

**WEEFC Board Meeting
January 5, 2021
9:30 am (via Zoom)**

Present: **Board Members:** Augustine, Bradner, Dickie, Golin, Hanser, McGrath and Taylor
 Administration: Carter (Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning)
 School Committee: Muzila

I. Grant Discussion & Vote

The board reviewed and discussed a new grant request submitted by Dr. Susan Erickson (K-5 Science and Social Studies Curriculum Specialist) to fund a virtual program (via Zoom) given by educators at the Tsongas Industrial History Center titled “Waterpower: Powering a Revolution” to the Field School fourth grade. Dr. Carter explained the complementary nature of the grant given that fourth graders are studying energy, the manner in which water wheels fuel turbines and factories and mills and mill workers. Kimo confirmed that the total cost covers nine separate presentations, one for each of the seven in-school classrooms plus two RLA groups. The board enthusiastically discussed supporting the interdisciplinary nature of the grant and its integration of science, social studies, and literacy curriculum.

A Motion to Approve the Grant was presented, and members in attendance unanimously approved. (Voted in favor: Augustine, Bradner, Dickie, Golin, Hanser, McGrath, and Taylor. Ms. Muzila departed the meeting prior to the vote.)

II. Treasurer’s Report

Cara McGrath noted that we received a few new donations since the last meeting. She confirmed that our approved funding year to date exceeds donations by approximately \$46,000 and reminded the board that we are supporting this deficit with reserves.

III. Chair Report

Winter Appeal with Video Message: The board discussed the timing, content and format of the winter appeal. Concurring that sufficient time had passed since the Weston Wellness fundraiser in the fall, the board reviewed the school calendar and targeted early February for a community wide email solicitation. Noting the necessity to replenish the current deficit, the board determined that the winter appeal would not be a targeted campaign to support a specific need. The board discussed and agreed to include a video message celebrating WEEFC’s 35th anniversary and highlighting how WEEFC dollars impact each and every student. Kate Dickie will reach out to the principals and certain teachers and staff to request their participation in the video. Cara McGrath identified certain technical issues with Webtrac and its tracking of online donations. The board discussed resolution of the issues and alternatives to Webtrac such as using a different software program or a payment application like Venmo. The board agreed to investigate the matter further.

IV. Approve Minutes

A Motion to Approve the Minutes of the meeting on December 17, 2020 was presented, and all members in attendance unanimously approved. (Voted in favor: Augustine, Bradner, Dickie, Golin, Hanser, McGrath, and Taylor. Ms. Muzila departed the meeting prior to the vote.)

Next Meeting: February 9, 2021 at 9:30am (via Zoom)

WEEFC supports innovative and creative grants which enrich the learning experience beyond the regular school budget.