

**WEEFC Board Meeting**  
**May 18, 2021**  
**9:30 am (via Zoom)**

**Present:**        **Board Members:**     Augustine, Bradner, Covington, Dickie, Hanser, McGrath, and Taylor  
                  **Administration:**     Carter (Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning)  
                  **School Committee:**    None  
                  **PTO Chair:**             Rassiger

**I. Grant Discussion & Vote**

**A. WPS Disc Golf.**

The board again reviewed and discussed the grant submitted by Chris Fehl for \$4,880 to set up a Disc Golf course. The grant was presented at the April 6<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup> meetings after initially planned four years ago. The board revisited the cost of the tee pads and permanent baskets as well as maintenance. The board discussed other potential funding sources, including Weston High School Boosters, from which no formal response to Mr. Fehl's request had been received. Mr. Carter noted that Mr. Fehl is eager to get the project started this spring and would consider a partial funding of ten baskets at \$225 each with a request for additional funding in the fall. The board revisited how the grant will be used as an athletic resource for WMS and WHS PE classes and serve as a social-emotional outlet for all students. The board discussed WEEFC's budget for the remainder of the year. Mr. Carter noted that he did not anticipate receipt of any material grant proposals in the next two months, and Cara McGrath responded that we have sufficient funds to meet all grants that have been submitted. The board discussed the feasibility of implementing a more structured grant distribution process by establishing an annual budget at the beginning of each academic year. The board also discussed a pattern of decline in the number of families that have participated in WEEFC fundraising campaigns and a continued reliance on a few significant donors. The board agreed to continue to discuss budget processes and donor cultivation at the next meeting.

***A Motion to Approve the Grant was presented, and members in attendance unanimously approved.***  
(Voted in favor: Augustine, Bradner, Covington, Dickie, Hanser, McGrath, and Taylor.)

**B. Rail Trail Mural**

1. **Phase 2A Weston Rail Trail Mural (Rail Trail Mural).** The board reviewed and discussed the grant submitted by WHS art teacher, Julie Horn-Mandell, who is leading a social justice themed art unit that also highlights street art. The grant reflects three phases of the mural project, and the grant would only be funded if the Weston Rail Trail mural is approved by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MASSDOT). The current plan involves more than 20 students painting approximately 20 designs on two 80-foot walls on the Concord Road underpass. The project covers over 1,300 square feet and showcases students' interpretation of "What does Freedom mean to you?" The Weston Rail Trail will pay for supplies.
2. **WHS Social Justice Mural (Alternative to Rail Trail Mural).** The board reviewed and discussed the WHS Social Justice Mural as an alternative to the Rail Trail Mural, agreeing that it will be funded only in the event MASSDOT fails to approve the Rail Trail Mural. Mr. Carter confirmed that in such event, WHS art classes will create an indoor/outdoor mural at the high school with the same social justice theme showcasing the students' work. He noted that in the interest of time, the grant was submitted simultaneously with the Rail Trail Mural solely as its alternative.

***A Motion to Approve the Grants were presented and members in attendance unanimously approved, provided, that the WHS Social Justice Mural grant will only be funded as an alternative to the Phase***

***2A Weston Rail Trial Mural in the event MASSDOT approval is not received.*** (Voted in favor: Augustine, Bradner, Covington, Dickie, Hanser, McGrath, and Taylor.)

**II. Treasurer's Report**

Cara McGrath shared the good news that the spring Star Award campaign raised more than the board estimated, bringing in approximately \$10,000. Cara noted that additional contributions continue to trickle in and, consistent with prior years, will likely continue through the end of the school year. Cara confirmed total fundraising to date for the current academic year (approximately \$215,000) exceeds total grants distributed to date. The board is optimistic that WEEFC will end the year with a small surplus.

**III. Star Award Update**

Meredith Taylor provided an update on the WEEFC Star campaign, noting that approximately 227 awards had been distributed to Weston's teachers, administrators, and staff through May 14th. Meredith thanked Emily Golin for all her efforts in leading the project and shared feedback from several teachers who were honored and humbled by the acknowledgements. The board agreed to make another push in June for end-of-year Star awards.

**IV. Chair Report**

**Board Nomination**

Kate Dickie announced that WEEFC's Nominating Committee met and voted to approve the selection of Ms. Fang Wang to the 2021-22 WEEFC board. The board agreed that she is a stellar candidate as she was instrumental in gathering support from Weston's Asian American community during the air purifier drive last fall. Only one indication of interest was received despite listing the open positions in various district wide communications and marketing to interested METCO parents. The board agreed to continue to work with La Toya Rivers, Director of METCO, to better connect with Boston families.

**Spring Grants - Update**

Kate Dickie provided an update on the WHS Biology Grant and the Field School Garden and gaga ball pit. All sophomore biology classes have used the Biobits equipment, and the RLA biotech and AP classes have used the PCR machines. Several garden boxes for flowers and vegetables were built at the Field School with planting expected in the next week and harvesting targeted for early June and throughout the summer and early fall. Kate also noted that the WEEFC-sponsored gaga ball pit at the Field School is a popular attraction at recess and is used in PE classes.

**Anniversary Appeal Thank You Letters**

Kate thanked Ashley Hanser for managing the process and confirmed that "Thank You" letters were mailed to all WEFC 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary donors.

**Fall Fundraising Plan**

The board agreed to discuss Fall Fundraising at the June meeting.

**V. Approve Minutes**

***A Motion to Approve the Minutes of the meetings on April 6, 2021 and April 9, 2021 was presented, and all members in attendance unanimously approved.*** (Voted in favor: Augustine, Bradner, Covington, Dickie, Hanser, McGrath, and Taylor.)

**Next Meeting: June 8, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)**

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

