

## WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Amy Potter Center, Weston Middle School, 456 Wellesley St., Weston, MA 02493

This meeting was streamed in real time via Zoom. Recording may be found here:

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/weston/video/645c0433581c480008fb686d?page=PLAYLIST>

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

### ATTENDING PANELISTS

Presiding: Dr. Midge Connolly (Superintendent)

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

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

### OPENING BUSINESS

#### Superintendent's Call to Order

Dr. Connolly, acting as the presiding officer and election official pursuant to School Committee Policy BDA, calls the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. with a quorum of the Weston School Committee present. Dr. Connolly provides an overview of the meeting's agenda. She welcomes newly elected Mr. Newman to the Committee and advises that the Committee was notified by Zoom of potential service interruptions. Dr. Connolly explains that her role this evening is to open the meeting and oversee the election of the Committee Chair.

### MAJOR BUSINESS (0:49)

#### Election of School Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Dr. Connolly opens the floor to nominations for the role of Chair. **Ms. Linnard motions to nominate Mr. Newberg and have him continue to serve as the School Committee Chair for a second year**; Ms. Cirulis-Gooch seconds this motion. Mr. Newberg provides a brief summary of his experience and goals as Chair, and states that others should feel comfortable self-nominating or otherwise volunteering to take on the role. The Committee discusses their

ideal qualifications for a Chair. Based on this conversation, Mr. Newberg agrees to accept the nomination with the acknowledgment that the Committee will be strengthened by positioning whoever becomes Vice Chair to move into the role next year. succession planning for a new Chair next year. The Weston School Committee unanimously votes in favor of his election via roll call vote: Ms. Linnard votes aye, Ms. Cirulis-Gooch votes aye, Mr. Lucas votes aye, and Mr. Newman votes aye. Mr. Newberg abstains as his vote is not required. Dr. Connolly closes the election and hands control of the meeting to him.

Mr. Newberg provides a Chair's report, discussing the recent Town Meeting and success of Kid's Night Out. Mr. Newberg opens the floor to nominations for the role of Vice Chair. Ms. Linnard inquires into who would be interested in the role. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch advises she is. **Ms. Linnard motions to nominate Ms. Cirulis-Gooch for the role of School Committee Vice Chair**; Mr. Lucas seconds this motion. The Weston School Committee votes in favor of her election via roll call vote: Ms. Linnard votes aye, Mr. Lucas votes aye, Mr. Newman votes aye, and Mr. Newberg votes aye. Ms. Cirulis-Gooch abstains as her vote is not required.

#### **Confirm School Committee Secretary** (15:45)

**Mr. Newberg motions to nominate Mr. Joyce and have him continue to serve as the School Committee Secretary**; Ms. Linnard seconds this motion. The Weston School Committee votes in favor of his election via roll call vote: Ms. Linnard votes aye, Ms. Cirulis-Gooch votes aye, Mr. Lucas votes aye, Mr. Newman votes aye, and Mr. Newberg votes aye.

#### **New School Committee Member Introduction** (16:33)

Mr. Newman provides a brief introduction and his background in education and education-adjacent work. He notes his excitement to serve on this public body. After revealing that his daughter is playing in a school sponsored concert at 7:00 p.m., the other committee members advocate that he be there for the performance. As a result, Mr. Newberg confirms that Mr. Newman received the New School Committee New Member Materials later in the meeting (01:44:53). At that time, Mr. Lucas offers to send Mr. Newman a copy of the handbook draft being developed by the Governance subcommittee; Mr. Newman accepts the offer.

#### **Subcommittee and Advisory Committee Appointment Discussion** (19:38)

Mr. Newberg takes note of all subcommittees Mr. Newman might be interested in joining. After Mr. Newman departs, the remaining Weston School Committee members discuss subcommittees in-depth, including reassigning committee members, creating new subcommittees, and merging existing subcommittees. Mr. Newman rejoins the meeting partway through this discussion (01:31:21). The Committee suggests various assignments to be finalized at the next meeting to provide everyone time to fully consider their assignments.

Mr. Newberg provides Mr. Newman a history of the WEEFC subcommittee and funds. **Ms. Cirulis-Gooch motions to approve the WEEFC Proposed Membership Slate subject to the**

**change in School Committee liaison from Mr. Lucas to Mr. Newman;** Mr. Newberg seconds this motion. The Weston School Committee unanimously approves this motion.

**CONSENT AGENDA (01:54:31)**

Mr. Newberg then 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 consent. After Mr. Lucas's contribution and with no items being removed, **Mr. Newberg declares unanimous consent to approve the consent agreement as presented, including payment of Payroll Warrant 4323 for \$1,575,871.85, Approval of WEEFC Grants (See attached WEEFC Memo), and School Committee minutes for May 1, 2023.**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING's AGENDA TOPICS — June 5, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**

- Elementary Student Performance Tracking: STAR Data (Info)
- WEEFC Year-End Report (Info)
- PTO Year-End Report (Info)
- Tree/Rock Memorial (Info)
- Policy Review: EEAE (Info)
- Use Fee Discussion and Approval of Fee Schedule (Discussion)

**ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION (01:59:24)**

Following the motion made by Mr. Newberg, the Weston School Committee voted by roll call vote at 8:36 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. Linnard votes aye, Ms. Cirulis-Gooch votes aye, Mr. Lucas votes aye, Mr. Newman votes aye, and Mr. Newberg votes aye.