)

Mr. Rizza provides background on a study on sleep, injury, and performance he would like to perform with the informed consent of Weston High School athlete volunteers and their parents in collaboration with Dr William Meehan, Director, Clinical Effectiveness Research Center at the Department of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Children's Hospital Boston (CHB). He then provides an overview of the study, including the scope, timeline, tools used, how CHB will be covering the costs of the study, how confidentiality will be maintained for the students, and what will happen with the data after it has been collected. He advises that students will be able to opt into the study. Ms. Linnard provides suggestions on how to advertise the study. The Weston School Committee thanks him for his presentation.

### **Annual Budget Guidelines Discussion** (34:22)

Mr. Newberg explains his process in updating the budget guidelines for FY24 to reflect the process for FY25. He then explains the purpose of the budget guidelines and how it relates to the budget process timeline, reviewing the timeline in the process. Mr. Newberg reviews some of the factors that increased costs for FY24. Ms. Linnard reminds the committee to make sure the dollars the district is spending on personnel prioritizes student-facing positions. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch asks that the administration explore implementing fees and the potential budget offsets in order to preserve programs going forward. Mr. Newberg asks Ms. Cirulis-Gooch to come to the next meeting with language for the budget guidelines to reflect this ask. Mr. Lucas wonders if it would be worth incorporating strategic initiatives into the budget. Mr. Newberg advises that he has been talking to the Superintendent about implementing a “wish list” of future projects to have better insight into which initiatives to prioritize and plan. Mr. Newman points out specific language changes he would like to see. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch suggests connecting offline with Mr. Newman to redraft the guidelines and present them at the next meeting.

### **Proposed Policy KFB - Management and Use of Tennis Courts** (49:08)

Ms. Cirulis-Gooch advises new policy proposal KFB stems from ongoing conversation regarding the tennis courts and wants to ensure that the courts are maintained properly and the community has access to them. Mr. Newberg explains that since this proposed policy is based on existing policies KF and KFA, he suggests reviewing and approving all three policies at the same time. Mr. Newman advises that he wants to be sensitive to the amount of work being placed on the schools with policies KF/KFA. Mr. Newberg suggests tabling discussion on any changes to KF and KFA as these policies were part of the comprehensive policy review project that focused on legal compliance and best practice as opposed to making substantive discretionary policy changes. Mr. Newberg brought them forth to re-affirm as part of that project, but any changes beyond that is beyond the scope of the current agenda item. Mr. Newberg suggests having the governance subcommittee look at substantive changes if that was Mr. Newman’s wish. Mr. Newman and Ms. Cirulis-Gooch discuss the logistics of ensuring community members can use the courts and have an initial discussion on revenue from the policy.

### **Related Policy Review Third Read - currently no proposed substantive changes** (21:32)

This topic is discussed simultaneously with Proposed Policy KFB; however, Mr. Newberg reiterates that he added this to the agenda so all three policies could be reviewed and discussed at the same time.

### **Update on Superintendent Search** (01:00:28)

Mr. Newberg reviews the tentative Superintendent Search Timeline, announces the members of the Application Screening Subcommittee and the Preliminary Interview Subcommittee, and advises the next steps in the search process.

**CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **Cont. Discussion Administrator Salary Policy Revisions** (01:10:25)

The Weston School Committee opts to discuss this matter at a future meeting awaiting feedback from Mr. Newman.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Consent Agenda** (01:10:47)

Mr. Newberg moves to the consent agenda and advises he would like to remove the WEEFC Grant as further internal discussion needs to occur before the grant can be considered. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch advises the warrant is ready for approval. Mr. Newberg advises that Mr. Joyce has been doing work outside the scope of his current job description and the proposed revised job description is intended to acknowledge and reflect this. **Mr. Newberg motions for unanimous consent on the items listed less the previously discussed WEEFC Grant, including payment of Payroll Warrant 1124 for the amount of \$1,828,316.52, Grants as submitted in the meeting packet, all donations received previously, the application for the previously approved Tennis Court CPA funds, and the revised job description for Superintendent / School Committee Administrative Coordinator.** There is no objection and the consent agenda is approved by unanimous consent.

#### **NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA TOPICS — October 2, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

- Society for Science Student Recognition
- Metrowest Survey Results and Recommendations
- Budget Update Presentation: FY25 Budget Drivers, Remaining ESSER Funds, Priority Based Budgeting Pilot
- Annual Budget Guidelines Discussion
- All Committee Meeting, Financial Summit Designated Speaker
- Second Read/Revisions: Policy KFB - Management and Use of Tennis Courts

#### **ADJOURNMENT** (01:16:13)

Following the motion made by Mr. Newberg and seconded by Mr. Lucas, the Weston School Committee votes by roll call vote at 8:16 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch votes aye, Ms. Linnard votes aye, Mr. Lucas votes aye, Mr. Newman votes aye, and Mr. Newberg votes aye.