

WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 6:30 PM

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/6449740530a86800080fd2a4?page=HOME>

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

DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING

- [2023-04.27_SCMeeting-Sustainability](#)
- [Student Opportunity Act FY23 Progress Report](#)
- [March 3rd Quarter Report](#)
- [Proposed Superintendent Contract Presentation](#)

ATTENDING PANELISTS

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

Also attending: Dr. Midge Connolly (Superintendent), 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), Ms. Phoebe Beierle (Permanent Building Committee Representative for the town Sustainability Committee), and Mr. Jonathan Lan (WHS Student Representative for Sustainability).

OPENING BUSINESS

Chairman's Report

Mr. Newberg calls the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. and provides an overview of the meeting's agenda. Mr. Newberg congratulates the high school robotics team, as they were awarded first place in their division at the recent world championship. He then discusses the status of the School Committee's negotiations with the WEA. Mr. Newberg also briefly mentions providing a tour of the school facilities to Dr. Zaleski, the interim superintendent-elect, on April 19, 2023.

Superintendent's Report (05:04)

Dr. Connolly opens by thanking Woodland School Principal Jason Dimen for his contributions to the district in light of the news that he will be retiring from the district. She advises updates regarding the search for his replacement are forthcoming. Dr. Connolly also congratulates the robotics team on their success and provides other district updates. Dr. Connolly does not provide Weston High School updates, as these were provided by Ms. Leung.

Subcommittee Reports (07:38)

Ms. Leung provides updates regarding recent and upcoming events within the high school.

Public Comment (09:28)

There are no speakers during this portion of the agenda, as no attendees signed up for public comment.

MAJOR BUSINESS (09:48)

Sustainability Initiatives and Updates

Ms. Beierle discusses climate change and how it will impact the schools and town in the coming years. She then advocates for ways the district can take advantage of current sustainability and funding opportunities. Mr. Lan speaks to ways the school administration can assist with sustainability practices from a student perspective. Ms. Beierle provides some examples for quick solutions for improving sustainability.

Student Opportunity Act (46:41)

With the current Student Opportunity Act (SOA) action plan in year 3 of 3, Dr. Carter provides a status update. He advises that in 2024 the administration will create a new 3-year based on the results of the current plan. Dr. Carter discusses early literacy programs, culturally responsive teaching, workforce diversification, and social-emotional learning/mental health needs.

FY23 Budget - Third Quarter Fiscal Update (01:27:12)

Ms. Matthews presents the third quarter budget report. As of March 31, 2023, the Weston Public School district is financially healthy. Ms. Matthews advises there are no transfer requests to discuss.

Ratification of Interim Superintendent's Contract (01:38:49)

Mr. Newberg provides a background on the contract negotiation process, including salary benchmarks within and outside of the district. He then outlines notable changes between Dr. Connolly's current contract and Dr. Zaleski's contract as an interim superintendent. **Ms. Linnard moves to ratify the Interim Superintendent Contract between Dr. Karen Zalesky and the Weston School Committee dated April 22, 2023 on the terms and conditions set**

forth in the proposed contract submitted in their meeting packet; Ms. Cirulis-Gooch seconds this motion. Via roll call vote, the Weston School Committee passes this motion unanimously. Ms. Muzila votes aye, Ms. Linnard votes aye, Ms. Cirulis-Gooch votes aye, Mr. Lucas votes aye, and Mr. Newberg votes aye.

CONSENT AGENDA (01:59:53)

Mr. Newberg motives for unanimous consent on the consent agenda including the outstanding meeting minutes from previous sessions, student club proposals, WEEFC grants, and warrants. There is no objection and the consent agenda is approved by unanimous consent.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING's AGENDA TOPICS — May 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Boston, MA.

- METCO Annual Report (info)
- BWMPPO Report (info)
- METCO Budget Update (info)
- Update on METCO Program Review (info)

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION (02:05:07)

Following the motion made by Ms. Linnard and seconded by Mr. Lucas, the Weston School Committee voted by roll call vote at 8:43 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. Muzila votes aye, Ms. Linnard votes aye, Ms. Cirulis-Gooch votes aye, Mr. Lucas votes aye, and Mr. Newberg votes aye.