

WEEFC Board Meeting
November 17, 2020
9:30 am (via Zoom)

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

Administration: Carter (Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning)

School Committee: Muzila

PTO Chair: Rassiger

i. Grant Discussion & Vote

1. Air purifier adjustment grant in the amount of \$63,994. A \$67,000 grant for air purifiers was initially approved in the September meeting and this grant is the second half of previously discussed cost. Air purifiers are in every classroom and in some offices depending upon different factors. Feedback from teachers is overly positive; a bit noisy but seems effective and some teachers are requesting additional ones.
2. Virtual lessons from Puddlestompers Nature Program grant in the amount of \$450. Typically the cost of the program is \$900 for three sessions. This virtual program is a reduced cost of \$450 for the three sessions.

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

Dr. Carter also discussed the possibility of all schools moving toward live-streaming and the proposed need for a more effective sound system as audio issues remain WPS biggest technical challenge. He and Lee McCanne are researching possible solutions and estimating the cost will be about \$200 per classroom.

Board questioned if WPS was definitely moving toward live-streaming as it would be tricky to request the funds from our donors and not provide the services. Dr. Carter said he would have more clarity in about two weeks time. Another fundraising idea was that WEEFC could instead raise money toward a general technology fund and money could be allocated to audio improvements if teachers/ Union approved the live-streaming process. Ultimately, the Board decided that WEEFC needs a firm commitment to live-streaming from teachers, administration/ Union before approving this grant.

Muzila announced the School Committee was considering potential fundraising efforts around COVID testing. The general cost is estimated to be \$400,000 for 2 months of testing. Carter thinks WEEFC funding testing is not ideal and would prefer WEEFC instead consider the audio system grant. The WEEFC Board agreed with this approach and suggested if WPS moves towards testing, perhaps a separate COVID fundraising vehicle could be established under the School Committee.

ii. Treasury Report

\$97,000 was raised for wellness appeal. After the air purifier adjustment grant was approved, WEEFC will have a \$41,000 deficit.

iii. December Appeal

The Board will wait for guidance from the Admin team as to what specific need WEEFC can fund this winter. Ideally, we will send out an appeal by mid-Dec.

iv. Chair Report

We received very positive feedback after the thank-you notes WEEFC were sent to our donors for the air purifier drive.

December 8th is a placeholder date for next WEEFC Board meeting to potentially discuss and approve any grants for a December Appeal.

v. Approve Minutes

A Motion to Approve Minutes of the meeting on October 20, 2020 was presented and all members unanimously approved. (Voted in favor: Dickie, Augustine, Covington, Golin, Hanser, McGrath, Muzila, Taylor, Bradner)

Next Meeting: December 8th, 2020 at 9:30am (via Zoom)

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