

WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, October 21, 2013
Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
Executive Session 6:45 p.m.
Regular Session 7:30 p.m.

- | | |
|--|---|
| I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM
Ellen Uzenoff, Vice Chairperson | |
| II. EXECUTIVE SESSION
1. Discussion of Possible Ratification of WAA Contract | |
| III. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | |
| IV. RECOGNITION

1. 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program
Mrs. Lisa Wolak will introduce the students who have been named Semi-Finalists and Commended Scholars in the 2013-2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. | Motion |
| V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, pages 1-7 | Motion |
| VI. PUBLIC COMMENT | Information |
| VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Teacher Evaluation Plan
Dr. Craw will discuss the finalized 2013-2014 Teacher Evaluation Plan.

2. Administrator Evaluation Plan
Dr. Craw will discuss the 2013-2014 Administrator Evaluation Plan.

3. SAT/AP/ACT and College Acceptance Report, pages 8-27
Meredith Starzyk and Dr. Craw will review the SAT/AP/ACT and College Acceptance Report for 2012-2013.

4. Financial Report for First Quarter FY 2014, pages 28-39
Dr. Keating will review the Financial Report for First Quarter FY 2013.

5. Proposed 2014-2015 Calendar, page 40
Dr. Palmer will provide an overview of the proposed 2014-2015 calendar.

6. Ratification of Weston Administrators' Association Contract
The Weston Administrators' Association contract will be presented for ratification. | Motion

Motion

Information

Information

Information

Motion |
| VIII. OLD BUSINESS | None |
| IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
1. Next regular Board meeting Monday, November 25, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.
2. District update
3. Progress of Enrollment Projections for Next Year | Information
Information
Information |

WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, October 21, 2013
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- | | | |
|------------|---|--------------------|
| 4. | Principals' reports, <i>pages 41-52</i> | Information |
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| X. | COMMITTEE REPORTS | |
| | 1. Communications Committee - Nina Daniel | Information |
| | 2. Curriculum Committee - Ellen Uzenoff | Information |
| | 3. Finance Committee - Denise Harvey | Information |
| | 4. Facilities Committee - Sonya Stack | Information |
| | 5. Policy Committee - Dana Levin | Information |
| | 6. Negotiations Committee - Denise Harvey | Information |
| | 7. CES - Nina Daniel | Information |
| | 8. CABE - Sara Spaulding | Information |
| | 9. Weston Education Foundation - Denise Harvey | Information |
|
 | | |
| XI. | ADJOURNMENT | Motion |

Weston Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
September 16, 2013

Attendance:

Philip Schaefer, Chairperson	Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent
Dana Levin, Secretary/Treasurer	Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent
Nina Daniel	Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance & Ops.
Denise Harvey	Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources
Sara Spaulding	
Sonya Stack	Absent: Ellen Uzenoff, Vice Chairperson

III. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Motion: Moved that the agenda for tonight's meeting of the Weston Board of Education meeting be amended as follows: item number one, discussion of 2012-2013 CMT and CAPT testing reports, becomes item number five, and subsequently the items under that are moved up. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

IV. RECOGNITION – No report

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the minutes from July 15 (Mrs. Uzenoff, Ms. Harvey, and Mrs. Stack were absent). One correction was indicated.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the July 15, 2013 Regular and Executive Sessions. Motion by Mrs. Stack, second by Mrs. Spaulding, 4 (Mr. Schaefer, Mrs. Levin, Ms. Daniel, Mrs. Spaulding) in favor, 2 (Ms. Harvey, Mrs. Stack) abstain. (4-0-2)

The Board voted to approve the minutes from August 6.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the August 6, 2013 Board Retreat. Motion by Mrs. Stack, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

The Board voted to approve the minutes from August 19 (Mrs. Levin was absent).

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the August 19, 2013 Regular and Executive Sessions. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Ms. Harvey, 5 (Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Daniel, Ms. Harvey, Mrs. Spaulding, Mrs. Stack), 1 (Mrs. Levin) abstain. (5-0-1)

The Board voted to approve the minutes from August 22 (Mr. Schaefer and Mrs. Levin were absent).

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the August 22, 2013 Special Meeting. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Harvey, 4 (Ms. Daniel, Ms. Harvey, Mrs. Spaulding, Mrs. Stack) in favor, 2 (Mr. Schaefer, Mrs. Levin) abstain. (4-0-2)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – No report

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and vote to request that the Board of Selectmen authorize and sign a contract for the architecture firm KG&D to create schematic design documents for Area E of WHS as part of the windows and doors project

Dr. Palmer provided a background on the high school windows and doors project and introduced Allen Swerdlowe, Chair of the Town Building Committee. Mr. Swerdlowe gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the project, rationale behind decisions, and project timelines. Mrs. Deorio described what it was like to teach in the rooms with the outdated ventilators with regards to temperature and noise and discussed pertinent feedback in our NEASC report. Dr. Keating discussed the financials for this project, and specifically option 2B in the plan.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education requests that the Board of Selectmen execute a fixed-price services contract in the amount of \$78,500 with Kaeyer, Garment and Davidson Architects, PC, to develop construction documents for Area E of Weston High School for the completion of work as described in the firm's Final Report dated July 31, 2013, noted as "Option 2B: Redesigned Windows & Rooftop Energy Recovery," with appropriate add alternate options. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Spaulding, all in favor. (6-0)

2. Request that the Board of Finance reallocate funds for the high school windows and doors project from a previous unexpended capital project

Mr. Clarke discussed the middle school air conditioning project, and that funding remains because the cost exceeded the budget.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education requests that the Board of Finance authorizes the reallocation of \$200,000 from the 2005 capital budget, previously set aside for air conditioning at the middle school, as part of the WHS windows and doors project. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Mrs. Spaulding, all in favor. (6-0)

3. Discussion and vote on disposition of records beyond retention requirement

Per "The State of Connecticut Municipal Records Retention Schedule M8: Education Records," records are considered to be no longer needed to provide educational services to a student when the retention requirement is fulfilled. Education Cumulative Records, including records of academic achievement, attendance records, and records of immunization, must be retained for a minimum of 50 years after a student leaves the school district. Other Education Cumulative Records must be maintained for six years after a student leaves the school district or such other period of time stated in the State of Connecticut Municipal Records Retention Schedule M8. (See also Administrative Regulation R-5125).

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the completion of the Records Disposition Authorization Form and subsequent disposition of the following

documents, which have been retained for the minimum time period, upon receipt of State approval:

- Cumulative Education Records 1920-1960;
- Attendance Registers 1931-1960; and
- Cumulative Health Records 1954-2000.

Motion by Mrs. Stack, second by Ms. Daniel, all in favor. (6-0)

4. Discussion and vote on School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Brey presented the proposed memorandum of understanding with the Weston Board of Police Commissioners regarding implementation of the School Resource Officer program.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the memorandum of understanding with the Weston Board of Police Commissioners regarding implementation of the School Resource Officer program and authorizes the Chairperson and Superintendent to execute the Memorandum of Understanding. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Spaulding, all in favor. (6-0)

5. Discussion of 2012-2013 CMT and CAPT testing reports

Dr. Craw presented the 2012-2013 CMT and CAPT testing reports and discussed changes at the state level.

6. Discussion of FY 2013 Year-End Financial Report

Dr. Keating reviewed the Year-End Financial Report.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approve the Final Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2013. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (6-0)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – No report

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Next regular Board meeting Monday, October 21, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

2. District update

Dr. Palmer discussed back-to-school nights, the joint facilities study, and lack of parking for Hurlbutt.

3. Principals' reports

Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, spoke about Thursday's parents' night, the upcoming club fair, district email addresses for students, and the October Chinese delegation visit. Mrs. Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, spoke about the successes for sixth graders and the new Google email addresses for students. Mrs. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, commented on the start to the year, first school-wide assembly on bus behavior, and back-to-school nights. Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, discussed welcoming the class of 2026, the teacher meet-and-greet with parents, the first PTO meeting and first all-school assembly, success of the summer reading program, and receipt of a Got Milk grant.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Communications Committee

First meeting is Wednesday, September 25 at 4:00 p.m.

2. Curriculum Committee

The following items from the last Committee meeting were discussed by Mr. Schaefer: math blended learning (Teach-to-One), communications strategies for AIM, and a review of graduation requirements. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for October 9 at 8:00 a.m.

3. Finance Committee

The following items from the last Committee meeting were discussed by Ms. Harvey: The fourth-quarter financial report, budget for FY 2014, security upgrades that have been completed, enrollment/staffing updates, and the presentation for upcoming Tri-Board meeting on September 25.

4. Facilities Committee

The following items from the last Committee meeting were discussed by Mrs. Stack: high school windows and doors, field lights proposal for the high school stadium (public meeting on this in early October), a facilities update, approval of future dates for Special Olympics, CL&P, solar panels, and the cost avoidance report.

5. Policy Committee

First meeting is Tuesday, September 24 at 8:15 a.m.

6. Negotiations Committee

Ms. Harvey announced that discussions continue with WAA contract negotiations.

7. CES

Ms. Daniel explained what CES stands for and discussed her recent visit to CES. She also discussed the CES newly developed crisis response and recovery program and consultation and services offered for school planning and enrollment analysis.

8. CAFE

Mrs. Spaulding discussed links to common core information on the CAFE website. Ms. Harvey added that the Weston Middle School chamber orchestra will be performing Saturday morning at the CAFE/CAPSS convention.

9. Weston Education Foundation

Ms. Harvey announced that Trivia night is oversold and should be a lot of fun. She also announced that a grant was approved for the \$1898.00 for levels one and two of the Circle of Social Skills curriculum – a program for students with disabilities at the middle school and high school.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Levin, second by Mrs. Stack, all in favor.
(6-0) Meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

Minutes reviewed/approved by Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent.

DRAFT

Weston Public Schools
Special Board of Education Meeting
Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
October 8, 2013

Attendance:

Dana Levin, Secretary/Treasurer	Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent
Nina Daniel	Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance & Ops.
Denise Harvey	Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources
Sara Spaulding	
Sonya Stack	<i>Absent:</i> Philip Schaefer, Chairperson
Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent	Ellen Uzenoff, Vice Chairperson

I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM
Dana Levin, Secretary/Treasurer

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Motion to move to executive session to discuss a confidential document subject to the attorney-client privilege. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Spaulding, all in favor. (5-0) Dr. Palmer, Dr. Keating, Mr. Brey, and Dr. Craw were invited in.

Regular session resumed at 7:37 p.m.

1. The Board discussed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Weston and the Weston Board of Education regarding the funding for the renovation of classrooms in E wing of Weston High School.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the Town of Weston and the Board of Education, as presented at tonight's meeting, regarding the funding for the renovation of classrooms in E wing and authorizes the Chairperson to execute the MOU on behalf of the Board of Education. Motion by Mrs. Stack, second by Ms. Daniel, 4 in favor – Ms. Levin, Ms. Daniel, Mrs. Spaulding, Mrs. Stack, 1 opposed – Ms. Harvey. (4-1-0)

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Stack, second by Ms. Daniel, all in favor. (5-0) Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

Minutes reviewed/approved by Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent.

DRAFT



WESTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2013

Principal – Lisa W. Deorio
Director of School Counseling – Meredith Starzyk

STATISTICAL REPORT & ANALYSIS OF COLLEGE APPLICATIONS



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INTRODUCTION

Weston High School annually collects acceptance-related information from its graduating seniors and makes the information available to students, their parents, and to the public. The 2013 College Statistical Report, located in the College and Career Center, lists the colleges to which each student applied, and then indicates, along the same row, that particular student's GPA, SAT/ACT scores, application type and the result. This year, five families of the 205 graduating seniors chose to be excluded from the data.

This report is a compilation of data that is monitored through the "Naviance/Weston High School Data Center" that tracks college applications for each student in the class beginning their senior year. The program enables a comparison of students' academic credentials against those of former students in examining notification patterns (e.g. admit, deny) specific to each college.

Summaries of previous Weston High School graduating classes reveal the trends in our graduates' post-secondary plans, SAT performance, Advanced Placement exams, and the processing and notification statistics.

***Weston High School
School Counseling Department***

Meredith Starzyk, Director of School Counseling

Diane Schirizzo, Counselor

Nancy St. Clair, Counselor

Arielle Wein, Counselor

Gary Meunier, Counselor

Wheat Osinski, Registrar

Nancy LaMarco, Data Technician

Maria Gregory, School Counseling Administrative Assistant

Marilyn Moks, Director of College and Career Center

2013 Standardized Testing Statistics

Acronyms

PSAT	Practice version of the SAT I – Administered in October each year at WHS to all 10 th & 11 th grade students
SAT I	Most commonly used college readiness assessment instrument
SAT II	One hour subject tests used in college admissions at approximately 160 colleges
ACT	“American College Testing” – college readiness assessment
AP	Advanced Placement Exam – Administered at the end of a course (college level) in May

Interesting Testing Trends & Statistics for the Class of 2013

- ❖ Of the **205 WHS graduates**, **149** students took the **SAT**, **128** students took the ACT, & **78** students took both the SAT & ACT. These are very similar numbers to the Class of 2012.
- ❖ In addition to the scores sent to us from College Board, **SAT** results in this year’s report have also been **Super Scored** by Naviance. This means that the student’s highest score in each section was used to calculate WHS means.
- ❖ Hundreds of competitive colleges report that they *super score SAT’s* as part of the admissions process.
- ❖ AP Biology students took the new AP test this past May. College Board is reporting a reduction in overall 5’s on this exam with an increase of 4’s. Weston is in line with these results.

Interesting Admission Trends & Statistics for the Class of 2013

- ❖ Of the 205 WHS Graduates, **103 students** have deposited at institutions that are regarded as “most” and “highly” competitive (51% of the class).
- ❖ Overall acceptance to colleges that are regarded as the “most” competitive increased this past year by 12%.
- ❖ 76% of the students who applied Early Decision in the Class of 2013 received acceptances. This is over a 20% increase from the Class of 2012.
- ❖ Out of the 140 students in the Class of 2013 that applied Early Action, Rolling, and/or Priority, 126 students received at least one acceptance (90%).

Standardized Testing Profile Class of 2013

ACT Summary

Section	Middle 50%	Mean
English	24-31	27.4
Math	24-30	26.8
Reading	24-32	28.2
Science	23-30	26.7
Composite	24-31	27.1

* 128 Unique Students

PSAT Summary

Section	Middle 50%	Mean
Critical Reading	50-61	55
Math	47-64	55
Writing	47-59	53
Total	147-181	164 (SAT Conversion = 1640)

* 176 Unique Students

SAT Summary – College Board Means (reflects student's most recent score)

Section	Middle 50%	Mean
Critical Reading	540-670	589
Math	550-690	606
Writing	550-700	597
Total	1640-2050	1792

* 149 Unique Students

SAT Summary – Super Score (reflects student's highest score)

Section	Middle 50%	Mean
Critical Reading	540-670	601
Math	550-690	617
Writing	550-700	616
Total	1640-2050	1834

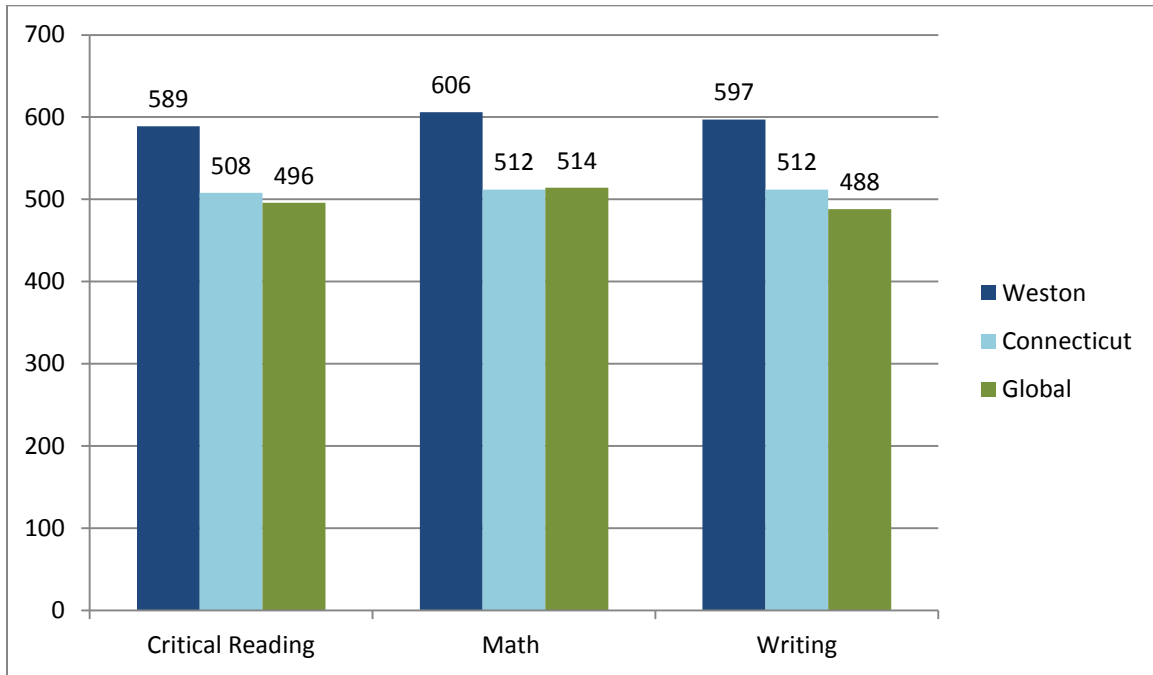
* 149 Unique Students

SAT Subject Test Scores

Section	Middle 50%	Mean	Students Tested
Biology- Ecology	680-680	680	1
Biology-Molecular	680-750	710	30
Chemistry	620-750	689	12
English Literature	600-730	673	18
French Listening	650-650	650	1
Math Level I	590-730	650	25
Math Level II	710-790	738	32
Physics	670-700	691	10
Spanish	650-720	688	6
U.S History	630-750	691	53
World History	600-600	600	1

Class of 2103 Compared to State & National Averages

SAT

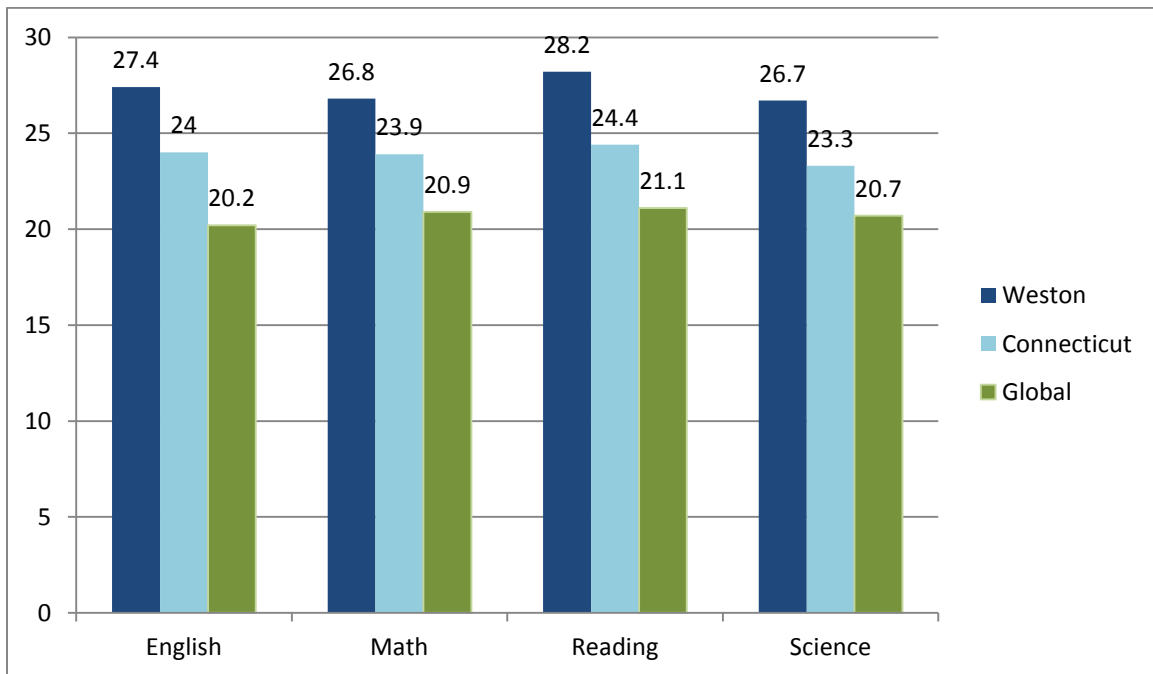


*** Global Combined Total = 1498**

***Connecticut Combined Total = 1532**

***Weston Combined Total=1792**

ACT



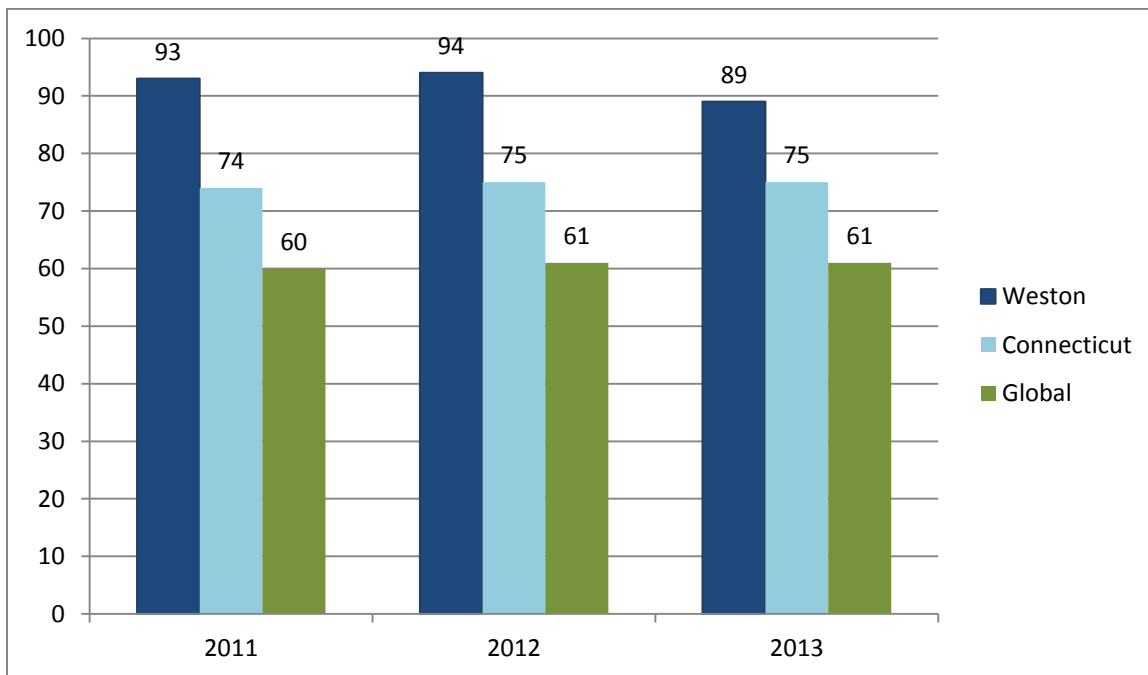
***Global Composite = 20.9**

*** Connecticut Composite = 24.0**

*** Weston Composite = 27.1**

Advanced Placement Classes of 2013 and 2014

The **percentage** of students scoring a 3 or higher on AP exams over the past 3 years is as follows:



AP Scholar Awards

- **AP Scholar:** Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more APs.
- **AP Scholar with Honor:** Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all APs and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
- **AP Scholar with Distinction:** Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all APs and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
- **National AP Scholar:** Granted to students in the US who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

In the class of 2013, we had **15 AP Scholars**, **11 AP Scholars with Honor**, **50 AP Scholars with Distinction**, and **7 National AP Scholars**.

**Advanced Placement Scores by Course
Classes of 2013 and 2014
May Administration**

Course	# of Students Enrolled	# of Students Sitting for the Test	Weston Average	CT Avg.	Global Avg.					
						5	4	3	2	1
Biology	56	56	3.64	3.25	2.88	5	30	17	4	
Calculus AB	29	30	4.80	3.36	2.96	25	4	1		
Calculus BC	19	19	4.74	4.02	3.73	15	3	1		
Chemistry	9	9	3.78	3.36	2.92	1	6	1	1	
Computer Science	---	2	4.00	3.29	3.21	1		1		
Economics – Macro	23	20	2.60	3.27	2.75		4	7	6	3
English Language	83	84	3.73	3.31	2.76	21	28	26	9	
English Literature	63	65	3.49	3.25	2.81	12	19	24	9	1
European History	33	31	3.68	3.11	2.78	8	9	11	2	1
French Language	5	3	3.33	3.57	3.29		1	2		
Physics C: Mechanical	15	15	4.73	3.90	3.42	12	2	1		
Physics C: E&M	---	1	5.00	3.72	3.39	1				
Spanish Language	21	20	4.10	3.31	3.32	6	10	4		
Statistics	47	39	3.90	3.09	2.79	8	19	12		
Studio Art Drawing	9	4	3.00	3.31	3.26		1	2	1	
Studio Art Design	8	12	3.00	3.62	3.33		2	8	2	
US Government	79	67	3.46	3.26	2.65	18	12	23	11	3
US History	94	93	3.73	3.31	2.77	23	41	12	15	2
Totals	593	*570				156	191	153	60	10

***244 unique students**

Application Statistics
Classes of 2011, 2012 & 2013
Class of 2013

	# of Applications	% of all Apps
Total # of Acceptances	792	48%
Total # of Denials	341	21%
Total # of Waitlist/Deferrals	219	13%
Total # of Withdrawn	432	26%
Total # of Unknown	17	1%
Average # of Apps per Student	8	
Total # of Different Schools Applied	309	
Total # of Students Submitting Apps	205	100%
Total # of Applications Processed	1648	

Class of 2012

	# of Applications	% of all Apps
Total # of Acceptances	782	50%
Total # of Denials	337	22%
Total # of Waitlist/Deferrals	260	16%
Total # of Withdrawn	291	19%
Total # of Unknown	23	2%
Average # of Apps per Student	8	
Total # of Different Schools Applied	329	
Total # of Students Submitting Apps	189	99%
Total # of Applications Processed	1554	

Class of 2011

	# of Applications	% of all Apps
Total # of Acceptances	803	53%
Total # of Denials	275	18%
Total # of Waitlist/Deferrals	302	20%
Total # of Withdrawn	293	19%
Total # of Unknown	6	.5%
Average # of Apps per Student	8	
Total # of Different Schools Applied	296	
Total # of Students Submitting Apps	190	99%
Total # of Applications Processed	1535	

Student Outcomes **Classes of 2011, 2012 & 2013**

Class of 2013

Outcome	# of Students	% of Class
2 Year College	4	2%
4 Year College	193	94%
*In-State College	27	13%
*Out of State College	170	87%
*Public Institution	83	42%
*Private Institution	114	58%
PG Year	2	1%
Military	1	.5%
Gap Year	3	1.5%
Undecided	2	1%
Graduates/# in Class	205/205	100%
# of Different Schools Attended		112
* New statistics added to the report this year.		

Class of 2012

Outcome	# of Students	% of Class
2 Year College	3	1.5%
4 Year College	175	92%
PG Year	1	.5%
Military	0	0%
Gap Year	3	1.5%
Undecided	7	4.5%
Graduates/# in Class	189/190	99%
# of Different School Attended		96

Class of 2011

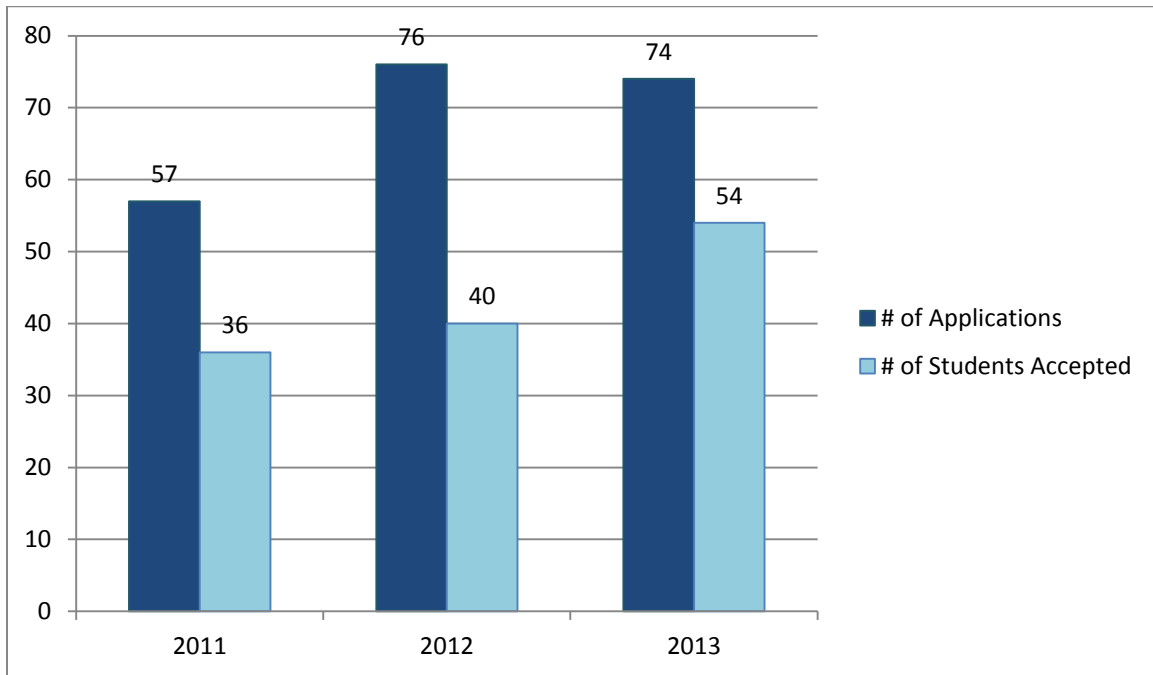
Outcome	# of Students	% of Class
2 Year College	5	3%
4 Year College	184	96%
PG Year	0	0%
Military	0	0%
Gap Year	1	.5%
Undecided	1	.5%
Graduates/# in Class	191/191	100%
# of Different Schools Attended		101

Top 25% of the Class of 2013 made commitments to the following schools

(52 students)

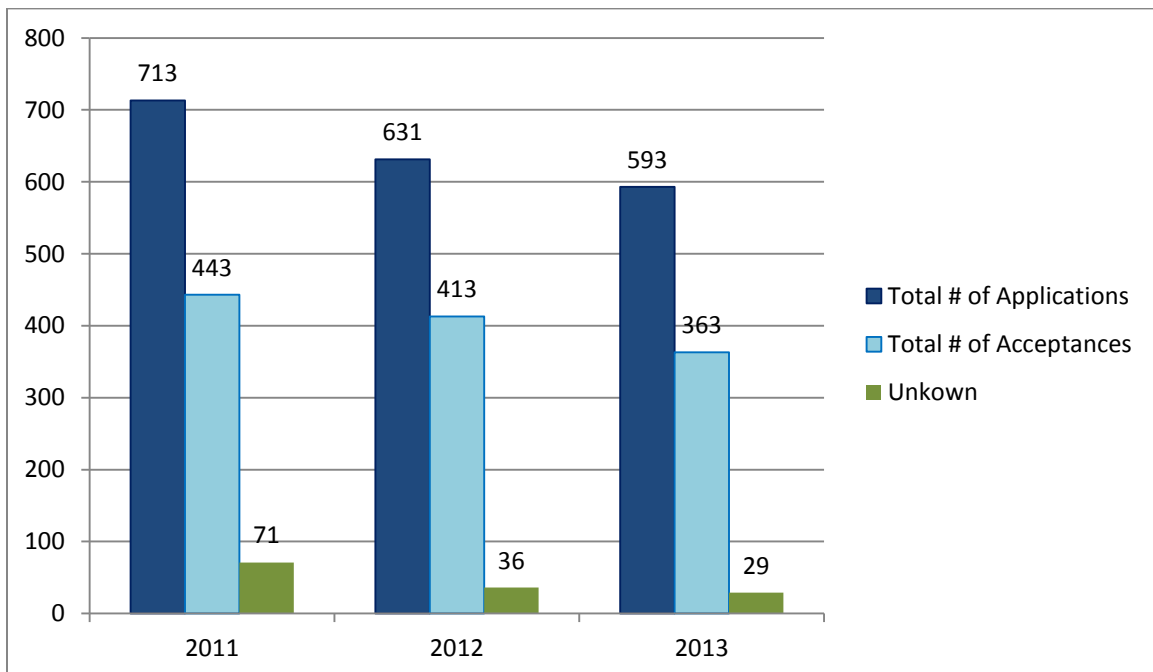
Boston College
Boston University (2)
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brown University
Case Western Reserve University
Clemson University
Colgate University
College of the Holy Cross (2)
Columbia University
Cornell University (4)
Duke University (2)
Emory University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard College
Lehigh University
Liberty University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University
Michigan State University
Northwestern University (4)
Oberlin College
Princeton University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Skidmore College
Tufts University (4)
University of California – Santa Barbara (2)
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign
University of Michigan
University of Wisconsin- Madison (3)
Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
Williams College (2)

Analysis of Early Application Programs
Classes of 2011, 2012 & 2013
Early Decision I and II



*** 76% of the students in the Class of 2013 who applied ED were accepted**

Early Action, Rolling, & Priority



*** 126 of the 140 students received at least 1 acceptance (90%)**

*** 64% of the applications for the Class of 2013 were accepted**

*** 140 unique students applied Early Action, Rolling, and/or Priority**

Barron's Selectivity Rankings

Barron's *College Admissions Selector Rating* groups the colleges and universities listed in *Profiles of American Colleges* according to the degree of admissions competitiveness. The selector is not a rating of colleges by academic standards of quality of education; it is rather an attempt to describe, in general terms, the situation a prospective student will meet when applying for admission. The factors used when determining the category for each college is comprised of college entrance exams (SAT, ACT), rank in class, and GPA (Barron, *Profile of American Colleges*, 29th Edition).

Class of 2013 Acceptances based on Selectivity

Most Competitive Colleges

	# of Applications	# of Acceptances	% Admitted	
2011	258	80	31%	
2012	351	93	26%	
2013	331	127	38%	*

Highly Competitive Colleges

	# of Applications	# of Acceptances	% Admitted	
2011	578	382	66%	
2012	498	364	73%	
2013	299	193	65%	**

*75 unique students are represented in the 127 total acceptances to the Most Competitive Colleges

**100 unique students are represented in the 193 total acceptances to Highly Competitive Colleges

Most Competitive

Amherst College	Northwestern University
Barnard College	Oberlin College
Bates College	Occidental College
Boston College	Pomona College
Bowdoin College	Princeton University
Brandeis University	Reed College
Brown University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Bryn Mawr College	Rice University
Bucknell University	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
California Institute of Technology	Scripps College
Carleton College	Smith College
Carnegie Mellon University	Stanford University
Case Western Reserve University	Swarthmore College
Claremont McKenna College	The College of New Jersey
Colby College	Tufts University
Colgate University	Tulane University
College of the Holy Cross	United States Air Force Academy
College of William and Mary	United States Military Academy
Columbia University	United States Naval Academy
Connecticut College	University of California – Berkley
Cooper Union	University of California – Los Angeles
Cornell University	University of Chicago
Dartmouth College	University of Miami
Davidson College	University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Duke University	University of Notre Dame
Emory University	University of Pennsylvania
Franklin and Marshall College	University of Richmond
George Washington University	University of Rochester
Georgetown University	University of Southern California
Hamilton College	University of Virginia
Harvard University	Vanderbilt University
Harvey Mudd College	Vassar College
Haverford College	Villanova University
Johns Hopkins University	Wake Forest University
Kenyon College	Washington and Lee University
Lafayette College	Washington Theological Union
Lehigh University	Webb Institute
Macalester College	Wellesley College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Wesleyan University
Middlebury College	Whitman College
New York University	Williams College
	Yale University

Highly Competitive

American University	Rutgers University
Babson College	Santa Clara University
Bard College	Sarah Lawrence College
Beloit College	Skidmore College
Bentley University	St. John's College
Boston University	St. Olaf College
Clark University	SUNY at Binghamton
Clemson University	SUNY at Geneseo
Denison University	Syracuse University
Dickinson College	The New School
Elon University	Thomas Aquinas College
Emerson College	Trinity College
Fordham University	Trinity University
Furman University	Union College
Gettysburg College	University of California- Irvine
Hampshire College	University of California- Santa Barbara
Lawrence University	University of Connecticut
Marquette University	University of Florida
Mount Holyoke College	University of Georgia
Muhlenberg College	University of Illinois – Urbana
New College of Florida	University of Maryland – College Park
Northeastern University	University of Michigan
Pepperdine University	University of Wisconsin – Madison
Providence College	Wheaton College
Rhodes College	Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Description of the College Admissions Selector

Most Competitive: These colleges require high school rank in the top 10% – 20% and grade averages of A – B+. Median freshman test scores at these schools are generally between 655 and 800 on the SAT and 29 and above on the ACT. Admittance is generally less than one third.

Highly Competitive: Colleges in this group generally look for students with grade averages of B+ – B and accept most of their students from the top 20% – 35% of the high school class. Median freshman test scores at these schools generally range from 620 to 654 on the SAT and 27 to 28 on the ACT. Acceptance to these schools is generally between one third and one half of their applicants.

Remaining Categories: Very Competitive, Competitive, Less Competitive

WHS School Counseling Department Updates & Announcements

This year we are pleased to report that WHS will be administering the SAT on four separate test dates. Those dates are October 5, November 2, May 3, and June 7.

In September, the school counseling department hosted the annual Freshman Parent 101 night presentation. A record breaking crowd of over 100 parents came to obtain more information about the transition to high school and have a chance to meet their child's school counselor. Breakout groups allowed parents to share any questions/concerns and counselors were able to describe their role for the next four years. This year the department noticed a greater number of parents having children in the high school for the first time than in previous years.

This fall, the College and Career Center has over 205 colleges scheduled to visit. The number of visiting colleges continues to increase each year despite the recent trend of institutions holding open houses and not participating in fairs or high school visits. This provides students with the opportunity to establish personal communication, in a small setting, with the admissions representatives who will most likely be reading their application.

On October 15, the school counseling department held an annual College Admissions Panel night presentation. A diverse admissions panel of very selective and highly selective colleges and universities representing both the private and public sector addressed current trends and relevant issues regarding post-secondary planning. The panelists clarified the admissions processes unique to their institutions in addition to discussing the various key components of the application process such as transcripts, standardized tests, scholarships, essays, interviews, campus visits, file review and financial aid. This year's panel included admissions representatives from the University of Connecticut, Colgate, Union, New York University, Franklin and Marshall, and the University of Vermont.

The school counseling department has continued to increase the level of communication with families through monthly newsletters and the school website. In our continuing efforts to support students through the post-secondary process, we have increased the number of programs we offer throughout the school year. Upcoming presentations in December include a financial aid seminar and a junior parent post-secondary planning evening.

This school year, freshmen will be introduced to our college and career computer program (Naviance) in March. Previously, students were introduced sophomore year. This change reflects the continuing efforts of the department to inform students earlier on in the process. Now, students will begin to investigate their own personality type and set academic goals for the next four years. Sophomores will complete career interest inventories to learn about all of the majors and professions available to them post-high school. In addition to the freshmen and sophomores, juniors, and seniors will have small group sessions in the CCC seminar room to help facilitate their post-secondary planning and navigate high school. More information on these sessions can be found in the counseling department monthly newsletter.

Counselors are continuing to participate in professional development opportunities related to the admissions process. This past fall, one of our counselors attended a College Board workshop that discussed the development and implementation of the new SAT for 2015. He

was able to bring back essential information to our department that will help us to counsel our students moving forward. In addition, counselors have made personal contacts with admissions representatives by visiting campuses and accepting invitations to “breakfasts” held by the colleges. Some of the most recent connections have been with the University of Virginia, Stamford, Duke, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins, Emory, and University of California – Berkley.

COLLEGE VISITS 2013 -2014 School Year

As of October 1

SEPTEMBER

Castleton State College
Radford University
University of South Carolina
Bay State College
Becker College
Alfred University
Savannah College of Art and Design
Connecticut College
Colgate University
Manhattanville College
Marist College
Lasell College
Rider University
New York University
Colby College
Keene State College
University of Connecticut
Wentworth Institute of Technology
University of New Haven
Whitman College
University of Hartford
Saint Michael's College
Indiana University at Bloomington
Boston University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Eastern Connecticut State University
College of Charleston
Quinnipiac University
Sunny College at Geneseo
Florida Southern College
Dean College
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
Miami University, Oxford
Wagner College
York College of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
Harvard College
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Fordham University
St. Lawrence University
Muhlenberg College
University of Southern California

Lesley University
Old Dominion University
Mitchell College
Merrimack College
Stony Brook University
Curry College
High Point University
Carleton College
Johns Hopkins University
Adelphi University
The Ohio State University

OCTOBER

The Catholic University of America
Duke University
Central Connecticut State University
Endicott College
Iona College
Southern Connecticut State University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Ithaca College
Sacred Heart University
Roger Williams University
Williams College
Loyola University Maryland
Columbia College Chicago
Fashion Institute of Technology
Loyola University Chicago
Pennsylvania State University, University
Park
Johnson State College
Bentley University
Felician College
James Madison University
Marymount Manhattan College
Michigan State University
Eckerd College
Goucher College
Texas Christian University
Springfield College
DePauw University

Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Stevenson University
University of Chicago
The College of New Jersey
Vanderbilt University
University of Maryland, College Park
Franklin and Marshall College
Mount Holyoke College
Fairfield University
Saint Anselm College
Queens University of Charlotte
Boston College
Elon University
Salve Regina University
Case Western Reserve University
Gettysburg College
Binghamton University
University of Denver
Occidental College
University of Rochester
Villanova University
University of Miami
Franklin College Switzerland
Dickinson College
Cedar Crest College
Gordon College
Macalester College
The University of Alabama
Emmanuel College
University of New Hampshire
Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts
Bates College
Brandeis University
Clark University
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison
Furman University
Hartwick College
University of Richmond
Unity College
Franklin Pierce University
The George Washington University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Polytechnic Institute of NYU
University of Rhode Island
The College of Wooster
Chapman University
Manhattan College

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Skidmore College
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Lynchburg College
Providence College
Salisbury University
Wake Forest University
Western New England University
Champlain College
University of Colorado at Boulder
Roanoke College
The University of Scranton
Hampshire College
Oberlin College
University of Southern Maine
Wheaton College MA
University of Mary Washington
University of Michigan
Tulane University
University of Delaware
Hamilton College – NY
University of New England
University of Maine
Northeastern University
Stonehill College
Northwestern University
Wellesley College
LIM College
University of Notre Dame
Swarthmore College
Washington and Lee University
Pitzer College
Suffolk University
University of San Francisco
Sarah Lawrence College
Southern Methodist University
Tufts University
Bryant University
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
East Carolina University
Washington University in St. Louis
Rhode Island School of Design
Columbia University
Post University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Clemson University

Emory University
University of St. Andrews
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Rice University
Bard College
Purdue University
The University of Tampa
Fashion Institute of Design and
Merchandising
Keystone College
Trinity College
University of Vermont
Wells College
St. John's University – Queens Campus
University of Dayton
Hofstra University

State University of New York at Albany
St. John Fisher College
Assumption College
Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Maryland Institute College of Art

NOVEMBER

Davidson College
Albertus Magnus College
College of the Holy Cross
Temple University
Maine College of Art

Weston Public Schools

Financial Report 1ST Quarter FY 2014

The attached financial report reflects year-to-date expenditures and encumbrances through September 30, 2013 for the General Fund Operating Budget. The financial information presented in this report includes the adopted budget, budget transfers, the revised budget, actual year-to-date expenditures, encumbrances and the remaining budget balance. As part of the FY 2015 budget preparation process, the Director of Finance and Operations will analyze each account and develop a full-year forecast for FY 2014. This analysis will project actual expenditures as compared to budget. The full-year forecast will be completed in early January, and the 2nd Quarter Financial Report will be modified to reflect this information by adding a column titled "Anticipated Expenditures."

The following transfers are reflected in the 1st Quarter Financial Report

1. Four administrative positions were filled prior to the school year. Based on years of experience and qualifications, the salaries for the Principal of Hurlbutt Elementary School and the Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel were higher than budgeted, and the salaries for the Assistant Principals of Weston Intermediate School and Weston Middle School were lower than budget. Overall, the combined salary accounts for these administrative positions were lower than budget by \$5,864. The following budget transfer accounts for these changes:

The following Certified Salary Accounts were increased:	
Hurlbutt Elementary School	9,056
Special Education	<u>6,751</u>
Total Increases	15,807
The following Certified Salary Accounts were decreased:	
Weston Intermediate School	15,186
Weston Middle School	<u>621</u>
Total Decreases	15,807

2. This report includes budget transfers between the teachers' salary accounts of the schools and departments for the following reasons: teachers move from one school to another, turnover savings as a result of retirements or other employment terminations, degree and staffing changes and separation agreements. This year the district also provided grief counseling services prior to the start of the school year to assist students with the untimely passing of a classmate. The following budget transfer accounts for these changes:

The following Certified Salary Accounts were increased:	
Hurlbutt Elementary School	13,072
Weston Intermediate School	10,106
Special Education	25,907
Pupil Personnel – Grief Counseling	5,180
Curriculum and Instructions	4,548
District Administration – Separation Agreement	48,132
District-wide – Turnover Savings	<u>247,146</u>
Total Increases	354,091
The following Certified Salary Accounts were decreased:	
Weston Middle School	192,621
Weston High School	22,154
Pupil Personnel	10,607
Technology	1,968
District-wide – Staffing Allowance	61,824
District-wide – Degree Changes	<u>64,917</u>
Total Decreases	354,091

- The Certified Salary Account at Hurlbutt Elementary School was increased by \$61,824 to fund one of the two additional classroom teachers needed to support increased enrollment in kindergarten and 1st grade. In addition to the contingency staffing positions budgeted in FY 2014 and carried forward from FY 2013, the unanticipated increase in enrollment required the hire of a third elementary classroom teacher. The district will attempt to address the financial impact of this non-budgeted item through efficiencies or savings in other areas.
- There were several transfers of less than \$5,000 between non-certified salary accounts for the reallocation of Para-professional FTE between schools and departments, and for the reorganization/staff reduction associated with secretarial turnover, which will save the district \$10,241 in Weston High School's cost center. The following budget transfer accounts for these changes:

The following Non-Certified Salary Accounts were increased:	
Weston Intermediate School	1,223
Weston Middle School	3,135
Pupil Personnel	<u>1,576</u>
Total Increases	5,934
The following Non-Certified Salary Accounts were decreased:	
Hurlbutt Elementary School	1,223
Weston High School	3,135
Special Education	<u>1,576</u>
Total Decreases	5,934

5. The District-wide budget included an allowance of \$42,500 for salary increases for all staff that are not affiliated with a collective bargaining union. The total salary differential for this group was \$3892 less than budgeted. The following budget transfer accounts for these changes:

The following Certified Salary Accounts were increased:	
District Administration	14,803
Curriculum and Instruction	3,480
The following Non-Certified Salary Accounts were increased:	
Special Education	1,328
Pupil Personnel	1,500
Technology	4,217
District Administration	7,805
Facilities	3,319
Transportation	1,328
Energy Management	828
Total Increases	38,608
The following Certified Salary Account was decreased:	
District-wide – Salary Allowance	<u>38,608</u>
Total Decreases	<u>38,608</u>

6. The Assistant Superintendent of Schools transferred \$7,151 from the Curriculum Writing Certified Salaries Account to the Professional Technical Services Account within the Curriculum and Instruction Budget. These funds will enable the district to engage the services of a consultant to work with teaching staff to enhance instructional practice related to the mandated shift to Common Core standards.
7. The Assistant Superintendent of Schools transferred \$5,912 from the Book Account to the Materials Account within the Curriculum and Instruction Budget. This cost center allocates funds to support purchases of materials and books for new curriculum initiatives. The exact allocation between these accounts was not known when the budget was developed.
8. The Director of Finance and Operations transferred \$25,763 from the Contracted Services Account to the Property Insurance Account. The town and schools procure Liability, Auto and Property Insurance jointly through Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Association (CIRMA). In 2010, on the advice of the Town's Insurance Advisory Committee and our Insurance Advisors, the town and the schools purchased a three-year Pollution/Environment Policy through Chartis Specialty Insurance Company. At that time, there was no coverage through CIRMA. This coverage is a prudent way to mitigate the risk associated with a catastrophic claim. Last year during our annual meeting with CIRMA, we were informed that Pollution/Environmental coverage was added to our policy. Consequently, the cost of the policy renewal was not added to our budget. Since then, CIRMA clarified that the policy excluded pollution claims related to

underground tanks. Since these tanks present a significant risk factor, the town and schools renewed the policy with Chartis Specialty Insurance Company.

9. The following list is provided for informational purposes. There are no transfers included in this report.

- The salary adjustments negotiated for the Security Specialist positions occurred after the budget was presented. The total cost is \$45k. The administration recommends managing this shortfall with funds from the overtime accounts in the facilities department, which currently have a balance of \$90k. Depending on the weather and other unknown factors, a transfer may be needed later in the year to offset any overtime in excess of \$45k.
- The budget includes \$30k for Mile of Safety, which does not include 60% of the three hours in the middle of the day that was added after the tragedy in Newtown. The administration is working with the Police Department to develop funding options, which is approximately \$24k for the schools' 60%.
- The budget anticipated an increase of \$50 per student in parking fees for the 2013-14 school year. The administration deferred this change until 2014-15 due to timing of notification to students.
- The Legal Fee Account for the district will require additional funds. The district recently concluded negotiations with the WAA and will be preparing for negotiations with the WTA in the spring. The administration will request a transfer in the 2nd Quarter Financial Report.

10. The administration is closely monitoring the following list of service or spending requirements for any funding shortfalls:

- Special Education
- Energy Consumption
- Leaves of Absences
- Substitute Teachers
- Equipment or Mechanical Failures
- Workers' Compensated Injuries
- Unemployment Compensation
- Catastrophic Events – Natural or Man-Made

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 2013 - September 2013

Descriptions	FY 2014 Adopted Budget	Budget Adjustments	FY 2014 Revised Budget	FY 2014 Expended	FY 2014 Encumbered	FY 2014 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Certified Salaries	22,276,813	-13,784	22,263,029	3,012,133	18,182,189	21,194,322	1,068,707
Non-Certified Salaries	5,921,606	20,325	5,941,931	1,169,771	4,359,508	5,529,279	412,652
Employee Benefits	8,727,730	0	8,727,730	2,518,248	79,822	2,598,070	6,129,660
Total Employee Cost	36,926,149	6,541	36,932,690	6,700,152	22,621,519	29,321,671	7,611,019
Professional Educational Services	763,000	0	763,000	55,916	586,135	642,051	120,949
Professional Technical Services	660,585	47,783	708,368	205,080	247,205	452,285	256,083
Utilities	119,078	0	119,078	29,180	85,796	114,976	4,102
Contracted Services/Maint. Projects	2,539,560	-25,972	2,513,588	807,850	1,278,188	2,086,038	427,550
Equipment Repair/Rental	635,116	278	635,394	113,336	102,453	215,789	419,605
Communications	113,037	4,500	117,537	25,585	47,103	72,688	44,849
Other Insurance	188,086	25,972	214,058	115,625	78,504	194,129	19,929
Postage/Advertising/Printing	62,999	1,000	63,999	21,250	3,409	24,659	39,340
Out-of-District Tuition	1,422,389	0	1,422,389	485,610	934,293	1,419,903	2,486
Training & Reimbursable Expenses	87,610	2,850	90,460	11,555	6,038	17,593	72,867
Energy	1,094,052	0	1,094,052	93,288	1,256	94,544	999,508
Materials	1,265,298	4,275	1,269,573	448,298	226,799	675,097	594,476
Books	200,525	-5,812	194,713	78,271	52,517	130,788	63,925
Equipment	67,443	0	67,443	3,268	353	3,621	63,822
Dues & Fees	85,293	409	85,702	59,224	9,271	68,495	17,207
Miscellaneous	18,500	0	18,500	1,327	7,140	8,467	10,033
Total Non-Salary Accounts	9,322,571	55,283	9,377,854	2,554,663	3,666,460	6,221,123	3,156,731
General Fund Budget	46,248,720	61,824	46,310,544	9,254,815	26,287,979	35,542,794	10,767,750
<i>Fees/Gate Receipts/P&R</i>	-154,054	0	-154,054	0	0	0	-154,054
<i>Excess Cost Grant/Tuitions/Rev.</i>	-519,248	0	-519,248	-21,935	-27,635	-49,570	-469,678
Total General Fund & Grants	45,575,418	61,824	45,637,242	9,232,880	26,260,344	35,493,224	10,144,018

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 2013 - September 2013

Descriptions	FY 2014 Adopted Budget	Budget Adjustments	FY 2014 Revised Budget	FY 2014 Expended	FY 2014 Encumbered	FY 2014 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Hurlbutt Elementary School							
Certified Salaries	2,483,192	83,952	2,567,144	326,777	2,185,115	2,511,892	55,252
Non-Certified Salaries	313,158	-1,223	311,935	46,310	263,424	309,734	2,201
Professional Technical Services	3,489	0	3,489	0	1,493	1,493	1,996
Equipment Repair/Rental	3,740	0	3,740	72	110	182	3,558
Postage/Advertising/Printing	1,000	0	1,000	452	0	452	548
Reimbursable Expenses	250	0	250	0	0	0	250
Materials	56,327	0	56,327	13,672	27,853	41,525	14,802
Books	17,050	0	17,050	3,597	1,600	5,197	11,853
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	1,675	0	1,675	0	130	130	1,545
	<u>2,879,881</u>	<u>82,729</u>	<u>2,962,610</u>	<u>390,880</u>	<u>2,479,725</u>	<u>2,870,605</u>	<u>92,005</u>
Weston Intermediate School							
Certified Salaries	3,512,933	-5,080	3,507,853	443,876	2,975,025	3,418,901	88,952
Non-Certified Salaries	241,115	1,223	242,338	35,163	205,125	240,288	2,050
Professional Technical Services	900	0	900	0	0	0	900
Equipment Repair/Rental	3,220	0	3,220	0	0	0	3,220
Postage/Advertising/Printing	1,000	0	1,000	592	0	592	408
Reimbursable Expenses	500	0	500	0	0	0	500
Materials	40,142	0	40,142	9,192	17,248	26,440	13,702
Books	40,496	0	40,496	15,792	13,155	28,947	11,549
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	1,419	0	1,419	130	357	487	932
	<u>3,841,725</u>	<u>-3,857</u>	<u>3,837,868</u>	<u>504,745</u>	<u>3,210,910</u>	<u>3,715,655</u>	<u>122,213</u>

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 2013 - September 2013

Descriptions	FY 2014 Adopted Budget	Budget Adjustments	FY 2014 Revised Budget	FY 2014 Expended	FY 2014 Encumbered	FY 2014 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Weston Middle School							
Certified Salaries	4,385,637	-193,242	4,192,395	525,049	3,483,926	4,008,975	183,420
Non-Certified Salaries	230,064	3,135	233,199	37,751	194,616	232,367	832
Professional Technical Services	19,541	0	19,541	997	4,848	5,845	13,696
Equipment Repair/Rental	8,915	150	9,065	400	2,420	2,820	6,245
Postage/Advertising/Printing	3,452	0	3,452	1,831	113	1,944	1,508
Reimbursable Expenses	700	-150	550	0	0	0	550
Materials	89,050	-400	88,650	24,305	26,579	50,884	37,766
Books	19,906	0	19,906	2,703	6,479	9,182	10,724
Equipment	34,775	0	34,775	0	180	180	34,595
Dues & Fees	4,235	400	4,635	1,345	527	1,872	2,763
	<u>4,796,275</u>	<u>-190,107</u>	<u>4,606,168</u>	<u>594,381</u>	<u>3,719,688</u>	<u>4,314,069</u>	<u>292,099</u>
Weston High School							
Certified Salaries	5,117,424	-22,154	5,095,270	665,366	4,276,409	4,941,775	153,495
Non-Certified Salaries	202,178	-3,135	199,043	38,480	149,454	187,934	11,109
Professional Technical Services	15,790	0	15,790	290	1,167	1,457	14,333
Equipment Repair/Rental	11,654	0	11,654	1,303	3,207	4,510	7,144
Postage/Advertising/Printing	14,693	0	14,693	7,182	0	7,182	7,511
Reimbursable Expenses	3,090	0	3,090	0	0	0	3,090
Materials	152,296	-109	152,187	62,171	22,822	84,993	67,194
Books	25,673	100	25,773	9,270	6,077	15,347	10,426
Equipment	7,960	0	7,960	0	0	0	7,960
Dues & Fees	12,502	9	12,511	8,474	255	8,729	3,782
Parking Fees	-30,000	0	-30,000	0	0	0	-30,000
	<u>5,533,260</u>	<u>-25,289</u>	<u>5,507,971</u>	<u>792,536</u>	<u>4,459,391</u>	<u>5,251,927</u>	<u>256,044</u>

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 2013 - September 2013

Descriptions	FY 2014 Adopted Budget	Budget Adjustments	FY 2014 Revised Budget	FY 2014 Expended	FY 2014 Encumbered	FY 2014 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Athletics							
Certified Salaries/Coaches Stipends	473,406	0	473,406	38,085	103,373	141,458	331,948
Non-Certified Salaries	119,943	0	119,943	10,859	40,539	51,398	68,545
Professional Technical Services	76,890	0	76,890	21,217	6,145	27,362	49,528
Police/Fire Services	4,000	0	4,000	0	2,500	2,500	1,500
Insurance	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	0
Transportation - Extra Curricular	79,534	0	79,534	750	34,750	35,500	44,034
Materials	55,000	0	55,000	12,832	11,327	24,159	30,841
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	14,923	0	14,923	13,250	0	13,250	1,673
Participation Fees/Gate Receipts	-93,604	0	-93,604	0	0	0	-93,604
	740,092	0	740,092	106,993	198,634	305,627	434,465
Special Education							
Certified Salaries	3,157,941	32,658	3,190,599	473,717	2,540,896	3,014,613	175,986
Non-Certified Salaries	1,362,257	-248	1,362,009	258,920	963,190	1,222,110	139,899
Professional Educational Services	730,500	0	730,500	55,916	586,135	642,051	88,449
Professional Technical Services	170,800	0	170,800	14,657	43,825	58,482	112,318
Equipment Repair/Rental	5,000	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Tuition Out-of-District	1,422,389	0	1,422,389	485,610	934,293	1,419,903	2,486
Reimbursable Expenses	3,000	0	3,000	123	0	123	2,877
Materials	38,425	-128	38,297	12,796	9,611	22,407	15,890
Books	5,900	0	5,900	1,466	941	2,407	3,493
Equipment	15,000	0	15,000	3,268	173	3,441	11,559
Dues & Fees	2,000	0	2,000	1,055	122	1,177	823
Excess Cost Grant/Pre-School	-519,248	0	-519,248	-21,935	0	-21,935	-497,313
	6,393,964	32,282	6,426,246	1,285,593	5,079,186	6,364,779	61,467

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 2013 - September 2013

Descriptions	FY 2014 Adopted Budget	Budget Adjustments	FY 2014 Revised Budget	FY 2014 Expended	FY 2014 Encumbered	FY 2014 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Pupil Personnel Services							
Certified Salaries	1,717,138	-5,427	1,711,711	225,442	1,461,575	1,687,017	24,694
Non-Certified Salaries	734,893	3,076	737,969	116,744	585,496	702,240	35,729
Professional Technical Services	147,835	0	147,835	15,865	86,136	102,001	45,834
Equipment Repair/Rental	1,475	128	1,603	943	111	1,054	549
Postage/Advertising/Printing	10,460	0	10,460	113	2,000	2,113	8,347
Reimbursable Expenses	1,500	0	1,500	0	0	0	1,500
Materials	16,100	0	16,100	5,418	2,987	8,405	7,695
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	575	0	575	229	0	229	346
	<u>2,629,976</u>	<u>-2,223</u>	<u>2,627,753</u>	<u>364,754</u>	<u>2,138,305</u>	<u>2,503,059</u>	<u>124,694</u>
Curriculum & Instructional Improvement							
Certified Salaries	820,332	877	821,209	143,888	629,162	773,050	48,159
Non-Certified Salaries	59,032	0	59,032	15,691	42,591	58,282	750
Professional Educational Services	32,500	0	32,500	0	0	0	32,500
Professional Technical Services	104,100	7,151	111,251	63,913	25,987	89,900	21,351
Training & Reimbursable Expenses	61,570	0	61,570	6,874	6,038	12,912	48,658
Materials	51,290	5,912	57,202	33,078	633	33,711	23,491
Books	91,500	-5,912	85,588	45,443	24,265	69,708	15,880
Equipment	9,708	0	9,708	0	0	0	9,708
Dues & Fees	19,569	0	19,569	9,059	7,260	16,319	3,250
	<u>1,249,601</u>	<u>8,028</u>	<u>1,257,629</u>	<u>317,946</u>	<u>735,936</u>	<u>1,053,882</u>	<u>203,747</u>

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 2013 - September 2013

Descriptions	FY 2014 Adopted Budget	Budget Adjustments	FY 2014 Revised Budget	FY 2014 Expended	FY 2014 Encumbered	FY 2014 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Technology							
Certified Salaries	121,551	-1,968	119,583	13,788	102,886	116,674	2,909
Non-Certified Salaries	441,593	4,217	445,810	104,274	341,536	445,810	0
Professional Technical Services	67,550	-4,500	63,050	19,031	36,835	55,866	7,184
Equipment Repair/Rental	387,780	0	387,780	66,401	1,794	68,195	319,585
Communications	19,000	4,500	23,500	3,900	19,500	23,400	100
Reimbursable Expenses	3,000	0	3,000	750	0	750	2,250
Materials	31,750	0	31,750	7,251	6,443	13,694	18,056
Software	269,498	0	269,498	178,335	45,788	224,123	45,375
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>1,341,722</u>	<u>2,249</u>	<u>1,343,971</u>	<u>393,730</u>	<u>554,782</u>	<u>948,512</u>	<u>395,459</u>
District Administration							
Certified Salaries	565,164	14,803	579,967	156,145	423,822	579,967	0
Non-Certified Salaries	346,985	7,805	354,790	92,774	253,540	346,314	8,476
Professional Technical Services	51,500	48,132	99,632	26,247	44,414	70,661	28,971
Equipment Repair/Rental	4,900	0	4,900	0	0	0	4,900
Postage/Advertising/Printing	13,824	1,000	14,824	3,387	1,296	4,683	10,141
Reimbursable Expenses	14,000	0	14,000	2,308	0	2,308	11,692
Materials	21,089	-1,000	20,089	3,100	1,386	4,486	15,603
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	27,975	0	27,975	25,682	620	26,302	1,673
Miscellaneous	6,500	0	6,500	885	1,085	1,970	4,530
	<u>1,051,937</u>	<u>70,740</u>	<u>1,122,677</u>	<u>310,528</u>	<u>726,163</u>	<u>1,036,691</u>	<u>85,986</u>

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 2013 - September 2013

Descriptions	FY 2014 Adopted Budget	Budget Adjustments	FY 2014 Revised Budget	FY 2014 Expended	FY 2014 Encumbered	FY 2014 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Facilities							
Non-Certified Salaries	1,590,512	3,319	1,593,831	344,743	1,176,579	1,521,322	72,509
Professional Technical Services	11,480	-3,000	8,480	480	0	480	8,000
Utilities	119,078	0	119,078	29,180	85,796	114,976	4,102
Contracted Services	1,148,401	-25,763	1,122,638	192,622	611,770	804,392	318,246
Maintenance Projects	57,329	0	57,329	17,359	24,769	42,128	15,201
Equipment Repair/Rental	82,604	0	82,604	8,114	14,358	22,472	60,132
Communications	94,037	0	94,037	21,685	27,603	49,288	44,749
Property Insurance	98,231	25,763	123,994	70,743	44,983	115,726	8,268
Reimbursable Expenses	0	3,000	3,000	1,500	0	1,500	1,500
Materials	262,696	0	262,696	67,784	34,224	102,008	160,688
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	420	0	420	0	0	0	420
Miscellaneous	12,000	0	12,000	442	6,055	6,497	5,503
In-Kind Revenue from Parks & Rec.	-30,450	0	-30,450	0	0	0	-30,450
	<u>3,446,338</u>	<u>3,319</u>	<u>3,449,657</u>	<u>754,652</u>	<u>2,026,137</u>	<u>2,780,789</u>	<u>668,868</u>
Energy Management							
Non-Certified Salaries	41,413	828	42,241	11,373	30,868	42,241	0
Professional Technical Services	63,600	0	63,600	63,600	0	63,600	0
Energy	<u>1,094,052</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,094,052</u>	<u>93,288</u>	<u>1,256</u>	<u>94,544</u>	<u>999,508</u>
	<u>1,199,065</u>	<u>828</u>	<u>1,199,893</u>	<u>168,261</u>	<u>32,124</u>	<u>200,385</u>	<u>999,508</u>
Transportation							
Non-Certified Salaries	180,326	1,328	181,654	46,706	64,859	111,565	70,089
Contracted Services	1,177,406	-209	1,177,197	575,902	600,754	1,176,656	541
Equipment Repair	8,000	0	8,000	4,123	2,305	6,428	1,572
Auto Insurance	7,955	209	8,164	4,082	4,082	8,164	0
Materials (fuel)	168,135	0	168,135	14,616	17,384	32,000	136,135
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revenue	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>1,541,822</u>	<u>1,328</u>	<u>1,543,150</u>	<u>645,429</u>	<u>689,384</u>	<u>1,334,813</u>	<u>208,337</u>

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 2013 - September 2013

Descriptions	FY 2014 Adopted Budget	Budget Adjustments	FY 2014 Revised Budget	FY 2014 Expended	FY 2014 Encumbered	FY 2014 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
District Wide							
Liability Insurance	71,900	0	71,900	30,800	29,439	60,239	11,661
Regular Education - Tuition	0	0	0	0	-27,635	-27,635	27,635
Staffing Allowance	61,824	-61,824	0	0	0	0	0
Degree Changes	64,917	-64,917	0	0	0	0	
Salary Allowance	42,500	-38,608	3,892			0	3,892
Turnover Savings	-247,146	247,146	0	0	0	0	0
	-6,005	81,797	75,792	30,800	1,804	32,604	43,188
Health Insurance							
Health Benefits	6,314,029	0	6,314,029	2,104,676	0	2,104,676	4,209,353
Social Security	471,602	0	471,602	88,009	0	88,009	383,593
Medicare	407,413	0	407,413	58,861	0	58,861	348,552
Workers Compensation	162,156	0	162,156	79,428	79,432	158,860	3,296
Unemployment Compensation	70,000	0	70,000	3,564	0	3,564	66,436
Early Retirement	4,759	0	4,759	4,758	0	4,758	1
Pension Program	791,720	0	791,720	147,770	390	148,160	643,560
GASB 43/45	250,000	0	250,000	0	0	0	250,000
Tuition Reimbursement	70,000	0	70,000	0	0	0	70,000
Life Insurance	98,329	0	98,329	26,051	0	26,051	72,278
Disability Insurance	15,898	0	15,898	5,131	0	5,131	10,767
Sick Bank	61,824	0	61,824	0	0	0	61,824
Management Services	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
	8,727,730	0	8,727,730	2,518,248	79,822	2,598,070	6,129,660
Copy Center							
Non-Certified Salaries	58,137	0	58,137	9,983	47,691	57,674	463
Equipment Rental	117,828	0	117,828	31,980	78,148	110,128	7,700
Postage	18,570	0	18,570	7,693	0	7,693	10,877
Materials	13,500	0	13,500	3,748	2,514	6,262	7,238
	208,035	0	208,035	53,404	128,353	181,757	26,278

Weston Public Schools

July 4	Independence Day
August 20-22	Teacher Professional Development
August 25	First Day of School
September 1	Labor Day
September 25	Rosh Hashanah
October 4	Yom Kippur
October 13	Columbus Day/Teacher Professional Development
November 4	Election Day/Teacher Professional Development
November 11	Veterans Day
November 26-29	Thanksgiving Recess
December 24-January 2	Winter Recess
January 1	New Year's Day
January 19	Martin Luther King Day
February 16	Presidents' Day
February 17	Teacher Professional Development
March 13	Teacher Professional Development
April 3	Good Friday
April 5	Passover
April 13-17	Spring Recess
May 25	Memorial Day
June 8	District's Projected Last Day of School

JULY

Su	M	T	W	T	Fri	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST

Su	M	T	W	T	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER

Su	M	T	W	T	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER

Su	M	T	W	Th	Fri	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER

Su	M	T	W	T	Fri	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY

Su	M	Tu	W	T	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

Su	M	T	W	T	Fr	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

Su	M	T	W	T	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

Su	M	T	W	T	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

180 School Days 187 Teacher Days
Approved by the Board of Education on xx-xx-xxxx.

Snow/cancellation days will be added to the end of the year.

The Weston Board of Education reserves the right to modify the school calendar.

First Day of School

Projected last Day of School

Teacher Day — No Students

Holiday — No Students or Teachers, BOE Offices Open

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Holiday — No Students or Teachers, BOE Offices Closed

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT

October 21, 2013



Weston High School

Lisa Deorio, Principal

In this issue...

- Principal's Update*
- Chinese Sister School Partnership*
- Academic Programs*
- Professional Development*
- Co-Curricular Program*
- Clubs*
- ADAP*
- Weston Youth Services*

Principal's Update

Weston High School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Secretary Duncan recognized 286 schools as the 2013 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools, based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in improving student academic achievement. Fifty-three high schools were recognized, 50 public and three private.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of achievement.



The program recognizes schools in one of two performance categories. The first category is "Exemplary High Performing," in which schools are recognized among their states' highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. The second category is "Exemplary Improving," in which schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. Weston High School was recognized as an Exemplary High Performing School.

The Department will honor 236 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 18-19 in Washington, D.C. In its 31-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on nearly 7,500 of America's schools.

To select National Blue Ribbon Schools, the Department requested nominations from the top education official in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) nominates private schools. A total of 420 schools nationwide may be nominated, with allocations determined by the numbers of K-12 students and schools in each jurisdiction. The Secretary of

Education invites nominated schools to submit an application for possible recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.

This is a tremendous honor and speaks to how greatly education is valued in Weston. The staff works diligently every day to empower our students to achieve success and contribute to our global community.

Chinese Sister School Partnership

We were pleased to host our first student delegation from our sister school, Qingdao No. 17 High School, this month. Nine students and four teachers stayed with Weston families during the first week of October. Many students hosted the same student that hosted them when the Weston delegation visited China last April. Our Chinese guests shadowed their Weston host students, attending all scheduled classes. Other activities included a welcome reception, an after school arts and crafts session, a tour of Yale University, pumpkin and apple picking, and a visit to the Yale Art Gallery. We are extremely grateful to the host families who welcomed our visitors into their homes and arranged evening activities for the students. This exchange would not have been possible without the generous, active participation of so many in our community.



ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Videography

Documentary filmmaker, Larry Shore came to speak to the Advanced Videography classroom on Wednesday October 2. His insight and support is helping students prepare for C-SPAN's StudentCam documentary project – an annual national video documentary competition that encourages students to think critically about issues that affect our communities and our nation. Students are asked to create a short (5-7 minute) video documentary on a topic related to the competition theme.

Science/Technology

Our Advanced Physics students, under the direction of Dr. Kingston, will compete at the Yale Physics Olympics on Saturday, October 19. This day-long competition involves 50 schools from southern New England and New York.

Peter Taylor, a herpetologist and Weston resident, was a guest speaker in Ms. Hauser's Animal Behavior class this month. Dr. Taylor developed and initiated a research project in Guyana studying black caiman. Dr. Taylor spoke about the immense biodiversity of a remote region and the culture of the native Macushi tribe.

School Counseling

On October 5, 176 students took the SAT exam at Weston High School. Last Spring, Weston High School was designated as an official testing site for the SAT. Additional SAT exams will be offered on November 2, May 3, and June 7 at WHS. Taking this test in a familiar environment is important to performance on this high stakes assessment.

On Tuesday, October 15, the school counselors hosted our annual *College Admissions Panel* presentation at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. A diverse panel of very selective and highly selective colleges and universities representing both the private and public sectors presented to parents. Panelists clarified the admissions processes unique to their institutions and discussed the key components of the application process including transcripts, standardized tests, scholarships, essays, interviews, campus visits, file review, and financial aid.

On the morning of Wednesday, October 16, the PSAT exam was administered to all sophomores and juniors. That same day the Anti-Defamation League presented a program to our freshman students entitled *The Truth About Hate*. This annual program is part of our commitment to make Weston High School a welcoming community for all. Seniors were invited to come to the learning commons that morning to work on their college essays with support from English teachers.

Social Studies

Ms. Anita Schorr, a survivor of the Holocaust, spoke to the Facing History and Ourselves class on Monday, October 7. Born in Czechoslovakia in 1930, Ms. Schorr and her family were deported to Terezin in 1941 and to Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland in 1943. After half of her family was murdered in the camp's gas chambers, she was transferred to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945 and liberated by the Allies a few weeks later. Ms. Schorr moved to Israel in 1948 and to the U.S. in 1959. She and her family now live in Westport. She only began to speak about her experiences after a visit to the then-new United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993. Since then, she has addressed thousands in her ongoing speaking tour where she shares her belief that "remembering is not enough. We need action. We need to start fighting for a better world."

Professional Development

On October 7 and 8 math teachers Mr. Sadler, Ms. Camp, and Mr. Joyce and administrators Mrs. Deorio and Mr. Doak participated in the Tri-State Consortium training program. The purpose of the training was to assist districts in using data to enhance performance and building a rigorous framework for planning, assessment, and systemic change.

Co-Curricular Program

Homecoming was a huge success. Students dressed up each day to show their school spirit and decked the school in blue and gold. Activities included dodge ball, Deck the Walls, and Powder Puff. The week will culminate in our home Football game against Holy Cross on Saturday, October 19.

Athletics

This month our fall athletes participated in *Pink Aid* to support breast cancer awareness. From delicious bake sales and other fundraising activities at games, to painting the campus pink on October 11, WHS spirit was contagious for this cause.



Clubs

After a two-year hiatus, the Model United Nations (MUN) has returned to Weston High School. Made up of energetic freshmen and sophomores, MUN held their first simulation last week. Students were challenged to learn about the ongoing conflict in Syria, pick a member state of the UN, and represent that country at our MUN meeting. Students are learning how to write resolutions, engage in debate, and chair a meeting according to Roberts Rules of Order. Membership to the MUN is open to any student at WHS who is interested in the world today, current affairs, and solving global challenges. Please see Social Studies Teacher Mr. Jorge for information.

ADAP

All high school students are welcome to join the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP). ADAP provides Weston students with a safe environment to discuss the challenges they face in high school and to learn about the risks associated with substance abuse. Meetings are held on the first Monday evening of the month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Weston Public Library. Once again, ADAP is commemorating Red Ribbon Week by sponsoring a breakfast at the high school on October 28. For more information please visit the website at www.westonadap.org.

Weston Youth Services

Weston Youth Services continues to sponsor *All-Star Driver's Education* at Weston High School. For more information and registration guidelines, parents may visit the website at www.westonyouthservices.org.

The final program of October's series *Stress & Success* will take place on Wednesday, October 23, at the Weston Public Library. "Resilience: I'm not sure what it is, but I know I want more of it!" will run from 12:00-1:30 p.m. with a light lunch provided. Parents are invited to join guest speaker, Barbara Greenberg, Ph.D. and Michelle Albright, Ph.D. for a discussion on how to build character and confidence in our children.

Weston Middle School

Amy Watkins, Principal

In this issue...

WMS Celebrates Peace Day 2013
WMS SGA Holds Annual Food Drive
Seventh Grade Explores to Sterling Hill Mining Museum
Eighth Grade Travels to Boston
PTO Supports Educational Programs
Kudos to a Former Eighth Grade Student Writer
Weston Youth Services

WMS Celebrates Peace Day 2013

In celebration of Peace Day, students spent time in various classes exploring the importance of a peaceful global society. During lunch, students had the opportunity to write a peaceful statement on a strip of paper to become part of a paper peace chain. The culminating activity was the entire staff and student body coming together on the



field to form a human peace symbol. We had a moment of silence to remember how fortunate we are to live in a country that is free.

WMS Student Government Association (SGA) Holds Annual Food Drive

Weston Middle School once again ran its annual SGA-sponsored food drive to benefit the Community Food Pantry, run by local Weston resident Betsy Peyreigne. For the second year in a row, in an effort to go green, we encouraged families to re-use a container of their own (i.e. paper or plastic bag or even a cardboard box) and to fill their containers as completely as they were able. We are pleased to announce that as a result of everyone's efforts, we had the biggest turnout of donations to date! We wish to thank the many generous parents and students who donated bags of non-perishable food items as well as pet items for this very special event.



Every homeroom in the school participated, but this year, we had seven homerooms in the school in which 100% of the students contributed to the drive. Those homerooms will win a special reward. We are also grateful to the SGA students who kindly volunteered their time to help sort the donations, check expiration dates, and load the donations into the van.

Seventh-Grade Students Travel to Sterling Hill Mining Museum in New Jersey

Below is a panoramic picture taken by Mr. Marone from the Sterling Hill Mining Museum students traveled to on October 8. Students had the opportunity to visit a series of rock exposures in Sussex County to see for themselves how geologists "read the rocks" to interpret geologic history. Students have been studying the tectonic plates and Pangaea, applying this knowledge to how they can use rocks to determine what the environment was like at various times in the geologic past.



Eighth-Grade Students Toured Boston

Students who attended the Boston trip were amazing. They took in the historic sites and participated in a re-enactment of the Battle of Lexington. The government shutdown may have prevented us from walking onto the USS Constitution, but did not prevent us from walking the Freedom Trail, visiting the North End Church, and learning about the plight of presumed witches in Salem or the inspiration for The House of Seven Gables.

Special Thank You to the PTO for Supporting Educational Programs for Our Students

Recently the eighth-grade students had the opportunity to learn more about history through a guest speaker from the Fairfield Museum and History Center. An educator in period uniform revealed the challenges of a soldier's life in the American militia. Students learned about items from the period that soldiers carried and what a wool uniform might feel like when worn. From the powder horn and musket to the haversack and flint, students heard engaging stories of how soldiers faced hardships and survived.

We are thrilled to share that students in Mrs. McConnell's seventh-grade Spanish class will have the opportunity to exchange art work around the theme of "Food for Thought" with students in Spain from the Escolles Pérez Iborra School. Creative Connections works to connect students from the United States with students from around the world. This year, several of our seventh-grade Spanish students will be asked to create a piece of art work that "illustrates a cultural value that is particularly meaningful to them" and includes "food being cultivated, prepared, used, or eaten somewhere in the piece. Food can serve as the central focus of the art, feature significantly in the scene, or be merely incidental." These programs were made possible through the support and funding of the WMS PTO.

Kudos to a Former Eighth-Grade Student

Lauren Noble received a writing award at the Trumbull Arts Festival for a piece of writing that she submitted as an eighth-grade student in Mrs. Schlotter's class. Lauren received second place in the non-fiction middle school category for her personal narrative "A Fall Ride." During the awards ceremony, each judge explained why that particular piece had been chosen. How powerful for each writer to hear what the reader found to be appealing and worthy of being recognized. In addition to receiving a copy of the publication *Pen Works*, where Lauren's work has been published, she also received a monetary award.

Weston Youth Services' October Offerings

Weston Youth Services is pleased to offer a variety of programs for children of all ages and their families. The Sitter Safety classes are about to begin, where middle school students learn the skills necessary to become a responsible babysitter. For more information, email malbright@westonct.gov or call 203-222-2585 to RSVP to the upcoming session. Programs are open to all parents and caregivers and there is no fee to attend.

Weston Intermediate School	Pattie Falber, Principal
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Technology

This school year is shaping up to be a remarkable year. What is distinctly different about the 2013 school year is the amount of technology being used throughout the building to enhance student learning. In addition to the district initiatives of TypingAce to increase student proficiency on the keyboard and DreamBox to support mathematical thinking and skills; students in all grades are

blogging, using e-readers and, in the fifth-grade wing particularly, using personal devices (Chromebooks, laptops, and tablets) to take notes, do research, and complete assignments. Teachers are “tweeting” daily homework updates to parents, and our labs, COWs, and tablets are in high demand. The change is palpable and welcome.

Grade Level News

Fifth Grade: During September all fifth graders attended an internet safety presentation by Sergeant Brodacki and Officer Joe Mogollon of the Weston Police Department. Parents were invited to listen in with their child’s class. Without mincing words, the officers strongly encouraged students to be safe online with advice focused on geolocation technology, cyber bullying, privacy settings, password protections, and parental involvement. Students, parents, and teachers left the presentation with new insights about online safety and a heightened awareness about the need to be diligent when connected. This presentation set the tone for online safety and behavior as our fifth graders begin to work with Google Apps for Education and other web 2.0 learning tools.



Fourth Grade: Fourth grade is in full swing with the new *Math in Focus* program. Teachers are finally experiencing the claim that if you devote more time to fewer topics you will be able to bring your students to a deeper understanding of the math concepts being presented. In the most positive sense of the word, students are struggling through problem-solving exercises to build increasingly complex mathematical thinking skills and procedural skills.

Third Grade: Third grade has also transitioned to *Math in Focus*. To complement the new math curriculum, third- and fourth-grade students have begun to use DreamBox both in school and at home. DreamBox is an online, adaptive, highly personalized math program designed to increase a student’s math proficiency through a fun online learning environment. Students move through lessons at their own pace, using virtual manipulatives to “show their work” rather than just clicking on an answer. The teachers have instant access to students’ data, which can be used to further inform classroom instruction. We anticipate this technology to be a powerful addition to our math program; helping each student along their path toward math proficiency.



School Spirit

On Friday, October 4, our school was awash in blue and gold as we celebrated our first School Spirit Day. Students and staff alike donned the official Weston colors to show school pride and come together as a school. Many of us wore our new “WIS PRIDE” t-shirts artfully designed by the PTO to help us show our Paw Pride.

Our annual Picture Day took place in late September. The highlight of the day was the gathering of the fifth grade for their Yearbook photo. Here’s a snapshot of the class of 2021.



Parent Involvement

On Thursday, October 10, our monthly PTO meeting was dedicated to grade-level meetings so parents could learn more about their child’s day and upcoming curriculum. Grade-level team leaders met with parents to answer questions about AIM, technology, homework, reading, and math. Parents were very appreciative of this unique opportunity, and we are exploring ways to do this again in the spring.

To learn more about our new math program, Carolyn Vinton, curriculum instructional leader for math, led two math workshops for families. All sessions were interactive and hands-on to provide parents a first-hand experience in learning the way our students are learning math. The workshop, *An Introduction to Math in Focus for Parents*, was designed for grade four parents and any grade three parents who did not attend last year. The session was designed to give a basic understanding of the Common Core State Standards of Mathematics and the rationale in using *Math in Focus* to meet these standards and our district goals for 21st century learning. Parents took part in third- and fourth-grade math activities to better understand what is happening in their child’s classroom, and learn how they can support their child’s learning at home. Additional workshops will be taking place in November to specifically address the problem solving strategy of bar modeling, a strategy unique to the Singapore approach.

Professional Development

During our October professional development day, teachers spent the morning analyzing recent reading assessment data to address whole-class and small group instruction. Teachers used the “Rigor Divide” tool to assess and develop lessons that are meaningful and cognitively engaging learning. In the afternoon the staff was excited to work again with John Antonetti and continue the focus on cognitive engagement. His work helped teachers deepen their understanding and helped them analyze and design lessons that are rigorous, meaningful, and engaging for our students.



Hurlbutt Elementary School

Laura Kaddis, Principal

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Hurlbutt Celebrates a Positive School Climate

“Hurlbutt kids are made of gold!” Students at Hurlbutt Elementary School chanted and sang together at their first school climate celebration of the 2013-2014 school year. All 467 students at Hurlbutt gathered as a school community to celebrate their achievement in upholding the school’s motto, “Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Responsible.” Classes at Hurlbutt earn honeycombs that fill the honey hive, which is proudly displayed on a bulletin board in the hallway near the main entrance. This year the students were treated to a visit by our mascot, Horace the Hurlbutt Honeybee, who is sponsored by the Hurlbutt PTO.



Professional Development

At our team leaders' meetings and faculty meetings we have been analyzing district data and school data. From this information the team developed school goals and subsequently grade-level goals. Our Theory of Action is designed to support the district-wide goals of increasing cognitive engagement for students and looking at student work to design instruction. During the October professional development day the staff spent the morning with John Antonetti continuing to focus on cognitive engagement. John shared with us a tool for analyzing our lessons to ensure that we are designing lessons with rigor that cognitively engage students in the learning process at high levels. Our afternoon session immersed classroom teachers in strategies to delve deeper into cognitive engagement in literacy instruction. We analyzed current student writing and began writing individual student goals.

Parent Involvement

Carolyn Vinton, curriculum instructional leader for math, is leading two math workshops for families to learn about our math program. All sessions are interactive and hands-on so parents can experience firsthand the way we teach math. The first session is *An Introduction to Math in Focus for Parents*. There is a morning session on October 22 and an evening session on October 23. This is designed for all grade K parents and any first-or second-grade parents who did not attend the session last year. The second session is an *Introduction to Bar Modeling for Parents* which will take place on November 12 in the morning and November 13 in the evening.

Links to the Community

October is Fire Safety Month. Our Kindergarten students are learning about our Weston community and recently visited the Weston Fire Department. They learned about fire safety and met many of the community helpers at the firehouse. They also met the 911 dispatcher and toured the firehouse. Our second-grade students visited the one room school house on Hurlbutt Street in Wilton. In this social studies unit, they compare and contrast Weston "then and now" which coincides with parts of Common Core Standards one and two for Social Studies. Some of the essential questions within this unit are how do significant events and people shape the history of Weston, what are the historical sites in Weston and their significance, and what are the similarities and differences of manmade and physical characteristics in Weston?



Technology

On September 17 our first-grade students participated in our first-ever live webcast at Hurlbutt Elementary School. School Library Journal sponsored a live broadcast with author Kevin Henkes at Bank Street College of Education in New York City. The timing couldn't have been better because in October, our first-grade students were immersed in a Kevin Henkes author study genre unit. This unique opportunity provided our students with a novel learning experience to broaden their repertoire of modes of presentation and use of technology to learn about Kevin Henkes and the books that he has written. Our students learned that while the presentation was occurring in real time, Kevin Henkes could neither see nor hear us. Students and classes were able to electronically submit their questions to Bank Street College, where a moderator chose questions for Kevin Henkes to respond to. This webcast will be archived for use in future years.

