

WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, December 16, 2013
Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
Executive Session 7:00 p.m.
Regular Session 7:30 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**
Philip Schaefer, Chairperson
- II. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
1. Discussion of matters concerning security strategy and the deployment of security personnel and devices affecting the security of the Weston Public Schools
 2. Discussion of a confidential document subject to the attorney-client privilege
- III. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, *pages 1-7*** **Motion**
The Board will vote to approve the minutes from November 25.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT** **Information**
- VII. NEW BUSINESS**
1. **Gifts, *page 8*** **Motion**
 2. **Retirement, *page 9*** **Motion**
 3. **Resignation, *page 10*** **Motion**
 4. **Annual Energy Update, *pages 11-27*** **Information**
Dave Lustberg will provide the annual update on Weston Public Schools energy conservation and savings.
 5. **Special Education Budget Reforecast, *pages 28-29*** **Information**
Dr. Keating will discuss the special education budget reforecast.
 6. **Discussion and Vote on Request for Supplemental Appropriation** **Motion**
Dr. Palmer will discuss the need for a supplemental appropriation given the unanticipated expenses of FY 2013-14.
 7. **2014-2015 Budget Development Update** **Information**
Dr. Palmer and Dr. Keating will update the Board on development of the 2014-2015 budget.
 8. **Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations, *pages 30-33*** **First Reading**
Mr. Brey will review the following Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations:
 - A. Policy 4111, Recruitment and Selection of Certified Personnel;
 - B. Regulation 4111, Recruitment and Selection of Certified Personnel; and
 - C. Policy 4211, Recruitment and Selection of Non-Certified Personnel.
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

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| <p>1. Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations, <i>pages 34-44</i>
Mr. Brey will review the following Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations:
A. Regulation 5118, Non-Resident Attendance and Tuition Fees;
B. Regulation 5111, Admission/Placement;
C. Policy 5111, Admission/Placement; and
D. Policy 1330, Community Relations: Use of School Facilities.</p> | <p>Motion</p> |
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| <p>IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</p> <p>1. Next Regular Board Meeting Monday, January 27, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. and Budget Workshop #1 Tuesday, January 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>2. District Update</p> <p>3. Principals' Reports, <i>pages 45-55</i></p> | <p>Information</p>
<p>Information</p> <p>Information</p> |
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| <p>X. COMMITTEE REPORTS</p> <p>1. Communications Committee - Nina Daniel</p> <p>2. Curriculum Committee - Ellen Uzenoff</p> <p>3. Finance Committee - Denise Harvey</p> <p>4. Facilities Committee - Ellen Uzenoff</p> <p>5. Policy Committee - Dana Levin</p> <p>6. Negotiations Committee - Denise Harvey</p> <p>7. CES - Nina Daniel</p> <p>8. CAFE - Elise Major</p> <p>9. Weston Education Foundation - Denise Harvey</p> | <p>Information</p> <p>Information</p> <p>Information</p> <p>Information</p> <p>Information</p> <p>Information</p> <p>Information</p> <p>Information</p> <p>Information</p> |
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| <p>XI. ADJOURNMENT</p> | <p>Motion</p> |

Attendance:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM
Philip Schaefer, Chairperson

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Motion to amend the agenda to add executive session at the end of public session to discuss a communication subject to attorney-client privilege. Motion by Mr. Schaefer, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education elects Phil Schaefer as the Board Chairperson. Motion by Ms. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (6-0)

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education elects Ellen Uzenoff as the Board Vice-Chairperson. Motion by Mr. Schaefer, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education elects Dana Levin as the Board Secretary/Treasurer. Motion by Ms. Spaulding, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

IV. RECOGNITION

1. Board of Education

Mr. Schaefer recognized Sonya Stack for her four years of service to the Weston Board of Education.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education recognizes Sonya Stack for four years of outstanding service to the students, families, and staff of Weston Public Schools. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (6-0)

2. Teacher of the Year

Dr. Palmer introduced Helen Knudsen, Weston 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education recognize Helen Knudsen, Weston 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year, for her outstanding service to the students of Weston. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the minutes from October 21.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the October 21, 2013 Regular and Executive Sessions. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Levin, 4 (Mrs. Uzenoff, Mrs. Levin, Ms. Harvey, and Ms. Spaulding) in favor, 2 (Mr. Schaefer and Ms. Major) abstain. (4-0-2)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Katie Gregory, Farrell Rd

Ms. Gregory spoke on behalf of Weston Students First against co-mingling public Town offices within the schools and requested its removal from consideration. She read a letter from Ronald Stephens, Executive Director of the National School Safety Center, advising community involvement in the discussion of co-mingling.

Michelle Tivey, Godfrey Road West

Ms. Tivey read a letter from Carrie Usher, a teacher who survived the Sandy Hook tragedy, to the Board of Education against the co-mingling of Town offices with the schools due to safety concerns.

Namuk Cho, Walnut Lane

Mr. Cho spoke against the co-mingling of public offices with the schools.

Michael Schlechter, Woods End Lane

Mr. Schlechter spoke against the co-mingling of space due to safety concerns, citing details of the report released today on Sandy Hook.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Gifts

Dr. Palmer, as per Board Policy #3280, accepted, with appreciation, the following gifts from the Weston Education Foundation:

\$3,086 for the purchase and installation of two projectors for Weston High School for use in the art rooms.

Dr. Palmer, as per Board Policy #3280, also accepted, with appreciation, the following gifts from a Weston resident:

- 2 NEX-7 Sony cameras;
- 1 NEX-5 Sony camera;
- 4 Sony camera lenses;
- 1 Sony HD studio camera;
- 1 Canon Vixia HD camera;
- 1 JVC Pro HD camcorder;
- 2 Samsung HD monitors;
- 5 camera lights;
- 7 Mac monitors;
- 3 Mac towers;
- 4 external hard drives;
- 2 ion microphones;
- 4 camera mounted microphones;
- 1 Lowel light kit;
- 2 fill lights;
- 1 Manfrotto tripod;
- 1 Sanford and Davis tripod;
- 2 mono pods;
- 2 shoulder harness tripods; and
- 2 dollies

for the WHS videography program, with a total estimated value of \$32,800.

2. 2015 Budget Assumptions Approval

Dr. Keating reviewed the draft FY 2015 Board of Education Operating Budget Assumptions item-by-item. Discussion ensued regarding the CPI used in one of the assumptions. Dr. Keating indicated that the assumption of the CPI increasing by 2.75% was based on, and is a little higher than, the average of the two prior years' CPI. Ms. Harvey referenced CPI projections for 2014 and 2015 from the Governor's office of 2.4% and 2.5% and from the Congressional Budget Office that were lower than those percentages. Dr. Keating indicated that about \$500,000 of the budget is affected by this percentage, mainly covering paper goods and that the differential of projected CPI numbers does not yield a significant difference in costs. With the WB Mason contract expiring at the end of this year, the expectation is that prices for the goods covered by that contract will increase, and the concern is not to fall short on the assumption.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the FY 2015 Operating Budget Assumptions. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (6-0)

3. 2015 Budget Calendar Approval

Dr. Keating reviewed the Draft 2014-2015 Budget Calendar. Ms. Harvey requested that the February 24 Board of Education meeting date be changed in order or Board members to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for the same evening. February 25 was proposed as the meeting date.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the 2014-2015 Budget Calendar. Motion by Ms. Harvey, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor. (6-0)

4. 2015 Capital Budget Request

Dr. Keating and Mr. Clarke discussed first- and second-tier projects of the draft FY 2015 Capital Budget Request.

5. Annual NESDEC Enrollment and Projections Report

Mr. Brey reviewed the NESDEC Annual Enrollment and Projections Report. This report is the updated enrollment history and forecast from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC). These enrollment projections, developed annually, provide important data for program, budget planning and staffing for the 2014-2015 school year. This set of projections was based on Tri-State area data rather than New England data, from which past projections were based.

6. Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations

Mr. Brey reviewed the following Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations:

- A. Regulation 5118, Non-Resident Attendance and Tuition Fees;
- B. Regulation 5111, Admission/Placement;
- C. Policy 5111, Admission/Placement; and
- D. Policy 1330, Community Relations: Use of School Facilities.

A second reading of these policies will be on the agenda of the December Board of Education meeting.

7. Fourth-Grade Orchestra New Course Adoption

Dr. Palmer discussed a .2 FTE course that has been reviewed by the Curriculum Committee. Seventy students are currently participating in the pilot as a before-school program. Approval by the full Board allows the course to be considered for inclusion in the program of studies over the next several years pending budget priorities.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the fourth-grade orchestra course for consideration pending budget priorities. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Spaulding.

Motion to amend motion to read as follows by Ms. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Harvey.

Amended Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the fourth-grade orchestra course for consideration in the Superintendent's budget for 2014-2015, pending Board of Education approval. Motion by Ms. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (6-0)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of 2014-2015 Calendar

Dr. Palmer discussed the new legislation regarding mandated Unified Regional Calendars effective 2014-2015 and presented the current draft calendar for 2014-2015.

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the proposed 2014-2015 Calendar. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (6-0)

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Next Regular Board Meeting Monday, December 16, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

2. District Update

- **2012-2013 Outstanding Accomplishments**

This document highlights district achievements in the arts, athletics, academics, service, communications and technology, and educational programming. The Communications Committee is exploring the possibility of having the page inserted in the *Forum* for delivery to Weston residents without children in the school system.

- **Update on WIS solar panel project**

Dr. Keating discussed the next steps in this project. A presentation to the Board will be on the agenda for December.

- **Highlights of the National Blue Ribbon Ceremony for WHS**

Dr. Palmer deferred this discussion to Mrs. Deorio's report highlights.

3. Principals' Reports

Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, spoke about the Blue Ribbon ceremony and trip to D.C. and displayed the plaque to Board members. Mrs. Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, highlighted the Veterans Day community event at the middle school. Ms. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, highlighted the new PBIS program to recognize positive behavior, wherein paws are awarded to "packs" of students by staff. Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, discussed Halloween, parent involvement, and math workshops held by Carolyn Vinton.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Communications Committee

Nothing to report.

2. Curriculum Committee

The following items from the November 13 meeting were discussed by Mrs. Uzenoff: the new strings program, the reintroduction and restructuring of Spanish at Hurlbutt Elementary School for grades K and 1, the November 7 evening meeting for Common Core, and the Smarter Balanced Assessment. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for December 11 at 8:00 a.m.

3. Finance Committee

The following items from the November 14 meeting were discussed by Ms. Harvey: a district credit card, the summer enrichment program for the arts, enterprise fund opportunities, security, the application for a State security grant, progress report on windows and doors, cost avoidance report, budget, and the policy regarding contingency teachers. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for December 5 at 8:00 a.m.

4. Facilities Committee

The following items from the November 13 meeting were discussed by Mrs. Uzenoff: stadium field lights and sound, testing for high school windows and doors, solar panel project, CL&P energy conservation, global facilities study, cost avoidance report, update on middle school HVAC, and security. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for December 3 at 4:00 p.m.

5. Policy Committee

Per Mrs. Levin, the first readings from today's agenda were finalized at the November 12 meeting. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for December 3 at 8:15 a.m.

6. Negotiations Committee

Ms. Harvey announced that the WAA contract has been signed and filed with the Town clerk.

7. CES

Nothing to report.

8. CABA

The CABA/CAPSS Convention on November 15 was an opportunity for the Board to interface with other boards of education as well as the State Board.

9. Weston Education Foundation

Ms. Harvey reported on gift that was accepted earlier on the agenda tonight.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion to adjourn to executive session by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (6-0) Meeting adjourned to executive session at 10:28 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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

DRAFT

Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO, Inc.

November 26, 2013

Dr. Colleen Palmer
Superintendent
Weston Public Schools
24 School Road
Weston, CT 06883

RECEIVED

DEC 03 2013

**OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT**

Dear Dr. Palmer,

I am delighted to inform you that the Hurlbutt Elementary School (HES) PTO approved the following items from our 2013-2014 philanthropy account to purchase: Mascot Bee Costume (paid \$110), Stakes for Memorial Seating Area Tables (paid \$1264), LRC Reimaging Project (approved \$12,500), 1st Grade Square Carpets (paid \$3,283). We feel that these gifts will enhance the level of instruction in the classrooms and in the school for all the children.

The HES PTO is committed to supporting the district's overall educational curriculum. We hope that we will continue to have another successful year of fundraising so we can continue to support our children and the school.

Again, we are pleased to present these gifts to the Hurlbutt Elementary School.

Sincerely,
Tammy Roberts & Dan McNeill
Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO Co-Presidents

cc: Laura Kaddis, Principal Hurlbutt Elementary School

9 School Road, Weston, Connecticut 06883

November 20, 2013

Dear Dr. Palmer

Please accept this letter as notice of my intent to retire at the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year. I have been a member of Connecticut's educational community for 37 years, and feel honored to have been able to call the Weston Public Schools home since September of 1980.

I am planning on taking advantage of the early retirement benefits outlined in our teacher contract, as the date of my hiring pre-dates 1991. Please confirm receipt of my intent to retire and qualification for benefits as noted above.

It has been a pleasure to work with both the amazing students and professional staff who embrace the challenge to enrich the lives of our community. I shall truly miss all who make education come alive in Weston.

Sincerely,



Sal LaRusso
WHS Band and Jazz Director

RECEIVED

DEC 09 2013

OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT

8 Bald Rock Rd
Redding, CT 06896

December 4, 2013

Dr. Colleen Palmer
Weston Public Schools
24 School Road
Weston, CT 06883

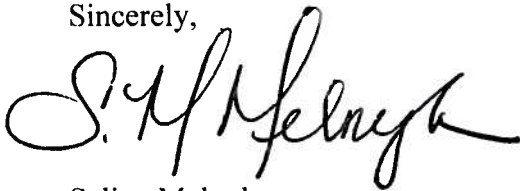
Dear Dr. Palmer:

I am writing to notify you that I will be resigning from teaching in the Weston Public Schools on January 1, 2014. Please accept this letter as the official notice of my resignation. Due to several personal family situations, I will not be able to complete this school year. This has been a very difficult decision for me to make, but I feel my family needs me at this time.

My students have given me great pleasure over the years, and the administration and staff has been supportive to work with.

If I can be of any assistance to you during the transition period, please let me know. I would like this to be a seamless transition for the students.

Sincerely,

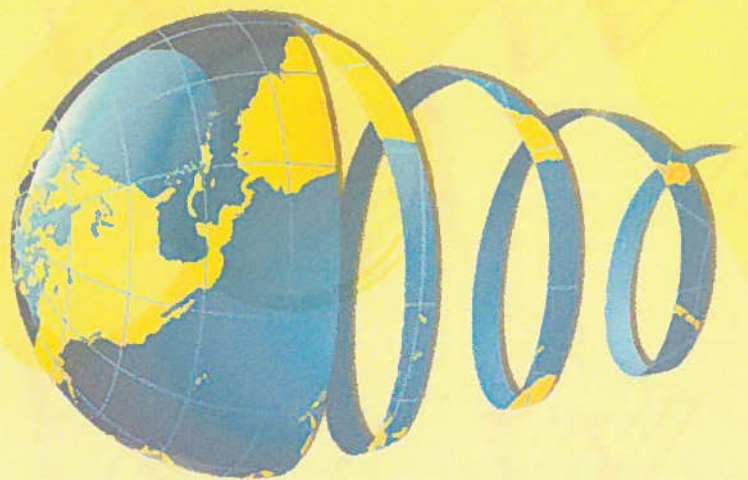
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Melnyk", with a stylized, cursive script.

Selina Melnyk

cc: Lewis Brey
Laura Kaddis

Weston Public Schools Energy Reduction Program

Fouth Year Cost Avoidance & Environment Impact Report



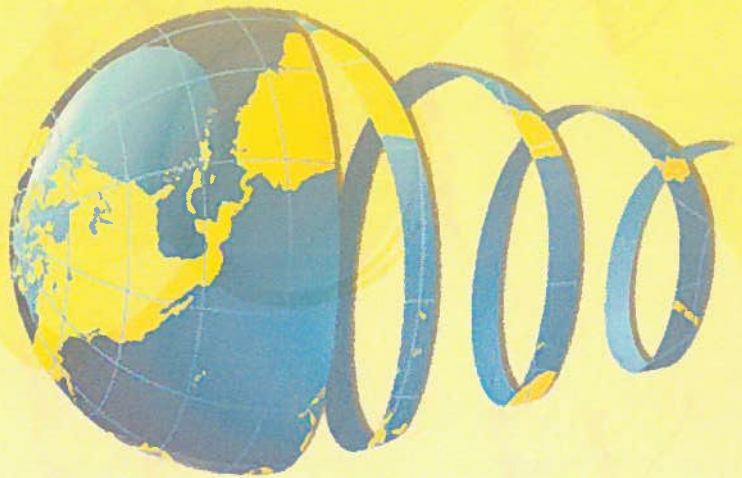


Why?

- Save Money
- Save the Environment
- Extend the Useful Life of Equipment

How?

- Purchasing Practices – Rate Negotiations
- Energy Ed Program – Reduction in Usage
- Energy Management Systems – Upgrades & Replacements



Weston Public Schools

Dave Lustberg - Energy Education Specialist
Energy Conservation Program

Cost Avoidance Summary - Sites

Year 4

Sorted by Cost Avoidance %

Site Code & Name	Cost Without CAP	Actual Cost	Cost Avoidance \$	Cost Avoidance %
BOEA - BOARD OF ED ANNEX	\$67,691.53	\$31,574.51	\$36,117.02	53.35 %
BOE - BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$35,174.47	\$18,845.36	\$16,329.11	46.42 %
WHS - WESTON HIGH SCHOOL	\$636,814.10	\$437,448.88	\$199,365.22	31.30 %
WMS - WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	\$441,697.43	\$304,714.29	\$136,983.14	31.01 %
HES - HURLBUTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	\$291,013.69	\$201,257.02	\$89,756.67	30.84 %
WIS - WESTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	\$280,408.74	\$196,539.47	\$83,869.27	29.90 %
Totals:	\$1,752,799.96	\$1,190,379.53	\$562,420.43	32.09 %

Filters: Building Code One Of BOE, BOEA, HES, POOL, WHS, WIS, WMS; Billing Periods In Range From 201211 To 201310

Cost Avoidance Summary - Sites
CAP 01A-2

1
12/3/2013

Weston Public Schools

Dave Lustberg - Energy Education Specialist
Energy Conservation Program

Cost Avoidance Summary - Sites

Year 3

Sorted by Cost Avoidance %

Site Code & Name	Cost Without CAP	Actual Cost	Cost Avoidance \$	Cost Avoidance %
BOEA - BOARD OF ED ANNEX	\$59,691.16	\$27,813.31	\$31,877.85	53.40 %
BOE - BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$36,825.69	\$17,979.41	\$18,846.28	51.17 %
HES - HURLBUTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	\$280,838.58	\$184,798.58	\$96,040.00	34.19 %
WMS - WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	\$427,074.81	\$289,247.42	\$137,827.39	32.27 %
WIS - WESTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	\$297,379.81	\$206,152.48	\$91,227.33	30.67 %
WHS - WESTON HIGH SCHOOL	\$588,245.99	\$443,099.45	\$145,146.54	24.67 %
Totals:	\$1,690,056.04	\$1,169,090.65	\$520,965.39	30.83 %

Filters: Building Code One Of BOE, BOEA, HES, POOL, WHS, WIS, WMS; Billing Periods In Range From 201111 To 201210

Cost Avoidance Summary - Sites
CAP 01A-2

1
12/3/2013

Weston Public Schools

Dave Lustberg - Energy Education Specialist
Energy Conservation Program

Cost Avoidance Summary - Sites

Year 2

Sorted by Cost Avoidance %

Site Code & Name	Cost Without CAP	Actual Cost	Cost Avoidance \$	Cost Avoidance %
BOE - BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$39,205.83	\$13,602.77	\$25,603.06	65.30 %
BOEA - BOARD OF ED ANNEX	\$63,374.65	\$34,326.16	\$29,048.49	45.83 %
HES - HURLBUTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	\$291,800.63	\$201,932.22	\$89,868.41	30.79 %
WMS - WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	\$442,342.45	\$312,195.38	\$130,147.07	29.42 %
WIS - WESTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	\$298,540.12	\$212,356.71	\$86,183.41	28.86 %
WHS - WESTON HIGH SCHOOL	\$638,474.54	\$460,540.12	\$177,934.42	27.86 %
Totals:	\$1,773,738.21	\$1,234,953.36	\$538,784.85	30.38 %

Filters: Building Code One Of BOE, BOEA, HES, POOL, WHS, WIS, WMS; Billing Periods In Range From 201011 To 201110

Cost Avoidance Summary - Sites
CAP 01A-2

1
12/3/2013

Weston Public Schools
Dave Lustberg - Energy Education Specialist
Energy Conservation Program

Year 1

Cost Avoidance Summary - Sites

Sorted by Cost Avoidance %

Site Code & Name	Cost Without CAP	Actual Cost	Cost Avoidance \$	Cost Avoidance %
BOE - BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$40,373.63	\$17,689.59	\$22,684.04	56.18 %
BOEA - BOARD OF ED ANNEX	\$56,423.66	\$32,014.87	\$24,408.79	43.25 %
HES - HURLBUTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	\$277,022.78	\$181,941.59	\$95,081.19	34.32 %
WIS - WESTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	\$289,382.17	\$207,354.36	\$82,027.81	28.34 %
WHS - WESTON HIGH SCHOOL	\$622,245.01	\$479,889.69	\$142,355.32	22.87 %
WMS - WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	\$438,908.39	\$344,311.10	\$94,597.29	21.55 %
Totals:	\$1,724,355.65	\$1,263,201.20	\$461,154.45	26.74 %

Filters: Building Code One Of BOE, BOEA, HES, POOL, WHS, WIS, WMS; Billing Periods In Range From 200911 To 201010

Cost Avoidance Summary - Sites
CAP 01A-2

1
12/3/2013

Weston Public Schools

Dave Lustberg - Energy Education Specialist
Energy Conservation Program

Cost Avoidance Summary - Sites

4 Year Cumulative

Sorted by Cost Avoidance %

Site Code & Name	Cost Without CAP	Actual Cost	Cost Avoidance \$	Cost Avoidance %
BOE - BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$151,579.62	\$68,117.13	\$83,462.49	55.06 %
BOEA - BOARD OF ED ANNEX	\$247,181.00	\$125,728.85	\$121,452.15	49.13 %
HES - HURLBUTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	\$1,140,675.69	\$769,929.41	\$370,746.28	32.50 %
WIS - WESTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	\$1,165,710.84	\$822,403.02	\$343,307.82	29.45 %
WMS - WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	\$1,750,023.08	\$1,250,468.19	\$499,554.89	28.54 %
WHS - WESTON HIGH SCHOOL	\$2,485,779.64	\$1,820,978.14	\$664,801.50	26.74 %
Totals:	\$6,940,949.86	\$4,857,624.74	\$2,083,325.12	30.01 %

Filters: Building Code One Of BOE, BOEA, HES, POOL, WHS, WIS, WMS; Billing Periods In Range From 200911 To 201310

Cost Avoidance Summary - Sites
CAP 01A-2

1
12/3/2013

Actual Gas and Electric Bills for:

- Year prior to Energy Conservation Program (Nov. 2008 – Oct 2009); \$1,863,044.80
- Year 1 (Nov 2009 - Oct 2010); \$1,288,372.69
- Year 2 (Nov 2010 – Oct 2011); \$1,260,129.42
- Year 3 (Nov 2011 - Oct 2012); \$1,195,696.74
- Year 4 (Nov 2012 – Oct 2013); \$1,219,153.85

• BILL REDUCTION FROM PRE-ECP:

- Year 1 = \$574,672.11
- Year 2 = \$602,915.38
- Year 3 = \$667,348.06
- Year 4 = \$643,890.95

SAVINGS = \$2,488,826.50

- These numbers represent our actual total monetary savings (usage savings + savings from weather and rate changes and equipment upgrades).
- The next 4 pages show the Cost Summary Graph for each year.



Weston Public Schools

Dave Lustberg - Energy Education Specialist

Energy Conservation Program

Cost Summary Graph

Year 4: 11/12 - 10/13

Grouped by Energy Type

Energy Type	Use	Units	Meter Cost	Special Charges	Total Cost	Avg Unit Cost	% of Total Cost
All Sites							
Electricity	4,439,262	KWH	\$724,156.12	\$0.00	\$724,156.12	0.1631	59.40%
Natural Gas	368,443	CCF	\$494,997.73	\$0.00	\$494,997.73	1.3435	40.60%
Total Cost:					\$1,219,153.85		

Filters: Billing Periods In Range From 201211 To 201310; Vendor Code One Of CLP, SBE, SCGAll Meter CodesAll Group Names

Cost Summary Graph

Bill 08

1
12/3/2013

Weston Public Schools

Dave Lustberg - Energy Education Specialist

Energy Conservation Program

Year 3: 11/11 - 10/12

Cost Summary Graph

Grouped by Energy Type

Energy Type	Use	Units	Meter Cost	Special Charges	Total Cost	Avg Unit Cost	% of Total Cost
All Sites							
Electricity	4,493,746	KWH	\$769,167.29	\$0.00	\$769,167.29	0.1712	64.33%
Natural Gas	288,034	CCF	\$426,529.45	\$0.00	\$426,529.45	1.4808	35.67%
Total Cost:			\$1,195,696.74	\$0.00	\$1,195,696.74		

Filters: Billing Periods In Range From 201111 To 201210; Vendor Code One Of CLP, SBE; SCGAll Meter CodesAll Group Names

Cost Summary Graph
Bill 08

1
12/3/2013

Weston Public Schools

Dave Lustberg - Energy Education Specialist

Energy Conservation Program

Cost Summary Graph

Year 2: 11/10 - 10/11

Grouped by Energy Type

Energy Type	Use	Units	Meter Cost	Special Charges	Total Cost	Avg Unit Cost	% of Total Cost
All Sites							
Electricity	4,338,652	KWH	\$745,183.04	\$0.00	\$745,183.04	0.1718	59.14%
Natural Gas	343,560	CCF	\$514,946.38	\$0.00	\$514,946.38	1.4989	40.86%
Total Cost:			\$1,260,129.42	\$0.00	\$1,260,129.42		

Filters: Billing Periods In Range From 201011 To 201110; Vendor Code One Of CLP, SBE, SCG; All Meter Codes; All Group Names

Cost Summary Graph

Bill 08

1

12/3/2013

Weston Public Schools

Dave Lustberg - Energy Education Specialist

Energy Conservation Program

Cost Summary Graph

Year 1: 11/09 - 10/10

Grouped by Energy Type

Energy Type	Use	Units	Meter Cost	Special Charges	Total Cost	Avg Unit Cost	% of Total Cost
All Sites							
Electricity	4,464,310	KWH	\$779,731.56	\$0.00	\$779,731.56	0.1747	60.52%
Natural Gas	341,543	CCF	\$508,641.13	\$0.00	\$508,641.13	1.4892	39.48%
Total Cost:			\$1,288,372.69	\$0.00	\$1,288,372.69		

Filters: Billing Periods in Range From 200911 To 201010; Vendor Code One Of CLP, SBE; SCGAll Meter CodesAll Group Names

Cost Summary Graph
Bill 08

1
12/3/2013

Weston Public Schools

Dave Lustberg - Energy Education Specialist

Energy Conservation Program

Cost Summary Graph

Grouped by Energy Type

Pre-ECP Year: 11/08 - 10/09

Energy Type	Use	Units	Meter Cost	Special Charges	Total Cost	Avg Unit Cost	% of Total Cost
All Sites							
Electricity	5,568,614	KWH	\$1,006,379.09	\$0.00	\$1,006,379.09	0.1807	54.02%
Natural Gas	473,450	CCF	\$856,665.71	\$0.00	\$856,665.71	1.8094	45.98%
Total Cost:			\$1,863,044.80	\$0.00	\$1,863,044.80		

Filters: Billing Periods In Range From 200811 To 200910; Vendor Code One Of CLP, SBE, SCGAll Meter CodesAll Group Names

Cost Summary Graph

Bill 08

1

12/3/2013

● 4 YEAR GROSS SAVINGS = \$2,488,826.50

● Yearly Energy Ed. Inc. Consultant Fee = \$190,800
Yearly Energy Manager Salary = \$ 40,000
-\$230,800

● 4 Year Gross Fees = \$923,200

4 YEAR NET SAVINGS: \$2,488,826.50
-\$ 923,200.00
\$1,565,626.50

- \$190,800 consultant fee ended after year 4
- Yearly fee going forward = ~\$40,000

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ENERGY REDUCTION

- **Nov. 2012 – Oct. 2013:**
 - **23,882 MMBTU = 1,682 metric tons of CO2**
 - **302 passenger cars not driven for the year**
 - **43,028 tree seedlings grown for 10 years**
- **Nov. 2009 – Oct. 2013:**
 - **83,151 MMBTU = 6,034 metric tons of CO2**
 - **1,083 passenger cars not driven for the year**
 - **154,343 tree seedlings grown for 10 years**

ENERGY AWARDS RECEIVED BY WPS

- 2011: U.S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ENERGYSTAR LEADER AWARD;
- 2012: ENERGY EDUCATION PACESETTER AWARD FOR GREATER THAN 30% REDUCTION IN ENERGY USE;
- 2013: CONNECTICUT POWER OF CHANGE AWARD, FIRST HONORS AS TOP PUBLIC SCHOOL IN CT IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Q & A



WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FY 2014 BUDGET COMPARED TO ESTIMATED ACTUAL
SPECIAL EDUCATION

ORG	OBJ	DESCRIPTION	Budget	Expended			Total	Change Over Budget
				Dec. 2nd	Encumb.	Anticipated		
12630	1110	Sal., Administrators	263,543	106,229	164,065	0	270,294	6,751
11631	1112	Sal., Teachers, HES	560,272	191,914	472,368	0	664,282	104,010
11632	1112	Sal., Teachers, WIS	454,788	99,477	270,009	0	369,486	-85,302
11633	1112	Sal., Teachers, WMS	436,422	101,838	260,683	0	362,521	-73,901
11634	1112	Sal., Teachers, WHS	441,331	127,076	344,920	0	471,996	30,665
12330	1118	Sal., Teachers, TAG	170,452	45,891	124,561	0	170,452	0
11630	1134	Sal., Teachers, SRBI	29,549	0	0	0	0	-29,549
11630	1135	Sal., Transition Coor.	111,460	30,008	81,452	0	111,460	0
			2,204,274	596,204	1,553,993	0	2,150,197	-54,077
11630	1116	Sal., Speech & Hearing	427,684	142,320	357,074	0	499,394	71,710
11630	1137	Sal., Substitute Teacher	33,560	0	0	33,560	33,560	0
11630	1131	Sal., Homebound Tutors	150,000	26,635	0	123,365	150,000	0
11630	1138	Sal., Summer, Certified	78,880	73,766	0	0	73,766	-5,114
TOTAL CERTIFIED SALARIES			3,157,941	945,154	2,075,132	156,925	3,177,211	19,270
11631	1231	Wages, Paras, HES	373,355	134,142	286,363	0	420,505	47,150
11632	1231	Wages, Paras, WIS	159,867	57,551	115,008	0	172,559	12,692
11633	1231	Wages, Paras, WMS	157,661	49,558	107,496	0	157,054	-607
11634	1231	Wages, Paras, WHS	299,336	96,420	205,411	0	301,831	2,495
11630	1234	Wages, Bus Aides	127,860	37,419	0	62,076	99,495	-28,365
11630	1233	Subs, Para Professionals	20,000	9,536	0	13,464	23,000	3,000
			1,138,079	384,626	714,278	75,540	1,174,444	36,365
12630	1221	Wages, Secretarial	130,732	45,000	71,532	0	116,532	-14,200
12630	1222	Overtime, Secretarial	0	65	0	0	65	65
			130,732	45,065	71,532	0	116,597	-14,135
11630	1268	Summer Work, NC	70,861	66,179	0	0	66,179	-4,682
11630	1280	Salaries, Non-Cert. Stipends	22,585	1,000	0	23,500	24,500	1,915
			93,446	67,179	0	23,500	90,679	-2,767
TOTAL NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES			1,362,257	496,870	785,810	99,040	1,381,720	19,463
TOTAL SALARIES			4,520,198	1,442,024	2,860,942	255,965	4,558,931	38,733

11630	3210	Professional Ed. Services	730,500	171,144	472,803	196,053	840,000	109,500
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**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FY 2014 BUDGET COMPARED TO ESTIMATED ACTUAL
SPECIAL EDUCATION**

ORG	OBJ	DESCRIPTION	Budget	Expended		Anticipated	Total	Change
				Dec. 2nd	Encumb.			Over Budget
11630	3220	Consulting In-Service	82,800	3,483	5,764	73,553	82,800	0
11630	3235	Testing & Eval. Services	40,000	9,315	835	29,850	40,000	0
12330	3235	Testing & Eval. Ser, TAG	8,000	742	0	7,258	8,000	0
11630	3306	Legal Fees	40,000	4,490	35,510	0	40,000	0
			170,800	18,030	42,109	110,661	170,800	0
11630	4302	Equip. Repairs	2,500	0	0	2,500	2,500	0
11630	4400	Equipment Rental	2,500	0	0	2,500	2,500	0
			5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0
11630	5600	Out Placements	1,422,389	675,997	1,027,138	0	1,703,135	280,746
11630	5801	Reimbursable Exp.	3,000	123	0	2,877	3,000	0
11630	6110	Materials	37,025	20,647	4,105	12,145	36,897	-128
12330	6110	Materials, TAG	700	0	0	700	700	0
11630	6120	Office Materials	700	0	0	700	700	0
			38,425	20,647	4,105	13,545	38,297	-128
11630	6410	Books	5,300	2,011	401	2,888	5,300	0
12330	6410	Books, TAG	600	0	0	600	600	0
			5,900	2,011	401	3,488	5,900	0
11630	7300	Equipment, Instruction	15,000	3,268	173	11,559	15,000	0
11630	8100	Dues & Fees	2,000	1,177	0	823	2,000	0
TOTAL NON-SALARIES			2,393,014	892,397	1,546,729	344,006	2,783,132	390,118
TOTAL SPED BUDGET BY OBJECT			6,913,212	2,334,421	4,407,671	599,971	7,342,063	428,851
11630	9205	Excess Cost Grant	435,648	0	0	683,132	683,132	247,484
11631	9206	Pre-School Tuition Fees	83,600	28,355	0	21,645	50,000	-33,600
TOTAL REVENUES			519,248	28,355	0	704,777	733,132	213,884
TOTAL NET SPED BUDGET			6,393,964	2,306,066	4,407,671	-104,806	6,608,931	214,967
Special Education Transportation			36,474	20,675	15,594	15,205	51,474	15,000
Supplemental Appropriation Request - December 2013								229,967

NOTE: NOT INCLUDED IN THE NUMBERS ABOVE IS \$225K IN POTENTIAL OUT PLACEMENTS.

Personnel – Certified

Recruitment and Selection

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and/or his/her designee to determine the personnel needs of the school district and to locate suitable candidates for employment.

The schools shall engage in fair and sound personnel practices in the appointment of all district employees. The administration shall be responsible for establishing recruitment, selection and appointment procedures consistent with Board of Education Policy and Administrative Regulations. The Superintendent is authorized to employ non-administrative, certified employees on behalf of the Board of Education subject to state law and all applicable Board of Education policies and administrative regulations. All administrators must be appointed by the Board of Education.

Every effort will be made to recruit and hire an outstanding and diverse professional staff. The Board of Education is an equal opportunity employer.

Legal Reference: ~~Connecticut General Statutes~~

Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 10-151 Employment of teachers. ~~Notice and hearing on termination of contract.~~

Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 10-153 Discrimination on ~~account of~~ the basis of sex, gender identity or expression or marital status prohibited

Conn. Gen Stat. Sections 10-153a through 10-153n Rights concerning professional organization and negotiations

Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 46a-60 Discriminatory Employment Practices Prohibited

Title VII, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, et seq.

Policy Reference: Policy 4111.1, Minority Staff Recruitment

Policy 4118.11, Non-Discrimination

Policy adopted: July 16, 1990

Policy revised:

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut

Personnel – Non-Certified

Recruitment and Selection

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and ~~of persons designated by the Superintendent~~ and/or his/her designee to determine the personnel needs of the school district and to locate suitable candidates ~~to recommend~~ for employment ~~to the Board of Education~~. The Superintendent, and/or his/her designee, is authorized to employ non-certified employees on behalf of the Board of Education subject to all applicable Board of Education policies and administrative regulations.

Every effort will be made to recruit and hire an outstanding and diverse professional staff. The Weston Board of Education is an equal opportunity employer.

~~Prior to initial employment, a physician shall certify to the Superintendent of Schools that said employee is in good health and in fit condition for service.~~

~~(cf. 4212.4 – Health Examinations)~~

Legal Reference: ~~Connecticut General Statutes~~

Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 46a-60 Discriminatory Employment Practices Prohibited

Title VII, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.

Policy Reference: Policy 4111.1, Minority Staff Recruitment

Policy 4118.11, Non-Discrimination

Policy Adopted: July 16, 1990

Policy Revised: _____

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut

Personnel – Non-Certified

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Policy 4118.11, Non-Discrimination

Policy Adopted: July 16, 1990

Policy Revised: _____

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut

Students

Non-Resident Attendance and Tuition Fees

CHILDREN OF CERTIFIED STAFF

~~The Superintendent of Schools or his/designee shall permit qualified children of non-resident certified staff who are in good standing with their residential district or prior school of attendance, to enroll in established programs within the school district at 25% of the regular non-resident tuition rate. The admission of such children is contingent on the Superintendent's or his/her designee's assessment of class size limitations, the availability of school resources and no required additional staff. Children of certified staff members shall be assigned to whatever class the Superintendent or his/her designee deems appropriate.~~

~~The following terms and conditions are to be used as guidelines when determining eligibility of non-resident children of certified staff to enroll in Weston Public Schools:~~

The Weston Board of Education ("the Board") authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to accept nonresident students on a tuition basis under the following conditions:

1. The Board will set tuition rates on an annual basis. In the case of a student entering school after the first day of school, tuition will be prorated on a per diem basis based on a 180 day school year. Non-resident children of certified staff will pay tuition at the rate of 25% of the regular non-resident tuition rate established by the Board. In the event the enrolled student requires special education and/or other services beyond the regular education program, the certified staff member must pay, in addition to the tuition fee stated above, the full cost of any such special education services and/or other services subject to the terms of paragraph 8 below.
- ~~2. Superintendent or his/her designee may approve non-resident student attendance if class size and other considerations permit.~~ The admission of any non-resident student is contingent upon the Superintendent of Schools' assessment of class size and the availability of school resources. A non-resident student will not be admitted if such admission will require that an additional staff member be hired by the Board or if the Superintendent determines, in his/her sole discretion, that admitting the student is not in the best interest of Weston Public Schools.
- ~~3. Application shall be made in writing on a form supplied by the Superintendent or his/her designee and shall state the reason for seeking admission.~~ Application for admission on a tuition basis shall be made in writing on a form supplied by Weston Public Schools, and the prospective student and the student's parents/guardians shall be interviewed by the

principal of the school to where which the students would attend if admitted. The candidate student shall be interviewed for admission by the principal or assistant principal. The decision to admit a tuition student is in the sole discretion of the Superintendent.

4. Non-resident Open Choice students may be accepted by the Superintendent pursuant to the provisions of state law.

~~Non-resident, tuition students will be considered on a first come, first served basis. Weston Sstudents who are residents of Weston will be scheduled before tuition students.~~

5. Semi-annual tuition ~~must~~shall be paid ~~in advance on or before August 15 and January 15.~~
as follows:

- (a) One-half of the annual tuition fee is payable by the first day of school or the first day the student is enrolled to attend school;

- (b) One-half of the annual tuition fee is due and payable on January 15th.

6. Tuition students will not be permitted to attend school until the first tuition payment described in paragraph 35(a) above is received by the Human Resources office. Tuition students will not be permitted to continue to attend school past January 15 in a given school year unless the second tuition payment described in paragraph 35(b) is received by the Superintendent's Human Resources office by January 15. In the event a student withdraws mid-semester, tuition for the semester in progress will not be refunded.

7. ~~All non-resident students or their parents or guardians shall provide necessary transportation to and from school.~~ Tuition students will not, as a general rule, be provided with transportation services provided by the Board and must make their own transportation arrangements. However, Tuition students may, at the Superintendent's sole discretion, be allowed to use district transportation services if they board and disembark at an already established bus stop within the district and there is sufficient space on the bus to accommodate them.

8. ~~The regulation does not obligate the Board to provide special education programs or services. If a non-resident certified staff member enrolls his/her child in the Weston Public Schools, and such child is eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), the Weston Public Schools shall not act as the local education agency for such child. In instances where special or additional services are provided for a non-resident student, the tuition rate referenced above shall be determined based upon the actual costs associated with providing the special or additional services.~~ This regulation does not obligate the Board to provide special education programs and/or other services beyond the regular education program. The attendance of a tuition student

with disabilities at a Weston public school pursuant to the provisions of this regulation is not an acknowledgement that Weston Public Schools must provide special education or other services beyond the regular program, and Weston Public Schools shall not act as the responsible local educational agency for the purpose of meeting the mandates of federal and state laws that concern the education of disabled children. The tuition student's district of residence remains responsible for the provision of a free, appropriate education and meeting all associated procedural requirements. Tuition students requiring special education and/or other services beyond the regular education program must pay, in addition to the regular tuition fee, the full cost of any such special education services and/or other services. Such costs will be estimated at the beginning of the school year and must be paid in two equal installments when regular tuition is paid as described in paragraph 3 5 above. To the extent that that the costs of such services exceed the estimated amount, Weston Public Schools will send the tuition student's parent(s) or guardian(s) an invoice reflecting the increased amount which must be paid within thirty (30) days of its issuance. If the cost of such services is lower than the estimated amount, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the tuition student will receive a refund reflecting the difference between the estimated costs and the actual costs.

9. ~~Non-resident attendance with tuition shall be for one year or less to be extended pending approval, which is at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee. Admission as a student will be for one year or less. Students shall be required to reapply for all subsequent years of attendance, and their continued enrollment will be conditioned on the student's cooperation and compliance with all school requirements and expectations, satisfactory academic process and attendance, and a satisfactory disciplinary record. In addition, the decision to readmit a tuition student for subsequent school years is in the sole discretion of the Superintendent. The Superintendent or his/her designee may terminate this agreement commence proceedings to deny further school accommodations at any time if he or she determines, in his or her sole discretion, that the student's continued enrollment is not in the best interest of the school system and/or the student. A student's continuation in the Weston Public Schools will be contingent upon the student's compliance with requirements and expectations, satisfactory academic progress, good behavior and the availability of staff and school resources. The Superintendent or his/her designee may terminate this agreement at any time where, in his or her option, continuation is not in the best interest of the school system or the student.~~ Admission as a student will be for one year or less. Students shall be required to reapply for all subsequent years of attendance, and their continued enrollment will be conditioned on the student's cooperation and compliance with all school requirements and expectations, satisfactory academic process and attendance, and a satisfactory disciplinary record. In addition, the decision to readmit a tuition student for subsequent school years is in the sole discretion of the Superintendent. The Superintendent or his/her designee may terminate this agreement commence proceedings to deny further school accommodations at any time if he or she determines, in his or her sole discretion, that the student's continued enrollment is not in the best interest of the school system and/or the student.
10. ~~The student's immediate past principal or responsible administrator employed by the student's prior school shall provide an affidavit attesting to the student's citizenship.~~

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-261, Definitions

Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-15, Towns to Maintain Schools

Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-220, Duties of Boards of Education

Policy References

5111, Admission/Placement
5111.12, Change of Resident Status

Administrative Regulation References

5111, Admission/Placement
5111.12, Change of Resident Status
5112, Ages of Attendance

Regulation approved by the Board of Education: June 17, 1991
Regulation Revised by the Board of Education: April 9, 2007

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut

Second Reading – December 16, 2013

Students

Admission/Placement

A. Future Residents – Purchase of Residence

A family that ~~expects to~~ is in the process of purchasing property in Weston for a residence may be allowed by the Superintendent to enroll a student in the Weston schools, at no cost, on the following conditions:

1. The family furnishes a copy of a fully executed construction contract or sales contract of the prospective residence in Weston indicating a closing date no later than sixty (60) calendar days after the date of enrollment of the student.
2. If the student does not become a legal resident within sixty (60) days of the date the student is enrolled, then the parents/guardians of the enrolled student will be required to pay per diem regular tuition from the date of expiration of the sixty (60) day period to the date on which legal residence is established. In addition, the parents/guardians of the enrolled student will reimburse the Weston Public Schools for the full cost of any special education and/or any other special services and costs beyond the regular education program from the date of expiration of the sixty day period to the date legal residence is established.
3. At the time of registration, parents/guardians of the enrolling student will be required to sign an agreement accepting the obligation to pay all calculated tuition and the cost of any special education and/or any other special services and costs beyond the regular education program as described in section A(2) in the event that the sixty (60) day period described above lapses without legal residency having been established.
4. Transportation is the responsibility of the family until legal residence is established.
5. If the student is permitted to enroll, and does not become a legal resident of Weston within the sixty (60) day period described above, the Superintendent may commence proceedings to deny further school accommodations to the student until such time as the student establishes legal residency in Weston.

B. Future Residents – Lease of Residence

A student whose parents or guardians ~~have purchased a home in Weston or~~ have leased property in Weston for a residence, but who have not yet moved into Weston, may be allowed by the Superintendent and the Board of Education to enter Weston schools on the following conditions:

1. If the parents or guardians established a bona fide Weston residence before October 15 the pupil may be enrolled tuition free.
2. If the residence is not established until after October 15, the parents or guardians shall pay prorated tuition from the first day of school, until the date bona fide residence is established.

C. Unforeseen Circumstances and Renovations

In the event that a family has become “homeless” as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act, the affected student will be permitted to remain enrolled in Weston schools as required by federal and state law. A family that has been displaced from their Weston residence that they own due to a natural disaster, fire or other catastrophic circumstance, or due to planned home renovations, but is not “homeless” as described above, ~~may~~ will be allowed by the Superintendent to enroll a student in the Weston schools, at no cost, on the following conditions:

1. Within ~~thirty (30)~~ sixty (60) days of being displaced due to a natural disaster, fire or other catastrophic circumstance, the family furnishes a copy of a fully executed, valid construction/renovation contract indicating an estimated date of completion no later than twelve (12) months from the date of having been displaced. In extraordinary circumstances, the Superintendent may permit a longer period for the estimated date of completion in his/her sole discretion.
2. Within thirty (30) days prior to being displaced due to planned renovations, the family furnishes a copy of a fully executed construction/renovation contract indicating an estimated date of completion no later than twelve (12) months from the date the renovations are scheduled to begin.
3. If the student does not become a legal resident within twelve (12) months from the date of displacement, or such longer period as may be permitted by the Superintendent as stated in paragraph 1 above, then the parents/guardians of the enrolled student will be required to pay per diem regular tuition from the date of expiration of the twelve (12) month period to the date legal residence is ultimately established. In addition, the parents/guardians of the enrolled student will reimburse the Weston Public Schools for the full cost of any special education and/or any other special services and costs beyond the regular education program from the date of expiration of the twelve (12) month period to the date legal residence is re-established. If a student is permitted to remain enrolled pursuant to the terms of this paragraph, the student’s parents/guardians will be required to sign an agreement accepting the obligation to pay the costs described in this paragraph.
4. Transportation is the responsibility of the family until legal residence is re-established.
5. If the student is permitted to enroll, and does not become a legal resident of Weston within the twelve (12) month period described above, or such longer period as may be

permitted by the Superintendent as stated in paragraph 1 above, the Superintendent may commence proceedings to deny further school accommodations to the student until such time as the student re-establishes legal residency in Weston.

Kindergarten

Children reaching the age of five on or before January 1st of any year will be eligible for kindergarten in the preceding September. Children reaching the age of five after January 1st will enter kindergarten the following September.

First Grade

Children reaching the age of six on or before January 1st of any year will be eligible for the first grade in the preceding September. Children reaching the age of six after January 1st will enter first grade the following September.

1. Exception

- A. Children who apply for admission to first grade on the basis of prior satisfactory completion of kindergarten outside of the Weston Public School System will be placed at the grade they would have reached elsewhere pending observation and evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the school principal.
- B. Final grade placement will be determined exclusively by the observations of the classroom teacher, evaluations by the counselor, and the recommendation of the school principal to insure that only those children who are emotionally, socially, physically mature and mentally capable are allowed to enter the first grade program.

Other Grades

Children who apply for admission to grades two through twelve on the basis of prior schooling outside of ~~the town~~ Weston Public Schools shall ~~be placed~~ be placed at the discretion of the school principal. Each child will be placed initially ~~in~~ in the grade level he/she has reached elsewhere, unless it is the judgment of the school principal, after evaluation, that such child should be placed in another grade. The school principal may determine subsequently whether there should be any change in the grade placement of the child.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-261 Definitions

Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-15, Towns to Maintain Schools

[Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-15c School Attendance by Five-Year Olds](#)
State Board of Education Regulations
[Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-76d-7 Admission of Student Requiring Special Education \(Referral\)](#)

[Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-220, Duties of Boards of Education](#)
[Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-253\(f\)](#)
[McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2001, 42 U.S.C. Section 11431, et. Seq.](#)

Policy References:

[Board of Education Policies 5111.12, Change of Resident Status](#)

[Administrative Regulations 5111.12, Change of Resident Status](#)
[5112, Ages of Attendance](#)
[5118, Non-Resident Attendance and Tuition Fees](#)

Regulation Approved: October 1, 1990
Regulations Revised: January 20, 2009

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut

Students

Admission/Placement

The schools shall be open to all [Weston](#) children [who reach, or are older than,](#) five years of age [on or before January 1](#) ~~and over~~. Children who apply for initial admission to the district's schools by transfer from non-public schools or from schools outside the district will be placed at the grade they would have reached elsewhere pending observation and evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the school principal. After such observations and evaluation have been completed, the principal will determine the final grade placement of the children.

Legal References: [Connecticut General Statutes](#)

[Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-261 Definitions](#)
[Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-15 Towns to Maintain Schools](#)
[Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-15c School Attendance by Five Year Olds](#)
State Board of Education Regulations
[Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-76d-7 Admission of Student Requiring Special Education \(Referral\)](#)
[Conn Gen. Stat. 184, Duties of Parents, School Attendance Age Requirements](#)
[Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-220, Duties of Boards of Education](#)

Policy References: [5111.12, Change of Resident Status](#)

[Administrative Regulations](#) [5111.12, Change of Resident Status](#)
[5112, Ages of Attendance](#)
[5118, Non-Resident Attendance and Tuition Fees](#)

Policy Adopted: October 1, 1990
Policy Reviewed: January 20, 2009

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut

Community Relations

Use of School Facilities

The school system is a tax-supported enterprise whose primary purpose is the education of our youth. The school buildings and facilities, however, can serve other purposes as well, if they are made available to groups and organizations ~~whose aims do not conflict with those of the school system or the community and~~ when they are not in use for school purposes. Use by other groups is restricted to groups a minimum of whose membership is comprised of fifty percent (50%) Weston residents.

The Board of Education shall grant the use of school facilities for activities of an educational, cultural, civic, social, recreational, governmental or general political nature which are sponsored by responsible local persons, organizations, agencies or institutions as permitted under law. The Board neither endorses nor promotes any of the activities for which the facilities are to be used.

The Board of Education shall not deny equal access to, or a fair opportunity to meet on, the premises, or otherwise discriminate, against any group officially affiliated with The Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Big Brothers - Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Club of America, Future Farmers of America, Little League Baseball, Inc. and any other youth group intended to serve youth under the age of 21 listed in Title 36 of the U.S. Code that wishes to conduct a meeting using school facilities pursuant to this policy. Such groups may use school property upon payment of suitable fees and costs according to the Board approved fee schedule, and such use shall be governed by the following rules and such restrictions as the Superintendent or his/her designee considers expedient.

Types of activities that will not be permitted:

1. Activities advocating the overthrow of the United States, the State of Connecticut, or local governmental agencies.
2. Any activity that ~~may violate the canons of good morals, manners or taste,~~ promotes illegal activities, or that would otherwise be inappropriate for children under age 18 to witness, or be injurious to the buildings, grounds or equipment of the schools.

3. Any ~~purpose~~ activity in conflict with school activities.
4. Commercial enterprise.
5. Commercial Advertising, except as may be permitted by Board of Education Policy No. 1325.
6. Fund-raising campaigns except as permitted by the Superintendent consistent with Board of Education policy and administrative regulations. ~~Board of Education policy or by special action of the Board of Education.~~
7. Activities that ~~are discriminatory in nature~~ discriminate against or exclude any person, either directly or indirectly, on a basis prohibited by law.

Consistent with this policy, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall approve and schedule the use of school facilities by an individual or group and shall develop guidelines for community use of the schools.

Legal Reference: ~~Connecticut General Statutes~~

Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 10-239 Use of ~~s~~School ~~F~~facilities for ~~o~~other ~~p~~Purposes

P.A. 97-290 An Act Enhancing Educational Choices and Opportunities

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. ~~ss~~ Sections 4071-4074

20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Equal Access to Public School for Boy Scouts of America

26 U.S.C. Section 101 et seq., Patriotic and National Organizations

Good News Club v Milford Central School, Sup. Ct., 06-11-0 20 U.S.C. 7905 (~~Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act contained in No Child Left Behind Act of 2001~~)

Policy References: Policy Number 1325, Advertising and Promotion

Policy adopted:	November 6, 1989	WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Policy revised:	April 27, 2004	Weston, CT
Policy revised:	April 25, 2005	
Policy revised:	March 19, 2012	
<u>Policy revised:</u>		

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT

December 16, 2013



Weston High School

Lisa Deorio, Principal

In this issue...

Principal's Update
Academic Programs
Professional Development
Co-Curricular Program
Clubs

Principal's Update

As many of you are aware, this month the district and building administration held two assemblies with our students to address the sexting issue at Weston High School. An evening program for parents was also held. I would like to thank the Weston Police Department and Connecticut prosecutors who presented at both programs. This situation is one with which we need everyone's help. It is often said that it takes a community to raise a child. Adolescents often do not see the consequences of their actions. The result is that many of them make poor choices, and it is our responsibility to help guide them through our ever-changing digital world. Our message is one of caring and concern for their safety. Dr. Michelle Albright, Director of Youth Services, is working with us to provide resources for parents and students. The following are resources that families may find helpful:

General information on technology and teens

The Pew Research Center has some interesting data on how teens use and perceive technology. Findings from research in conjunction with the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard are available, including reports on social media use and perceptions of privacy.

<http://www.pewinternet.org/topics/Teens.aspx?typeFilter=5>

Common Sense Media (<http://www.common sense media.org/>) provides reviews of movies, apps, and games, as well as guidelines to help parents and educators make informed decisions about children's media exposure and technology use. They have a succinct tip sheet on digital privacy that can be accessed at <http://www.common sense media.org/sites/default/files/9-12-familytip-privacyanddigitalfootprints.pdf>. They also have lessons that include discussion questions and video clips – there is one on sexting that can be accessed at <http://www.common sense media.org/educators/lesson/overexposed-sexting-and-relationships> as well as one on privacy that can be accessed at <http://www.common sense media.org/educators/lesson/private-today-public-tomorrow-9-12>.

The Child Mind Institute aims to identify the most effective treatments for childhood psychiatric and learning disorders, build the science of healthy brain development, and empower children and their families with help, hope, and answers. They maintain a fabulous website that highlights hot topics and you can sign up for an e-newsletter. They have several informative articles on children's media use, including an overview of how to talk to kids about pornography and sexting

(<http://www.childmind.org/en/posts/articles/2011-6-8-how-talk-your-kids-about-sexting-weiner>), and how media exposure impacts children's self-esteem (<http://www.childmind.org/en/posts/articles/2013-11-26-self-esteem-and-anxiety-digital-age>).

General information about sexting

Connecticut State Police have a brief and informative tip sheet on sexting and teens that be accessed at http://www.ct.gov/despp/lib/despp/public_information_files/brochures/tipssextingpdf.pdf.

NetSmartz put together a guide on teens and sexting that is particularly helpful for parents (it's formatted in Q & A style and hits upon many issues parents want guidance on) which can be accessed at https://www.azag.gov/sites/default/files/sites/all/docs/internet-safety/Sexting_Prevention.pdf.

Net Smartz also has a wide variety of tip sheets on other topics related to social media such as cyber bullying, online protection, and online privacy which can be accessed at <http://www.netsmartz.org/TipSheets>.

The New York Times has a great online feature for parents on how to talk with children about child pornography that includes helpful guidelines, real-life stories, and advice from experts that can be accessed at http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/05/10/garden/porn-intro.html?_r=0.

The New York Times Magazine also ran a story last January on the consequences of sharing digital child pornography titled "The Price of a Stolen Childhood" that is incredibly powerful and can be accessed at <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/27/magazine/how-much-can-restitution-help-victims-of-child-pornography.html>.

Resources for Kids

MTV has partnered with several organizations, including the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, on two online campaigns that encourage kids to be more thoughtful (and ultimately responsible and respectful) about their media use and online identities.

A Thin Line (<http://www.athinline.org/>) was developed to empower kids to identify, respond to, and stop the spread of digital abuse in their life and amongst their peers. The campaign is built on the understanding that there's a "thin line" between what may begin as a harmless joke and something that could end up having a serious impact on you or someone else. On-air, online and on your cell phone, they aim hope to spark a conversation and deliver information that helps kids draw their own digital line.

That's Not Cool (<http://www.thatnotcool.com/>) is a national public education campaign that uses digital examples of controlling, pressuring, and threatening behavior to raise awareness about and prevent teen dating abuse. It is based on the premise that your cell phone, IM, and online profile are all digital extensions of who you are. When someone you're with pressures or disrespects you in those places, that's not cool. *That's Not Cool* provides tools to help you draw your digital line about what is, or is not, okay in your relationships.

Suggestions

What should you ask yourself before you post a photo, video, or other information about another person online?

How can people's reputations be affected by what is posted about them online? What impact could this have on their future?

What kinds of things might be good for your reputation in the future if they are posted online now?

What kinds of things might be harmful?

How can you take responsibility for protecting the privacy and reputation of others?

How might people in relationships communicate differently online than they might face-to-face?

How might self-disclosing using digital technologies be even more risky than face-to-face?

What are some consequences that could happen if you sext someone?

How can you control what you post online?

How can you maintain your privacy online?

Local Resources

Weston Police Department ▪ 203-222-2600

Weston High School Counseling/Guidance Department ▪ 203-291-1660

Weston Youth Services ▪ www.westonyouthservices.org ▪ malbright@westonct.gov ▪ 203.222.2585

Academic Program

The Arts

Music

The WHS orchestras and choirs performed music of the season at their first concerts of the school year. The orchestras performed music by Mozart, Bach, and Tchaikovsky on Tuesday, December 3. The choirs began their concert on Wednesday, December 4, with the "Star Spangled Banner," and then performed music from the Renaissance, folk music from Kenya, vocal jazz, and a few holiday selections. Both concerts were directed by Mr. Paul.

Last month the WHS wind ensemble, symphonic band, concert choir, and the Westport Community Band, directed by Mr. LaRusso, performed in a concert honoring veterans that raised in excess of \$3,500.00 to support Purple Heart Homes. Our WHS concert band, symphonic band, and wind ensemble also performed on December 12 and were a resounding success. Two members of Weston's wind ensemble were selected by audition to participate in the CMEA Western Region Band. Congratulations to Ross Cohen and Eric Hirsch on this wonderful honor.

Visual Arts

Students in Contemporary Media Design learned the intricacies of Photoshop through a collaborative group unit. Using their new technological skills, they created



imaginative creatures, put them in an environment, and then worked with their group to create an interesting, animated slide show about the creatures' habitats.



Videography

Students in Advanced Videography competed in the 84-hour film challenge this December. Students were challenged to produce a film in 84 hours or less, based on criteria that was released at the beginning of the production period. The criteria is subject to change each year, but generally includes a list of characters, camera shots, items of clothing, and specific objects or events that must appear somewhere in the film. Winners will be announced at the sixth annual Connecticut Student Film Festival in April.

Community Class



Students of our Community Class made two art pizza boxes to be displayed at California Pizza at the West Farms Mall in Farmington beginning Thursday, December 5. Ali Cohen, Becky Elkins, and Sarah Stuart have their work exhibited. There was an auction to support Unified Arts as well.



English

All students participated in the English Department's annual film analysis unit. All core English classes met in the auditorium to examine and discuss the classic *On the Waterfront*, with the intent of developing and sharpening our students' visual literacy skills. Small groups of upperclassmen led each day's discussion where they not only shared their ideas and interpretations, but also posed questions and encouraged the thinking of other students. Students examined and discussed Elia Kazan's directorial choices as they related to characters, themes, and storytelling; analyzed the purpose of the visual metaphors; and engaged in focused evaluation of selected screen shots. Each course had a common final assessment where students were expected to demonstrate their ability to be thoughtful and analytical viewers.

Juniors in American Studies have engaged in fishbowl discussions delving deeper into texts to expand their understanding of characters and themes in a collaborative format. This instructional technique has been very successful in not only maximizing participation but also in raising the level of cognitive engagement in English classes.

Physical Education/Health

Juniors and seniors are immersed in their ballroom dance unit this month. Students will give a two-minute rendition of the fox trot that will include two additional movements from the ballroom dancing world. A celebrity faculty panel will judge the contest with such stars as Ms. Davies, Mr. Long, Ms. Snaith, and Ms. Zulkowski. The winners of each class will get a much coveted Champions Wristband along with bragging rights for the remainder of the school year.

Science/Technology

The Science Olympiad team has begun preparations for this spring's competition at UCONN. A team of 15 students, under the direction of Technology Teacher Ms. Moosbrugger and Science Teacher Ms. Hauser will compete in 23 science and technology events and try and take home the gold.

School Counseling

PSAT Update

During mid-December, all sophomores and juniors will be receiving their PSAT results in from the October 17 test. Sophomores will receive their scores in the mail. Juniors will be given their results in the “Junior Seminar” the week of December 16. The following links are helpful tools that both students and parents can access to gain more information about the PSAT results and further testing. Please contact your school counselor with any questions.

http://www.westonps.org/uploaded/School_Counseling/MyCollegeQuickStartTour_1.pdf

http://www.westonps.org/uploaded/School_Counseling/understanding-psat-nmsqt-results-presentation.pdf

The “Junior College Planning Evening Seminar” will be held on Thursday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the WHS Cafeteria for junior students and their parents. We will discuss post-secondary planning and options, researching different colleges and universities, timing for visiting schools, navigating the process as a family, admissions criteria, standardized testing, and much more.

The “WHS Financial Aid Evening Seminar” will be presented by seasoned expert Frank Resnick on Wednesday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the WHS Auditorium. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will open on January 1, and it is advisable to file as soon as possible. The CSS Profile is also utilized by some private schools.

Be sure to visit the direct websites of your child’s institution(s) for specific deadlines and requirements, as they tend to vary.

Senior Internship

On December 4, Meredith Starzyk, Director of School Counseling, spoke to the senior class during advisory about the advantages of participating in an internship program while in high school. Internship applications are available on the WHS school counseling website and in the school counseling office starting on December 9. Any student who has an interest in participating in the program but does not have a specific placement in mind should email Mrs. Starzyk at meredithstarzyk@westonps.org with their area of interest as soon as possible.

World Language

Latin

Latin students at all levels have begun signing up for the National Latin Exam, which will be given during class in March. This is an internationally recognized, 40-question exam that tests a student’s knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, comprehension, derivatives, and culture. Students who receive high scores will earn awards and recognition.

Professional Development

Social Studies Teacher Mr. Moeder has been selected to help students at Murray Bergtram High School in New York City with their preparation for the Advanced Placement U.S. History Examination beginning in December. Mr. Moeder will also be mentoring the AP U.S. History teachers at the school.

Co-Curricular Program

Athletics

For the eighth straight year, Weston High School was recognized for having the number one athletic program for medium-sized schools by the CT Interscholastic Athletic Association. We received the Michael's Achievement Cup Award signifying this recognition at the Sportsmanship Conference on November 21.

More impressively at the same conference, for the second time in the last five years, our athletic program was named the "Most Outstanding, Exemplary Athletic Program in the State of CT" and received the Overall Michael's Achievement Cup. Congratulations to our athletes and their coaches for representing our school in such a way to deserve this type of recognition.

Winter sports have begun with girls basketball starting on Monday, November 25 and all other winter sports kicking off Monday, December 2. We encourage you to check out the athletic website and come out to support our athletes.

A special congratulation to the girls' and boys' swim coach, Tom Grace, on being named both the CT Post Coach of the Year and the Connecticut High Schools Coaches Association Coach of the Year.

Clubs

The WHS Literature and Arts Magazine, *Inlook*, orchestrated the composition of another school-wide poem. Students worked with their Trojan Time classes to contribute lines to the poem and look forward eagerly to its publication in the magazine's first issue next month. The theme for the poem is "Inspiration" and each of the 800 or so poets that helped to write it certainly took inspiration from this creative undertaking.

Members of the Key Club will host an after school holiday party for students of the Community Class this month. There will be arts, crafts, music and games.

Teen PeaceWorks held its kickoff meeting to discuss the agenda for the year. Events/projects include collecting for local Toys for Tots drive; a poetry jam/open mic/karaoke event, and a one act play to raise awareness about teen dating abuse. Co-Vice President, Michael Riley helped deliver donations to Safe House in Norwalk that houses domestic violence victims and their families. During his visit, Michael also helped plant butterfly bushes symbolizing Weston's gesture of hope for victims.

W78 Weston TV Network Club members edited Company's live production of *Twelfth Night*, which is expected to air soon on Cablevision's educational access channel 78.

Weston Middle School	Amy Watkins, Principal
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In this issue...

Weston Chamber Orchestra Performs for CABA

Barnes & Noble Book Fair a HUGE Success

PBIS is SOARing Again

Neuroscience Major Speaks to Science Students

Mrs. Shuhart Wows Students to Read with Book Talks

WMS Chamber Orchestra Performs for CABE



from CABE Conference attendees.

On Saturday morning, November 16, the Weston chamber orchestra, comprised of current sixth- through eighth-grade middle school members and alumni high school members, performed at the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Conference in Mystic, Connecticut. This talented group of musicians gave a superb performance of “O Waly, Waly,” a fantasia on the folk tune “The Water is Wide” by John Rutter and “Christmas Eve Sarajevo,” the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's version of “Carol of the Bells.” Their performance was met with a well-deserved standing ovation

Barnes & Noble Book Fair a HUGE Success

On Wednesday, November 20, students from WMS packed up their instruments and warmed-up their voices to entertain customers while shopping at the Westport Barnes & Noble. Their talents and the hard work and organization of Aimee Shuhart, WMS Library Media Specialist, in conjunction with the PTO volunteers made the event a HUGE success. To earn the maximum incentive we needed to have

sales both within the store and online total to \$10,000. We

exceed that goal! To date, the in-store sales have reached \$11,800. WMS will receive 25% of the final grand total. As an incentive to the first 100 students to attend the book fair, students received a special baked treat. Thank you to all of our families who were able to make the time to support this event to raise money for books for our students. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the authors who signed copies of their books.



PBIS is SOARing Again

On Friday, November 22, the WMS PBIS team hosted our trimester Create Your Own Pancake Breakfast, a tradition that began last year. The students appeared to truly enjoy and look forward to this celebration. The PBIS team wants to send a big thank you to everyone who SOARed towards excellence during the trimester and we look forward to recognizing more students throughout the school year.



What is SOAR? Weston Middle School students receive SOAR tickets throughout the school day for displaying our school's behavioral expectations (Safety, Ownership, Attitude & Respect). Students are encouraged to deposit their SOAR tickets into the container in the main office for a chance to be selected as one of the monthly SOAR prize winners and also a



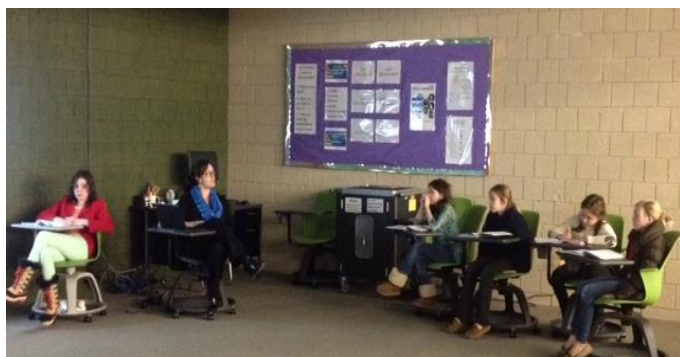
trimester breakfast winner. Five student names are selected randomly for the SOAR container for the monthly drawing and 50 students are chosen for the trimester breakfast. These activities are meant to recognize students for displaying positive behavior at WMS.

Neuroscience Major Speaks to Science Students

A former Weston student paid it forward and offered to speak to several eighth-grade science classes. Dan Lustberg, who is studying neuroscience at Hamilton College, spent time talking about his decision to go into this field. While he initially thought he would be an English major, after a science course, he was hooked. Danny shared a fascinating research study he conducted on the safety of cosmetics and other products not regulated by the FDA. In addition, he explained to students how he is currently studying the brain functions of mice to learn more about neural functions in humans. Students had excellent questions and we definitely saw “sparks” of interest ignite in the field of science research.



Mrs. Shuhart Wows Students to Read with Book Talks



Many adults share that they struggle to get their child to read. We may have stumbled upon the secret. Mrs. Shuhart, Library Media Specialist, holds regular book talks with our English classes to reveal new books that have arrived and generate interest. Our circulation has gone through the roof as a result and students are clamoring for more. Fortunately, the PTO Barnes & Noble fundraiser was a huge success and we will be increasing our collection soon.

Weston Intermediate School

Pattie Falber, Principal

In this issue...

Grade level News

Fifth-Grade Sky Dome Experience

Food Drive

School Spirit

Professional Development

Grade Level News



Third-grade students honed their investigative and reporting skills as they finished their unit on rocks and minerals in science. Working in small collaborative groups, students carefully observed rock and mineral specimens before performing a series of tests, such as hardness, scratching, and streaking, to identify various properties. As the students worked, they methodically recorded their findings in their science journals, drawing detailed diagrams to support their reports.

This month, our fourth graders and fifth graders began AIM (Academic Innovation and Measurement) units in reading and writing. These units are integrated into their study of non-fiction. In fourth grade the students are reading expository texts to gain a deeper understanding of issues affecting the world. They are also learning that authors of non-fiction text purposefully choose which information to convey and how to convey it to target their intended audience. The students will learn to interpret and synthesize information across texts and use that information to evaluate an author's position or point of view.

In fifth grade the students are looking at the structures of non-fiction, and learning that authors use multiple types of structures within a text to convey specific information that will impact the reader. They are also learning the importance of seeking out multiple sources of information on a topic to develop a supported view or opinion. An important AIM Outcome for this unit is "evaluating and justifying." Students will be asked to identify and clearly define authentic problems and significant questions for investigations and then cite appropriate evidence to justify their conclusions. They will learn that to become well-informed citizens of a global world, you need to synthesize multiple points of information and perspectives in order to develop opinions on issues of importance.

Fifth-Grade Sky Dome Experience

On Thursday, December 5, our fifth-grade students were treated to a tour of the night skies inside a portable inflatable planetarium set up in the WIS gymnasium by Mobile Ed Productions. The journey began as students crawled through a tunnel into a giant dome lit up by the shimmering stars of the night sky. This 45-minute presentation placed Earth in context of our solar system, our galaxy, and the greater universe, and introduced students to our neighboring planets. Students also explored the constellations and learned how to use them to identify North, South, East and West. This presentation is a precursor to the fifth-grade spring science unit on the Earth, Moon, Sun, and beyond.



Food Drive



Spearheaded by the fifth-grade Student Council, WIS students and families collected over 20 large containers of food for the Weston Food Pantry. As donations were dropped off, the students brought it to the cafetorium where they then sorted and boxed it for easy transport to the pantry. As shipment day arrived, student volunteers gladly helped load the heavy boxes, knowing their efforts were providing much needed food and supplies to families in Weston.

School Spirit

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, students took part in their first "Paw" celebration by wearing crazy hats and hair to school. "Paws" are being awarded to any "pack" of students for exhibiting PRIDE behavior. Each time the school earns 25 paws, a school-wide celebration is held. Classes have really shown off their WIS PRIDE so that a second celebration will take place next week, and plans for a third celebration are not too far in the near future.



Professional Development

On November 27 our staff spent time together working in the areas of literacy and math. Our third and fourth-grade teams worked with Carolyn Vinton to further investigate Math in Focus and continue their learning of math strategies inherent in the program. All of our teachers also worked in the area of Literacy with Alex Bluestein and Nicole Wilhelm. One of our school-wide goals is increasing the stamina and volume of our students' reading and writing. We studied the architecture of a mini-lesson in order to develop strategies to make our instruction concise and clear so that students are able to apply strategies as readers and writers to their own independent work. Teachers viewed mini-lesson models from Teachers College and then planned mini-lessons using their learning for their upcoming reading and writing units of study. We continue to emphasize the reading of "just right books" with our students and develop our student's ability to determine what makes a book too hard or too easy for them so that they can continue to grow as readers by reading just right books. In writing, we are focused on providing students with ample time to write and go through the writing process multiple times so that they can apply writing strategies and write for authentic audiences.

Professional Development-Technology

The technology focus for professional development was the roll out of Google Drive and our new document cameras (all teachers received a document camera courtesy of our PTO). All teachers had a similar workshop on the document cameras, but the WIS tech committee agreed that teachers needed differentiated instruction with respect to the rollout of Google Drive. To get a handle on the range of teacher comfort with Drive, a brief survey was sent to all teachers along with a short video introducing Drive. Based on the results of the survey, teachers were grouped for differentiated instruction.



One workshop focused on how to set up and get started in Google Drive while a second workshop focused on best practices including easy and effective ways for teachers to organize and manage Drive for a classroom, using Google Docs to give all students meaningful feedback on their writing, and using Google extensions (Readability and Read & Write) as tools to help all students improve in reading and writing. These workshops created a positive buzz among staff about Google Apps for Education, which is becoming more widely used at WIS.

Hurlbutt Elementary School

Laura Kaddis, Principal

In this issue...

Hurlbutt Celebrates a Positive School Climate

Professional Development

Parent Involvement

Links to the Community

Hurlbutt Celebrates a Positive School Climate

In the spirit of kindness, Kindergarten Teacher Megan Cebulski organized Hurlbutt's annual mitten drive. Students and staff brought in new hats, mittens, and scarves to help families who are in need in surrounding towns and cities. Our buddy classes worked together to decorate a box for their class which they used to collect the items. At our



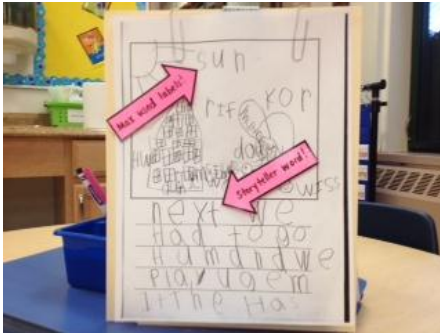


November PBIS assembly students brought what they had collected so that they could see the school-wide result of their kindness.

Professional Development

During our second November professional development day our teachers continued conversations and training in effective literacy

instruction. We celebrated the improvements we have already seen in student writing and learned more strategies for helping our students make their stories come to life. Did you know that our kindergarteners are writing three-page personal narrative stories using author's craft such as dialogue, action, and feelings?



Parent Involvement

Our third parent workshop was held at the beginning of December. "Tips for building resiliency at home" was the topic of the day. There was a lively discussion among participants. Our counselors and school psychologist are planning for a new series of workshops beginning in January.

Links to the Community

First-grade student researchers explored the question "How do community workers help our community?" Each student researched a particular community worker. Students used charts to track their thinking and research. First, they posted their schema. Next, they used Pebble Go database to check their thinking and add new facts to their charts. Finally, the entire first-grade came together in the LRC for a read aloud of non-fiction books by first grade teachers and other staff members. They used this source to also check their thinking and add new facts. Throughout the process emphasis was placed on checking their thinking, determining if facts answered the question, and determining how different sources present the same or different facts. Students will use the facts they collected, along with their verified thinking, to compare and contrast the contributions of different community helpers. As a culminating activity, students will use the information from their charts to write a friendly letter to a community worker thanking them for how they help the community. This grade-wide learning activity integrated reading, writing, social studies and information literacy skills, and provided an opportunity for students to come together to learn with students from other classes and have an authentic audience for their writing.

