

## WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Zoom Livestream Meeting)

Friday, 4/14/2023 at 9:00 AM

Recording may be found here:

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/weston/video/64398f31140e9200089eeedb?page=PLAYLIST>

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

### **ATTENDING PANELISTS**

School Committee: Mr. Kenneth Newberg (Chair), Ms. Alyson Muzila (Vice Chair), Ms. Attia Linnard, Ms. Maija Cirulis-Gooch, and Mr. Jeffrey Lucas

Also attending: Dr. Lee McCanne (Director of Technology and Libraries); Mr. Derrek Joyce (Secretary to the School Committee)

### **OPENING BUSINESS**

Mr. Newberg called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and reviewed the purpose of the meeting was to hold final deliberations on which of the three finalists should be appointed the interim superintendent. He thanked the finalists and, regardless of the outcome of the vote, expressed that each would be a great superintendent. Mr. Newberg concluded by suggesting a format for the straw polling and discussion to help guide the discussion and potentially reach agreement on a consensus candidate.

### **MAJOR BUSINESS (2:01)**

#### **Final Deliberations and appointment vote on the Interim Superintendent**

The Weston School Committee began by participating in a preliminary straw poll via Google poll in which individual committee members could choose their top two candidates. For the purposes of this exercise, committee members would vote for their top two candidates out of the three without choosing the same finalist twice. After the first round, Mr. Gibbons was ranked in the top two by two members, Mr. Peri by all five members, and Dr. Zaleski by three members. The school committee then discussed the candidates individually and provided their reasoning for their votes. Following the discussion, the Weston School Committee repeated the exercise using the same guidelines. Mr. Gibbons again was ranked in the top two candidates out of three by two members, Mr. Peri by four members, and Dr. Zaleski also by four members. From here, members decided to narrow the options to Mr. Peri and Dr. Zaleski and submit their preferred top candidate out of the two. Mr. Peri was the top candidate for one member, the remaining four members chose Dr. Zaleski. The school committee discussed the results and repeated the exercise a second time with the same guidelines to pick one out of the two finalists - the results were the same. After a brief discussion of the second strawpoll, **Ms. Muzila motioned to**

**appoint Dr. Zaleski as the Interim Superintendent of Weston Public Schools, subject to successful contract negotiations and further ratification of the Weston School**

**Committee;** Ms. Cirulis-Gooch seconded the motion. The Weston School Committee voted in favor of this via roll call vote with Ms. Muzila voting aye, Ms. Linnard voting aye, Ms. Cirulis-Gooch voting aye, Mr. Lucas voting aye, and Mr. Newberg voting aye. The School Committee discussed the negotiation process and salary range briefly before **Ms.**

**Cirulis-Gooch motioned to authorize Mr. Newberg to enter into contract negotiations with Dr. Zaleski, providing authority on the committee's preference on salary range, and length of contract (not to exceed one year);** Ms. Linnard and Mr. Lucas jointly seconded the motion. The Weston School Committee voted in favor of this via roll call vote with Ms. Muzila voting aye, Ms. Linnard voting aye, Ms. Cirulis-Gooch voting aye, Mr. Lucas voting aye, and Mr. Newberg voting aye.

#### **ADJOURNMENT (54:18)**

Following the motion made by Ms. Cirulis-Gooch and seconded by Mr. Newberg, the Weston School Committee voted via roll call vote at 9:54 a.m. to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Muzila voted aye, Ms. Linnard voted aye, Ms. Cirulis-Gooch voted aye, Mr. Lucas voted aye, and Mr. Newberg voted aye.