

MINUTES OF WESTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE ONLINE MEETING - 7:00pm on 1/18/2021

Full Recording: [Weston.vod.castus.tv/vod/](https://weston.vod.castus.tv/vod/) (Find timestamps for each section in parentheses)

Documents Used At Meeting

- [Superintendent's Proposed Budget for FY2023](#) (for initial discussion)

Call to order & Opening Business

A meeting of the Weston School Committee is called to order by Ms. Anita Raman, Chair. Also participating were Mr. Ken Newberg, Vice-chair, and Ms. Attia Linnard, Ms. Alyson Muzila, and Ms. Danielle Black of the School Committee; and Ms. Keitrice Johnson, BWMP Representative; as well as Dr. Midge Connolly, Superintendent; and Ms. Sheri Matthews, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; and Dr. J. Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; and Dr. Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and Libraries; as well as members of the Town Finance Committee subcommittee on Schools Lisa Reitano and Bharath Venkataraman.

Ms. Raman welcomes attendees to their virtual meeting and reviews the agenda for the budget meeting before inviting Dr. Connolly to provide Superintendent's updates before major business.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Connolly provides updates from around the district, congratulating WHS student musicians inducted into the Modern Music Masters honor society. She also congratulates the MS math team for a recent win, and shares news from the Middle School about changes to their calendar. She talks about other steps that the high school is taking to help keep student learning on track, and related discussions, before leading into sharing some updates from DESE regarding Covid. She reads excerpts from a [recent DESE memo](#) detailing changes to statewide testing programs, and goes into depth on how the administration is planning to implement the upcoming changes.

Subcommittee Reports (none) (10:45)

FY2023 Budget Proposal Presentation and Discussion (10:55)

Dr. Connolly begins by thanking Assistant Superintendent Sheri Matthews for all of her work on the budget. She speaks to the context of COVID and special budgetary considerations involved, connecting to enrollment patterns and more, then invites Ms. Matthews to join in presenting the budget. Ms. Matthews speaks to the overall vision of the budget, the administration's approach to the annual budget development process, understanding the long term timelines, and more.

The budget as proposed involves an overall increase of \$1,447,316.00, up 3.30%. A majority of the increase comes from contractual obligations to increase salaries across the district. She also discusses changes to total full time employees, and how funding is spread across grants. Presenting the general fund includes totals for spending areas like utilities, vehicles, supplies, and others, as well as a breakdown of spending by school, in context of enrollments and more. Ms. Matthews continues presenting in depth, previewing additional upcoming budget meetings.

(24:30)

Committee members thank Ms. Matthews for her work on the budget and the presentation. They go on to ask various questions and engage in discussions on topics including but not limited to: budget flexibility, tuition and transportation costs for out of district student-placements, other costs associated with student services and special education, as well as class sizes for different types of classes, athletics, transportation for activities, and more. They also touched on federal grants, substitute teachers, counselors, increases in benefit-eligible full time employees, and more. They also talk about balancing choices in course selection with optimizing efficiency and a number of other matters. The conversion draws to a close, leading into public comment.

Public Comment (51:20)

Ms. Raman invites public comment regarding the budget or other matters.

Mr. John Sally joins to give public comment. He begins by thanking everyone who worked on the budget for all their hard work amidst running everything else. He goes on to raise questions or concerns regarding enrollment, and how that relates to long term budget increases over time.

Next, members briefly discuss logistics of the budget process while waiting for further comment. Seeing none, Ms. Raman invites a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Muzila makes a motion to adjourn and Ms. Black seconds. The Committee members vote unanimously to adjourn with Ms. Black, Ms. Muzila, Mr. Newberg, Ms. Linnard, and Ms. Raman voting aye in favor.