

# WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, March 16, 2015

Weston Middle School Library Resource Center

Executive Session 6:30 p.m.

Regular Session 7:30 p.m.

## Agenda

- |              |  |   |
|--------------|--|---|
| <b>I.</b>    | <b>CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM</b><br>Philip Schaefer, Chairperson   |   |
| <b>II.</b>   | <b>EXECUTIVE SESSION</b><br><br>1. Discussion of written correspondence from Board Attorney<br>2. Discussion of Confidential Matters Pertaining to Security  |   |
| <b>III.</b>  | <b>RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>   |   |
| <b>IV.</b>   | <b>RECOGNITION</b>   | None  |
| <b>V.</b>    | <b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b> , <i>pages 1-4</i><br>The Board will vote to approve the minutes from February 24.  | Motion  |
| <b>VI.</b>   | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>  | Information   |
| <b>VII.</b>  | <b>NEW BUSINESS</b><br><br>1. <b>Gifts</b> , <i>pages 5-9</i><br><br>2. <b>Discussion of Use of North House and Central Office by District and Town</b><br>The Board of Education will discuss the use of Hurlbutt Elementary School's North House and Central Office by the District and Town<br><br>3. <b>Energy Update</b> , <i>pages 10-17</i><br>Dave Lustberg will provide an update on Weston Public Schools energy conservation and savings.<br><br>4. <b>Vote on Extension of Transportation Contract</b> , <i>pages 18-21</i><br>Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, will discuss extending the First Student contract with Weston Public Schools.<br><br>5. <b>Sixth FY 2015 Financial Update and Approval of Transfers</b> , <i>pages 22-38</i><br>Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, will provide a monthly financial report and an update on the status of the Board of Education adopted budget for FY 2016. | Information<br>Information<br>Information<br>Motion<br>Motion |
| <b>VIII.</b> | <b>OLD BUSINESS</b>  | None  |
| <b>IX.</b>   | <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b><br><br>1. Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, April 20, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.  | Information   |

2. District Update, *page 39*
3. Principals' Reports, *pages 40-50*

## **X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1. WHS Student Representatives' Report - Jackson Marvin, Jack Seigenthaler | Information |
| 2. Communications Committee - Nina Daniel                                  | Information |
| 3. Curriculum Committee - Ellen Uzenoff                                    | Information |
| 4. Finance Committee - Denise Harvey                                       | Information |
| 5. Facilities Committee - Ellen Uzenoff                                    | Information |
| 6. Policy Committee - Dana Levin   | Information |
| 7. Negotiations Committee - Denise Harvey                                  | Information |
| 8. CES - Nina Daniel   | Information |
| 9. CAFE - Elise Major  | Information |
| 10. Weston Education Foundation - Denise Harvey                            | Information |

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Weston Public Schools  
Board of Education Special Meeting  
Weston Middle School Library Resource Center  
February 24, 2015

**Attendance:**

Philip Schaefer, Chairperson	Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent
Ellen Uzenoff, Vice Chairperson	Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent
Dana Levin, Secretary/Treasurer	Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance & Ops.
Nina Daniel	Jackson Marvin, Student Representative (arrived 8:09 p.m.)
Denise Harvey	
Elise Major	<i>Absent:</i> Lewis Brey, Director of Human Resources
Sara Spaulding	Jack Seigenthaler, Student Representative

**I. CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**

Philip Schaefer, Chairperson

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. RECOGNITION** – No report

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board voted to approve the minutes from January 20 and 22.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the January 20, 2015, Work Session; January 20, 2015, Budget Workshop; January 22, 2015, Work Session; and January 22, 2015, Budget Workshop. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Major, all in favor. (7-0)*

The Board voted to approve the minutes from January 29. Ms. Harvey was absent.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the January 29, 2015 Special Meeting. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Major, 6 in favor – Mr. Schaefer, Mrs. Uzenoff, Mrs. Levin, Ms. Daniel, Ms. Major, Ms. Spaulding; 1 abstained – Ms. Harvey. (6-0-1)*

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT** – No report

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Resignation**

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, and members of the Board thanked Erik Haakonesen for his years of service to the Weston Board of Education, and wished him well in his new position with Bridgeport Public Schools.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes the resignation of Erik Haakonsen, Director of Technology for Weston Public Schools, effective February 27, 2015. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (7-0)*

## **2. Internal Assessment Report**

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, thanked those involved in this endeavor and provided an overview of the importance of this work. Dr. Craw, Assistant Superintendent, introduced the Curriculum Instructional Leaders (CILs) in attendance. He provided a qualitative report on the implementation of district performance assessments and an update on the AIM initiative. Beginning with a partnership with Teachers College five years ago, we have progressed to a refinement and evaluation stage of the AIM implementation plan. The performance assessments, which were highlighted by CILs, are grades 2, 5, and 8 cornerstones; grade 7 population study; and grade 10 writing portfolio. The goal is to have a cornerstone at each grade level. Currently, a grade 8 writing portfolio is being piloted. Discussion by the Board followed.

## **3. Fifth FY 2015 Financial Update and Approval of Transfers**

Dr. Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a monthly financial report, including one transfer to cover the cost of replacing the tricaster at the middle school library.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the transfers as presented by Dr. Keating in the fifth FY 2015 financial report. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Ms. Spaulding, all in favor. (7-0)*

Dr. Keating also gave an update on the status of the Board of Education proposed budget for FY 2016, which has been reduced from a 3.17% increase to a 2.80% increase. Reductions since the initial presentation by administrators of a 3.17% budget include: adult education, MERF, changes due to the resignation of the Director of Technology, and removal of gap funding for ESS. Discussion by the Board followed regarding the reductions, as well as a statement by Mr. Schaefer that it did not need to formally vote on the reduction.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

## **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **1. Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, March 16, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.**

### **2. District Update**

Dr. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, acknowledged the work of the administrative team in developing the FY 2016 budget over the past five months. She also discussed her recent full-day visits to each of the schools to make herself accessible to staff for feedback, questions, and concerns. Lastly, she made the following announcements: a rescheduled meeting on vision statement work to be held on Friday; the last day of

school is currently June 11; and on April 1 the date of commencement for Weston High School will be set.

Erik Haakonsen, Director of Technology, provided an update to the Board on technology, based on questions raised at last night's Board of Selectmen meeting. Per Mr. Haakonsen, 2,079 digital devices are currently in the district, with approximately 50% of these being for staff use or designated for specific curricular use in computer labs and classrooms. After recycling 568 end-of-lifecycle devices, the addition of 630 requested Chromebooks will bring the total number of digital devices for general student use to 997 (42% of anticipated enrollment). Routinely, up to 15 minutes per class period of valuable instructional time is lost due to the slow login times of older devices. Mr. Haakonsen also discussed the benefits and limitations of Bring Your Own Device. Discussion by the Board followed on the need to provide technology for administering assessments, balancing needed technology resources for instruction during testing windows, the rationale behind the cost of the specific model of Chromebooks requested (longevity in terms of wear, robust use, and future technology needs), the greater use of technology as part of curriculum and the delivery of instruction, and the liability issues that would be involved if the district were to provide support for student-owned devices.

### **3. Principals' Reports**

Mrs. Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, highlighted the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school and a presentation by Andrea Noble to the PTO on reading levels. Ms. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, commented on Black History Month projects and Dr. Craw's lesson on squishy circuits. Ms. Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, discussed the National Geography Bee, seventh grade study of the Harlem Renaissance, mock trial, and robotics club. Mrs. Deorio, Weston High School Principal, announced tonight's boys' basketball win, tomorrow's mock trial against Ridgefield, eighth-grade transition night, the March production of *Barnum*, and the hosting of an exchange student in partnership with Rotary International.

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. WHS Student Representatives' Report**

Mr. Marvin discussed Winter Spirit Week, the Shine a Light campaign, and the upcoming annual food drive and April Spirit Week.

### **2. Communications Committee**

Ms. Daniel reported on the communications survey results that were discussed at the February 19 meeting. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 3.

### **3. Curriculum Committee**

Mr. Schaefer discussed the following topics from the February 11 meeting: STEM/STEAM program needs, an update on the March Tri-State visitation, information on the 2015 K-5 summer literacy institute, Weston High School new

course offerings for 2016-17, and results of a social studies survey. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 11.

**4. Finance Committee**

Per Ms. Harvey, in addition to what was discussed previously in the agenda, the following items were discussed at the February 12 meeting: the security grant, waiting for the State to approve our food service program, the health insurance rebid, and an update on excess cost grant. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 12.

**5. Facilities Committee**

Per Ms. Major and Dr. Keating, in addition to what was discussed previously in the agenda, the following items were discussed at the February 11 meeting: a look ahead at summer projects, completion of the auditorium inspection, continued lighting adjustments by MUSCO, and the Zenon plant recertification. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 11.

**6. Policy Committee**

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 3.

**7. Negotiations Committee – No report**

**8. CES – No report**

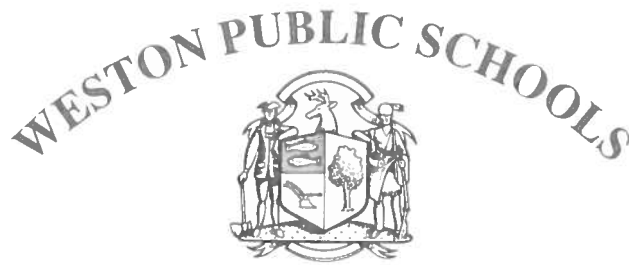
**9. CAFE – No report**

**10. Weston Education Foundation – No report**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Ms. Major, all in favor.  
(7-0) Meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.



COLLEEN A. PALMER, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Office of the Superintendent  
24 School Road  
Weston, Connecticut 06883-1699

Telephone: (203) 291-1401  
FAX: (203) 291-1415  
Email: colleenpalmer@westonps.org

March 3, 2015


Mr. Daniel McNeill  
Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO President  
9 School Road  
Weston, CT 06883

Dear Mr. McNeill:

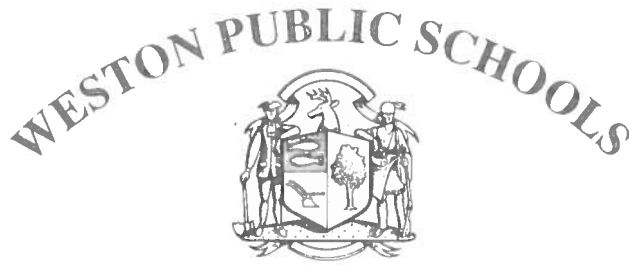
On behalf of the Weston Board of Education I extend sincere appreciation for the Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO's donation of \$5,356.95 for the purchase of books.

We appreciate the generous gift and thank you for thinking of the needs of the school system. Your efforts contribute to an improved educational opportunity for Weston students.

Sincerely,

  
Colleen A. Palmer, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Laura Kaddis, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal  
Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance and Operations



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Superintendent of Schools

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24 School Road  
Weston, Connecticut 06883-1699

Telephone: (203) 291-1401  
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Email: colleenpalmer@westonps.org

March 3, 2015

Ms. Sandra Hart  
Ms. Bernie Park  
Weston Intermediate School PTO Presidents  
95 School Road  
Weston, CT 06883


Dear Ms. Hart and Ms. Park:

On behalf of the Weston Board of Education I extend sincere appreciation for the Weston Intermediate School PTO's donation of:

- \$16,555.20 for the purchase of Chromebooks; and
- \$1,176.40 for the purchase of mobile charging carts.

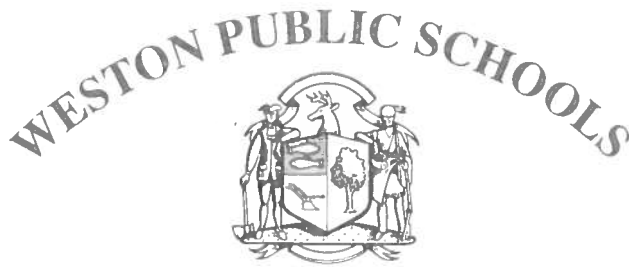
We appreciate the generous gift and thank you for thinking of the needs of the school system. Your efforts contribute to an improved educational opportunity for Weston students.

Sincerely,

  
Colleen A. Palmer, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Pattie Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal  
Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance and Operations





COLLEEN A. PALMER, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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24 School Road  
Weston, Connecticut 06883-1699

Telephone: (203) 291-1401  
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February 27, 2015

Ms. Tammy Roberts  
Weston Middle School PTO President  
135 School Road  
Weston, CT 06883

Dear Ms. Roberts:

On behalf of the Weston Board of Education I extend sincere appreciation for the Weston Middle School PTO's donation of:

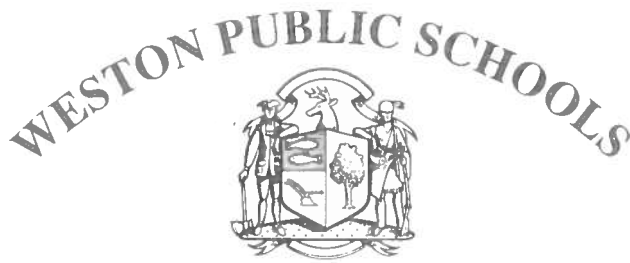
\$2,700 for a presentation by Mark Love of Engineers Teaching Algebra; and  
\$3,200 for the drama residency experience to be provided by Frank Ingrasciotta.

We appreciate the generous gift and thank you for thinking of the needs of the school system. Your efforts contribute to an improved educational opportunity for Weston students.

Sincerely,

Colleen A. Palmer, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Amy Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal



COLLEEN A. PALMER, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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24 School Road  
Weston, Connecticut 06883-1699

Telephone: (203) 291-1401  
FAX: (203) 291-1415  
Email: colleenpalmer@westonps.org

March 3, 2015

Terri Clevenger  
President  
Weston High School Boosters Club  
115 School Road  
Weston, CT 06883

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

On behalf of the Weston Board of Education I extend sincere appreciation for the Weston High School Boosters Club's donation of:

- \$3,207.00 towards the purchase of a new scoreboard on the soccer/lacrosse field and Weston High School; and
- \$1,635.00 towards the purchase of track high jump/pole vault pits.

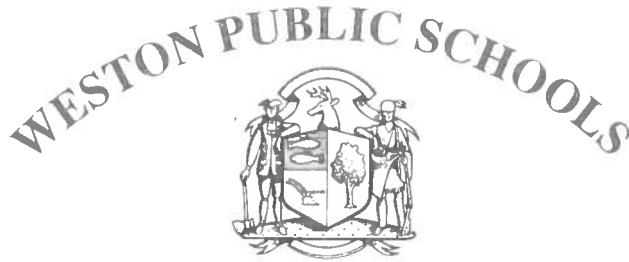
The acceptance of these donations will be on the March 16 Board of Education meeting agenda as an information item for the Weston Board of Education.

We appreciate the generous gift and thank you for thinking of the needs of the school system. Your efforts contribute to an improved educational opportunity for Weston students.

Sincerely,

Colleen A. Palmer, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Lisa Deorio, Weston High School Principal  
Mark Berkowitz, Director of Athletics  
Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance and Operations



COLLEEN A. PALMER, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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Telephone: (203) 291-1401  
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Email: colleenpalmer@westonps.org

February 27, 2015

Ms. Eileen Sawyer, Chairperson  
Weston Education Foundation  
P.O. Box 1093  
Weston, CT 06883

Dear Ms. Sawyer:


On behalf of the Weston Board of Education, I extend sincere appreciation for the following donation:

- \$1,224 robotics grant fund the purchase of four VEX IQ Super Kits for the Intermediate School.

The acceptance of this donation will be on the March 16 Board of Education meeting agenda as an information item for the Weston Board of Education.

We appreciate this generous gift and thank you for thinking of the needs of the school system. Your efforts contribute to an improved instructive opportunity for Weston students.

Sincerely,


  
Colleen A. Palmer  
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Ms. Pattie Falber, Principal, Weston Intermediate School  
Dr. Kenneth Craw, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance and Operations

Weston Education


A Family, School and Community Partnership Committed to Excellence  
*Dedicated to Developing Each Child's Personal Best*

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# Weston Public Schools Energy Reduction Program

## Fifth 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

# **YEAR 5 COST AVOIDANCE (Nov. '13–Oct. '14)**

<u>Building</u>	<u>"Old Cost"</u>	<u>Actual Cost</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Avoid. %</u>
OIL USED		\$51,425		
BOEA	\$70,751	\$35,191	<b>\$35,559</b>	50.3%
BOE	\$34,802	\$18,113	<b>\$16,689</b>	48.0%
WHS	\$726,665	\$388,621	<b>\$338,044</b>	46.5%
WIS	\$280,363	\$188,836	<b>\$91,527</b>	32.6%
HES	\$294,048	\$215,971	<b>\$78,077</b>	26.6%
WMS	\$465,883	\$347,777	<b>\$117,106</b>	25.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,872,513</b>	<b>\$1,246,936</b>	<b><u>\$625,577*</u></b>	<b>33.4%</b>

\*(Year 5 savings from "Energy Conservation Program (ECP)" only. Weather, rate changes & equipment upgrades excluded)

# 5 YEAR COST AVOIDANCE (Nov. '09–Oct. '14)

Building	"Old Cost"	Actual Cost	<u>Savings</u>	Avoid. %
OIL USED		\$51,425		
BOE	\$185,480	\$86,230	<b>\$99,250</b>	53.5%
BOEA	\$314,397	\$160,921	<b>\$153,476</b>	48.8%
WHS	\$3,162,155	\$2,186,700	<b>\$975,456</b>	30.8%
HES	\$1,404,883	\$981,588	<b>\$423,295</b>	30.1%
WIS	\$1,433,465	\$1,004,129	<b>\$429,336</b>	30.0%
WMS	\$2,162,482	\$1,571,629	<b>\$590,853</b>	27.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,662,863</b>	<b>\$6,042,622</b>	<b><u>\$2,620,241*</u></b>	<b>30.2%</b>

\*(5 year total savings from "Energy Conservation Program (ECP)" only. Weather, rate changes & equipment upgrades excluded)

# 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
- Year 5 (Nov 2013 – Oct 2014); \$1,265,591.12\*
  - BILL REDUCTION/SAVINGS FROM PRE-ECP:
    - Year 1 = \$574,672.11
    - Year 2 = \$602,915.38
    - Year 3 = \$667,348.06
    - Year 4 = \$643,890.95
    - Year 5 = \$597,453.68\*\*

**5 YEAR SAVINGS = \$3,086,280.18\*\*\***

- \*Oil was used and replaced in Year 5. Oil was not used between Nov. '08 - Oct. '13
- \*\*Year 5 actual savings lower than Year 5 ECP savings due to colder weather in Year 5 leading to more required heating.
- \*\*\*These numbers represent our actual total monetary savings (ECP savings + savings from weather & rate changes + equipment upgrade savings).





● **5 YEAR GROSS SAVINGS = \$3,086,280.18**

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● **4 Year Energy Ed. Inc. Consultant Fee\* = \$763,200**

● **5 Year Energy Manager Compensation\*\* = \$200,000**

● **5 Year Gross Fees = \$963,200**

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**5 YEAR NET SAVINGS:**      **\$3,086,280.18**  
   **-\$ 963,200.00**  
   **\$2,123,080.18**

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**\* \$190,800/year consultant fee ended after year 4**

**\*\*Yearly Energy Manager cost going forward = ~\$40,000**

# **ENERGY AWARDS RECEIVED BY WPS**

- **2011: U.S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ENERGYSTAR 20% LEADER AWARD**
- **2013 & 2014: ENERGY EDUCATION PACESETTER AWARDS 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**
- **2014: CONNECTICUT POWER OF CHANGE AWARD, HONORABLE MENTION FOR TOP PUBLIC SCHOOL IN CT IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ENERGY REDUCTION**

- **Nov. 2013 – Oct. 2014:**
  - **25,359 MMBTU = 1,463 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>**
  - **305 passenger cars not driven for the year**
  - **37,524 tree seedlings grown for 10 years**
- **Nov. 2009 – Oct. 2014:**
  - **102,038 MMBTU = 6,056 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>**
  - **1,262 passenger cars not driven for the year**
  - **155,284 tree seedlings grown for 10 years**

**AMENDMENT TO AND EXTENSION OF PUPIL  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION AND  
FIRST STUDENT, INC**

This letter shall confirm that the Board of Education for the Town of Weston, Ct and First Student Inc. has extended the transportation contract for a period of five (5) years beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

This agreement is amended to include an increase of rates to all services listed under this agreement and as indicated below.

Contract Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	2.5%	2.5%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%

Section 9-3 of the Agreement is amended to read as follows:

All of the Type I vehicles providing services to the Weston Public Schools shall at no time during the five (5) years of the this Contract be older than a 2010 model year, Type II buses can be a maximum of eight (8) years of age at any time during the term of the Contract and dedicated spare vehicles, dedicated shuttle vehicles or Board requested replacement vehicles can be a maximum of ten (10) years of age at any time during the term of the Contract.

All vehicles shall be maintained in first-class repair and working order, kept in clean and sanitary condition and shall have sufficient power to operate. The Board may require the Contractor to discontinue the use of any vehicle which, in the reasonable judgment of the Board, is hazardous, mechanically defective or subject to frequent breakdowns. In the event that the Board shall order the discontinuance of the use of any vehicle, the Contractor shall immediately replace it with another vehicle which is capable of meeting the requirements of the contract."

"This Agreement may be extended or renewed upon the mutual agreement of both parties, and in accordance with all applicable state or municipal laws.

Except as provided above, all other terms and conditions of the transportation contract continue in full force and effect. This Amendment supersedes all oral negotiations and prior contemporaneous writings with respect to the subject matter hereof and is intended by the parties as the final expression of the agreement with respect to the terms and conditions set forth herein and as the complete and exclusive statement of the terms agreed by the parties. If there is any conflict between the terms, conditions and provisions of this Amendment and those of any other agreement or instrument, the terms, conditions and provisions of this Amendment shall prevail. This amendment is effective as of \_\_\_\_\_

The Board of Education of the Town of Weston, Ct

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

First Student, Inc

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

30 Taylor Street  
Danbury, CT 06810  
Tel: 203-790-0305

December 1, 2014

Joann Keating  
Director of Finance and Operations  
Weston Public schools  
[joannkeating@westonk12-ct.org](mailto:joannkeating@westonk12-ct.org)  
24 School Rd  
Weston, Ct 06883

Re: Contract Extension

Dear Joann,

I'd like to thank you for taking the time to speak with me to discuss an extension of our current transportation contract which expires June 30th of 2015.

To that end, our discussion to extend the current transportation contract for a period of (5) five years had brought up some concerns from the District with regards to the reliability of the current fleet over the next five years.

As you are aware, the proper care and maintenance of a vehicle from the beginning is a key to its longevity. The Weston fleet, from the time it arrived new, has been maintained by our Danbury Maintenance Facility which is an ASE recognized Blue Seal shop. The Blue Seal status is given when 75% of the technicians carry an ASE certification and at least one member is a Master Certified Technician. The shop has also achieved First Students Gold Wrench Status of excellence as set out by LEAN practices. Our DMV inspection pass rate this past year was over 95% and the preventative maintenance schedule of the fleet has remained 100% for both State and FS standards since it was put into service. All this in consideration I am extremely confident that the existing fleet will not present any significant problems over the life of this extension. I have also added specific language to address any issues the District may have with the fleet.

As we discussed the increases to extend for the next five years would be 2.5%, 2.5%, 2.7%, 2.7% and 2.7%. The increases are driven mainly by wages and slightly increased maintenance costs. As a point of note First Student was not subject to the CT sick law, which provides up to 40 hours (5 days) of paid sick time to the drivers as there was a CBA in place at the time the law passed. The CBA expired this past year and under the law FS is now subject to the CT Sick law and must provide the allotted paid time to the drivers. As a result this has raised the increases up a slightly higher than the CPI average. The drivers have also have severed ties with Council 4 AFSME and are now represented by USWU Local 455. We have successfully negotiated a three year contract with them which we feel will help maintain and stabilize the Weston workforce.



30 Taylor Street  
Danbury, CT 06810  
Tel: 203-790-0305

First Student is proud to be a part of the Weston community and would like to continue to provide the safe, efficient and friendly service your community is accustomed to. If I can answer any additional questions or address any other concerns please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent Cappiello", written over a horizontal line.

Vincent Cappiello,  
Area General Manager

Cc: Jim Castelli, FS-SVP

**Weston Public Schools  
Weston, CT**

**6th Financial Report for FY 2015**

The sixth financial report for the FY 2015 General Fund Operating Budget can be found on pages 8 through 15 of this document. The financial information presented in this section of the report includes the adopted budget, monthly and year-to-date transfers, the revised budget (adopted budget plus or minus transfers), actual year-to-date budget expenditures, encumbrances, anticipated expenditures that have not been encumbered and the total projected expenditures by object, which is the sum of the previous three columns. The Internal Services Report for Health Insurance can be found pages 16 and 17. All accounts for FY 2015 were analyzed and reforecasted as of December 1, 2014 for comparison to the FY 2016 budget request. Transfers related to the reforecast are presented first in this report followed by current report transfers.

<b>Original Budget versus Expected as of December 1, 2014 based on the Reforecast</b>
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**Transfers to the Certified Salary Accounts as follows:**

A	Weston Intermediate School - additional funds needed for a part-time music teacher hired in the fall	20,724
B	Weston Middle School - fund staff returning from LOA	6,768
C	Special Education - fund degree change	5,523
D	Curriculum & Instruction - fund staff returning from LOA	11,506
	Funding Requirement for Certified Salaries (A+B+C+D)	<u>44,521</u>

**Transfers from the Certified Salary Accounts as follows:**

A	Hurlbutt Elementary School - staff on unpaid leave of absence and additional funding from grant of 6,000 to off-set salary account	23,505
B	Pupil Personnel Services - staff on unpaid leave of absence	14,233
C	Weston High School - staff turnover savings in World Language	5,840
D	Technology - technology champions are below budget	943
	Funding Available for Certified Salaries (A+B+C+D)	<u>44,521</u>

**Transfers to the Non-Certified Salary Accounts as follows:**

A	Weston Intermediate School - additional time for the reading para	1,153
B	Athletics - addition of freshman volleyball increased the support staff	1,800
C	Special Education - increased para time based on need	5,346
D	Pupil Personnel Services - increased need for nurse overtime after school	4,747
E	Facilities - adjust budget for custodial salary	7,306
	Funding Requirement for Non-Certified Salaries (A+B+C+D+E)	<u>20,352</u>

**Transfers from the Non-Certified Salary Accounts as follows:**

A	Hurlbutt Elementary School - supervisory para turnover savings	1,615
B	Weston Middle School - turnover from staff reduction created an unfilled	



	vacancy for part of the year	10,876
C	Weston High School - reduce allocation for summer work	593
D	Technology - reduce allocation for extended hours	2,317
E	District Administration - reduce allocation for extended hours at year-end	4,620
F	Copy Center - reduce allocation for extended hours	331
	Funding Available for Non-Certified Salaries (A+B+C+D+E+F)	<u>20,352</u>

### **Transfers for Employee Benefits Accounts:**

#### *Funding To:*

A	Social Security - in the first financial report of the year, the district transferred 25,925 from Social Security and 25,926 from Medicare to fund the increased cost of 51,851 in Workers' Compensation insurance. At that time, it was noted that the transfer was a temporary measure and that the funds for this transfer would be identified during the reforecast. This transfer restores these funds, and the balance of the request is based on salary estimates.	38,531
B	Medicare - see explanation above	27,981
C	Pension - based on salary estimates	16,845
D	Disability Insurance - based on carrier rates and salary	1,162
E	Life Insurance - based on carrier rates and salary	710
	Funding Requirement for Employee Benefits (A+B+C+D+E)	<u>85,229</u>

#### *Funding From:*

A	Employee Sick Bank	16,824
B	Unemployment Compensation	14,000
C	Employee Benefits - Management Services	2,500
D	Curriculum & Instruction - Professional Educational Services - Adult Ed.	13,144
E	Weston Intermediate School - Professional Technical Services	230
F	Pupil Personnel Services - Professional Technical Services	14,299
G	Athletics - Revenue	6,773
H	Weston Middle School - English Books	5,525
I	District Administration - Materials	2,612
J	Special Education - Equipment Repair/Rental	2,500
K	Weston High School - Professional Technical Services	2,075
L	Technology - Lease	1,204
M	Weston Middle School - Non-Certified Salaries	808
N	Hurlbutt Elementary School - Materials	750
O	Weston Intermediate School - Equipment Repair/Rental	581
P	Pupil Personnel Services - Equipment Repair/Rental	528
Q	Weston Intermediate School - Professional Technical Services	430
R	Weston Middle School - Equipment Repair/Rental	207
S	Pupil Personnel Services - Materials	139
T	Hurlbutt Elementary School - Equipment Repair/Rental	100
	Funding Available for Employee Benefits (total of A through T)	<u>85,229</u>

**Transfers within the Curriculum & Instruction Budget Cost Center:***Funding To:*

A	Professional Technical Services- reallocate funds to support district goals	5,656
B	Training & Reimbursable Expenses - same as above	1,888
	Funding Requirement for Curriculum & Instruction (A+B)	<u>7,544</u>

*Funding From:*

A	Curriculum & Instruction - Professional Educational Services - Adult Ed.	6,686
B	Equipment	648
C	Materials	210
	Funding Available for Curriculum & Instruction (A+B+C)	<u>7,544</u>

**Transfers within the Special Education Budget Cost Center:***Funding To:*

	Tuition for Outplaced students - increased need	173,140
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*Funding From:*

	Excess Cost Grant - anticipated increase in grant	173,140
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**Transfers for Additional Transportation Needs:***Funding To:*

	Transportation - Non-Certified Salaries - Drivers for added runs	21,351
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*Funding From:*

A	Transportation - Contracted Services	13,712
B	Hurlbutt Elementary School - Certified Salaries	4,752
C	Weston Middle School - Non-Certified Salaries	2,887
	Funding Available for Drivers Salaries (A+B+C)	<u>21,351</u>

*Funding To:*

	Transportation - Diesel Fuel for added runs	4,646
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*Funding From:*

A	Pupil Personnel Services - Reimbursable Expenses	1,400
B	Weston High School - Reimbursable Expenses	1,340
C	Pupil Personnel Services - Postage/Advertising/Printing	935
D	Weston High School - Postage/Advertising/Printing	275
E	Weston Intermediate School - Postage/Advertising/Printing	220
F	Weston Intermediate School - Equipment Repair/Rental	219
G	Weston Middle School - Dues & Fees	125
H	Hurlbutt Elementary School - Dues & Fees	82
I	Weston Intermediate School - Dues & Fees	50
	Funding Available for Diesel Fuel (total of A through I)	<u>4,646</u>

**Transfers within the District Administration Budget Cost Center:***Funding To:*

Professional Technical Services - increased need in legal fees 3,500

*Funding From:*

A Postage/Advertising/Printing 3,000

B Materials 500

Funding Available for Legal Fees (A+B) 3,500

*Funding To:*

Dues & Fees - funds to increase in rates 700

*Funding From:*

A Materials 450

B Equipment Repair/Rental 250

Funding Available for Dues & Fees (A+B) 700

*Funding To:*

Miscellaneous - funds to balance account 13

*Funding From:*

Materials 13

**Transfers for Additional Facility Needs:***Funding To:*

Facilities - Communications - additional cost to transition to the VoIP 8,386

*Funding From:*

Technology - Rental of Equipment - the FY 2014 & 2015 lease financing  
came in under budget 8,386

*Funding To:*

Facilities - Miscellaneous - increased requirements for uniforms 400

*Funding From:*

Facilities - Materials 400

*Funding To:*

Facilities - Equipment Repair/Rental - increased repairs for snow removal  
equipment due to severe winter weather 1,729

*Funding From:*

Facilities - Professional Technical Services 1,729

*Funding To:*

Facilities - Utilities - anticipated need for additional pumping at the plant 6,672

*Funding From:*

A Weston Middle School - Equipment Repair/Rental 2,077

B Facilities - Contracted Services 1,827

C Facilities - Energy 1,645

D	Facilities - Professional Technical Services	950
E	Facilities - Materials	173
	Funding Available for Utilities (Zenon Plant) (A+B+C+D+E)	<u>6,672</u>

**Transfers within Hurlbutt Elementary School:**

*Funding To:*

Professional Technical Services - police and fire services	250
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*Funding From:*

Equipment Repair	250
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**Transfers within Weston High School:**

*Funding To:*

Equipment Repair/Rental - school-wide support	500
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*Funding From:*

Professional Technical Services	500
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<b>The following transfers are for the current Financial Report</b>
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Weston Middle School:

To: Non-Certified Salaries	3,715
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From: Certified Salaries	3,715
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There are two reasons for this transfer. Substitute para-professionals to provide services for a vacant position at a cost of 1,600, and the encumbrance for the secretarial account had to be adjusted because of a staff transfer.

Weston High School:

To: Non-Certified Salaries	588
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From: Certified Salaries	588
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Additional funds needed in the substitute para-professional and secretarial overtime accounts.

To: Miscellaneous	6,000
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From: Materials	6,000
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Funds will be used to subsidize the cost associated with the Mock Trial's National Competition

Pupil Personnel Services:

To: Certified Salaries	3,834
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From: Professional Technical Services	3,834
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There is an appropriation in the professional technical services account for SAT proctors.

These services were paid through payroll.

Curriculum & Instruction:

To: Books	13
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From: Materials	13
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Additional funds needed to pay for shipping.

Technology & Employee Benefits:

Professional Technical Services	21,526
Non-Certified Salaries	11,526
Sick Bank	10,000

These funds pay for a technology break/fix person contracted from a temporary agency.  
Funds remain in the non-certified staff because of the short-term vacancy of the Director of Technology and there have been no payments from the sick bank to date.

Technology:

To: Materials	4,775
From: Communications	4,000
From: Equipment Repair	756
From: Equipment	19

Additional funds needed to pay for parts to repair technology equipment.

District Administration:

To: Miscellaneous	2,000
From: Postage/Advertising/Printing	2,000

Funds needed to pay for administrative requirements.

Facilities & Employee Benefits:

To: Non-Certified Salaries	28,000
From: Contracted Services	12,500
From: Sick Bank	15,500

The timing of the severe winter weather created the needed for staff to work overtime to clear the district's property.

Facilities:

To: Professional Technical Services	6,527
From: Contracted Services	6,527

There are three factors that contribute to this transfer. First, the asbestos abatement plan update exceeded the estimate by 3,880 because the documents required additional review and modification. The Waste Water Permit Application cost was 2,487.50, and the boiler permits exceeded the budget by 160.

Facilities:

To: Equipment Repair/Rental	3,532
From: Contracted Services	3,532

The severe weather has taken its toll on the snow removal equipment.

Facilities:

To: Dues & Fees	497
From: Materials	497

Funds needed to pay for the Director's membership in the Connecticut School Facilities Assoc.

Transportation:

To: Contracted Services 1,646

From: Diesel Fuel 1,646

Funds needed to pay for additional transportation for students with special needs.

Transportation:

To: Equipment Repair 3,000

From: Diesel Fuel 3,000

Funds needed to pay for repairs to the SUVs and Type II vehicles.

District-Wide:

To: Liability Insurance 5,100

From: Management Services 5,100

This transfer will fund the professional liability insurance for the district's medical advisor.

Employee Benefits:

To: Workers Compensation 4,911

From: Sick Bank 4,911

This transfer will pay for the FY 2014 workers' compensation overage based on the annual audit of salary accounts.

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			Month Budget	Adjustments						
Certified Salaries	23,053,111	-103,339	-5,221		22,949,772	13,125,779	9,278,700	545,293	22,949,772	0
Non-Certified Salaries	6,060,278	142,006	38,433		6,202,284	4,042,946	1,953,108	206,230	6,202,284	0
Employee Benefits	9,329,354	16,305	21,305		9,345,659	6,195,024	16,613	3,134,022	9,345,659	0
Total Employee Cost	38,442,743	54,972	54,517		38,497,715	23,363,749	11,248,421	3,885,545	38,497,715	0
Professional Educational Services	832,000	-27,964	-19,800		804,036	441,142	227,004	135,890	804,036	0
Professional Technical Services	721,405	9,245	13,412		730,650	426,487	159,870	144,293	730,650	0
Utilities	119,078	6,672	6,672		125,750	88,385	27,864	9,501	125,750	0
Contracted Services/Maint. Projects	2,526,480	-37,125	-36,452		2,489,355	1,980,570	346,036	162,749	2,489,355	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	700,774	-9,402	-8,297		691,372	431,048	36,888	223,436	691,372	0
Communications	117,837	4,386	4,386		122,223	97,706	7,380	17,137	122,223	0
Other Insurance	204,558	9,643	5,100		214,201	214,201	0	0	214,201	0
Postage/Advertising/Printing	59,003	-6,430	-6,430		52,573	21,340	4,046	27,187	52,573	0
Out-of-District Tuition	1,767,043	173,139	173,139		1,940,182	1,415,711	344,424	180,047	1,940,182	0
Training & Reimbursable Expenses	83,310	-852	-852		82,458	50,486	3,271	28,701	82,458	0
Energy	1,109,253	-1,645	-1,645		1,107,608	684,532	56	423,020	1,107,608	0
Materials	1,231,219	-9,514	-7,011		1,221,705	847,866	95,958	277,881	1,221,705	0
Books	190,011	-3,175	-5,512		186,836	144,370	22,376	20,090	186,836	0
Equipment	53,874	7,773	-667		61,647	32,710	4,652	24,285	61,647	0
Dues & Fees	94,490	940	940		95,430	77,375	7,972	10,083	95,430	0
Miscellaneous	20,500	9,250	8,413		29,750	20,456	1,849	7,445	29,750	0
Total Non-Salary Accounts	9,830,855	124,941	125,396		9,955,776	6,974,385	1,289,646	1,691,745	9,955,776	0
General Fund Budget	48,273,578	179,913	179,913		48,453,491	30,338,134	12,538,067	5,577,290	48,453,491	0
Fees/Gate Receipts/P&R	-161,927	-6,773	-6,773		-168,700	-97,762	0	-70,938	-168,700	0
Excess Cost Grant/Tuitions/Rev.	-746,795	-173,140	-173,140		-919,935	-822,364	0	-97,571	-919,935	0
Total General Fund & Grants	47,364,856	0	0		47,364,856	29,418,008	12,538,067	5,408,781	47,364,856	0

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			Budget	Adjustments		Expended	Encumbered	Anticipated			
Hurlbutt Elementary School											
Certified Salaries	2,679,700	54,489	-28,257		2,734,189	1,525,197	1,186,098	22,894	2,734,189		0
Non-Certified Salaries	319,000	-1,615	-1,615		317,385	202,361	114,630	394	317,385		0
Professional Technical Services	850	250	250		1,100	0	0	1,100	1,100		0
Equipment Repair/Rental	3,740	-350	-350		3,390	699	0	2,691	3,390		0
Postage/Advertising/Printing	1,000	0	0		1,000	0	0	1,000	1,000		0
Reimbursable Expenses	250	0	0		250	0	0	250	250		0
Materials	65,604	-750	-750		64,854	49,943	3,811	11,100	64,854		0
Books	17,350	0	0		17,350	10,623	6,213	514	17,350		0
Equipment	909	2,000	0		2,909	1,000	583	1,326	2,909		0
Dues & Fees	1,817	-82	-82		1,735	354	87	1,294	1,735		0
	3,090,220	53,942	-30,804		3,144,162	1,790,177	1,311,422	42,563	3,144,162		0
Weston Intermediate School											
Certified Salaries	3,554,330	-47,949	20,724		3,506,381	1,961,186	1,477,497	67,698	3,506,381		0
Non-Certified Salaries	250,406	3,014	1,153		253,420	161,104	91,156	1,160	253,420		0
Professional Technical Services	900	-660	-660		240	240	0	0	240		0
Equipment Repair/Rental	3,220	-800	-800		2,420	512	0	1,908	2,420		0
Postage/Advertising/Printing	1,220	-220	-220		1,000	176	100	724	1,000		0
Reimbursable Expenses	250	0	0		250	0	0	250	250		0
Materials	42,058	0	0		42,058	26,572	4,692	10,794	42,058		0
Books	41,185	0	0		41,185	25,619	10,300	5,266	41,185		0
Equipment	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0
Dues & Fees	1,239	-50	-50		1,189	767	0	422	1,189		0
	3,894,808	-46,665	20,147		3,848,143	2,176,176	1,583,745	88,222	3,848,143		0



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			Month Budget	Adjustments		Expended	Encumbered	Anticipated			
Weston Middle School											
Certified Salaries	4,345,812	-79,118	3,053		4,266,694	2,442,337	1,730,704	93,653		4,266,694	0
Non-Certified Salaries	193,337	-13,277	-10,856		180,060	113,850	65,307	903		180,060	0
Professional Technical Services	19,160	0	0		19,160	715	4,356	14,089		19,160	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	7,655	-1,784	-2,284		5,871	2,169	696	3,006		5,871	0
Postage/Advertising/Printing	3,452	0	0		3,452	845	1,238	1,369		3,452	0
Reimbursable Expenses	550	0	0		550	0	0	550		550	0
Materials	88,551	75	0		88,626	52,065	8,497	28,064		88,626	0
Books	21,858	-6,100	-5,525		15,758	11,793	1,613	2,352		15,758	0
Equipment	13,200	0	0		13,200	187	0	13,013		13,200	0
Dues & Fees	5,064	-125	-125		4,939	2,149	0	2,790		4,939	0
	4,698,639	-100,329	-15,737		4,598,310	2,626,110	1,812,411	159,789		4,598,310	0
Weston High School											
Certified Salaries	5,408,346	-14,908	-6,428		5,393,438	3,051,475	2,258,581	83,382		5,393,438	0
Non-Certified Salaries	188,227	555	-5		188,782	119,411	68,871	500		188,782	0
Professional Technical Services	15,495	-1,290	-2,575		14,205	2,992	1,195	10,018		14,205	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	13,829	500	500		14,329	4,231	120	9,978		14,329	0
Postage/Advertising/Printing	13,976	-275	-275		13,701	8,501	0	5,200		13,701	0
Reimbursable Expenses	3,090	-1,340	-1,340		1,750	0	0	1,750		1,750	0
Materials	163,116	-4,500	-6,000		158,616	124,725	10,990	22,901		158,616	0
Books	29,973	0	0		29,973	18,350	4,250	7,373		29,973	0
Equipment	10,445	-5,000	0		5,445	1,038	2,000	2,407		5,445	0
Dues & Fees	13,191	0	0		13,191	10,665	120	2,406		13,191	0
Miscellaneous	0	6,000	6,000		6,000	0	0	6,000		6,000	0
Parking Fees	-30,000	0	0		-30,000	-21,000	0	-9,000		-30,000	0
	5,829,688	-20,258	-10,123		5,809,430	3,320,388	2,346,127	142,915		5,809,430	0

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			Budget	Adjustments						
Athletics										
Certified Salaries/Coaches Stipends	480,615	0	0	0	480,615	318,276	44,505	117,834	480,615	0
Non-Certified Salaries	116,251	-2,743	1,800	1,800	113,508	62,692	15,033	35,783	113,508	0
Professional Technical Services	77,696	0	0	0	77,696	27,469	34,376	15,851	77,696	0
Police/Fire Services	4,300	0	0	0	4,300	1,657	730	1,913	4,300	0
Insurance	10,400	9,516	0	0	19,916	19,916	0	0	19,916	0
Transportation - Extra Curricular	79,534	0	0	0	79,534	43,261	30,807	5,466	79,534	0
Materials	57,750	0	0	0	57,750	28,671	10,328	18,751	57,750	0
Equipment	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	0	1,850	150	2,000	0
Dues & Fees	15,455	0	0	0	15,455	15,455	0	0	15,455	0
Participation Fees/Gate Receipts	-91,904	-6,773	-6,773	-6,773	-98,677	-60,384	0	-38,293	-98,677	0
	752,097	0	-4,973	-4,973	752,097	457,013	137,629	157,455	752,097	0
Special Education										
Certified Salaries	3,412,614	-47,007	5,523	5,523	3,365,607	1,894,368	1,340,258	130,981	3,365,607	0
Non-Certified Salaries	1,407,109	59,297	5,346	5,346	1,466,406	957,148	463,481	45,777	1,466,406	0
Professional Educational Services	780,000	-8,164	0	0	771,836	441,142	227,004	103,690	771,836	0
Professional Technical Services	170,800	0	0	0	170,800	70,814	37,737	62,249	170,800	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	5,000	-2,500	-2,500	-2,500	2,500	359	0	2,141	2,500	0
Tuition Out-of-District	1,767,043	173,139	173,139	173,139	1,940,182	1,415,711	344,424	180,047	1,940,182	0
Reimbursable Expenses	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	66	0	2,934	3,000	0
Materials	39,350	0	0	0	39,350	17,585	2,653	19,112	39,350	0
Books	5,900	0	0	0	5,900	1,315	0	4,585	5,900	0
Equipment	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	7,392	219	7,389	15,000	0
Dues & Fees	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	835	0	1,165	2,000	0
Excess Cost Grant/Pre-School	-746,795	-173,140	-173,140	-173,140	-919,935	-822,364	0	-97,571	-919,935	0
	6,861,021	1,625	8,368	8,368	6,862,646	3,984,371	2,415,776	462,499	6,862,646	0

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			Month Budget	Adjustments		Expended	Encumbered	Anticipated			
<b>Pupil Personnel Services</b>											
Certified Salaries	1,654,592	-8,699	-10,399		1,645,893	927,853	699,403	18,637	1,645,893	0	
Non-Certified Salaries	699,065	14,116	4,747		713,181	444,922	246,637	21,622	713,181	0	
Professional Technical Services	206,000	-11,669	-18,133		194,331	111,512	74,767	8,052	194,331	0	
Equipment Repair/Rental	1,603	-528	-528		1,075	833	0	242	1,075	0	
Postage/Advertising/Printing	7,535	-935	-935		6,600	1,803	2,000	2,797	6,600	0	
Reimbursable Expenses	1,500	-1,400	-1,400		100	0	0	100	100	0	
Materials	16,543	-168	-168		16,375	12,012	26	4,337	16,375	0	
Equipment	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dues & Fees	575	0	0		575	0	0	575	575	0	
	2,587,413	-9,283	-26,816		2,578,130	1,498,935	1,022,833	56,362	2,578,130	0	
<b>Curriculum &amp; Instructional Improvement</b>											
Certified Salaries	833,718	-4,174	11,506		829,544	520,038	299,292	10,214	829,544	0	
Non-Certified Salaries	58,282	1,312	0		59,594	41,257	18,337	0	59,594	0	
Professional Educational Services	52,000	-19,800	-19,800		32,200	0	0	32,200	32,200	0	
Professional Technical Services	131,100	-5,260	5,656		125,840	90,300	15,241	20,299	125,840	0	
Training & Reimbursable Expenses	58,170	1,888	1,888		60,058	39,448	3,271	17,339	60,058	0	
Materials	8,725	-3,119	-223		5,606	3,568	621	1,417	5,606	0	
Books	73,745	2,925	13		76,670	76,670	0	0	76,670	0	
Equipment	12,320	5,742	-648		18,062	18,062	0	0	18,062	0	
Dues & Fees	25,349	0	0		25,349	17,805	7,239	305	25,349	0	
	1,253,409	-20,486	-1,608		1,232,923	807,148	344,001	81,774	1,232,923	0	

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FINANCIAL REPORT #6**

**July 2014 - February 2015**

Descriptions	FY 2015 Adopted Budget	Cumulative Budget Adjustments	Current Month		FY 2015 Revised Budget	FY 2015		FY 2015		FY 2015 Expended, Encumbered & Anticipated	Balance
			Budget	Adjustments		Expended	Encumbered	Anticipated			
Technology											
Certified Salaries	124,304	-943	-943		123,361	66,861	56,500	0	123,361	0	
Non-Certified Salaries	485,236	26,455	-13,843		511,691	351,101	122,414	38,176	511,691	0	
Professional Technical Services	66,820	21,526	21,526		88,346	63,965	11,036	13,345	88,346	0	
Equipment Repair/Rental	423,864	-15,396	-10,346		408,468	248,959	280	159,229	408,468	0	
Communications	23,400	-4,000	-4,000		19,400	9,840	7,380	2,180	19,400	0	
Reimbursable Expenses	3,000	0	0		3,000	2,000	0	1,000	3,000	0	
Materials	27,025	4,775	4,775		31,800	24,549	3,009	4,242	31,800	0	
Software	271,593	3,500	0		275,093	222,306	31,267	21,520	275,093	0	
Equipment	0	5,031	-19		5,031	5,031	0	0	5,031	0	
Dues & Fees	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
	1,425,242	40,948	-2,850		1,466,190	994,612	231,886	239,692	1,466,190	0	
District Administration											
Certified Salaries	579,968	24,082	0		604,050	418,188	185,862	0	604,050	0	
Non-Certified Salaries	357,399	3,089	-4,620		360,488	246,422	109,061	5,005	360,488	0	
Professional Technical Services	97,500	3,500	3,500		101,000	72,964	14,808	13,228	101,000	0	
Equipment Repair/Rental	1,000	-250	-250		750	60	0	690	750	0	
Postage/Advertising/Printing	13,750	-5,000	-5,000		8,750	2,702	708	5,340	8,750	0	
Reimbursable Expenses	10,500	0	0		10,500	7,061	0	3,439	10,500	0	
Materials	20,385	-3,885	-3,575		16,500	11,603	724	4,173	16,500	0	
Equipment	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dues & Fees	29,320	700	700		30,020	28,368	526	1,126	30,020	0	
Miscellaneous	6,500	2,250	2,013		8,750	5,942	1,849	959	8,750	0	
	1,116,322	24,486	-7,232		1,140,808	793,310	313,538	33,960	1,140,808	0	

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FINANCIAL REPORT #6**

**July 2014 - February 2015**

Descriptions	FY 2015 Adopted Budget	Cumulative Budget Adjustments	Current		FY 2015 Revised Budget	FY 2015 Expended	FY 2015 Encumbered	FY 2015 Anticipated	FY 2015 Expended, Encumbered & Anticipated		Balance
			Month Budget	Adjustments							
<b>Facilities</b>											
Non-Certified Salaries	1,689,562	28,560	35,306		1,718,122	1,126,055	551,823	40,244	1,718,122	0	0
Professional Technical Services	8,480	2,848	3,848		11,328	11,328	0	0	11,328	0	0
Utilities	119,078	6,672	6,672		125,750	88,385	27,864	9,501	125,750	0	0
Contracted Services	1,138,700	-25,059	-24,386		1,113,641	716,763	262,668	134,210	1,113,641	0	0
Maintenance Projects	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	93,096	8,706	5,261		101,802	63,167	7,117	31,518	101,802	0	0
Communications	94,437	8,386	8,386		102,823	87,866	0	14,957	102,823	0	0
Property Insurance	98,231	0	0		98,231	98,231	0	0	98,231	0	0
Reimbursable Expenses	3,000	0	0		3,000	1,911	0	1,089	3,000	0	0
Materials	264,668	-5,442	-1,070		259,226	185,041	18,682	55,503	259,226	0	0
Equipment	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	480	497	497		977	977	0	0	977	0	0
Miscellaneous	14,000	1,000	400		15,000	14,514	0	486	15,000	0	0
In-Kind Revenue from Parks & Rec.	-40,023	0	0		-40,023	-16,378	0	-23,645	-40,023	0	0
	3,483,709	26,168	34,914		3,509,877	2,377,860	868,154	263,863	3,509,877	0	0
<b>Energy Management</b>											
Non-Certified Salaries	42,241	950	0		43,191	29,902	13,289	0	43,191	0	0
Energy	1,109,253	-1,645	-1,645		1,107,608	684,532	56	423,020	1,107,608	0	0
	1,151,494	-695	-1,645		1,150,799	714,434	13,345	423,020	1,150,799	0	0
<b>Transportation</b>											
Non-Certified Salaries	193,863	22,624	21,351		216,487	147,483	52,797	16,207	216,487	0	0
Contracted Services	1,230,550	-12,066	-12,066		1,218,484	1,193,077	18,185	7,222	1,218,484	0	0
Equipment Repair	20,000	3,000	3,000		23,000	20,730	803	1,467	23,000	0	0
Auto Insurance	8,410	0	0		8,410	8,410	0	0	8,410	0	0
Materials (fuel & Misc. Mat.)	151,980	0	0		151,980	80,494	0	71,486	151,980	0	0
Equipment	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revenue	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,604,803	13,558	12,285		1,618,361	1,450,194	71,785	96,382	1,618,361	0	14

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FINANCIAL REPORT #6**

**July 2014 - February 2015**

Descriptions	FY 2015 Adopted Budget	Cumulative Budget Adjustments	Current Month		FY 2015 Revised Budget	FY 2015 Expended	FY 2015 Encumbered	FY 2015 Anticipated	FY 2015 Expended, Encumbered & Anticipated	Balance
			Budget	Adjustments						
<b>District Wide</b>										
Liability Insurance	87,517	127	5,100	87,644	87,644	0	0	87,644	0	0
Regular Education - Tuition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffing Allowance	61,824	-61,824	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Degree Changes	41,140	-41,140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salary Allowance	49,500	-49,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turnover Savings	-173,352	173,352	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	66,629	21,015	5,100	87,644	87,644	0	0	87,644	0	0
<b>Employee Benefits</b>										
Health Benefits	6,837,247	0	0	6,837,247	4,558,165	0	2,279,082	6,837,247	0	0
Social Security	490,505	12,606	38,531	503,111	314,355	0	188,756	503,111	0	0
Medicare	423,060	2,055	27,981	425,115	238,690	0	186,425	425,115	0	0
Workers Compensation	167,021	56,762	4,911	223,783	223,783	0	0	223,783	0	0
Unemployment Compensation	70,000	-14,000	-14,000	56,000	25,743	0	30,257	56,000	0	0
Early Retirement	4,759	0	0	4,759	4,759	0	0	4,759	0	0
Pension Program	843,835	11,845	16,845	855,680	517,007	0	338,673	855,680	0	0
GASB 43/45	250,000	0	0	250,000	250,000	0	0	250,000	0	0
Tuition Reimbursement	70,000	0	0	70,000	0	0	70,000	70,000	0	0
Life Insurance	84,790	710	710	85,500	65,107	0	20,393	85,500	0	0
Disability Insurance	16,313	1,162	1,162	17,475	11,628	0	5,847	17,475	0	0
Sick Bank	61,824	-47,235	-47,235	14,589	0	0	14,589	14,589	0	0
Management Services	10,000	-7,600	-7,600	2,400	-14,213	16,613	0	2,400	0	0
	9,329,354	16,305	21,305	9,345,659	6,195,024	16,613	3,134,022	9,345,659	0	0
<b>Copy Center</b>										
Non-Certified Salaries	60,300	-331	-331	59,969	39,238	20,272	459	59,969	0	0
Equipment Rental	127,767	0	0	127,767	89,329	27,872	10,566	127,767	0	0
Postage	18,070	0	0	18,070	7,313	0	10,757	18,070	0	0
Materials	13,871	0	0	13,871	8,732	658	4,481	13,871	0	0
	220,008	-331	-331	219,677	144,612	48,802	26,263	219,677		0

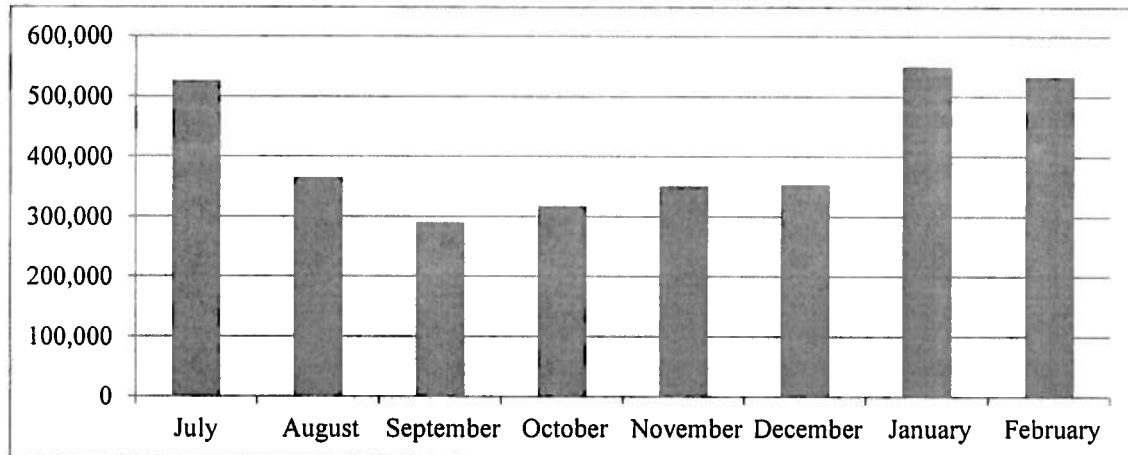
**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
INTERNAL SERVICES FUND  
FOR HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM  
Expected 2015 Includes Actual Claims Experience Through March 10, 2015**

Fiscal Year Ended	Actual 2015
<b>STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES</b>	
Fund Balance - July 1, 2014	1,693,288
Revenues:	
General Fund Appropriation (July - March)	5,127,935
Contributions:	
Employee Cost Sharing	499,190
Retiree/COBRA Contributions	225,959
State Teachers Retirement Reimbursement (TRE	49,046
Stop Loss Settlement	130,700
Total Contributions	904,895
Total Revenue {A}	6,032,830
Expenditures	
Aetna Medical & RX:	
Claims	3,389,672
Administrative Fees	77,751
Stop Loss	245,822
District Portion of H.S.A. Deductible	588,593
Delta Dental:	
Claims	235,976
Administrative Fees	14,288
Affordable Care Act Taxes	56,803
Medical Supplement/Other Costs	41,438
Total Health Plan Costs {B}	4,650,343
Net Change {A-F}	1,382,487
Fund Balance - March 10, 2015	3,075,775

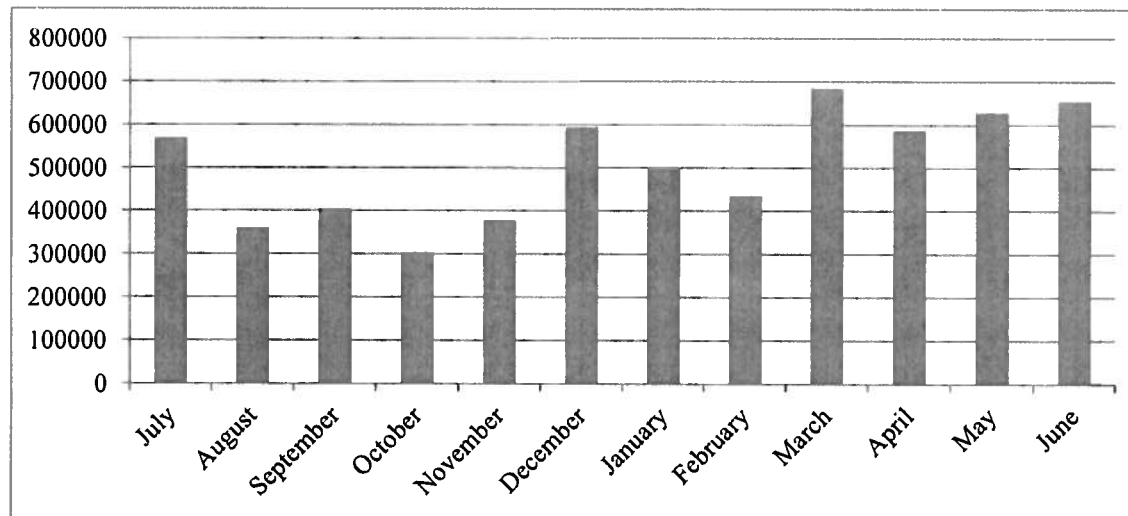
**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Monthly Claims for Medical & RX**  
**FOR HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM**

**Expected 2015 Includes Actual Claims Experience for July - February**

	Budget	Actual	Difference	Cumulative
July	575,525	525,829	-49,696	
August	575,525	364,712	-210,813	-260,509
September	575,525	290,820	-284,705	-545,214
October	575,525	317,974	-257,551	-802,765
November	575,525	351,502	-224,023	-1,026,788
December	575,525	353,523	-222,002	-1,248,790
January	575,525	549,538	-25,987	-1,274,777
February	575,525	533,541	-41,984	-1,316,761
	4,604,200	3,287,439	-1,316,761	



**Actual Claims for FY 2014**





# C.E.S. Regional Uniform School Calendar 2016-2017

<div>July</div> <div><div>1</div><div>4 5 6 7 8</div><div>11 12 13 14 15</div><div>18 19 20 21 22</div><div>25 26 27 28 29</div></div>	<div>August</div> <div><div>1 2 3 4 5</div><div>8 9 10 11 12</div><div>15 16 17 18 19</div><div>22 23 24 25 26</div><div>29 30 31</div></div>	<div>September (21)</div> <div><div><div>12</div><div>1</div><div>2</div></div><div>5 6 7 8 9</div><div>12 13 14 15 16</div><div>19 20 21 22 23</div><div>26 27 28 29 30</div></div>	<div>October (19)</div> <div><div>3 4 5 6 7</div><div>10 11 12 13 14</div><div>17 18 19 20 21</div><div>24 25 26 27 28</div><div>31</div></div>
30 Professional Development		1 Students Return 5 Labor Day - closed	3 Rosh Hashanah - closed 12 Yom Kippur - closed
<div>November (19)</div> <div><div>1 2 3 4</div><div>7 8 9 10 11</div><div>14 15 16 17 18</div><div>21 22 23 24 25</div><div>28 29 30</div></div>	<div>December (17)</div> <div><div>1 2</div><div>5 6 7 8 9</div><div>12 13 14 15 16</div><div>19 20 21 22 23</div><div>26 27 28 29 30</div></div>	<div>January (20)</div> <div><div>2 3 4 5 6</div><div>9 10 11 12 13</div><div>16 17 18 19 20</div><div>23 24 25 26 27</div><div>30 31</div></div>	<div>February (18)</div> <div><div>1 2 3</div><div>6 7 8 9 10</div><div>13 14 15 16 17</div><div>20 21 22 23 24</div><div>27 28</div></div>
8 Professional Development 24 & 25 Thanksgiving Holiday-closed		26 - 30 Holiday Recess – closed	2 Holiday Recess – closed 16 Martin Luther King Day closed
17 & 20 February Break - closed 20 Presidents' Day – closed			
<div>March (23)</div> <div><div>1 2 3</div><div>6 7 8 9 10</div><div>13 14 15 16 17</div><div>20 21 22 23 24</div><div>27 28 29 30 31</div></div>	<div>April (15)</div> <div><div>3 4 5 6 7</div><div>10 11 12 13 14</div><div>17 18 19 20 21</div><div>24 25 26 27 28</div></div>	<div>May (22)</div> <div><div>1 2 3 4 5</div><div>8 9 10 11 12</div><div>15 16 17 18 19</div><div>22 23 24 25 26</div><div>29 30 31</div></div>	<div>June (22)</div> <div><div>1 2</div><div>5 6 7 8 9</div><div>12 13 14 15 16</div><div>19 20 21 22 23</div><div>26 27 28 29 30</div></div>
10-14 Spring Recess – closed		29 Memorial Day -closed	

**Note:** State law requires that public schools operate 180 days for students.

**Key:**

**Bold** = No School

**Underline** = Uniform Professional Development Days – no students

**Parenthesis** Indicate total number of available student days in month

Uniform School Calendar allows each district 5 flex days

# WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT

March 16, 2015



Weston High School

Lisa Deorio, Principal

*In this issue...*

- Principal's Message*
- Academic Program*
- School Counseling Department*
- Professional Development*
- Co-Curricular Program*
- Alumni Update*

## **Principal's Update**

I am pleased to announce that our Mock Trial Red Team became the Connecticut State Champion at the competition held in Hartford in the chambers of the CT Supreme Court on Wednesday, March 4. The students on the winning Weston Red team are Ursula Alwang, Cameron Edgar, Sam Glasberg, Zoe Howard, Alex Ishin, Scarlett Machson, Ben Muller, Jack Seigenthaler, Henry Tracey, and Micah



Zirn. They did an outstanding job and have now advanced to the National Mock Trial competition representing Connecticut in Raleigh, North Carolina in May.

Weston fielded three teams in this year's competition, which consisted of over 70 teams from across the State. I would like to thank social studies teacher Brad Holderbach for serving in the role of faculty advisor as well as attorney coaches Dennis Tracey, Carl Bernstein, Marcia Hamelin, Denise Harvey, Rick Roff, Jeff Eglash, and Ken Edgar for all of their work this season with our students.

Please note that on Wednesday, March 18 all sophomores will take the Science CAPT, our State assessment for this discipline, during the school day. The special schedule for that day was sent home and is posted on our school website.

## **Academic Program**

### **English**

Our sophomores recently completed their study of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. As they engaged in this unit, students examined the multiple aspects of comedy, the deceptive power of language, and the importance of performance in the appreciation of a dramatic text. In addition to writing a focused analysis on character and language choices in the play, students also created an original performance using video to enhance their presentation. Part of their final assessment was a collaborative project where they scripted, directed, performed, and recorded an original scene involving the characters from the play. The performances not only demonstrated a thorough and perceptive understanding of *Twelfth Night*, but it also showcased their high levels of engagement in the unit.

### Math

The math department welcomed a visit from the Tri-State Consortium this month. A committee of “critical friends” came to assess our K-12 math program. The team observed classes, analyzed student work, and conducted interviews with teachers, students and parents. The recommendations of this visiting team will help direct future math action plans for the district.

Math teachers have been working on refining performance based assessments for each course. Algebra 1 students are in the midst of completing such an assessment for learning. They have been asked to identify two variables of interest to them that they presume to be linearly related, and then to perform a statistical regression analysis of their data. We are excited to see the results in the coming weeks.

### Music

Our annual Spectrum concert featuring district band musicians of all levels and schools was enjoyed by many in our community on Thursday, March 12 in our gymnasium. Traditionally this concert has been one of our highlights as we approach the spring season.

### Technology

Project Lead the Way students are working on a variety of projects leading into the spring season. Civil Engineering and Architecture students have just finished a residential design project and are teaming up with the Weston Historical Society to present at an upcoming exhibit highlighting architecture in Weston. Principles of Engineering students are building and programming Automated Guided Vehicles to test their robotics skills, and Introduction to Engineering Design students are developing 3D models of Bic pens and turning them into functional artifacts with the 3D printer.

### School Counseling Department

Course selection for the 2015-16 school year is nearly completed. Students have submitted their course requests on PowerSchool via the student/parent portal. We will build the master schedule over the course of the next several weeks. Counselors will meet with individual students during the month of April, if necessary, to resolve any schedule conflicts.

### Professional Development

Math teachers Mrs. Michelangelo, Mrs. Caracciolo, Mrs. Reens, and Mrs. Russo observed master teacher and Singapore math guru, Dr. Yeap Ban Har, when he guest taught classes at the middle school this month. Dr. Ban Har emphasized the importance of a problem-solving approach to math, and highlighted the learning principles that are the foundational theory behind the Singaporean approach. At a future professional development session, these teachers will be reflecting on their takeaways from these observations, and will be looking at applying these principles to lessons at the high school. We hope to have Dr. Ban Har come work with the entire high school department next year.

### Co-Curricular Program

Our eighth-grade club and sports fair, presented in conjunction with the student-parent transition night, was a resounding success. There were over 50 clubs and sports designed to give those in attendance a flavor of the variety of extra-curricular offerings at our school. Student representatives answered

questions, promoted the virtues of extra-curricular involvement, and registered prospective ninth-graders interested in expanding their first-year high school experience

### Athletics



Even under the most ominous of skies and the coldest of temperatures, our Trojan Football Team was out in force to help and support Weston Kiwanis and Weston Warm-Up Fund split wood to get ready for next year's sales. Each year, this team of approximately 32 young, strong and committed men collectively donate about 70 hours of volunteer time to help support those in need in our own community. Wood is either donated to help heat a home or sold with proceeds benefiting the Warm-Up Fund.

Indoor track had a terrific day at the New England Championships in Massachusetts. The Lady Trojans placed sixth in their 4x400 Relay. The Trojans placed second in the Boys 4x400 Relay and 4x200 Relay. A special congratulations to senior Simeon Okoro who is the New England Champion in the 300 meter dash.

Congratulations to our cheerleaders as well who took third place at their competition in Danbury. We wish all of our winter teams the best of luck as they enter their postseason competition.



### Company

Our spring musical *Barnum* will be presented over two weekends this month. Opening night is this Friday, March 20. We invite everyone in the community to enjoy this spectacular production. *Barnum* will run through Sunday, March 29.

### Alumni Update

WHS graduate Andrew Katz is pictured in the background with his camera at the White House where he is serving as an intern this year. If you wish to share news about your WHS alumnus, please email Mrs. Deorio at [lisadeorio@westonps.org](mailto:lisadeorio@westonps.org)



***In this issue...******Spectrum 2015******Take It Apart Station in the LLC******National Geography Bee Update******Grade 6 English Takes Action on the Research Process******Cornerstone Winner******SOAR Update******WMS Students Practice Acts of Kindness******Math League Prepares for the Next Competition*****Spectrum 2015**

The Spectrum concert features all of the high school and middle school instrumental ensembles from grades 6-12. This one hour concert of continuous music was rescheduled to Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Weston High School New Gym. The unique Spectrum format allows you to enjoy the talents of our student musicians in one setting. There is no admission fee, but because of the popularity of this event, we recommend that you arrive early to get the best seating.

**“Take It Apart Station” in the LLC**

The “take it apart” station in the Library Learning Commons (LLC) at Weston Middle School provides a range of unusable and non-functional technology for students to take apart and discover the inside mechanics of common equipment. Students have enjoyed working individually and with peers taking turns at working with each piece of technology to disassemble and reassemble in a collaborative manner. Screwdrivers, Allen keys, protective eyewear and gloves are available to students. This is an optional activity open to students daily during lunch and recess.

**National Geography Bee Update**

Adam Levin (8<sup>th</sup> Grade), winner of the National Geographic Bee, completed the written portion for the next round and qualified to compete in the State-level competition, sponsored by Plum Creek. The State National Geographic Bee will be held on Friday, March 27, 2015, at the Central Connecticut State University.



One winner from each state and territory will advance to the national competition, which will be held May 11-13 at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C.

**Cornerstone Winner**

Our eighth-grade students recently completed the AIM cornerstone task titled “The Legacy Project.”



A cornerstone is a highly engaging, cross-disciplinary task used to gauge student mastery of high priority 21st century skills, such as critical thinking and creative thinking. During the cornerstone week we were impressed as students carefully reflected on the needs of the



school community, weighed their ideas against the grant criteria, sought relevant resources, and worked diligently to compose persuasive proposals. This was a “real-world” task that required creativity, flexibility, and perseverance, producing for many students a more nuanced understanding of the constraints and opportunities of the school setting. This intellectual growth will continue as your student transitions to the high school and engages in rigorous units that will challenge him/her in critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving – skills Weston has identified as critical to real-world success.

Student work was evaluated on its ability to create the greatest amount of positive change or impact on the greatest number of individuals at Weston Middle School, as well as other key criteria outlined in the rubric. All students received individual support throughout the week from their “coach” to assist them in the process of this highly engaging work. After submitting their grant proposals, students wrote a self-reflection to their parents regarding the process. Parents will receive a report of their child’s performance including feedback based on the rubric criteria as well as your child’s self-reflection later this week. Students received rubric ratings that align to the 21st Century Skills Outcomes “Synthesize and Apply” (Critical Thinking) and “Innovate and Transform” (Creative Thinking).

Congratulations to the cornerstone finalists: Audrey Choi, Sophie Lang, Nicole Prackup, Robert Constantine, Aarya Madan, Chloe Schrader, Tommy Schwartz, Cameron Storey, Taryn Siegel, and Jennifer Welsh.



The 2015 cornerstone winners are Tommy Schwartz and Cameron Storey. These two students took their individual ideas as finalists and saw the strength in collaborating to combine their proposals. The winning proposal was titled: “Need for News.” The students developed a plan to improve the quality of the *Morning Show*. This project met the grant criteria of causing the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

### **Grade 6 English Takes Action on the Research Process**

The students in sixth-grade English classes are deep in the research process. These students are learning the importance of critically thinking about the validity, reliability, and credibility of the informational sources that are always available at the click of a finger. They are learning about the importance of finding primary sources for information and have been involved with emailing, visiting, and interviewing with experts in assorted fields from all over the nation and the world. You should see their excitement when they turn on their computers and see a response from someone they wrote to. “I got an answer!” is echoed throughout the room. It is the power of an authentic audience at work. The students are learning the skills needed for decision making and collaboration and are entering the world of digital media production as they plan and create digital presentations.

### **SOAR Update**

Our SOAR Advisory groups recently completed a lesson on perseverance. Students reflected on the quote: “The door to success is always marked push.” After watching a brief video clip about people who have overcome adversity, the students discussed the concept of positive self-talk. Using their “inner voices,” advisory groups brainstormed different affirmations or mantras they can use during



times they need to “push through.” Examples include, “Never give up,” “I will make the most of this,” “I will try,” and “Just keep going.” Positive self-talk is an empowering tool for people of any age to use. Our next SOAR Advisory lesson will be on community responsibility. Students will be discussing how their individual decisions affect the greater community and how small changes can make a big difference.

WMS continues to rotate SOAR days with Drop Everything And Read to encourage and celebrate reading for enjoyment. We also have instituted Drop Everything And Organize in which advisors review ways of organizing student binders and lockers, and have students share their own tips for organizational success. These lessons will be on an as needed basis. Follow up home discussions to reinforce advisory lessons are always key to keep our school community SOARing.

### **WMS Students Practice Acts of Kindness**

The SGA (Student Government Association) hosted our second annual Kindness Cookie Fundraising Event in celebration of National Random Acts of Kindness Week. This event came as a result of the SGA students wanting to plan an event that “pays it forward.” Over 430 cookies were sold and randomly distributed to students and staff last week with a special note from the sender. Because of the overwhelming enthusiasm in grade 6, all students and staff received a cookie!



### **Math League Prepares for the Next Competition**

Weston tied for third place at its third competition of the Fairfield County Junior Math League. Five schools faced off, including teams from St. Luke's, Saxe, Middlesex, and East Ridge. The competition was fierce and the Weston team is currently preparing to avenge their loss to Darien and Redding. The next meet will be on Tuesday, March 24 at Middlesex Middle School.

<b>Weston Intermediate School</b>	<b>Pattie Falber, Principal</b>
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### **Adapting Fairy Tales**

Did you ever hear the story of “Cinderella” taking place in New York City? Or the story of “Three Billy Goats Gruff” with robots instead of goats? Unusual, yes, but these are just some of the stories

our third graders are writing during their unit on fractured fairytales. Students are learning the magic of fairy tales and practicing their storytelling skills while writing adapted tales and creating their own original fairy tale. This unit is one of the narrative writing units that helps students to not only develop their creative writing skills, but also understand how story elements are connected in a logical and meaningful way.

### **Sheep Eye Dissection**



As part of the science unit on light energy, fifth grade students study the parts of the eye and how they work together to collect images, which are transmitted to the brain for interpretation. During this study students have an opportunity to take part in an actual sheep eye dissection. Working in small groups, students observe as a teacher dissects the eye. Students have a chance to touch and feel the different parts of the eye, ask questions, and explore the similarities and differences between a sheep eye and a human eye. This optional activity (we understand that not all can stomach an eye dissection) has become one of the most anticipated learning experiences in fifth grade.

### **Black History Month Assembly**

We had a whole school assembly this month as a way to celebrate and culminate Black History Month. Each classroom had selected a prominent figure to research and learn about. They then created posters to hang on a timeline in the main hallway in order to showcase their learning. At the assembly, one student from each class shared a few facts that their class learned. The whole school, led by Mrs. Moretti, sang “Lift Every Voice and Sing” written by James Weldon Johnson. It was a wonderful way to come together as a learning community and celebrate Black History Month.



### **All-School Snowman Building**

At the end of February, the students took part in a school-wide celebration for earning 75 paws. The staff awards paws to groups of students who show PRIDE behavior: Personal accountability, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, and Effort. For every 25 paws, we hold a celebration, past examples of which include a pajama day and even a dance party. Last Friday, each class had the opportunity to go outside and build a snowman, snow-animal, snowwoman, etc. They were asked to be creative and have fun by enjoying some time in the snow. Although the snow was a little icy and not as easy to work with as they hoped, the students had a lot of fun and worked together in the fields surrounding the school.



### **WIS School Musical**

More than 50 fourth and fifth graders in WIS’s theatre group, Showstoppers, helped prove how true the lyrics “Rock ‘n roll is here to stay” are this past March 7 and 8, as they hand jived, lindy hopped, and sang their way through the 50s in our school musical, *At The Bandstand*. The cafetorium stage was turned into a giant TV screen, filled with dancers, poodle skirts, a dance contest, and even a teen heart-





throb host, as we “sat ‘round the family TV” watching terrific singing and dancing to songs we all know and love like, “Splish Splash,” “Shaboom Shaboom,” “Johnny Angel,” and “Save the Last Dance For Me.” For many members of the cast, this was their first time in a musical, and they were all amazing.

### **Dr. Seuss Day**

To celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday on March 2, the fifth-grade LRC Wolfpups sponsored a variety of school-wide activities throughout the week. The week began with a Seuss themed bookmark contest. Winners of the contest were chosen from each grade and the winning bookmarks will be replicated for use by students for the entire month of March. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Wolfpups read their favorite Dr. Seuss book to third- and fourth-grade classes. And then on Friday, students dressed in a Seuss themed outfit.



### **Robotics Club**

Thanks to the Weston Education Foundation, WIS has been able to start a robotics program. Our robotics program uses the VEX Robotics system to introduce students to the concepts of design, construction, and programming of robots. This year, there are two eight-week sessions running at WIS. Currently, there are 24 students participating in one class. Due to demand, in the next session, there will be another section added so that 48 total students can participate in the program.

### **Teacher Professional Development with Dr. Ban Har**



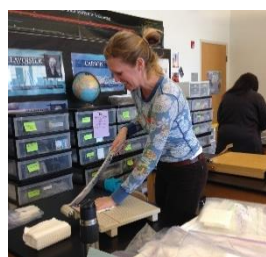
On Monday, March 2, Weston Intermediate School welcomed Dr. Yeap Ban Har from the Singapore Math Institute. During this visit, teachers were able to observe him teach a grade-level math lesson. Afterward the teachers were able to meet with Dr. Ban Har to discuss the key elements of his teaching and lesson outcomes. This was particularly helpful now that all teachers have had some experience teaching with the Math in Focus

program. Teachers were able to ask questions and gain new insights on how to best use the content and the materials to differentiate instruction for all levels of students.



### **Parent Volunteers**

A big “Thank you” to our parent volunteers who spent a morning cutting out hundreds of pieces of paper for third grade’s upcoming soggy paper science experiment. This embedded task is a favorite for our students, and details of the results will be highlighted in next month’s newsletter.



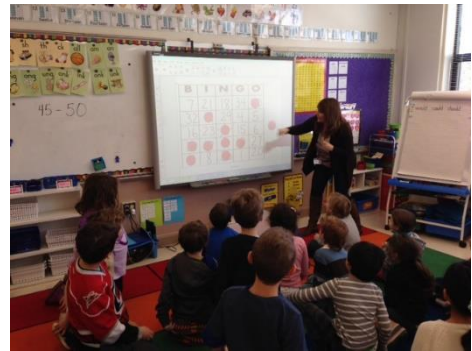
*In this issue...      Hurlbutt Celebrates a Positive School Climate  
Teaching and Learning  
Success for All  
Professional Development*

### **Hurlbutt Celebrates a Positive School Climate**

Once again, Hurlbutt students have filled the honeyhive. Classes work together to be safe, kind, and responsible to earn slices of a honeycomb. When their class honeycomb is complete, they send it down to the honeyhive near the main office. When the honeyhive is full, we celebrate as a community. This month, Hurlbutt students participated in Bingo Day. During morning announcements, school counselor Meg Sullivan called out numbers between one and 40. Each class had a bingo board displayed on the smartboard. This activity supports our kindergarten math curriculum. Kindergarteners are learning about numbers up to 40, and they were excited to be able to put their knowledge to work. Many classes continued the theme throughout the day with sight word bingo to help reinforce their reading skills.

### **Teaching and Learning**

When visiting our classrooms you may see a young reader using a whisper “phone.” This tool is a simple tube that is shaped like a telephone receiver, often made from plastic PVC pipe. The pipe funnels the child’s voice directly to his/her ear. They use the phone to listen to their own voice as they quietly practice reading. This intentional focus on hearing sounds helps the students acquire phonemic awareness, a critical element to developing necessary proficient reader phonologic processing pathways. The phones are also used as a tool to help build oral reading fluency. Students often reach for their whisper phones when revising their writing. This use enables students to hear how their writing sounds, which supports their independence.



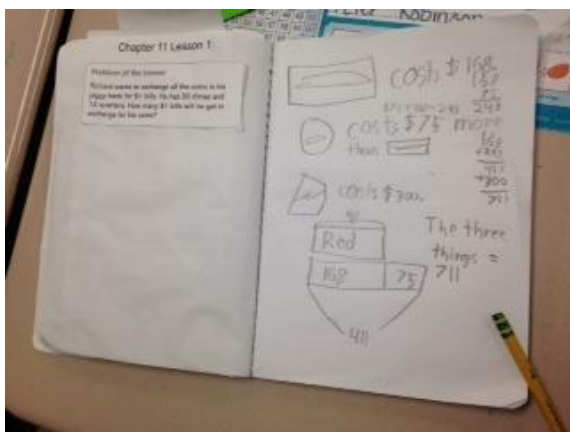
Our kindergarten authors have been wrapping up their how-to writing unit. How-to non-fiction books teach their readers about a topic using a variety of writing techniques and craft. Throughout the unit, the students continue to learn about writing conventions, and they have been integrating all of the skills

they have learned from our Foundations spelling program. All of our students published their favorite how-to book. One class celebrated with an author's tea. Families and staff were invited to join our young authors as they shared their books. Ms. Cebulski opened the event with a lemonade toast. "May your pencils always be sharp, may your minds be full of ideas, and may you always keep your excitement and love for writing!"

### **Success for All**

At least four times a year, Hurlbutt's literacy data team gathers to review the progress of all our students. We look at multiple data sources, including classroom-based reading assessments, to track the development of early literacy skills and reading levels. Our team of certified staff discusses strategies and programs that support continuous student growth. Our guidance counselors and school psychologist are integral parts of this team as we always focus on the whole child.

### **Professional Development**



This month, Dr. Yeap Ban Har led a math professional development session for our teachers. Dr. Ban Har teaches mathematics education courses at the National Institute of Education, a teacher education institute in Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. His research interests include problem solving and problem posing, early numeracy, and teacher professional development. Our teachers first observed Dr. Ban Har teach a lesson in a kindergarten classroom and in a second-grade classroom. Teachers then had the opportunity to talk to Dr. Ban Har in a follow-up session where he discussed best practices for developing early mathematical thinking and problem solving. Our math curriculum utilizes the Math in Focus program, an authentic Singapore Math® curriculum – with problem solving as the center of math learning and concepts taught with a concrete–pictorial–abstract learning progression through real-world, hands-on experiences.

The Hurlbutt community participated in the National Education Association's Read Across America Day. This is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on March 2 – Dr. Seuss' birthday. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate. In true Hurlbutt style, we turned this annual day into a week-long celebration of reading. Each day's theme was associated with a Dr. Seuss book and students enjoyed dressing up for the events. We had a *Fox in Socks* day and many students and staff wore wear crazy or mismatched socks. *Wacky Wednesday* is always a popular theme as well – what young child doesn't love to wear their clothes



inside out or backwards? Classes also took a walk around the building to find as many wacky things as they could in our hallways. Can you find something wacky on the bulletin board picture?



During the week, we counted all of our in-school reading minutes to make a trip across America from Weston, CT to Weston, OR. Each reading minute equaled one mile on our trip. The students enjoyed watching our progress on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Many families joined in with activities at home to promote family literacy. We hope you do too. Happy reading and happy birthday, Dr. Seuss.