

**Minutes of the WEEFC Board Meeting
December 6, 2022, 9 a.m., Case House**

ATTENDEES

Board members	Kate Dickie (chair), Cassie Bordeau, Emily Golin, Ashley Hanser, Cara McGrath, Taylor McIntire, Angela Rostami, Fang Wang, Laura Wilson, Vidya Naru
Administration	Kimo Carter (assistant superintendent for teaching and learning)
School Committee	Jeff Lucas

BUSINESS

1. Grant discussion by Dr. Kimo Carter

TO:	School Committee			
FROM:	Kimo Carter, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning			
RE:	Request for Approval of WEEFC Grants			
Account No.				
Grants	Applicant(s)	Project Description	School	Amount
822-811-23	Julie Hom-Mandell	Canvas Sneaker Design	High School	\$454.35
823-812-23	John Gibbons	Unity Day Speaker: Blake Bolden	Middle School	\$5,000.00
			Total Grants	\$5,454.35

- a. The committee discussed two grants totalling \$5,454.
 - i. WMS Unity Day speaker – Blake Bolden: Kate reported that Blake has a great story as the first Black female hockey player in the National Women’s Hockey League. Kimo said the administration is exploring the opportunity for Blake to speak at WHS, too. There’s a desire to get the grant approved earlier than later to ensure Blake is locked in for the early February 2023 event. Kate said she watched Blake’s background video and was impressed with it.
 - ii. Canvas sneaker design: The WHS art class will create a unique design for Canvas speakers. The new design may be used in a fundraiser next year. Kate said she would confirm that the potential beneficiaries of the fundraiser would be suitable for a WEEFC grant and that the fundraiser would indeed occur next year rather than this year.
- b. Emily moved to approve the two grants, and Cara seconded. The committee unanimously approved the grants.

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2. **Update on WMS innovation lab.** Kate asked Kimo for an update about the planning for a WMS innovation lab. Kimo said that previous discussions have suggested the lab would be similar to the one implemented in Field School, but as planning has continued, the team is leaning toward an engineering lab that's broader in scope than a maker space. WHS and WMS have six robotics teams that would make use of the space. The administrators and teachers involved in planning are Steve Ribisi, John Gibbons, Paul Peri, and the robotics teacher. Kimo anticipates a proposal by late January, and he expects it will be a relatively larger funding request. Kate said that WEEFC may need to work to find initial donors to help fund it. Emily suggested that we potentially treat it like the previous biology grant, warranting a dedicated push. It would be helpful to have a teacher as the "face" of the appeal and respond to questions about it.
3. **WEEFC Stars Awards update, Emily Golin.** Emily said that the Stars link is available on the WEEFC webpage with new language and a simplified online form. Kate said that Cassie has automated the process by creating a mail merge process supporting certificate development; Kate noted that a spreadsheet review will continue to be conducted to check spelling and other potential writing issues. Emily said that a Stars email will be distributed Dec. 7, and Kate confirmed that if the requests are submitted by Dec. 16, the teachers will receive certificates before the holiday break. We're expecting about a dozen requests from the December email, and it'll be a good test case for the spring appeal, when we expect about 400 requests. Laura recommended designing a post for use on the district's various social media pages.
4. **Financial report, Cara McGrath.** Cara reported that WEEFC has received about \$2,500, primarily as "fidelity" donations. Cara confirmed that \$105,000 in funds was generated from the auction event, and the committee has approved \$46,000 in grants thus far (before today's meeting), so \$61,000 remains for the committee to work with.
5. **Recap on November events from fall fundraiser, Ashley Hanser:** Ashley said the dodgeball event at Field School and the art parties at the elementary schools received very positive feedback. Kate reported that the Spindrift presentation at AIC for WHS students, which focused on entrepreneurialism, was very well received.
6. **February 2023 appeal.** Kate said that planning is underway for this appeal, and we may connect it to the WMS engineering lab, if planning has sufficiently progressed by then. Kate said she has an inventory of "Support WEEFC" yard signs available to support the appeal.
7. **Approval of minutes from committee's November meeting.** Ashley moved to approve the minutes, and Cara seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

January 10, 2023, 9 a.m. at Case House.

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