

WEEFC Board Meeting
April 6, 2021
9:30 am (via Zoom)

Present:

Board Members: Dickie, Augustine, Bradner, Covington, Golin, Hanser, McGrath, Taylor

Administration: Carter (Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning)

School Committee: Muzila

PTO Chair: Rassiger

Grant Discussion & Vote

1. Origamido Workshop

The Board reviewed and discussed a grant submitted by Stephanie Mazitschek to fund a visit by Michael LaFosse (\$1,090) to the second grade at both Country and Woodland Schools in May. This origami workshop helps bring math concepts to life in 3D. Michael LaFosse has done this workshop for many years at WPS, but this year it was conducted via Zoom. The online workshop was very successful with older elementary students, and this grant request is to extend the workshop to all second grade students.

2. Kasiisi School Connection in Uganda

The Board reviewed and discussed a grant submitted by Hollie Triconi to fund a pilot program reconnecting the Field School fifth grade with our sister-school of years past, the Kasiisi School in Uganda. The grant is for the technology needed in the Uganda school to connect the students – a projector, projection screen and cell phone cards to provide the Wi-Fi. This pilot program hopes to reconnect the schools and have students share curriculum related to water conservation and environmental preservation. Students will share readings, discuss literature and participate in projects via Goggle Meet online. If successful, there are opportunities to expand the relationship.

A motion to approve the first two grants was presented and members unanimously approved. (Voted in favor: Dickie, Augustine, Bradner, Covington, Golin, Hanser, McGrath, Muzila, Taylor)

3. Disc Golf at Weston Public Schools

The Board reviewed and discussed a grant submitted by Chris Fehl to purchase and set up the Disc Golf course first planned at June Academy four years ago. This requires purchasing the tee pads and permanent baskets for the 12 holes (\$4,880). The course will have signage and maps and is easy to maintain. It can be used by WMS and WHS students for PE, after school and on the weekends.

Committee Discussion:

The Board discussed how this grant will be used as an athletic resource for the school, aligned with the PE curriculum, but how it will also provide a social-emotional outlet for students. The Board is hopeful Boosters could fund or contribute to the grant cost. In

addition, there are a couple small adjustments to basket placement that need to be moved off Weston Trails land. The Board decided these issues needed further investigation prior to a decision on funding.

A motion to indefinitely postpone the third grant for Disc Golf was presented and members unanimously approved. (Voted in favor: Dickie, Augustine, Bradner, Covington, Golin, Hanser, McGrath, Muzila, Taylor)

Chair Report

A meeting was requested with Kimo Carter in coming months to work on a long-term plan for WEEFC grants and the application process. The goal would be to overhaul the current process to make it more efficient by dovetailing with School Committee budgeting and WEEFC fundraising timelines. Two changes or application suggestions were made: 1) Making the budgeting form electronic; 2.) Create a place for 3rd party approvals to be provided if needed.

Treasury Report

WEEFC is currently in a good spot financially due to funds raised in the February appeal (\$83,307) and funds donated for the Mary Lui biology grant (\$12,500 to date). With approximately \$95,000 raised in the fall wellness appeal, WEEFC has raised a total of \$201,872 to date. (WEEFC raised \$127,000 in 2020.) Approval of today's submitted grants will drop this total, but these funds should be made up in donations in the coming weeks.

Looking forward, about \$3,000 is expected to come from Star awards as a result of promotion around Teacher Appreciation Week. (4 emails will be sent out with clear explanation of what Star Awards are and how to purchase.)

Anniversary Appeal Thank You

Ashley Hanser will manage this process to get thank you letters out to all of our generous WEEFC 35th Anniversary fundraiser donors. These letters should go in the mail after April vacation.

Board Nominating Process

In the search for new WEEFC Board members, an email went out to WPS posting the openings. Kate Dickie is also working with LaToya Rivers to market the positions to any interested METCO parents. The openings will also be posted in WestWord and circulated through the Weston Dad's Association.

Fundraising

The Board discussed fundraising efforts for 2021-2022. While the plan is evolving, a low-key, goodwill event (or events organized by school) was discussed for the fall of 2021 in conjunction with a fall appeal. The Board plans to host a larger fundraising event in the spring of 2022. Kate Dickie will be in touch with Weston Golf Club to secure a date.

Approve Minutes

A motion to Approve Minutes of the meeting on March 16, 2021 was presented and all members unanimously approved. (Voted in favor: Dickie, Bradner, Covington, Golin, Hanser, McGrath, Muzila, Taylor)

Next Meeting: April 9, 2021 at 12pm (via Zoom)

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