

WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Epiphany Early Learning Center, 230 Centre St., Dorchester, MA 02124

This meeting was streamed in real time via Zoom. Recording may be found here:
<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/weston/video/64510bcc0c1cd500089f9dd0?page=HOME>

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

DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING

- [METCO Annual Report 2023](#)
- [METCO Budget FY'23](#)

ATTENDING PANELISTS

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

OPENING BUSINESS

Chairman's Report

Mr. Newberg calls the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with a quorum of the Weston School Committee present and provides an overview of the meeting's agenda. He thanks Ms. Muzila for her service, as this is her last regular meeting as a member of the committee, and cites some of her accomplishments. Mr. Newberg encourages registered Weston voters to attend town meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023.

Superintendent's Report (04:24)

Dr. Connolly provides district updates, including the opening reception for the K-12 Art Show, students who received awards for their performance in the National Latin Exam, and Weston Public Schools being named one of the Best Communities for Music Education for the fourteenth consecutive year in a row. She concludes by also thanking Ms. Muzila.

Subcommittee Reports (08:00)

Mr. Lucas discusses a proposed email, in which the Weston School Committee provides registration details for Kids' Night Out. **Ms. Cirulis-Gooch motions to approve the email communication and have it sent out;** Mr. Newberg seconds the motion. There is no objection and the motion is approved by unanimous consent. Ms. Johnson provides an update on district athletics. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch gives updates on behalf of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) and WEA contract negotiations subcommittee.

Public Comment (11:56)

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

MAJOR BUSINESS (12:18)

METCO Annual Report (info)

Ms. Dryden summarizes the past year for the METCO program and provides highlights at each grade level. She discusses the Weston METCO program in depth, and touches upon subjects including, but not limited to, new and ongoing programs, the new staffing structure, the new METCO placement process, student accomplishments and college acceptances, and next steps and goals for the program. Following the presentation, the panelists discuss the merits and logistics of the program.

BWMPO Report (info) (01:09:16)

Ms. Johnson opens by thanking everyone involved with BWMPO for their support this year and explaining the purpose of BWMPO in more detail. She explains one of the goals of this past year was to strengthen the sense of community within Weston, specifically regarding the perceived split between Weston and Boston residents. Ms. Johnson lists some of the many accomplishments of BWMPO and METCO students this year. She then discusses goals for the next year.

METCO Budget Update (info) (01:27:34)

Ms. Matthews provides an overview of Weston Public Schools' METCO budget for FY'22 and FY'23, as well as the sources of funding. She concludes with projections for FY'24

Update on METCO Program Review (info) (01:38:30)

Dr. Connolly, along with other panelists and community members, discuss transportation and summer programming. Given the late hour, the Weston School Committee does not provide updates beyond this conversation.

CONSENT AGENDA (01:41:50)

Mr. Newberg motives for unanimous consent on the outstanding meeting minutes from the previous session. There is no objection and the consent agenda is approved by unanimous consent. Mr. Newberg advises warrants will be included in next week's consent agenda.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING's AGENDA TOPICS — May 9, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

- Election of School Committee Chair and Vice Chair
- Confirm School Committee Secretary
- New School Committee Member Introduction
- Subcommittee and Advisory Committee Appointment Discussion
- Proposed School Committee Sustainability Subcommittee Discussion and Options

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION (01:45:31)

Following the motion made by Ms. Cirulis-Gooch and seconded by Mr. Lucas, the Weston School Committee voted by roll call vote at 8:52 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. Cirulis-Gooch votes aye, Mr. Lucas votes aye, and Mr. Newberg votes aye.