

I.	CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM Philip Schaefer, Chairperson	
II.	EXECUTIVE SESSION	
	1. Matters Pertaining to Personnel • Appointment of Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal • Non-Renewal of Long-Term Substitute Teachers • Non-Renewal Long-Term Building Substitute Teachers • Non-Renewal Reduction in Force – Teachers	
	2. Update on Ongoing Litigation, Zipkis vs. Board of Education et al	
III.	RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	
IV.	RECOGNITION	None
V.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES, <i>page 1-4</i>	Motion
VI.	PUBLIC COMMENT	Information
VII.	NEW BUSINESS	
	1. Appointment of Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, <i>pages 5-6</i>	Motion
	2. Non-Renewal of Long-Term Substitute Teachers	Motion
	3. Non-Renewal Long-Term Building Substitute Teachers	Motion
	4. Non-Renewal Reduction in Force – Teachers	Motion
	5. Resignation, <i>page 7</i>	Motion
	6. Gifts, <i>page 8</i>	Motion
	7. 2013-2014 Tuition Rates, <i>page 9</i>	Motion
	8. Third Quarter Report, <i>pages 10-20</i>	Motion
VIII.	OLD BUSINESS	None
IX.	SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT	
	1. Special Board Meeting Monday, May 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.; Next Regular Board Meeting Monday, May 20, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.	Information
	2. District Update	Information
	3. Principals’ Report, <i>pages 21-32</i>	Information
X.	COMMITTEE REPORTS	
	1. Communications Committee - Dana Levin	Information
	2. Curriculum Committee - Ellen Uzenoff	Information
	3. Finance Committee - Denise Harvey	Information
	4. Facilities Committee - Sonya Stack	Information
	5. Policy Committee - Dana Levin	Information
	6. Negotiations Committee - Dick Bochinski	Information
	7. CES - Sonya Stack	Information
	8. CABE - Nina Daniel	Information

WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, April 23, 2013
Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
Executive Session 6:30 p.m.
Regular Session 7:30 p.m.

9. Weston Education Foundation - Denise Harvey

Information

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Weston Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
March 28, 2013

Attendance:

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

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.

III. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. RECOGNITION

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education recognizes Weston Public Schools for its contribution to the Town of Weston's national distinction by the NAMM Foundation as one of the Best Communities for Music Education. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (7-0)

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the February 25, 2013 Executive and Regular Sessions. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Mrs. Levin, (5) in favor, (2) abstain. (5-2-0)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resignation

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes and records the resignation of Daniel McNeill, Hurlbutt Elementary School Grade 2 Teacher, effective June 30, 2013. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Mrs. Stack, all in favor. (7-0)

2. Retirement

Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes and records the

retirement of Lorraine Westervelt, Weston Middle School Technology Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2013. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Mrs. Harvey, all in favor. (7-0)

3. Revisions to Budget Request

Dr. Palmer and Dr. Keating discussed the revised FY 2014 budget request.

Motion: Moved that the Board of Education approve revisions to the Board of Education's FY 2014 budget request from \$46,293,668 to \$45,765,418. Motion by Mrs. Daniel, second by Mr. Bochinski, all in favor. (7-0)

4. School Resource Officer

Dr. Marotto provided a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation regarding the roles and responsibilities of an SRO and the vision for an SRO support within Weston High School and the district at-large. Mrs. Wolak and Dr. Marotto answered questions following the presentation.

5. Discussion of Format of Board of Education Meeting Minutes

The Board discussed the role of technology, records retention periods, and desired format of meeting minutes.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS - None

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Special Board Meeting Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.; Next Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

2. Principals' Report

Ms. Wolak, Weston High School Principal commented on the Department of Motor vehicles video contest. Mrs. Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, discussed sixth graders connecting with students in Amman, Jordan. Mrs. Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal, spoke about the school-wide Dr. Seuss celebration and the LRC Wolfpups reading competition. Dr. Cicchetti, Hurlbutt Elementary School Interim Principal, discussed the school's week-long Dr. Seuss celebration, a faculty meeting literacy activity, and a kindergartener's trip to the Capitol.

3. District Update

Dr. Palmer discussed the Hurlbutt Elementary School principal search, the upcoming April 1 security presentation by Dr. Keating, the upcoming NEASC visit, March musical productions, and the Bhutan delegation's visit to Weston High School and the United Nations. A visitation partnership with Bhutan will be discussed as an agenda item in the next Curriculum Committee meeting. June 19 was announced as the date for Commencement.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Communications Committee: Mrs. Levin discussed budget communications, an upcoming real estate office visit, and a March 16 *Wall Street Journal* article. Next meeting April 24 at 8:00 a.m.

2. **Curriculum Committee:** nothing to report. Next meeting April 10 at 8:00 a.m.
3. **Finance Committee:** nothing to report. Next meeting April 12 at 8:00 a.m.
4. **Facilities Committee:** Mrs. Stack discussed the following items from the last Committee meeting: reservation procedures; the garden project; cost avoidance report; exterior lighting; and a computerized key system. Next meeting April 4 at 4:00 p.m.
5. **Policy Committee:** Mrs. Levin spoke about the SRO discussion. Next meeting April 3 at 8:30 a.m.
6. **Negotiations Committee:** nothing to report
7. **CES:** Mrs. Stack spoke about the Commissioner of the State Department of Education's visit to the last meeting and his discussion of a common core practice test, waivers on regulations/constraints, technology, and teacher evaluations/observations.
8. **CABE:** Mrs. Daniel spoke about an upcoming common core seminar and an impact study contained in the March 28 *Policy Highlights* email.
9. **Weston Education Foundation:** Mrs. Harvey announced three new WEF Board members and discussed a presentation by Dr. Palmer on blended learning, the creation of an informational video on what the Foundation does, development of synergies between local nonprofits, request for nominations for an award, and two events happening in September: a Civil War encampment and trivia night.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion to adjourn by Ms. Daniel, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor. (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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

Weston Public Schools
Special Board of Education Meeting
Weston Middle School Library Resource Center
April 9, 2013

Attendance:

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

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Troxell, Weston Police Department Chief of Police, spoke in favor of a school resource officer (SRO).

III. AGENDA ITEMS

The Board of Education discussed the benefits of an SRO.

MOTION: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the position of a School Resource Officer for Weston Public Schools, with the conditions of such to be set forth in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board of Education and the Weston Police Commission. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second Mrs. Harvey, all in favor. (7-0)

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion to adjourn by Ms. Daniel, second by Mrs. Stack, all in favor. (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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

Laura Kaddis
56 Lords Highway
Weston, CT 06883
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ilkaddis@optonline.net

STRENGTHS & HIGHLIGHTS

- Achieved over ten years of proven leadership experience at the elementary school level
- Fosters collaboration and community with faculty and families to surpass school and district goals
- Developed exceptional skills as a trusted listener, advocate and advisor for parents
- Formed consistently high-performing teams of educators through the creation of a collaborative school leadership team

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Principal, Hayestown Elementary School, Danbury, CT: July 2002 - Present

For the past decade, I have been the sole administrator for a PreK – 5 school with up to 500 students and 80 staff members. During this time, I have brought the staff and the community together to create a learning environment in Danbury focused on achievement, growth and collaboration.

Achievements

- Raised CMT scores by 24% in Reading and 20% in Math school-wide.
- Supervised and led Preschool with 90 students and 22 staff members
- Facilitated the school in being recognized as the first “Healthy School” in Danbury
- Modeled and supported the use of student work as a tool for instructional planning and support services using the Data Team process
- Designed and implemented a data management system for teachers
- Initiated successful partnership with Columbia Reading and Writing Project
- Led grade level curriculum alignment and collaboration to ensure fidelity of implementation
- Directed transition from modeling lessons to in-class coaching of balanced literacy and math
- Certified in Marzano Evaluation Model and iObservation (anticipated June 2013)

Outreach

- Created community and parent volunteer program
- Led creation of Curriculum Night and Parent Night series
- Communicated and supported programs and policies of school through Family Reading Nights, Math/PE Nights, Family Game Nights, PTO, Open House, Preschool Outreach
- Partnered with Literacy Volunteers from the Jewish Federation of Greater Danbury Area to assist Hayestown to become a first cadre member school
- Coordinated and led largest participation rate in Danbury Kids Marathon
- Developed partnership with WestConn Football Team mentor program

Assistant Principal, John Read Middle School, Redding, CT: 1999 - 2002

For three years, I served as the Assistant Principal, providing instructional, operational, strategic and cultural leadership for approximately 600 students in grades 5-8.

- Created academic support program for high achieving as well as struggling students
- Led science curriculum revision through district-wide K-12 committee
- Chaired PPT meetings
- Assisted in creation of operating budget

Assistant Director, Summer Enrichment Program, New Canaan, CT: 1996 - 1998

- Assisted in the implementation and supervision of a K-12 enrichment program that included high school courses for credit

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Reading/Math Specialist, Springdale Elementary School, Stamford, CT: 1995 - 1999

- Taught K-5 intervention groups, co-taught with special education teacher and led professional development for teachers

Fifth Grade Teacher, Davenport Ridge Elementary School, Stamford, CT: 1994 - 1995

- Taught a diverse group of students in all core subject areas

First Grade Teacher, Billy Mitchell School, Lawndale, CA: 1993 - 1994

- Taught a combination class of 26 first graders and 6 second graders in all subjects, including PE, Music and Art

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & TRAINING

- Coaching Institute, Columbia Reading and Writing Project
- Columbia Readers/Writers Workshop training
- DRA, running records training
- Created Crisis Plan and Trained Staff on emergency procedures
- Member of Community Nutrition Policy Committee
- Tri-State Consortium (visiting and receiving teams)

CERTIFICATIONS

- Connecticut, Intermediate Administrator Certificate (092)
- Connecticut, Provisional Educator, PreK-8
- California, Professional, PreK-12, adult education (inactive)

EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

- **University of Connecticut**, Stamford, CT - Sixth Year: Educational Leadership
- **University of California**, Los Angeles, CA - Masters of Education
- **George Washington University**, Washington, DC - Bachelor of Arts
Dean's List, President-Sigma Kappa Sorority

Doris Fiதாகის
120 Old Belden Hill Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897
Phone: 203-847-4272
E-mail: dfio@sbcglobal.net

RECEIVED
APR 15 2013
HUMAN RESOURCES

12 April 2013

Mr. Lewis Brey
Director of Human Resources
Weston Public Schools
24 School Road
Weston, Ct. 06883

Dear Lewis:

Please consider this notice that I do not wish to return to
Weston as a part-time employee next year.

Thank you for all your support in the past.

Sincerely,



Doris Fiதாகის

April 3, 2013

Dr. Colleen Palmer
Superintendent
Weston Public Schools

Dear Dr. Palmer,

Please accept the enclosed \$7,500 check as the final payment from the Weston Middle School PTO for the AIM initiative.

We look forward to working with the administration on future opportunities to enrich the lives of our students.



Janet Hoffman
WMS Philanthropy

Cc: Amy Watkins, WMS Principal
BOE

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2013-14 TUITION RATES**

NEW NON-RESIDENT PUPILS

<u>ELEMENTARY GRADES K-5</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Semester</u>
KINDERGARTEN	\$15,510.00	\$7,755.00
REGULAR	\$15,510.00	\$7,755.00
GIFTED	Actual Cost	
SPECIAL EDUCATION	Actual Cost	
<u>MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 6-8</u>		
REGULAR	\$16,201.00	\$8,100.50
GIFTED	Actual Cost	
SPECIAL EDUCATION	Actual Cost	
<u>HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 9-12</u>		
REGULAR	\$16,464.00	\$8,232.00
GIFTED	Actual Cost	
SPECIAL EDUCATION	Actual Cost	

CERTIFIED STAFF NON-RESIDENT PUPILS

<u>ELEMENTARY GRADES K-5</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Semester</u>
KINDERGARTEN	\$3,877.50	\$1,938.75
REGULAR	\$3,877.50	\$1,938.75
GIFTED	Actual Cost	
SPECIAL EDUCATION	Actual Cost	
<u>MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 6-8</u>		
REGULAR	\$4,050.25	\$2,025.13
GIFTED	Actual Cost	
SPECIAL EDUCATION	Actual Cost	
<u>HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 9-12</u>		
REGULAR	\$4,116.00	\$2,058.00
GIFTED	Actual Cost	
SPECIAL EDUCATION	Actual Cost	

For approval by Weston Board of Education at the April 23, 2013 meeting.

Weston Board of Education Policy 5118

Weston Public Schools

3rd Financial Report for FY 2013

The third financial report for the FY 2013 General Fund Operating Budget can be found on pages 3 through 10 of this document. The financial information presented in this section of the report includes the adopted budget, quarterly and year-to-date budget transfers, the revised budget (original budget plus or minus transfers), actual year-to-date 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. This report reflects transfers for three unanticipated expenditures. The details are as follows:

1. Additional service requirements for students with special needs occurred after the reforecast of December 31, 2012.

Transfer to:

Professional Educational Services	30,000
Tuition Out-of-District	<u>40,000</u>
Total	70,000

Transfer from:

Pupil Personnel Services - Postage	3,000
Curriculum & Instruction - Professional Services	10,000
Curriculum & Instruction - Materials	8,000
Curriculum & Instruction - Books	7,500
District Administration - Legal Settlements	18,300
District-Wide - Tuition from Regular Education Students	21,725
District-Wide - Sick Bank	<u>1,475</u>
Total	70,000

2. The district hired a roofing company to clear snow from school roofs after the February blizzard. FEMA reimburses 75% of the eligible cost. The district must incur the remaining cost. It is worth noting that clearing the roofs enabled the district to avoid school closings following the storm.

Transfer to:

Facilities - Contracted Services	35,000
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Transfer from:

Hurlbutt Elementary School - Materials	15,000
Weston High School - Materials	<u>20,000</u>
Total	35,000

2. During the lockdown at Weston High School in February, the district's network failed because it did not have sufficient capacity to process the traffic. Since it is essential that the district have the technology infrastructure necessary to communicate during emergencies, the switch replacement project that had been scheduled for this summer was accelerated and completed during the April recess.

Transfer to:

Technology - Equipment	57,900
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Transfer from:

Hurlbutt Elementary School - Books	2,000
Hurlbutt Elementary School - Equipment	3,000
Weston Intermediate School - Materials	6,000
Weston Intermediate School - Books	8,000
Weston Middle School - Materials	14,000
Weston Middle School - Books	9,000
Technology - Equipment Repairs	10,000
District Administration - Materials	3,000
District-Wide - Sick Bank	<u>2,900</u>
Total	57,900

Note: The district has preserved funds in several accounts, such as equipment repairs and substitute teachers salaries, that may not be needed. If this occurs, the administration will assess the material and book needs of the schools and reallocate funds accordingly.

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
3RD FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

Descriptions	FY 2013 Adopted Budget	Year-to-Date Budget Adjustments	3rd Quarter Budget Adjustments	FY 2013 Revised Budget	FY 2013 Expended	FY 2013 Encumbered	FY 2013 Anticipated	FY 2013 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Certified Salaries	22,603,693	-518,684	0	22,085,009	15,273,310	6,297,361	514,338	22,085,009	0
Non-Certified Salaries	5,714,810	135,578	0	5,850,388	4,610,070	1,191,924	48,394	5,850,388	0
Employee Benefits	8,737,043	93,707	-4,375	8,830,750	6,889,164	10,587	1,930,999	8,830,750	0
Total Employee Cost	37,055,546	-289,399	-4,375	36,766,147	26,772,544	7,499,872	2,493,731	36,766,147	0
Professional Educational Services	761,610	66,390	30,000	828,000	521,662	276,130	30,208	828,000	0
Professional Technical Services	896,430	134,699	-32,443	1,031,129	697,802	225,402	107,925	1,031,129	0
Utilities	104,980	14,290	0	119,270	78,682	32,893	7,695	119,270	0
Contracted Services/Maint. Projects	2,546,608	26,916	35,000	2,573,524	2,210,276	250,074	113,174	2,573,524	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	622,723	6,699	-6,800	629,422	443,923	135,226	50,273	629,422	0
Communications	129,292	-8,917	4,143	120,375	113,779	6,596	0	120,375	0
Other Insurance	197,112	-17,746	0	179,366	179,366	0	0	179,366	0
Postage/Advertising/Printing	65,242	-4,243	-3,000	60,999	39,641	4,797	16,561	60,999	0
Out-of-District Tuition	1,280,272	12,704	40,000	1,292,976	1,103,017	189,001	958	1,292,976	0
Training & Reimbursable Expenses	91,920	3,240	0	95,160	46,813	9,088	39,259	95,160	0
Energy	1,062,555	44,747	0	1,107,302	813,337	0	293,965	1,107,302	0
Materials	1,161,533	-19,370	-71,114	1,142,163	866,751	183,419	91,993	1,142,163	0
Books	147,338	-31,251	-26,500	116,087	85,740	8,486	21,861	116,087	0
Equipment	93,327	59,572	56,814	152,899	85,501	59,028	8,370	152,899	0
Dues & Fees	77,319	5,907	0	83,226	72,375	3,018	7,833	83,226	0
Miscellaneous	18,500	4,370	0	22,870	18,168	2,139	2,563	22,870	0
Total Non-Salary Accounts	9,256,761	298,007	26,100	9,554,768	7,376,833	1,385,297	792,638	9,554,768	0
General Fund Budget	46,312,307	8,608	21,725	46,320,915	34,149,377	8,885,169		46,320,915	0
Fees/Gate Receipts/P&R	-144,528	9,941	0	-134,587	-81,164	-12,859	-40,564	-134,587	0
Excess Cost Grant/Tuitions/Rev.	-580,587	-18,549	-21,725	-599,136	-448,046	-9,450	-141,640	-599,136	0
Total General Fund & Grants	45,587,192	0	0	45,587,192	33,620,167	8,862,860	-182,204	45,587,192	0

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
3RD FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

Descriptions	FY 2013 Adopted Budget	Year-to-Date Budget Adjustments	3rd Quarter Budget Adjustments	FY 2013 Revised Budget	FY 2013 Expended	FY 2013 Encumbered	FY 2013 Anticipated	FY 2013 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Hurlbutt Elementary School									
Certified Salaries	2,868,247	-369,762	0	2,498,485	1,717,935	773,040	7,510	2,498,485	0
Non-Certified Salaries	341,946	-35,466	0	306,480	245,549	60,931	0	306,480	0
Professional Technical Services	3,015	0	0	3,015	1,386	0	1,629	3,015	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	3,740	0	0	3,740	1,834	160	1,746	3,740	0
Postage/Printing	1,000	0	0	1,000	126	0	874	1,000	0
Reimbursable Expenses	250	0	0	250	0	0	250	250	0
Materials	50,714	-9,447	-15,000	41,267	36,264	1,307	3,696	41,267	0
Books	17,750	-2,000	-2,000	15,750	10,868	3,728	1,154	15,750	0
Equipment	4,100	-3,000	-3,000	1,100	1,030	53	17	1,100	0
Dues & Fees	1,675	0	0	1,675	523	0	1,152	1,675	0
	3,292,437	-419,675	-20,000	2,872,762	2,015,515	839,219	18,028	2,872,762	0
Weston Intermediate School									
Certified Salaries	3,459,475	-36,318	0	3,423,157	2,373,516	983,494	66,147	3,423,157	0
Non-Certified Salaries	236,275	-51	0	236,224	173,072	63,152	0	236,224	0
Professional Technical Services	900	0	0	900	0	0	900	900	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	3,220	0	0	3,220	848	220	2,152	3,220	0
Postage/Printing	1,000	0	0	1,000	995	0	5	1,000	0
Reimbursable Expenses	500	0	0	500	0	0	500	500	0
Materials	41,387	-6,240	-6,000	35,147	28,112	3,857	3,178	35,147	0
Books	41,614	-8,000	-8,000	33,614	29,993	1,536	2,085	33,614	0
Equipment	522	-522	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	1,304	0	0	1,304	828	89	387	1,304	0
	3,786,197	-51,131	-14,000	3,735,066	2,607,364	1,052,348	75,354	3,735,066	0

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
3RD FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

Descriptions	FY 2013 Adopted Budget	Year-to-Date Budget Adjustments	3rd Quarter Budget Adjustments	FY 2013 Revised Budget	FY 2013 Expended Encumbered	FY 2013 Anticipated	FY 2013 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Weston Middle School								
Certified Salaries	4,397,518	13,592	0	4,411,110	3,055,368	90,513	4,411,110	0
Non-Certified Salaries	223,842	354	0	224,196	173,559	0	224,196	0
Professional Technical Services	18,590	951	0	19,541	5,676	8,804	19,541	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	10,825	-1,700	0	9,125	4,047	4,578	9,125	0
Postage/Printing	3,452	0	0	3,452	2,245	1,207	3,452	0
Reimbursable Expenses	700	0	0	700	0	700	700	0
Materials	87,050	-14,775	-14,000	72,275	54,513	3,769	72,275	0
Books	18,307	-9,000	-9,000	9,307	7,275	1,961	9,307	0
Equipment	34,150	50	0	34,200	33,635	565	34,200	0
Dues & Fees	3,420	180	0	3,600	2,189	1,411	3,600	0
	4,797,854	-10,348	-23,000	4,787,506	3,338,507	113,508	4,787,506	0
Weston High School								
Certified Salaries	5,075,151	-65,003	0	5,010,148	3,438,268	91,620	5,010,148	0
Non-Certified Salaries	224,352	-9,899	0	214,453	178,891	0	214,453	0
Professional Technical Services	42,245	0	0	42,245	9,992	10,605	42,245	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	12,868	-1,214	0	11,654	3,605	5,064	11,654	0
Postage/Printing	16,421	-2,228	0	14,193	10,013	3,439	14,193	0
Reimbursable Expenses	2,800	290	0	3,090	1,550	1,540	3,090	0
Materials	151,250	-24,273	-20,000	126,977	108,815	13,616	126,977	0
Books	27,167	560	0	27,727	23,298	2,099	27,727	0
Equipment	4,200	4,937	0	9,137	8,262	875	9,137	0
Dues & Fees	11,950	350	0	12,300	10,265	1,856	12,300	0
Parking Fees	-20,000	0	0	-20,000	-20,000	0	-20,000	0
	5,548,404	-96,480	-20,000	5,451,924	3,772,959	130,714	5,451,924	0

**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
3RD FINANCIAL REPORT**

July 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

Descriptions	FY 2013 Adopted Budget	Year-to-Date Budget Adjustments	3rd Quarter Budget Adjustments	FY 2013 Revised Budget	FY 2013 Expended	FY 2013 Encumbered	FY 2013 Anticipated	FY 2013 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Athletics									
Certified Salaries/Coaches Stipends	480,077	-14,211	0	465,866	325,263	26,670	113,933	465,866	0
Non-Certified Salaries	113,130	4,149	0	117,279	77,366	12,282	27,631	117,279	0
Professional Technical Services	80,669	-2,100	0	78,569	42,259	1,400	34,910	78,569	0
Police/Fire Services	4,000	0	0	4,000	2,848	402	750	4,000	0
Insurance	7,779	2,221	0	10,000	10,000	0	0	10,000	0
Transportation - Extra Curricular	77,622	0	0	77,622	57,121	19,826	675	77,622	0
Materials	55,000	0	0	55,000	23,101	6,631	25,268	55,000	0
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	14,318	0	0	14,318	14,300	0	18	14,318	0
Participation Fees/Gate Receipts	-94,678	9,941	0	-84,737	-44,173		-40,564	-84,737	0
	737,917	0	0	737,917	508,085	67,211	162,621	737,917	0
Special Education									
Certified Salaries	3,178,846	-153,774	0	3,025,072	2,098,296	883,731	43,045	3,025,072	0
Non-Certified Salaries	1,334,191	26,791	0	1,360,982	1,094,252	266,730	0	1,360,982	0
Professional Educational Services	730,500	65,000	30,000	795,500	520,850	244,442	30,208	795,500	0
Professional Technical Services	168,800	-15,000	0	153,800	115,851	29,190	8,759	153,800	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	5,000	0	0	5,000	856	0	4,144	5,000	0
Tuition Out-of-District	1,280,272	12,704	40,000	1,292,976	1,103,017	189,001	958	1,292,976	0
Reimbursable Expenses	3,000	0	0	3,000	194	0	2,806	3,000	0
Materials	38,425	-4,939	-1,914	33,486	24,548	3,715	5,223	33,486	0
Books	6,500	-600	0	5,900	3,455	242	2,203	5,900	0
Equipment	15,000	-2,876	1,914	12,124	12,124	0	0	12,124	0
Dues & Fees	2,000	0	0	2,000	515	0	1,485	2,000	0
Excess Cost Grant/Pre-School	-555,488	12,250	0	-543,238	-401,598	0	-141,640	-543,238	0
	6,207,046	-60,444	70,000	6,146,602	4,572,360	1,617,051	-42,809	6,146,602	0

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Descriptions	FY 2013 Adopted Budget	Year-to-Date Budget Adjustments	3rd Quarter Budget Adjustments	FY 2013 Revised Budget	FY 2013 Expended	FY 2013 Encumbered	FY 2013 Anticipated	FY 2013 Expended & Encumbered	Balance
Pupil Personnel Services									
Certified Salaries	1,561,280	116,324	0	1,677,604	1,128,378	526,696	22,530	1,677,604	0
Non-Certified Salaries	704,257	18,912	0	723,169	538,110	164,296	20,763	723,169	0
Professional Technical Services	111,500	60,000	0	171,500	96,862	73,191	1,447	171,500	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	1,475	0	0	1,475	0	290	1,185	1,475	0
Postage/Printing	13,549	-6,089	-3,000	7,460	1,680	2,000	3,780	7,460	0
Reimbursable Expenses	0	1,500	0	1,500	0	0	1,500	1,500	0
Materials	15,700	0	0	15,700	12,492	1,109	2,099	15,700	0
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	575	0	0	575	325	0	250	575	0
	2,408,336	190,647	-3,000	2,598,983	1,777,847	767,582	53,554	2,598,983	0
Curriculum & Instructional Improvement									
Certified Salaries	826,950	513	0	827,463	606,379	210,301	10,783	827,463	0
Non-Certified Salaries	57,942	1,091	0	59,033	52,244	6,789	0	59,033	0
Professional Educational Services	31,110	1,390	0	32,500	812	31,688	0	32,500	0
Professional Technical Services	202,250	2,850	-10,000	205,100	143,765	23,684	37,651	205,100	0
Training & Reimbursable Expenses	68,870	250	0	69,120	32,694	4,463	31,963	69,120	0
Materials	9,075	-714	-8,000	8,361	5,025	49	3,287	8,361	0
Books	36,000	-12,211	-7,500	23,789	10,851	579	12,359	23,789	0
Equipment	8,355	0	0	8,355	367	1,075	6,913	8,355	0
Dues & Fees	13,857	5,137	0	18,994	16,165	2,200	629	18,994	0
	1,254,409	-1,694	-25,500	1,252,715	868,302	280,828	103,585	1,252,715	0

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Technology									
Certified Salaries	158,992	-40,188	0	118,804	73,585	38,786	6,433	118,804	0
Non-Certified Salaries	395,553	43,008	0	438,561	321,256	117,305	0	438,561	0
Professional Technical Services	91,350	-8,143	-4,143	83,207	50,592	12,962	19,653	83,207	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	371,425	3,820	-10,000	375,245	268,156	102,204	4,885	375,245	0
Communications	30,172	-5,857	4,143	24,315	24,315	0	0	24,315	0
Reimbursable Expenses	1,800	1,200	0	3,000	2,250	750	0	3,000	0
Materials	31,750	709	0	32,459	29,733	2,726	0	32,459	0
Software	236,490	13,292	0	249,782	218,950	29,198	1,634	249,782	0
Equipment	0	62,690	57,900	62,690	4,790	57,900	0	62,690	0
Dues & Fees	0	65	0	65	65	0	0	65	0
	1,317,532	70,596	47,900	1,388,128	993,692	361,831	32,605	1,388,128	0
District Administration									
Certified Salaries	555,178	10,298	0	565,476	456,322	109,154	0	565,476	0
Non-Certified Salaries	367,200	15,933	0	383,133	321,639	61,494	0	383,133	0
Professional Technical Services	51,500	97,641	-18,300	149,141	107,175	27,014	14,952	149,141	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	2,500	2,400	0	4,900	0	0	4,900	4,900	0
Postage/Advertising/Printing	11,250	4,074	0	15,324	9,274	1,083	4,967	15,324	0
Reimbursable Expenses	14,000	0	0	14,000	10,125	3,875	0	14,000	0
Materials	22,500	-4,411	-3,000	18,089	12,689	1,486	3,914	18,089	0
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	27,800	175	0	27,975	26,780	550	645	27,975	0
Miscellaneous	6,500	0	0	6,500	3,403	534	2,563	6,500	0
	1,058,428	126,110	-21,300	1,184,538	947,407	205,190	31,941	1,184,538	0

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Facilities									
Non-Certified Salaries	1,442,009	71,232	0	1,513,241	1,201,747	311,494	0	1,513,241	0
Professional Technical Services	11,480	-3,600	0	7,880	4,655	450	2,775	7,880	0
Utilities	104,980	14,290	0	119,270	78,682	32,893	7,695	119,270	0
Contracted Services	1,150,110	9,346	35,000	1,159,456	900,793	203,297	55,366	1,159,456	0
Maintenance Projects	63,950	20,716	0	84,666	52,858	9,585	22,223	84,666	0
Equipment Repair/Rental	78,834	1,658	0	80,492	51,616	13,621	15,255	80,492	0
Communications	99,120	-3,060	0	96,060	89,464	6,596	0	96,060	0
Property Insurance	98,150	-8,639	0	89,511	89,511	0	0	89,511	0
Materials	257,408	22,277	0	279,685	217,673	40,692	21,320	279,685	0
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues & Fees	420	0	0	420	420	0	0	420	0
Miscellaneous	12,000	4,370	0	16,370	14,765	1,605	0	16,370	0
In-Kind Revenue from Parks & Rec.	-29,850	0	0	-29,850	-16,991	-12,859	0	-29,850	0
	3,288,611	128,590	35,000	3,417,201	2,685,193	607,374	124,634	3,417,201	0
Energy Management									
Non-Certified Salaries	40,700	630	0	41,330	33,366	7,964	0	41,330	0
Professional Technical Services	190,800	0	0	190,800	159,000	31,800	0	190,800	0
Energy	1,062,555	44,747	0	1,107,302	813,337	0	293,965	1,107,302	0
	1,294,055	45,377	0	1,339,432	1,005,703	39,764	293,965	1,339,432	0
Transportation									
Non-Certified Salaries	179,272	-2,452	0	176,820	152,210	24,610	0	176,820	0
Contracted Services	1,174,257	-1,046	0	1,173,211	1,157,245	15,966	0	1,173,211	0
Equipment Repair	12,700	-2,422	3,200	10,278	10,278	0	0	10,278	0
Auto Insurance	7,955	0	0	7,955	7,955	0	0	7,955	0
Materials (fuel)	151,284	9,151	-3,200	160,435	88,555	71,880	0	160,435	0
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Equipment	27,000	-1,707		25,293	25,293	0	0	25,293	0
Revenue	-20,340	1,440		-18,900	-9,450	-9,450	0	-18,900	0
	1,532,128	2,964	0	1,535,092	1,432,086	103,006	0	1,535,092	0
District Wide									
Liability Insurance	83,228	-11,328	0	71,900	71,900	0	0	71,900	0
Regular Education - Tuition	-4,759	-32,239	-21,725	-36,998	-36,998	0	0	-36,998	0
Staffing Allowance	61,211	613	0	61,824	0	0	61,824	61,824	0
Salary Allowance	115,924	-115,924	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turnover Savings	-135,156	135,156	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	120,448	-23,722	-21,725	96,726	34,902	0	61,824	96,726	0
Health Insurance									
Health Benefits	6,373,113	93,111	0	6,466,224	5,103,754	0	1,362,470	6,466,224	0
Social Security	454,523	11,300	0	465,823	368,768	0	97,055	465,823	0
Medicare	406,374	-6,880	0	399,494	276,988	0	122,506	399,494	0
Workers Compensation	157,433	0	0	157,433	157,433	0	0	157,433	0
Unemployment Compensation	70,000	0	0	70,000	53,864	4,972	11,164	70,000	0
Early Retirement	4,759	0	0	4,759	4,759	0	0	4,759	0
Pension Program	770,104	-2,005	0	768,099	567,176	0	200,923	768,099	0
GASB 43/45	250,000	0	0	250,000	250,000	0	0	250,000	0
Tuition Reimbursement	70,000	0	0	70,000	0	0	70,000	70,000	0
Life Insurance	96,496	0	0	96,496	66,141	5,615	24,740	96,496	0
Disability Insurance	13,030	2,556	0	15,586	11,689	0	3,897	15,586	0
Sick Bank	61,211	-4,375	-4,375	56,836	25,799	0	31,037	56,836	0
Management Services	10,000	0	0	10,000	2,793	0	7,207	10,000	0
	8,737,043	93,707	-4,375	8,830,750	6,889,164	10,587	1,930,999	8,830,750	0
Copy Center									
Non-Certified Salaries	54,141	1,346	0	55,487	46,809	8,678	0	55,487	0
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Equipment Rental	120,136	4,157	0	124,293	102,683	15,246	6,364	124,293	0
Postage	18,570	0	0	18,570	15,308	973	2,289	18,570	0
Materials	13,500	0	0	13,500	6,281	2,230	4,989	13,500	0
	206,347	5,503	0	211,850	171,081	27,127	13,642	211,850	0

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT

April 23, 2013



Weston High School

Lisa Wolak, Principal

In this issue...

- Principal's Message*
- Academic Program Updates*
- Professional Development*
- Co-curricular Program Updates*

Principal's Message

This month Weston High School hosted a visiting team from the New England Association of Schools (NEASC) as part of the accreditation process, which takes place every ten years. The staff had been engaged in a self-study process for the past two years culminating with this visit of a sixteen member team from across New England. The team arrived on Sunday, April 7 and began with a panel presentation by WHS staff and students that highlighted the school's core beliefs and learning expectations. Over the course of four days the team interviewed staff, students, and parents. Team members shadowed students attending classes. They reviewed student work that the faculty had compiled over the course of the self-study. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that worked so diligently to insure that this visit was a success. We look forward to the team's report, which will include commendations and recommendations for our school.

Our second student delegation visited our sister school in Qingdao, China this spring break. Ten students accompanied Assistant Principal Dan Doak and Art Teacher Sydney Girardi. This was the first time that the program included a home stay with our Chinese students' families.

Academic Program

Math

Twenty students participated in the American Mathematics Competition sponsored by the Mathematics Association of America. Asra Ali had the highest score for those who took the 11/12 test and Garrick Tsui had the highest score for those who took the 9/10 test.

Science/Technology

Three teams competed at the TSA TEAMS competition (formerly known as the JETS TEAMS competition). Our two 11/12 teams scored second and third place in the state of CT for schools with less than 300 students in the senior class. One of the teams actually tied for first with Avon, but we lost the tiebreaker. The 9/10 team placed second in the state.

Our Science Olympiad team participated in the state competition at UCONN. Under the direction of Science Teacher Lauren Hauser and Technology Teacher Mackenzie Moosbrugger, the team came in tenth out of 33 teams overall. Several of our students also placed in the single topic events. They are as follows: Asra Ali and Matt Ielusic placed first in Technical Problem Solving and second in Fermi Questions. Krishna Lal and Asra Ali placed first in Material Sciences.

School Counseling

This month our School Counseling Department sponsored *College 101*, an evening workshop designed to assist our seniors with their transition to college. Thirty seniors participated in the program, which included four different themes. The workshops were entitled *Academics/Living Environment/Balance, Money...How to manage your money without spending it all in the first semester, Beyond Ramen...How to prevent the Freshman 15*, and *Beyond the Blue Lights...Campus Safety*. I would like to thank School Counselor Arielle Wein who created and organized this program.

Social Studies

Students in Mr. Jorge's tenth-grade Modern World Studies heard about life in modern day China from guest speaker Michael Crutchfield who had spent a year in China teaching English to Chinese college students. Mr. Crutchfield spoke about how Chinese education compares to American schools, and political challenges the Chinese leadership faces today.

Superintendent Dr. Colleen Palmer was a guest speaker at our Entrepreneurship Seminar this month. Dr. Palmer spoke about the practices of human resources related to a school district. There are 15 students in this program. To date three students have been successful in starting their own businesses. One new enterprise is our new school store which opens after April break due to the efforts of junior Alexa Herman.

World Language

Chinese

Mandarin Level IV students are in the process of planning simulated trips to China. They are researching major Chinese cities of interest, determining travel costs, and planning an itinerary. Students will give an oral presentation in the target language to their peers.

Professional Development

John Antonetti, a nationally recognized developer and trainer in the process of classroom walk-throughs visited classes on April 23. Mr. Antonetti provides on-site instructional analysis to school districts.

Transition Coordinator Nancy Johnston and Science Teacher Dawn Boulton attended the workshop *"Aligning IEPs to Common Core State Standards for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities"* at the State Education Research Center earlier this month.

Spanish Teacher Maria Caracuel attended a reception with alumni of Middlebury Language Schools in New York City where Jamie Northrup, VP of Government Relations for Middlebury Interactive Languages, shared how Middlebury Interactive Languages (MIL) is providing greater access to high-quality world language courses through a number of state-wide initiatives and partnerships.

Co-curricular Program

The boys' swim and dive team won the Class S State Championship last month. The boys' basketball team was the Class M runner-up at the state tournament. Over 250 students watched the team play in the final against Valley Regional High School at Mohegan Sun. Our spring sports season is well underway. Boys' lacrosse, boys' and girls' tennis, and boys' and girls' outdoor track are all

undefeated in spring play as of this newsletter. At the April Leadership Circle, captains discussed goals for the upcoming seasons and ways to increase school spirit this spring.

Clubs

Relay for Life is May 18 and we encourage everyone to become involved. Committees have been hard at work to make this the best *Relay* ever. Our *Trojan Time* this month focused on *Relay* and how students can participate.

Teen Peace Works members attended a screening of a documentary called *Girl Rising* at the Ridgefield Playhouse. The film profiled nine girls in nine different countries who overcame cultural obstacles to become empowered by education.

W78 Weston TV Network produced two video segments this month. Club members interviewed Weston First Selectman Gayle Weinstein for a video segment profiling the town. The segment was shown to the visiting team from the NEASC and representatives from the Royal Education Council of Bhutan. Club member and WHS junior Austin Redcay also produced and edited a video segment to promote Company's spring production of *Kiss Me Kate*. Company Director Damian Long and cast member Jack Seigenthaler were interviewed on camera for the segment that's airing on Channel 78 as well as on YouTube.

Weston Youth Services

Weston Youth Services continued their *Tackling the Tough Stuff* series for parents. On April 4 Dr. Bob Selverstone, a well-known educator and psychologist, spoke about topics related to body image, physical development, sexuality, and how parents model beliefs and behaviors about gender roles and romantic relationships. The series continued on Monday April 22 with a presentation by attorney Fred Ury on *Liquor laws: What parents should know about parties, possession, and penalties*. If you would like to learn more about the series please visit www.westonyouthservices.org or email malbright@westonct.gov.

Weston Middle School

Amy Watkins, Principal

In this issue...

S.O.A.R.ing to the Top with Bingo

Professional Development: Developing AIM Cornerstones

WMS Students Perform at Western Regional Middle School Festival

6th Grade Students Complete Action research

Student Government Association Penny Wars & Spirit Week

Music in the Parks

Voxare Visiting Artists

Student Government Association Organizes Penny Wars/Spirit Week

S.O.A.R.ing to the Top

Students in all grades recently took part in community bingo to demonstrate what they have learned from our PBIS S.O.A.R. program. Our team coordinators were able to award \$5 gift cards to Weston Pharmacy, S.O.A.R. pencils, and passes to the front of the lunch line. We had four fabulous students assist "on



camera" and of course Mr. Blozie and Mr. Evan Grace helped behind the scenes. Mrs. Blank and Mrs. Soutar were the "behind the scenes organizers." It was a hit for both students and staff. We have already begun to plan to host another S.O.A.R. bingo before the end of the year as a result of all the positive feedback the event received.

Professional Development: Developing AIM Cornerstones

This month our staff spent time working on AIM. The eighth-grade team, including our Practical and Fine Arts (PFAs) teachers, reviewed last year's student work and made the decision to refine the task to continue reinforce the capacities students are learning in preparation for the 21st Century. The seventh-grade team, along with representatives from the PFAs embarked on designing a meaningful task for our students. Sixth grade began writing their units for the roll-out of the units this spring.

WMS Students Perform at Western Regional Middle School Festival

On Saturday, March 23, members of the Weston Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade bands and chorus performed in concert at the Western Regional Music Festival in Danbury, CT, at Western Connecticut State University. Julia Schreder and Jake Young, eighth-grade students, performed in the jazz ensemble and Eric Hirsch performed in the concert band. In addition, eighth-grade students Courtney Caolo and Grace Goodrich and seventh-grade students Nathan Strauss and Thomas Valenti participated in the chorus. These talented and hardworking students who auditioned and competed with students from 30 middle schools in Fairfield County earning their placement. As part of the festival, the students rehearsed for two days, after school on Friday, March 22 and all day Saturday, March 23, culminating in a well-rehearsed and refined performance later in the afternoon at the Ives Concert Hall in Danbury, CT.

Sixth-Grade Students Complete Action Research

Sixth graders presented their Action Research projects. Students chose relevant topics of interest, read across multiple resources to broaden their knowledge base, and became experts in their field of study. This AIM-designed unit focused on Communication – Projecting and Collaboration – Suspending Judgment.



Student Government Association Penny Wars & Spirit Week

As part of WMS' Spirit Week, students are currently participating in the Penny Wars to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Grades six, seven, and eight are competing against one another to become the champions of the Penny Wars. Each grade has a designated water cooler bottle in the cafeteria for collecting coins and dollar bills. The value of any pennies collected by the grade counts positively toward that grade's total points, while the value of silver coins and/or dollar bills are subtracted. Therefore, in a competition between the three grades, a student that wants the sixth grade to win will place his/her pennies in the sixth-grade's bottle and silver change or bills in the seventh- or eighth-grade's container. Students came into the cafeteria on Monday with their pennies and spare change ready to go. We are excited to see which grade will triumph in the end. Stay tuned...

Voxare Quartet Visit WMS

Recently, the Weston eighth-grade orchestra joined forces with the Bridgeport select orchestra to participate in a performance event with the Julliard-trained Voxare String Quartet. This was the third

installment of an incredible cross-district program where students rehearse music alongside new peers and receive hands-on coaching from the critically acclaimed Voxare String Quartet. This program is an annual event sponsored by Music for Youth and will culminate in a Bridgeport-Weston-Voxare combined orchestra concert on Wednesday, May 1 in the Weston High School auditorium, at 1:00 p.m.



Music in the Parks

On Friday, May 3, 2013, the Weston Middle School jazz ensembles, chamber singers, and chamber orchestra will perform at the nationally recognized Music in the Parks adjudicated festival in Agawam, MA. Each ensemble performs three selections for a panel of judges and receives both a written evaluation and recording of the judge's remarks. School bands, orchestras and choirs from across the country attend this adjudicated festival. It is a unique opportunity for the music students of Weston to meet other talented musicians from across the United States.

Members of these ensembles are in sixth, seventh or eighth grade and successfully completed an audition for admittance into the select ensembles prior to the start of the school year. They have committed their time and talents to weekly rehearsals after school and weekly sectional rehearsals before or after school. Their hard work and long hours of practice are rewarded after the festival at Six Flags New England amusement park. We wish them all the best.

WMS Math Team Ties for Third Place

The Weston Middle School math team competed Tuesday, April 9 in their final math competition of the school year. There were nine schools in attendance from all over Fairfield County. Weston tied for third place at the competition and has taken fourth place overall for the 2012-2013 school year. Congratulations to all of our students for their hard work. A special thank you to Mrs. Harasiuk for her leadership in preparing the team throughout the year.

Weston Intermediate School	Pattie Falber, Principal
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In this issue...

*Teaching and Learning
Music and Art
School Spirit*

Teaching and Learning Grade 3

This month our third-grade team launched their first AIM unit. Students will be involved in an interdisciplinary unit focused on endangered animals and their survival. Jane Sabini and Maxine Petruccelli kicked off the unit with an assembly that introduced the students to the fact that many animals in the world are in danger of becoming extinct. They explained that there are many reasons for this problem, but none of them are easy to solve. The students learned that they would become an expert on an endangered animal of their choosing, and learn what is being done to save that animal. For the next month, during their reading, writing, and science time students will learn about the contributing factors to both survival and endangerment, and research their animal's physical features, habitat, and food supply to determine how each contributes to its survival. As they engage in the

research process they will develop an expertise on a real-world problem and either evaluate a current solution's effectiveness or create a new solution to the problem. Students will eventually present their information in a power point presentation to their peers.

Grade 4

This month the students are engaging in an in-depth study of the works of an author. They analyze how an author crafts characters, setting, conflicts, and themes within and across their books. Students learn about the life of an author to evaluate how a writer inserts themselves in their work in terms of their life experiences and what's important to them. For example, Jean Craighead George was passionate about environmental conservation and seeks to teach students about this through her works of fiction. While the author, Avi, draws upon life experiences to create young characters who find themselves in situations of empowerment. For the culminating assessment students will write to the author they studied to suggest a new book to add to the author study collection.

Grade 5

Students in fifth grade are finishing their historical fiction unit. They have analyzed how historical settings, conflicts and characters are used as a backdrop in works of fiction. Drawing upon what they have learned as readers they wrote their own pieces of historical fiction writing.

Music and Art

A Wonderful World with Disney

On Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, over 80 fourth- and fifth-grade students performed in our school musical, "A Wonderful World with Disney." The word got out that it was an amazing show, so with ticket sales pouring in, the decision was made to add a third show at the last minute to accommodate all the sales. The children did a wonderful job performing scenes and songs from many of the Disney shows including *Little Mermaid*, *Lion King*, *Aladdin*, and *Peter Pan*. With the help of many very talented parents, each scene featured amazing costumes and beautiful scenery. We were fortunate to have so many dedicated parents help us with this fabulous show.





The band and orchestra held their Debut concert on Tuesday, April 2. Students performed together for the first time, and experienced the joy and excitement of performing as an ensemble. Ms. Smart and Ms. Sobeleski put together an enjoyable program that allowed the students to show off the skills and techniques they had just learned. We all were amazed at how much they had learned in such a short time. Bravo!

Third-Grade Art and Music Festival

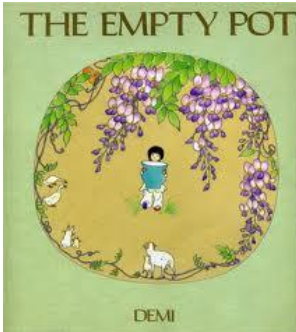
Each spring our main hallway becomes a beautiful art gallery for this annual event. Every third grade student picks a favorite piece to hang on the walls, so the displays showcase a variety of art. After

greeting their parents for a special viewing, the students came together to sing in a concert entitled, *Life's a Garden*. This year the children sang songs from many countries, and sang not only in English, but also in Spanish and Japanese.



Assemblies

WIS P.R.I.D.E. Student Assembly



At the end of March, WIS students participated in an assembly to discuss integrity, which is the 'I' in WIS P.R.I.D.E. The assembly started in the cafetorium with small group conversations about integrity. As the groups shared their thinking, they came to consensus on a working definition of integrity as “doing the right thing even when it’s difficult.” Following this discussion, the students viewed a video presentation of Demi’s classic Chinese tale, *The Empty Pot*. Then they returned to the classroom with their cross-grade level buddy classes to explore the personal connections they made with the characters in the story.

School Spirit

On Friday, April 5 the fifth graders were treated to a highly interactive, very exciting game show called, “Brain Challenge.” The students got to participate in a fast-paced review of what they’ve learned while occasionally stopping to challenge each other to a “dance off” or “tug of war.” A fun time was had by all.

During the week before vacation, the hallways sported some unusual attire as everyone participated in a School Spirit Week. Students wore crazy hair and hats, and their favorite sports jersey, before donning costumes on Thursday to participate in “Halloween in April.” Having missed out on celebrating Halloween in school again this year, the students and staff made up for it by wearing costumes of all kinds.



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Support for Struggling Learners

Three times a year, the Hurlbutt Elementary School Data Team convenes to discuss individual students' literacy growth and progress. The data team is comprised of a reading teacher, special education teachers, administration, a literacy specialist and additional support staff. Prior to the team convening, multiple literacy data points are gathered and analyzed. If needed, additional follow-up assessments are administered and analyzed. Any assessment that yields one or more data points that would place a child in a "some risk" category results in further data gathering and analysis.



When the data team convenes, every child's reading performance profile is discussed and a collective, group recommendation is made. Team recommendations range from continuing to closely monitor a student's progress with strategies for differentiation shared with the classroom teacher, to pull-out specialized instruction in an area of academic need. Ongoing data is gathered by the reading interventionist to monitor student progress and ensure adequate reading growth and development. At any point throughout the year, if a teacher or interventionist is concerned about a child's literacy development and progress, the child's reading performance profile is reviewed and needed adjustments and modifications are made. A similar process is used for math support.

Grade 2 Biography Research Unit

As part of an integrated social studies, language arts and information literacy experience, second grade students conducted research to answer the question, "How do people impact their community, the world and myself?" Students asked questions about various "famous" people and found information about them. Time was spent determining which questions and facts would help determine a person's importance. They learned to use different sources to locate their facts including biography books and databases. Students collected information through note-taking and created citations for the sources used. After researching several people, students had to begin to synthesize the information they collected to decide which person made a difference in their community, the world at large, for the student personally, and why that was important. Once students had gathered all necessary information, their job was to write a proposal explaining why the person should be included in a museum. After completion of the proposal, students were in charge of collecting artifacts about their person to include in the museum and give a description as to



why those artifacts were chosen. The rich discussions students had as they worked to understand and explain the impact of people was a testament to the critical thinking and synthesizing this project required of students.

Math in Focus Update

The Common Core State Standards for Mathematics were fully implemented at Hurlbutt this year using the *Math in Focus* program as a primary resource. The hard work that change requires is paying off as K-2 students are becoming increasingly powerful mathematical thinkers. Given the opportunity to walk through math classrooms, one might hear kindergarteners explaining several different ways they could prove which number is greater using their “math talk.” One would be amazed by the depth of place value understanding in our first grade classes and how that is helping them add some very impressive numbers. In second-grade classrooms, one would observe students working excitedly on mental math strategies and then applying what they know to some challenging problem-solving applications. The deep thinking going on by young mathematicians at Hurlbutt is almost palpable!



John Antonetti Visit

John Antonetti, a national educational reform consultant, spent the day visiting classrooms at Hurlbutt last month. Accompanying him on the visits were Interim Principal Michael Cicchetti and Assistant Principal Kimberly Kus. Dr. Antonetti had many positive things to say about the teaching and learning that was taking place, as well as some excellent suggestions for the staff to consider. He commented several times about the evidence of team planning and its impact on learning, while still observing individual personalities in the classrooms. He had much to say about the use of planners and graphic organizers and their potential to change students’ thinking. During the visits, individual students were asked, *What are you doing? What are you learning by doing that? Why is it important to know this?* The students’ responses revealed the extent to which they understood both the learning objective and the relevance and applicability of what they were learning.

Staff Meeting on Safety and Security

Staff members had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Jo-Ann Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, and Daniel Clarke, Director of Facilities, to discuss safety and security at Hurlbutt. The meeting began with a brief update on fobs and keys, radio communication, hardening of the building perimeter, locked doors, and outdoor areas. The remainder of the meeting was spent in small-group



discussions on the following topics: communication, training, personal perspective, and awareness. Some of the discussion prompts included, *What is the best way to communicate with you in a crisis situation in school? How has your awareness changed since the Newtown incident? Where do you feel safest/most vulnerable in the building? Where has training been effective, where is more training needed?* Each group reported out during the last part of the meeting. As a result of the meeting, Dr. Keating and Mr. Clarke gained a better understanding of the staff’s perspective

on safety and security at Hurlbutt. They also gathered information that will assist them in their work district-wide.

PBIS Assembly

The April PBIS assembly was organized around poetry month with students reading poems about being kind, safe, and responsible. The readings were whole group and each class read a stanza from the poem. Kindergarten read a poem on being kind, first grade on being responsible, and second grade on being safe. As always, students were recognized for their behavior on the bus, at recess, in the cafeterias, and in the classrooms by our special guests Mr. Dave Leahey, Security Monitor, Mrs. Susan Haven, LRC Paraprofessional, and Mrs. Mary Lou Dunne, Administrative Assistant. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Sergeant Michael Ferullo from the Weston Police Department (in photo) to talk to the children about safety.



Professional Development ~ March 28

Grade 2: Science Soils and Plant Growth Unit

Teachers used results and reflections from last year's performance-based assessment administration to plan instruction for their *Soils and Plant Growth* unit. Teachers included opportunities for students to use the new Learning Garden, which is supported by the PTO. The unit will focus on increasing critical thinking and the quality of teacher questioning and student discourse.

Grade 1 AIM Poetry Unit Development

First-grade teachers continued to work on the development of their AIM Poetry Genre Unit for reading. In addition to establishing curricular teaching points, teachers discussed how they will explicitly model lesson objectives and how students will practice lesson objectives across classroom settings. Within this unit of study, students will analyze, evaluate, and interpret a variety of poetry. Through their analysis, students will understand how poets intentionally utilize "poetic techniques" to enable their reader to deeply understand their poems.

Kindergarten Author Study Genre Unit

Kindergarten teachers developed and planned their Eric Carle Author Study Reading Genre Unit. Embedded within the unit are Common Core State Standards for Reading Literature, Speaking and Listening and Language Standards. Within this unit of study, students will learn how an author's life and experiences influence their writing. Students will analyze multiple works by Eric Carle to compare and contrast similarities and differences in the development of characters, settings, author's craft and

messages. Students will learn how to write an opinion piece of writing as they think about and reflect on what they read and learn.

Special Areas

The K-5 special area teachers (health, physical education, music, art, and world language) once again joined forces to continue development of their AIM units. They began the afternoon together discussing the completed units and their implementation. They then split into content specific groups to further develop new AIM units of study.

Special Education

Members of the Special Education Teams (kindergarten through grade 12) met with Dr. Michael Lee – a pediatrician and member of the CT Concussion Task Force - to discuss concussion basics, how concussions affect student learning, and accommodations to help students in school. After his presentation the team discussed ways to help Weston students who have had a concussion and how we can best help them in the learning environment. Dr. Lee stressed that there is no “one size fits all” approach and that each student requires an individualized plan upon returning to school. The staff felt that the expertise and insight that Dr. Lee provided will be very helpful in their planning for and accommodating students in school who have had a concussion.

Paraprofessionals

Director of Pupil Personnel Services Lois Pernice led a workshop for Hurlbutt paraprofessionals on the importance of play in early childhood education. After a theoretical overview, they worked in groups discussing what play is, and why play is important for all students, especially special needs students. They discussed what facilitated play looks like and then applied that to recess situations, using the following prompts: *What does recess look like for the special needs students? What are the adults doing during recess? What do they think a facilitated recess looks like and is it possible to think of recess as an instructional period?*

Parent Activities

The Hurlbutt PTO and parent community continues to provide generous support to students and staff. The PTO recently approved funding for two major projects. The first is the *One School, One Book* project. Each student and staff member will be provided with a copy of the same book as a way of building school community. Reading will be done in school and at home, with several related activities taking place during a four- to five-week period in May and June. In addition to school-wide assemblies, the staff planning committee is organizing an evening family celebration. The second PTO approval was for the purchase of 38 iPads for classroom use. These will be supplemented by Board-funded iPads so that every classroom will have three iPads next year. The recommendation was made following two years of pilot experiences across all grades.

