

**WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Monday, May 20, 2013**  
**Weston Middle School Library Resource Center**  
**Regular Session 7:30 p.m.**

- |              |   |  |
|--------------|---|--|
| <b>I.</b>    | <b>CALL TO ORDER, VERIFICATION OF QUORUM, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b><br><b>Philip Schaefer, Chairperson</b>   |  |
| <b>II.</b>   | <b>RECOGNITION</b><br>1. CABA Student Leadership Award<br>2. National Achievement Scholarship<br>3. Connecticut Student Film Festival and Williston Film Festival   | <b>Motion</b><br><b>Motion</b><br><b>Motion</b>  |
| <b>III.</b>  | <b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES, <i>page 1-8</i></b>   | <b>Motion</b>  |
| <b>IV.</b>   | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>   | <b>Information</b>   |
| <b>V.</b>    | <b>NEW BUSINESS</b><br>1. Resignations, <i>pages 9-10</i><br>2. Gifts, <i>page 11</i><br>3. Weston Board of Education Policies and Regulations <i>pages 12-30</i>   | <b>Motion</b><br><b>Motion</b><br><b>First Reading</b>   |
| <b>VI.</b>   | <b>OLD BUSINESS</b>   | <b>None</b>  |
| <b>VII.</b>  | <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b><br>1. Next Regular Board Meeting Monday, June 17, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.<br>2. District Update<br>3. Principals' Report <i>pages 31-43</i>  | <b>Information</b><br><b>Information</b><br><b>Information</b>   |
| <b>VIII.</b> | <b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b><br>1. Communications Committee - Dana Levin<br>2. Curriculum Committee - Ellen Uzenoff<br>3. Finance Committee - Denise Harvey<br>4. Facilities Committee - Sonya Stack<br>5. Policy Committee - Dana Levin<br>6. Negotiations Committee - Dick Bochinski<br>7. CES - Sonya Stack<br>8. CABA - Nina Daniel<br>9. Weston Education Foundation - Denise Harvey | <b>Information</b><br><b>Information</b><br><b>Information</b><br><b>Information</b><br><b>Information</b><br><b>Information</b><br><b>Information</b><br><b>Information</b><br><b>Information</b> |
| <b>IX.</b>   | <b>ADJOURNMENT</b>  | <b>Motion</b>  |

Weston Public Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
Weston Middle School Library Resource Center  
April 23, 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	

**III. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. RECOGNITION – No report**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the minutes of the March 28, 2013 Executive and Regular Sessions, the April 7 Special Meeting, and the April 9 Special Meeting. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Mr. Bochinski, all in favor. (7-0)*

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Appointment of Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal**

Dr. Palmer presented Laura Kaddis as the finalist for Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education appoints Laura Kaddis as Principal of Hurlbutt Elementary School. Motion by Mr. Bochinski, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor. (7-0)*

**2. Non-Renewal of Long-Term Substitute Teachers**

In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-151, it was recommended that the following long-term substitute teachers not be renewed for the 2013-2014 school year. This action is necessary based on the duration of their long-term substitute employment, which approximates or exceeds ninety (90) consecutive days in the same assignment and does not reflect on their service to the Weston Public Schools.

*Motion: Moved that the contract of employment of the following long-term substitute teachers not be renewed for the 2013-2014 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action: Rachel Baliban, Sherry Panuzio, Jessica Donovan. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor. (7-0)*

### **3. Non-Renewal Long-Term Building Substitute Teachers**

In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-151, it was recommended that the following building substitute teachers not be renewed for the 2013-2014 school year. This action is necessary based on the duration of their long-term substitute employment, which approximates or exceeds ninety (90) consecutive days in the same assignment and does not reflect on their service to the Weston Public Schools.

*Motion: Moved that the contract of employment of the following permanent building substitute teachers not be renewed for the 2013-2014 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action: Lisa Kilcourse. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Mrs. Stack, all in favor. (7-0)*

### **4. Non-Renewal Reduction in Force – Teachers**

In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-151, it was recommended that the following teachers not be renewed for the 2013-2014 school year. This action is attributed to the lack of an available position related to a staff reduction under consideration in the school district's budget for the 2013-2014 school year.

*Motion: Moved that the following teachers not be renewed for the 2013-2014 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action: Carol Walsh. Motion by Mr. Bochinski, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor. (7-0)*

### **5. Resignation**

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education notes and records the resignation of Doris Fiotakis, .4 Weston High School English Curriculum Instructional Leader, effective June 30, 2013. Motion by Mrs. Levin, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor. (7-0)*

### **6. Gifts**

Dr. Palmer, as per Board policy #3280, accepted, with appreciation, the following donation from the Weston Middle School PTO:

*\$7,500 towards the AIM initiative.*

**7. 2013-2014 Tuition Rates**

Dr. Keating reviewed the 2013-2014 tuition rates.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the 2013-2014 tuition rates. Motion by Ms. Daniel, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor. (7-0)*

**8. Third Quarter Report**

Dr. Keating reviewed the FY 2013 Third Quarter Report.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS - No report**

**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.**

Dr. Palmer requested that any feedback or suggestions on budget mitigation strategies be forwarded to her office or Dr. Keating's office prior to the May 6 special meeting, in which such strategies will be discussed.

**2. District Update**

Dr. Palmer announced Weston High School's ranking with *U.S. News and World Report* – third in Connecticut and 220 in the nation – and the May 11 Special Olympics hosted on the Weston Public Schools campus. She applauded the technology team for their switch replacement work over April break. Dr. Palmer also reminded the community of the Annual Town Budget Meeting on April 24 and informed them that a SchoolMessenger message containing top budget questions would be forthcoming.

**3. Principals' Report**

Dr. Cicchetti, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal, spoke about support for struggling learners, a recent school safety and security meeting for staff, and funding provided by the Hurlbutt PTO for the *One School, One Book* project and the purchase of 38 iPads for classroom use. Pattie Falber, Weston Intermediate School Principal discussed the launch of the first AIM unit for third graders, the school musical *A Wonderful World with Disney*, and the band and orchestra concert. Amy Watkins, Weston Middle School Principal, spoke about action research projects and the S.O.A.R. bingo game. Lisa Wolak, Weston High School Principal provided updates on NEASC, John Antonetti's visit regarding student engagement, the WHS student delegation visit to China, and an upcoming fall visit from the Chinese sister school.

**X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1. Communications Committee:** Mrs. Levin discussed the following items from the last Committee meeting: budget communications, security communications, and potential logo design. Next meeting April 24 at 8:00 a.m. at Central Office.

2. **Curriculum Committee:** Mrs. Uzenoff discussed the following items from the last Committee meeting: French and Spanish enrollments, Joel Barlow's language lab, Bhutan's Royal Education Council visit, Weston's teacher evaluation plan compared to the state evaluation plan, the K-5 renewal committee, a master assessment plan, electronic curriculum mapping, and adult education. Next meeting May 8 at 8:00 a.m. in WIS 225 for the Annual Instructional Update.
3. **Finance Committee:** In addition to what was covered previously in meeting, Ms. Harvey discussed the following items from the last Committee meeting: health insurance, proposed infrastructure upgrades, solar panels, high school window replacement, an energy audit, and the Safe Routes to School project. She announced that the May 9 Board of Finance meeting would address the request for carry-over of funds for a contingency teacher and supplemental appropriation for Mile of Safety. Next meeting May 17 at 8:00 a.m. in Dr. Keating's office.
4. **Facilities Committee:** Mrs. Stack discussed the following items from the last Committee meeting: use of facilities by outside groups and research to determine potential review of existing policy, summer projects list, summer camp scheduling, Hurlbutt garden project, tennis court repairs, and security. Next meeting May 9 at 4:00 p.m. in Dr. Keating's office.
5. **Policy Committee:** Mrs. Levin discussed the following items from the last Committee meeting: three policies regarding technology use. Next meeting May 1 at 8:30 a.m. in Central Office.
6. **Negotiations Committee:** nothing to report
7. **CES:** Mrs. Stack discussed professional development concerning teacher evaluation
8. **CABE:** Ms. Daniel announced upcoming events: Collective Bargaining Law workshop on May 16 and Legislative Wrap-Up on June 11. She also reviewed the April 12 Policy Highlights email which discussed a growing number of districts considering replacing traditional grading systems with standards-based grading systems and the April 5 Advocacy Highlights email regarding new security laws adopted by states and their impacts on Boards of Education.
9. **Weston Education Foundation:** Ms. Harvey announced that a grant was awarded to Sydney Girardi for an adaptor that will allow her to project works of art on a SmartBoard. She announced that the Trivia Night fundraiser is rescheduled for September 27 at Norfield and tickets are \$75 per person. Ms. Harvey also reported that The Connecticut Consortium of Education Foundations will hold their annual conference on October 1 and that Dr. Craw, Mr. Scott, and a student spoke at the recent WEF meeting regarding Mr. Scott's entrepreneurship seminar.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*MOTION: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Levin, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor. (7-0)  
Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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

DRAFT

Weston Public Schools  
Special Board of Education Meeting  
Central Office Conference Room  
April 30, 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, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE**  
**Philip Schaefer, Chairperson**

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Maria Kalivas, Weston Education Foundation Chair**, discussed WEF's protocols for grant funding.

**Lois Guberman, Weston Education Foundation Grants Chair**, presented a list of questions concerning Teach to One.

**Doug Pregman, WTA Union Representative**, wants to ensure CIL involvement.

**III. DISCUSSION OF TEACH TO ONE INITIATIVE OF BLENDED LEARNING**

The Board discussed blended learning and the Teach to One initiative with opening remarks by Dr. Palmer.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

*MOTION: Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Levin, second by Mrs. Uzenoff, all in favor. (7-0)  
Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.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  
May 6, 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	

**III. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Tammy Roberts, Old Redding Road** – Spoke regarding budget cuts and thanked the BOE for their work on mitigation.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Discussion and Anticipated Action on Budget Mitigation**

Dr. Palmer presented an overview of the Administration's revised proposed budget mitigation plan to address the \$190,000 reduction by the Board of Finance to the 2013-14 Operating Budget, including comparative information on world language instruction at the elementary level in other DRG-A districts and the rationale for restoring Mock Trial to the WMS school day instead of being shifted to an afterschool activity. Dr. Palmer emphasized that the Administration would use the opportunity to review the world language program in depth with the outlook of reinstating the program for kindergarten and first-grade students in the next budget cycle. Dr. Keating then reviewed the plan in more detail. Discussion by the Board followed.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education approves the mitigation plan to address the \$190,000 reduction by the Board of Finance to the 2013-14 Operating Budget as presented by the administration. Motion by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (7-0)*

**2. Teacher Supervision and Evaluation Plan for 2013-14**

Dr. Craw discussed the Teacher Supervision and Evaluation Plan for 2013-14.

*Motion: Moved that the Weston Board of Education adopts the district's draft Teacher Supervision and Evaluation Plan for 2013-14. Motion by Mr. Bochinski, second by Ms. Harvey, all in favor. (7-0)*

**VI. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**



*MOTION: Motion to adjourn to executive session by Mrs. Uzenoff, second by Mrs. Levin, all in favor. (7-0) Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Markov, Board of Education Clerk.

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

DRAFT

RECEIVED

APR 22 2013

OFFICE OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

25 Linley Road  
Trumbull, CT 06611

April 20, 2013


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

Dear Dr. Palmer:

Thank you for the opportunity to teach this year in Weston. I am grateful to have been able to do what I love part time and had the flexibility to better assist my aging parent as well.

Regrettably, I am needed at home more than I had anticipated. Therefore, I am writing to notify you that I will be resigning from teaching in the Weston Public Schools at the end of the 2012-13 school year. Please accept this letter as the official notice of my resignation.

Respectfully,



Barbara Skrebutenas

cc: Lewis Brey  
Pattie Falber  
Elizabeth Morris

RECEIVED

APR 22 2013

OFFICE OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

Sarah Kiska  
6 Jarvis St  
Norwalk, CT 06851

April 22, 2013

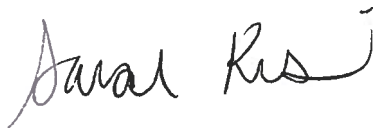
Dr. Colleen Palmer, Superintendent  
Weston Public Schools  
24 School Road  
Weston, CT 06883

Dear Dr. Palmer:

*This letter is to inform you that I have chosen to resign from my job as Special Education teacher at Weston Middle School at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. I will be sure follow the necessary protocol for leaving, and please let me know if there is anything additional I need to do.*

*Thank you for the opportunities for professional and personal development that you have provided me during the last five and a half years of employment. I have enjoyed working in each school and will treasure the positive experiences and wonderful memories I have made with the students.*

Sincerely,



Sarah Kiska

cc: Lewis Brey  
Amy Watkins

# Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO, Inc.

RECEIVED

MAY 07 2013

OFFICE OF  
SUPERINTENDENT

May 3, 2013

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

Dear Dr. Palmer,

I am delighted to inform you that the Hurlbutt Elementary School (HES) PTO approved the following items from our 2012-2013 philanthropy account to purchase: The Art Department's Kiln (paid \$3240), Playground Storage Bins & Supplies (paid \$1158.09), \$250 toward the Lighting Project for the High School Auditorium, the One School One Book Program (approved \$2700), Garden Tables for the Outside Garden (approved \$3000), 38 Classroom iPads (approved \$15,300), 38 iPad Covers (approved \$1298). We feel that these gifts will enhance the level of instruction in the classrooms and in the school for all the children.

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

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

Sincerely,  
Sara Spaulding & Tammy Roberts  
Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO Co-Presidents

cc: Dr. Cicchetti, Principal Hurlbutt Elementary School

First Reading – May 20, 2013

~~6182~~ 5135

Students

## **POLICY REGARDING STUDENT USE OF THE DISTRICT'S COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND INTERNET SAFETY**

Computers, computer networks, electronic devices, Internet access, and e-mail are effective and important technological resources. The Board of Education ~~has installed~~ provides computers, a computer network, ~~including~~ Internet access, ~~and~~ an e-mail system, as well as other electronic devices that access the network such as wireless and/or portable hand-held equipment that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture and recording, sound recording, information transmitting and/or receiving, storing, etc. (including, but not limited to, personal laptops, Smartphones, network access devices, cellular telephones, radios, MP3 and other digital audio players, CD players tablet computers, walkie-talkies, personal data assistants, digital cameras, and other electronic signaling devices (referred to collectively as "~~the e~~Computer ~~S~~ystems")), in order to enhance both the educational opportunities for our students and the business operations of the District.

These ~~C~~eomputer ~~S~~ystems are business and educational tools. As such, they are made available to students in the District for education related uses. The Administration shall develop regulations setting forth procedures to be used by the Administration in an effort to ensure that such ~~C~~eomputer ~~S~~ystems are used by students solely for education related purposes. The Board will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyber-bullying awareness and response. Additionally, the Board will implement a technology protection measure to block or filter Internet access to ~~visual depictions sites~~ that contain obscene material, contain child pornography, or are harmful to minors and ensure, to the extent possible, that such filtering technology is operative during computer use by students.

As the owner of the ~~C~~eomputer ~~S~~ystems, the Board reserves the right to monitor the use of the ~~district's computers and~~ ~~C~~eomputer ~~S~~ystems.

### Legal References:

Children's Internet Protection Act, Pub. L. 106-554, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)  
Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182b; 53a-183; 53a-250  
Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520  
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 6777  
Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, Pub. Law 110-385, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(5)(B)(iii)

### Policy References:

Policy No. 5114, Student Discipline

Policy No. 5131.911, Bullying

Regulation No. 5131.911, Safe School Climate Plan

Policy 5136, Use of Privately Owned Technological Devices By Students  
Policy No. 6184, Unexpected Broadcast

ADOPTED: August 20, 2001  
REVISED: August 20, 2007

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WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Weston, Connecticut

## ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING STUDENT USE OF THE DISTRICT'S COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND INTERNET SAFETY

### Introduction~~District~~

Weston Public Schools (“the District”)~~are~~ is pleased to offer students access to the ~~district~~Board's computers and computer networks, including access to electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet, as well as electronic devices described in Policy Number 5135, (all of which will be referred to collectively as "eComputer Systems".) Access to the ~~school's~~ Computer Systems will enable students to explore libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with others. Such access is provided solely for education-related purposes. Use of the District's eComputer systems will be allowed only for students who act in a considerate and responsible manner in using such systems.

The Board ~~of Education~~ and the Administration believe in the educational value of such eComputer systems and recognize their potential to support our curriculum by expanding resources available for staff and student use. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

These eComputer Systems are expensive to purchase, install and maintain. As the property of the District these eComputer systems must be carefully handled and their integrity preserved for the benefit of all. Therefore, *access to the Computer Systems is a privilege, and not a right.* Students will be required to adhere to a set of policies and procedures, as set forth in detail below. Violations may lead to withdrawal of the access privilege and/or disciplinary measures in accordance with the Board's student discipline policy.

### Definitions

**Obscene** – means any material or performance if, a) taken as a whole, it predominantly appeals to the prurient interest, b) it depicts or describes in a patently offensive way a **prohibited** sex act and c) taken as a whole, does not have serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value. For the purposes of this section, "**prohibited** sex act" means erotic fondling, nude performance, sexual excitement, sado-masochistic abuse, masturbation or sexual intercourse.

**Child pornography** – means any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, cartoon, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where -

- (a) the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
- (b) such visual depiction is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or
- (c) such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

**Harmful to minors – any picture, image, graphic image file, ~~or~~ other visual depiction, or audio recording that:**

- (a) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- (b) depicts, describes or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- (c) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

### Monitoring

Students are responsible for good behavior on ~~school~~ the eComputer ~~s~~Systems just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the Computer Systems are often public in nature and general school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with District standards and will act in a responsible and legal manner, at all times in accordance with District standards, as well as with state and federal laws.

It is important that students and parents understand that the ~~district~~ Board, as the owner or lessee of the Ceomputer Ssystems, reserves the right to monitor and review the use of these Ceomputer Ssystems. The District intends to monitor and review in a limited fashion, but will do so as ~~needed~~ it deems appropriate to ensure that the Computer sSystems are being used for District-related educational purposes.

As part of the monitoring and reviewing process, the District will retain the capacity to bypass any individual password of a student or other user. *The system's security aspects, such as personal passwords and the message delete function for e-mail, can be bypassed for these purposes.* The District's ability to monitor and review is not restricted or neutralized by these devices. The monitoring and reviewing process also includes, but is not limited to: oversight of Internet site access, the right to review ~~emails~~ electronic communications sent and received, the right to track students' access to blogs, electronic bulletin boards, social media, and chat rooms, and the right to review a student's document downloading and printing.



Therefore, all users must be aware that *they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of these **C**omputer **S**ystems.*

### Student Conduct

Students are permitted to use the District's **e**Computer **s**ystems for legitimate educational purposes. Personal use of District **e**Computer **s**ystems by elementary school and intermediate school students is expressly prohibited. Personal use of the Computer Systems by high school and middle school students is permitted. Such personal use of the Computer Systems by middle and high school students, however, is subject to all Board policies and regulations, including monitoring of all such use, as well as any rules that the Superintendent may establish. Moreover, any such personal use shall not interfere in any manner with instructional time, and under no circumstances should such personal use occur during class.

Conduct which constitutes inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- ~~Willfully inflicting or repeated harm through the medium of electronic text or visual depiction (cyberbullying);~~
- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to other “computer systems” as that term is defined above;
- Using another person's password and/or username to access that person's account or otherwise attempt to gain unauthorized access to the Computer Systems;
- Misrepresenting oneself as another individual or entity and/or modifying files, communications, other data, passwords or usernames belonging to another person and/or to which access is not otherwise available to the ~~employee~~ student;
- Damaging computers, computer files, computer systems or computer networks;
- Downloading or modifying computer software of the **D**istrict in violation of the **D**istrict's licensure agreement(s) and/or without authorization from a teacher or administrator;
- ~~Using another person's password under any circumstances;~~

- Trespassing in or tampering with any other person's folders, work, **communications, or files, or other data**;
- Sending any message that breaches the District's confidentiality requirements, or the confidentiality of students;
- ~~Sending any copyrighted material over the system~~ **Failureing to adhere to copyright laws including, but not limited to, using the Computer Systems to reproduce, copy, save, improperly cite, and/or distribute materials subject to copyright except as permitted by law;**
- Using **the Computer Systems** for any personal purpose, **except as provided in these Regulations**, or in a manner that interferes with the **District's** educational programs;
- Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene, contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors, as defined above;
- Transmitting or receiving e-mail communications or accessing information on the Internet for non-educational purposes;
- **Cyberbullying as defined in Policy and Administrative Regulation 5131.911;**
- ~~**Accessing or attempting to access social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, etc.) without a legitimate educational purpose.**~~

In addition, as noted above, if a particular behavior or activity is generally prohibited by law, by Board policy or by school rules or regulations, use of these **Computer Systems** for the purpose of carrying out such behavior or activity is also prohibited.

*Misuse of the **Computer Systems**, or violations of these policies and regulations, may result in loss of access to such **Computer Systems** as well as other disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion, depending on the specific conduct. Further, **if the conduct may constitute criminal activity, law enforcement may be notified.***

Anyone who is aware of problems with, or misuse of these **Computer Systems**, or has a question regarding the proper use of these **Computer Systems**, should report this to his or her teacher or principal immediately. Most importantly, the Board and the Administration urge *any* student who receives *any* harassing, threatening, intimidating or other improper message through the **Computer Systems** to report this immediately. It is the Board's policy that no student should be required to tolerate such treatment, regardless of the identity of the sender of the message. *Please report these events! **to the school.***

## Internet Safety

The Administration will take measures, as it deems appropriate: to assure the safety and security of students when using District managed; e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications; to prohibit unauthorized access of the Computer Systems, including “hacking” and other unlawful activities ~~by minors~~ online; to prohibit unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding students available on the Computer Systems; to educate minor students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying (as defined in Policy and Regulation No. 5131.911) awareness and response; and to restrict students’ access to online materials harmful to minors, including obscene materials and child pornography.

### Legal References:

Children’s Internet Protection Act, Pub. Law 106-554, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)  
Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520  
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 6777  
Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, Pub. Law 110-385, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(5)(B)(iii)  
18 U.S.C. § 2256 (definition of child pornography)  
Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973) (definition of obscene)  
Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182b; 53a-183; 53a-250 (computer-related offenses)  
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-193 (definition of obscene)

### Policy References:

Policy No. 5114, Student Discipline

Policy No. 5131.911, Bullying

Regulation No. 5131.911, Safe School Climate Plan

Policy 5136, Use of Privately Owned Technological Devices By Students

Policy No. 6184, Unexpected Broadcast

ADOPTED: August 20, 2007

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Weston, Connecticut

**5136  
Students**

**USE OF PRIVATELY OWNED TECHNOLOGICAL DEVICES BY STUDENTS**

Students may possess privately owned technological devices on school property and/or during school sponsored activities, in accordance with the mandates of this policy, any applicable administrative regulations, and any standards that may be developed by the Superintendent of Schools or her/his designee.

Students are advised that the Board's network administrators have the capability to identify users and to monitor all Privately Owned Technological Devices while they are logged on to the network.

**Definitions**

Board Technology Resources

For the purposes of this policy, "Board Technology Resources" refers to the Board's computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources owned and/or used by the school district and accessible by students.

Privately Owned Technological Devices

For the purposes of the this policy, "Privately Owned Technological Devices" refers to privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic hand-held equipment that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture and recording, sound recording, information transmitting and/or receiving, storing, etc. These devices may include, but are not limited to, personal laptops, Smartphones, network access devices, cellular telephones, radios, MP3 players, CD players, tablet computers, walkie-talkies, personal data assistants, and other electronic signaling devices.

**Use of Privately Owned Technological Devices**

Privately Owned Technological Devices may not be used during instructional time, except as specifically permitted by instructional staff.

Use of any such device for an improper purpose is prohibited. Improper purposes include, but are not limited to:

- Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to Board Technology Resources;
- Damaging Board Technology Resources;
- Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene, or contains pornography, or is “harmful to minors” as defined in Board Policy Number 5135;
- Cyberbullying as defined in Policy and Regulation 5131.911;
- Using such device to violate any school rule, including the unauthorized recording (photographic, video, or audio) of another individual without the permission of the individual or a school staff member;
- Connecting a Privately Owned Technological Device directly to the district’s network using a cable or other non-wireless connection.
- Unauthorized hosting of files, folders, or gaming servers for use by others on the network.
- Taking any action prohibited by any Federal or State law.

### **Search of Privately Owned Technological Devices**

A student’s Privately Owned Technological Device may be seized and searched if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law, Board Policy, Administrative Regulations, or the rules of the school. Any such search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

### **Responsibility for Privately Owned Technological Devices**

Students are responsible for the safety and use of their Privately Owned Technological Devices. If a Privately Owned Technological Device is stolen, lost, or damaged, a report should be made to the building principal, who will investigate the loss in a manner consistent with procedures for stolen or damaged personal property. Students and parents should be aware that the Board is not liable for any Privately Owned Technological Device that is stolen, lost, or damaged while at school or during a school-sponsored activity. In addition, the Board is not liable for damage caused to a Privately Owned Technological Device that is infected by a computer virus and/or malware of any kind while it is connected to, or otherwise interacting with, the Board Technology Resources. For these reasons, students are advised not to share or loan their Privately Owned Technological Devices with other students.

## **Disciplinary Action**

Misuse of the Board Technology Resources and/or the use of Privately Owned Technological Devices to access or utilize the Board Technology Resources in an inappropriate manner, and/or the use of such devices in any manner inconsistent with this Policy, will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. For students, a violation of this Policy may result in loss of access privileges, a prohibition on the use and/or possession of Privately Owned Technological Devices on school property or at school-sponsored activities, suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Board's policies and related to student discipline, and/or other disciplinary consequences as appropriate.

## **Access to Board Technology Resources**

It is the policy of the Weston Board of Education to permit students, using their Privately Owned Technological Devices, to access the Board Technology Resources.

The Board Technology Resources shall be used to access educational information and to promote learning activities both at home and at school. Personal use of Board Technology Resources by elementary school and intermediate school students is expressly prohibited. Personal use of the Board Technology Resources by high school and middle school students is permitted. Such personal use of the Board Technology Resources by middle and high school students, however, is subject to all Board policies and regulations, including monitoring of all such use, as well as any rules that the Superintendent may establish. Moreover, any such personal use shall not interfere in any manner with instructional time, and under no circumstances should such personal use occur during class.

Through the publication and dissemination of this policy statement and others related to use of the Board's computer systems, as well as other instructional means, the Board educates students about the Board's expectations for technology users.

The Board considers access to its technology resources to be a privilege and not a right. Students are expected to act at all times appropriately in ways which are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technology use as well as all local, state, and federal laws when using the Board Technology Resources. Failure to do so will result in the consequences outlined herein and in other applicable policies (including, but not limited to, the Safe School Climate Plan - Regulation 5131.911), the Student Discipline Policy – 5114, and the Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety Policy and Administrative Regulations Number 5135.

Students must abide by the procedures outlined in this Policy and all policies and applicable regulations outlined in the Board's computer use and other applicable policies. Students will be given specific information for log-on and access procedures using school

accounts. No user may deviate from these log-on/access procedures. Students must understand that the Board has reserved the right to conduct monitoring of Board Technology Resources and can do so despite the assignment to individual users of passwords for system security. Any password systems implemented by the Board are designed solely to provide system security from unauthorized users, not to provide privacy to the individual system user. The system's security aspects, message delete function and personal passwords can be bypassed for monitoring purposes. Therefore, students should be aware that they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of Privately Owned Technological Devices to access Board Technology Resources. This provision applies to any and all uses of the Board Technology Resources and the use of any Privately Owned Technological Devices to access same.

### **Harm to Board Technology Resources**

Any act by a student using a Privately Owned Technological Device that harms the Board Technology Resources or otherwise interferes with or compromises the integrity of Board Technology Resources will be considered vandalism and will be subject to discipline and/or appropriate criminal prosecution or civil action.

### **Closed Forum**

This Policy shall not be construed to establish a public forum or a limited open forum.

### **Legal References:**

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-48d  
Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182; 53a-183; 53a-250  
Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520

### **Policy References:**

Policy No. 5114, Student Discipline  
Policy No. 5131.911, Bullying  
Regulation No. 5131.911, Safe School Climate Plan  
Policy 5135, Student Use of District's Computer Systems  
Policy No. 6184, Unexpected Broadcast

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY REGARDING EMPLOYEE USE OF  
THE DISTRICT'S COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND ELECTRONIC  
COMMUNICATIONS**

Computers, computer networks, electronic devices, Internet access, and e-mail are effective and important technological resources. The Board of Education provides computers, a computer network, including Internet access and an e-mail system, and other electronic devices that access the network such as wireless and/or portable electronic hand-held equipment that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture and recording, sound recording, information transmitting and/or receiving, storing, etc. (including, but not limited to, personal laptops, Smartphones, network access devices, cellular telephones, radios, MP3 and other digital audio players, CD players, tablet computers, walkie-talkies, personal data assistants, digital cameras, and other electronic signaling devices)-(referred to collectively as "Computer Systems"), in order to enhance both the educational opportunities for our students and the business operations of the Weston Public Schools ("District").

The Computer Systems are business and educational tools. As such, they are made available to Board employees for business and education related uses. The Administration shall develop regulations setting forth procedures to be used by the Administration in an effort to ensure that such Computer Systems are used for appropriate business and education related purposes.

The system administrator, school and District administrators, and others managing the Computer Systems may access email or monitor activity on the Computer Systems or electronic devices accessing the Computer Systems at any time and for any reason or no reason. Typical examples include when there is reason to suspect inappropriate conduct or there is a problem with the Computer Systems needing correction. Further, the system administrator and others managing the Computer Systems can access or monitor activity on the systems despite the use of passwords by individual users, and can bypass such passwords. In addition, review of emails, messages or information stored on the Computer Systems, which can be forensically retrieved, includes those messages and/or electronic data sent, posted and/or retrieved using social media sites.

Personal use of the Computer Systems is permitted. Such personal use of the Computer Systems, however, is subject to all District policies and regulations, including monitoring of all such use, as well as any rules as the Superintendent may establish. Moreover, any such personal use shall not interfere in any manner with work responsibilities, and all such personal use shall occur outside of designated work periods.



Users should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of the Computer Systems or other electronic devices that access the Computer Systems. Use of the Computer Systems represents an employee's acknowledgement that the employee has read and understands this policy and any applicable regulations in their entirety, including the provisions regarding monitoring and review of computer activity.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-48d  
Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182; 53a-183; 53a-250  
Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520

Policy References:

Policy No. 4118.4, Electronic Mail/Telecommunications  
Policy No. 4118.5, Social Networking

ADOPTED:\_\_\_\_\_

REVISED:\_\_\_\_\_

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING EMPLOYEE USE OF  
THE DISTRICT'S COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND ELECTRONIC  
COMMUNICATIONS**

Introduction

Computers, computer networks, electronic devices, Internet access, and electronic mail are effective and important technological resources. The Board of Education has installed computers, a computer network, including Internet access and an e-mail system, and may provide electronic devices that access the system, such as personal laptops, Smartphones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, walkie-talkies, or other mobile or handheld electronic devices, to enhance the educational and business operations of the District. In these regulations, the computers, computer network, electronic devices, Internet access, e-mail, and electronic messaging systems are referred to collectively as "Computer Systems."

These Computer Systems are business and educational tools. As such, they are being made available to employees of the District for District-related educational and business purposes. Personal use of the Computer Systems, other than email and electronic messaging systems, is permitted. Such personal use of the Computer Systems, however, is subject to all District policies and regulations, including monitoring of all such use, as well as any rules as the Superintendent may establish. Moreover, any such personal use shall occur outside of designated work periods.

These Computer Systems are expensive to install, own and maintain. Unfortunately, these Computer Systems can be misused in a variety of ways, some of which are innocent, some of which are the result of negligence, and others of which are deliberate. Therefore, in order to maximize the benefits of these technologies to the District, our employees and all our students, this regulation shall govern *all* use of these Computer Systems.

Unless specifically agreed in writing, all messages, documents, photographs, multimedia, and other digital materials created using the Computer Systems are the property of the Weston Public Schools.

## Monitoring

It is important for all users of these Computer Systems to understand that the Board of Education, as the owner or lessee of the Computer Systems, reserves the right to monitor the use of the Computer Systems to ensure that they are being used in accordance with these regulations. The Board of Education intends to monitor in a limited fashion, but will do so as it deems appropriate to ensure that the systems are being used appropriately for District-related educational and business purposes and to maximize utilization of the systems for such business and educational purposes. The Superintendent reserves the right to eliminate personal use of the District's Computer Systems by any or all employees at any time.

The system administrator, school and District administrators, and others managing the Computer Systems may access email or monitor activity on the Computer Systems or electronic devices accessing the Computer Systems at any time and for any reason or no reason. Typical examples include when there is reason to suspect inappropriate conduct or there is a problem with the Computer Systems needing correction. Further, the system administrator and others managing the Computer Systems can access or monitor activity on the systems despite the use of passwords by individual users, and can bypass such passwords. In addition, review of emails, messages or information stored on the Computer Systems, which can be forensically retrieved, includes those messages and/or electronic data sent, posted and/or retrieved using social media sites.

## Why Monitor?

The Computer Systems are expensive for the Board to install, operate and maintain. For that reason alone, it is necessary to prevent misuse of the Computer Systems. However, there are other equally important reasons why the Board intends to monitor the use of these Computer Systems, reasons that support its efforts to maintain a comfortable and pleasant work environment for all employees.

These Computer Systems shall not be used for improper and/or illegal purposes. Experience by other operators of such Computer Systems has shown that they can be used for such wrongful purposes as sexual harassment, intimidation of co-workers, threatening of co-workers, breaches of confidentiality, copyright infringement and the like.

Monitoring will also allow the Board to continually reassess the utility of the Computer Systems, and whenever appropriate, make such changes to the Computer Systems as it deems fit. Thus, the Board monitoring should serve to increase the value of the system to the District on an ongoing basis.

### Privacy Issues.

Employees must understand that the Board has reserved the right to conduct monitoring of these Computer Systems and can do so despite the assignment to individual employees of passwords for system security. Any password systems implemented by the District are designed solely to provide system security from unauthorized users, not to provide privacy to the individual system user.

The Computer Systems' security aspects, message delete function and personal passwords can be bypassed for monitoring purposes. Therefore, employees must be aware that they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of these Computer Systems. This provision applies to any and all uses of the District's Computer Systems and electronic devices that access same, including any incidental personal use permitted in accordance with these regulations.

Use of the Computer Systems represents an employee's acknowledgement that the employee has read and understands these regulations and any applicable policy in their entirety, including the provisions regarding monitoring and review of computer activity.

### Prohibited Uses.

Inappropriate use of Computer Systems is expressly prohibited, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Sending any form of solicitation not directly related to the business of the Board of Education;
- Sending any form of slanderous, harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications *may* also be a *crime*);
- Using another person's password and/or username to access that person's account or otherwise attempt to gain unauthorized access to the Computer Systems;
- Misrepresenting oneself as another individual or entity and/or modifying files, communications, other data, passwords or usernames belonging to another person and/or to which access is not otherwise available to the employee;
- Leaving a file, email, or other digital document open on any device included in the Computer Systems, when the device is unattended, in a manner that it can be viewed or accessed by another person;

- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to other “computer systems” as that term is defined herein;
- Downloading or modifying computer software of the District in violation of the District's licensure agreement(s) and/or without authorization from supervisory personnel;
- Downloading unauthorized software onto the Computer Systems;
- Sending any message, or otherwise transmitting/publishing information that breaches the Board of Education's confidentiality requirements, including, but not limited to, the confidentiality rights of students;
- Failure to adhere to copyright laws including, but not limited to, using the Computer Systems to reproduce, copy, save, improperly cite, and or distribute materials subject to copyright except as permitted by law;
- Sending messages for any purpose prohibited by law, Board policy, or Administrative Regulations;
- Transmitting, distributing, accessing, storing, or receiving inappropriate e-mail communications, digital media, or documents containing pornographic, vulgar, lewd, obscene, and/or sexually explicit words, pictures, videos, or other digital material;
- Using Computer Systems for any purposes, or in any manner, other than those permitted under these regulations or as specifically directed by the employee's supervisor or the Superintendent;
- Using social media sites in a manner that violates the Board's Social Networking policy (Policy No. 4118.5).
- Physically connecting a device to the Computer Systems with a cable or other non-wireless connection.

It is not the intent of this Policy to exhaustively enumerate all instances of unacceptable use of the Computer Systems. Therefore, if a particular behavior or activity is generally prohibited by law and/or Board of Education policy, use of these Computer Systems for the purpose of carrying out such activity and/or behavior is also prohibited.

#### Electronic Communications

The Board expects that all employees will comply with all applicable Board policies and standards of professional conduct when engaging in any form of electronic communication, including texting, using the District's Computer Systems, or through the

use of any electronic device or mobile device owned, leased, or used by the Board. As with any form of communication, the Board expects District personnel to exercise caution and appropriate judgment when using electronic communications with students, colleagues and other individuals in the context of fulfilling an employee's job-related responsibilities.

All work-related electronic communications shall be conducted via the District's email and electronic messaging systems.

#### Disciplinary Action.

Misuse of these Computer Systems will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Because no two situations are identical, the Board reserves the right to determine the appropriate discipline for any particular set of circumstances.

#### Responsibility for Privately Owned Technological Devices

Employees are responsible for the safety and use of their privately owned technological devices. Employees should be aware that the Board is not liable for any privately owned technological device that is stolen, lost, or damaged while at school or during a school-sponsored activity. In addition, the Board is not liable for damage caused to a privately owned technological device that is infected by a computer virus and/or malware of any kind while it is connected to, or otherwise interacting with, the Computer Systems.

#### Complaints of Problems or Misuse.

Anyone who is aware of problems with, or misuse of these Computer Systems, or has a question regarding the appropriate use of the Computer Systems, should report this to his or her supervisor or to the Director of Technology.

Most importantly, the Board urges any employee who receives any harassing, threatening, intimidating or other improper message through the Computer Systems to report this immediately. It is the Board's policy that no employee should be required to tolerate such treatment, regardless of the identity of the sender of the message. *Please report these events to the administration.*

The District will take reasonable precautions, as it deems appropriate, to filter objectionable materials (e.g. pornography, drug-related forums, vulgarity, etc.) in order to prohibit Internet access to these materials on the Computer Systems. However, it is not possible for the District to restrict all such materials, and it cannot be held responsible for such materials acquired utilizing the Computer Systems.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-48d

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182; 53a-183; 53a-250

Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520

Policy References:

Policy No. 1255, Civility

Policy No. 4118.4, Electronic Mail/Telecommunications

Policy No. 4118.5, Social Networking

Policy No. 6184, Unexpected Broadcast

ADOPTED:\_\_\_\_\_

REVISED:\_\_\_\_\_

# WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT

May 20, 2013



Weston High School

Lisa Wolak, Principal

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## **Principal's Message**

Weston High School has been named one of the nation's best high schools by *Newsweek*. Two thousand schools were identified across the country with WHS ranking number 190 in the nation, number two in the State, and number one in Fairfield County. The lens by which these schools are identified is one of college preparedness. The specific indicators are: four year on-time graduation rate, percentage of students accepted to college, total number of AP exams given divided by the school's enrollment, average AP score, average SAT score, and percentage of students enrolled in AP courses.

## **Spring Assessments**

May is a very busy month at Weston High School. As a testing site for the SAT, we hosted our second testing session on May 4 with 185 WHS students taking this high stakes examination. Advanced Placement testing began on Monday, May 6 with 240 juniors and seniors sitting for 17 different examinations and a total of 544 tests.

On May 17, more than 100 juniors participated in a pilot assessment given by the Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE). The CSDE developed a 2013 Common Core State Standards-aligned "Practice Assessment" to help school districts better determine how students are learning in alignment with the standards. The assessment results will support district improvement efforts as we continue to revise our curriculum and ensure its alignment with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The assessment was approximately 90 minutes in length. Students were randomly selected to be assessed in the areas of either mathematics or writing. For additional information regarding the CCSS, please visit <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?>

## **Community Service/Co-Curricular Events**

Weston High School hosted the Special Olympics Southwest Regional Games on Saturday, May 10. Athletes competed in track and field, aquatics, and tennis events. Over 900 people registered to support the games, including unified sports partners, coaches, local coordinators, assistant coaches, chaperones, community, staff and student volunteers and hometown escorts. Team Weston competed for the second year in track and field and aquatics. Representing



Weston were athletes Brian Benninghoff, Ali Cohen, Evan Demby, Becky Elkins, Forrest Hamilton, Sarah Stuart, and Miguel Teles.

### ***Relay for Life***

From 3:00 p.m. Saturday, May 18 to 7:00 a.m. Sunday May 19, the Weston High School track will come alive with our third annual Relay for Life. Our Relay is known in Connecticut as being extraordinary due to the fact that it is led entirely by our high school students. Over 70 community teams are anticipated to participate.

Our junior-senior prom will be held this year on Friday, May 23, at the Greenwich Hyatt and on Saturday, May 24, we encourage you to participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual WHS PTO Memorial Day 5K Road Race. You may run, walk, and support this wonderful community event by going to the website [www.weston5k.com](http://www.weston5k.com). All proceeds are used to support instruction for learning at our high school.

### **Academic Program**

#### ***Language Arts***

As part of their final assessment for *Macbeth*, students in Senior Honors Humanities transformed the library's quiet study rooms into immersive theater productions of different scenes from Shakespeare's tragedy. Inspired by *Sleep No More*, an immersive theater adaptation of *Macbeth* in New York City, students used costumes, lighting, music, and props to create an experience for their fellow students, who entered each room and interacted with the scene. Making connections to their study of the origins of theater in ancient Greece to the Shakespearean plays of the Renaissance to the experimental theater of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century, students demonstrated their understanding of the evolution of drama's ability to communicate human experience.

#### ***Physical Education***

This month after finishing the Project Adventure unit and experiencing the high elements course, our freshmen and sophomores began their CPR unit. All students become certified in CPR as part of our WHS wellness program.

#### ***Science/Technology***

Students in the Project Lead the Way's Computer Integrated Manufacturing course recently completed a production project where they designed, modeled, and built 38 name plates for staff members around the district. Students used a range of tools including various software programs, CNC equipment, and traditional power tools to construct the name plates out of Cherry hardwood and blue acrylic.

#### ***School Counseling***

Our Senior Internship program is well underway with 116 seniors working in the wider community. Examples of some of our internship sites are: Builders Beyond Borders, Norfield Children's Center, Village Pediatrics, Stepping Stones, WSHU (Sacred Heart University) Radio, and the Diocese of Bridgeport. Our Director of School Counseling, Mrs. Starzyk, directs this program providing seniors with authentic career experiences before graduation.

### ***Social Studies***

Mr. Jorge, Ms. Conetta, Ms. Klein, and Mr. Pasiuk's ninth-grade world studies students have been hard at work on their French Revolution historical investigation papers. Affectionately referred to as the "HIP," this project not only teaches students about the French Revolution but prepares ninth graders to undertake and succeed at creating argumentative research-based essays. Mrs. Snaith, our school librarian, works with the teachers and prepares a lesson for the students to learn important research skills that they will use for the rest of their high school and college careers. Through this assessment, our ninth graders are learning skills and strategies that will assist them in becoming life-long learners.

### ***Videography***

A team of Weston High School seniors took first place in the 2013 Connecticut Student Film Festival (CTSFF) for their work on the 84-hour film contest. Andrew Katz, Walker Edelman, and Harrison Manning produced a fictional short film, entitled *The Factory*, based on this year's theme dealing with fatherhood. Videography Teacher Mr. Brencher served as the students' advisor to the project. This festival marks the fifth anniversary of celebrating digital media and movie making and showcases the best work from a variety of education programs for middle and high school students. Students are challenged to produce a film in 84 hours or less, based on criteria that are released at the beginning of the production period. *The Factory* also made it to the finals of the Williston Film Festival, where the students received a Best Cinematography award. Students from Advanced Videography have also entered the Area Nine Educational Access Awareness Awards in the categories of PSA, Documentary, and Open Entry. The purpose of the Educational Access Awareness Awards is "to encourage students to produce programming for Channel 78 while developing video production and storytelling skills by creating educational access programming relevant to their schools, communities, and/or curriculum. Winners of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Access Awareness Awards will be announced later this month at the regular meeting of the Area Nine Cable Council.

### ***World Language***

On May 9, more than 85 students were recognized for their efforts in their world language classes this year at the sixth annual *World Language Celebration Night*. Students performed in each language during the celebration which included a solo and piano duet in French, a poem recitation in Spanish, and skits in Mandarin Chinese and Latin. Selected students received recognitions based on participation, academic achievements, and commitment to the study of world languages. They were also recognized for their performances on the National Spanish, French and Latin Exams. One Spanish IV Honors student was recognized nationally for scoring in the 96<sup>th</sup> percentile on the National Spanish Exam, earning a gold medal.

### ***Latin***

Over 50% of our Latin students participating in the National Latin Exam earned top honors. This exam tests students on their knowledge of grammar, culture, derivatives, and reading comprehension. Thirty Latin students participated in the annual *State Latin Day* on May 3. Dressed in togas, they participated in trivia games and activities with other Latin students from across the State.

### ***Professional Development***

Social Studies Teacher Ms. Bennett was accepted to Gilder Lehrman for a summer institute entitled, “The Sixties: A Historical Perspective.” This is a blended learning program that will include webinars and an online component.

### ***Co-Curricular Program***

#### ***Student Government News***

Weston High School’s sophomore and freshmen classes are excited to host the fifth annual WHS Senior Citizen Dance on Thursday, May 23 from 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. There will be an early dinner, dancing, socializing (with folks from ages 15-95), and best of all, a live band playing an impressive array of big band music. In anticipation of this event, students visited with seniors at the Weston Senior Center during lunch on Wednesday, May 8.

#### ***Athletics***

The football team will host a Memorial Day carwash after the WHS PTO 5K race. All donations go to support the team’s pre-season camp held in Beckett, MA.

At the O’Grady Relays in Danbury, girls’ track and field took first in the small school division and third overall. Boys’ track and field took second in the small school division and fifth overall. Emily Savage vaulted 13’1-½”, shattering the old State pole vault record by 6-½ inches.

Baseball player Charlie Ameer was named the CT Post Athlete of the Week this week and has been nominated for the Gatorade Player of the Year recognition. Boys’ tennis is undefeated in conference play and looking for its twelfth straight State championship. The team has 11 wins and one loss.

#### ***Student Government***

Color Clash Week will take place May 20 through May 24. Show your Trojan spirit by dressing up each day and attending one or all of three after school events. The CLASH is between two teams: Blue (Grades 11/12) and Gold (Grades 9/10). There are a variety of dress-up days and activities scheduled throughout the week.

#### ***Weston Youth Services***

This update of our newsletter is written by Dr. Michelle Albright, the Director of Youth Services for the town of Weston.

As Mother’s and Father’s Days approach, images of gender roles and responsibilities are everywhere. Cards, school concerts, and commercials portray a range of models and messages about masculinity and femininity. Our views of how men and women are “supposed” to look, speak, act, and feel are shaped by parents, peers, society, and even the shows we watch – and children today watch a lot! Yet what’s depicted as the ideal may often seem a bit surreal.

Join us this month as we explore how our attitudes about gender influence our parenting styles, standards, and practices; beliefs about beauty,

strength, and success; media representations of men and women; and common (and sometimes conflicting) maternal mindsets and paternal perspectives. We hope these conversations will give you some tips and tools to nurture the next generation of strong and secure men and women.

**Tuesday May 21**

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Weston Field Club – A light dinner will be provided!

*Fathering for fathers (and mothers too!)*

Guest Speaker: Richard Sussman, LCSW

**Thursday May 30**

12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. – Sandwiches will be provided!

*Dating drama*

Guest Speakers: Claudia Cardenas, PsyD, and Emily Leventhal

To RSVP to any of the upcoming sessions please email

[malbright@westonct.gov](mailto:malbright@westonct.gov) or call

203-222-2585. To learn more about the series please visit the website

[www.westonyouthservices.org](http://www.westonyouthservices.org).

**Weston Middle School**

**Amy Watkins, Principal**

*In this issue...*

***Eighth-Grade Mentorship Celebration***

***National History Day Kudos***

***Music in the Parks***

***World Language Celebration***

***Weston's Got Talent***

***Upcoming Spring Music Performances***

***Welcome to Sixth Grade!***

**Eighth-Grade Mentorship Celebration a HUGE Success**

After several exchanges between mentor and mentee, eighth-grade students who participated in the mentorship program shared what they learned from working in the “real world” with their mentor. Our eighth-grade students had the opportunity to experience over 22 different professions, including, cake decorating, the fashion industry and interior design. A common theme in speaking to the students about this opportunity is how it gave them an “inside-scoop” of what the position entailed. Many shared that, as a result of the experience, they have a better



idea of the direction they want to follow as they transition to high school. Thank you again to all of the individuals who volunteered their time and truly had an impact on our students, and to Mrs. Kristy Peterson and all of her parent volunteers who, without their support, this event would not be possible.

### **Kudos to Our National History Day Contestants**

Congratulations to Zoe Saldinger, Mack Reiferson, Colin Sullivan, and Brendan Moore who recently submitted their documentary for the National History Day competition – their documentary on The Cuban Missile Crisis earned second place. This is even more impressive once you know this is one of the most difficult categories in which to be judged. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Peggy Jorgensen for all of her support and dedication to her students to assist them through this process.

### **Music in the Parks: WMS Adjudication Festival**

This past Friday, May 3, the Weston Middle School jazz ensembles, chamber singers, and chamber orchestra performed at the nationally recognized Music in the Parks adjudicated festival in Agawam, MA. Each ensemble performed three selections for a panel of judges and received both a written evaluation and recording of the judge's remarks. School bands, orchestras, and choirs from across the country attended 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 were rewarded after the festival with a visit to Six Flags New England Amusement Park.



### **World Language Celebration**

Congratulations to our world language and chamber orchestra students, who wowed their families and peers last Thursday, May 9. Students sang, recited poems, and were acknowledged for their excellence and positive attitude toward their world language.

### **Weston's Got Talent**

Weston students proved they have talent as they rocked the house this past Friday evening! Students dedicated extra hours toward Friday afternoon rehearsals to prepare for this event. Students came in support and were amazed at the true talent of their peers. I wouldn't be surprised if scouts from *The Voice* or *American Idol* begin knocking on our doors looking for their next contestants. If you missed this year's event, mark your calendars for next year.

Thank you to the WMS PTO for their amazing support of our students and the extra time and effort that went into making this a huge success and true pleasure to attend. A special thank you to Leigh Meccay for her patience in planning this event despite weather cancellations and vacations.



## Spring Music Performances

What better way to celebrate spring than listening to the talents of our own Weston Middle School students. May highlighted the talents of both our orchestra and band students as well as our chorus ensembles.



## Welcome to Sixth Grade

Fifth-grade parents attended an incoming sixth-grade orientation on May 1 to learn how to prepare their child for the transition to the middle school. Parents heard from their child's school counselor, Mrs. Lauren Davi, the sixth-grade team leaders Allison Kovac and Amanda Quaintance, Assistant Principal Mr. Bernardi and Principal Amy Watkins. In case you were unable to attend, a copy of the presentation is available on the middle school web page. An informational packet that was shared with parents is available in the middle school main office as well.

**Weston Intermediate School**

**Pattie Falber, Principal**

*In this issue...*

- Teaching and Learning*
- Technology*
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## Teaching and Learning

### Third Grade

The students are excitedly involved in their final science unit where they are learning about animal adaptations and how they are used to survive in unique ecosystems. They are experiencing many hands-on investigations involving the structure and function of different animal adaptations. For example, students created camouflaged moths that would survive well in their classroom, examined simulated skulls, and dissected real owl pellets. As seen in the picture, students were able to observe live organisms in the science lab in order to further their understanding of adaptation and habitat.



### Fourth Grade

Fourth graders are wrapping up their integrated research project on important inventions that



have changed the way people live. Researched inventions have included the light bulb, plastic, and the lightning rod. Students have worked collaboratively to research their invention and create a PowerPoint presentation that highlights and showcases their work to an audience. Students have been very excited by the work they are doing, and Maxine Petruccelli is even trying to organize a display to showcase the work at the Weston Historical Society.

### ***Fifth Grade***

This month all of the fifth-grade classes engaged in an engineering challenge created by NASA's Beginning Engineering, Science, and Technology (BEST) initiative. Working in collaborative groups, students designed and built models of a lunar buggy that could carry equipment and astronauts on the surface of the moon. Once the models were built, students tested their vehicles to determine the relationship between cargo mass, slope of the ramp surface, and distance travelled. The lunar buggy challenge is one of several tasks included in the *NASA BEST Activities Guide*, which is designed to teach students the engineering design process. This process includes a series of steps that engineers use to solve problems, including: 1) ask a question; 2) imagine a solution; 3) plan a design; 4) create the model; 5) experiment and test the model; and 6) improve the original. Through the lunar buggy challenge, fifth graders were able to participate in a highly engaging, real-world task that was correlated to the national science, mathematics, technology, and engineering standards.



### **Technology**

Over the past several weeks, third-grade students have been participating in an interdisciplinary AIM unit that combines non-fiction reading and writing, science, and technology. The third graders began this unit by selecting an endangered animal that they wanted to research. Then they used a variety of text and technology tools to gather information about the factors that contribute to their animal's survival and endangerment. As the students completed their research, they captured their thoughts in writing and worked with classmates to reflect on the depth and importance of the information they had collected. They also identified a problem that their animal was facing, formed an opinion about that problem, and proposed a possible solution. Currently, the students are preparing PowerPoint presentations to share the product of their research with their classmates. This project focuses on two skill areas on the AIM matrix: 1) Evaluate and Justify (Critical Thinking) and 2) Engaging in Global Issues (Global). It also

provides all third graders with an assured experience with PowerPoint and teaches them how to use it as a digital storytelling tool.

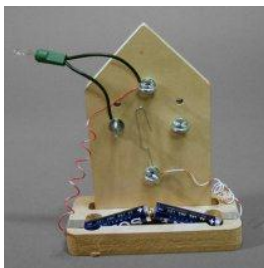
Fourth graders are currently wrapping up their invention research project. Their assignment was to select an American invention and then, in collaborative groups, present their selection as the most important American invention of all time. Students were able to choose between PowerPoint and two Web 2.0 tools – Glogster or VoiceThread – to share their learning. They will be welcoming parents to view their work in the coming weeks.

Fifth-grade students have just begun an AIM unit for science. The students are learning about the features of Earth that allow our planet to support life. Their task is to become an expert on one of Earth's features through research and note taking. They will acquire this knowledge through an online Webquest designed by our fifth-grade team. In the next step they will become part of a team of student experts who will devise a plan to colonize a distant planet or moon. May the force be with them...

### **Field Trips**

Third graders were treated to a visit from Animal Embassy to help them understand how habitats provide animals with all that they need to survive: food, shelter, water, air, and space. Sponsored by WIS's Talent on Tap program, this event highlighted several animals and their physical and behavioral adaptations. Students enjoyed seeing animals like a red-eyed tree frog, poison dart frog, hedgehog, chinchilla, and alligator snapping turtle. They were able to touch most of the animals, as well as see them up close and personal.

Fourth graders visited the Eli Whitney Museum in Hamden, Connecticut, to enrich their study of electricity, and forces and motion in science. The museum provides an experimental learning workshop that teaches experiments that support Connecticut's science standards. Students explored the challenging mechanics of building catapults to understand that the position and motion of objects can be changed by pushing and pulling; and connected a simple switch to illuminate a small wooden house for their unit on electricity.



Fifth graders took a field trip to the Fairfield Museum which was very informative and enjoyable. Each class took time experiencing three different activities throughout the visit. The



Walking Tour was complete with interesting and relevant content led by an educator who was engaging and knowledgeable. Prior to the field trip, each fifth-grade class read aloud a book, *The Forgotten Flag*. Throughout the tour, the students were shown different houses and landmarks that were mentioned in the book and still exist today. There was the Living History component led by a dynamic historian who involved the students by letting them try on different clothes from the historical time period of the Revolutionary War and showing them a variety of tools that were used. He listened and responded to the students' thoughts and questions, catering his delivery to each class. The third part was an Old Burying Ground Adventure where the students used a compass and clues to direct them on a scavenger hunt of sorts to learn more about the real lives of the colonial residents of Fairfield. Overall, the visit to Fairfield was an authentic pairing to our social studies curriculum.

### **Music and Art Festival**

Our hallways have once again been turned into a beautiful art gallery as art works from our fourth- and fifth-grade students cover the walls for our annual Art and Music Festival which was held Wednesday, May 8. Throughout the evening students proudly showed off their works of art, expertly explaining the units they had studied and the techniques used to create their pieces. In addition, music filled the air, as students from the band, orchestra, and chorus eagerly performed solos, duets, and in small ensembles to showcase their talent and love of music. It was a festive night for all.

### **LRC Wolfpups**

Lots of exciting things have been happening in our LRC. In April a poetry contest was held to celebrate National Poetry Month. The theme of the poems was based on Nature in celebration of Earth Day. Many of the "Wolfpups" are piloting Web 2.0 tools, which are currently being used at the middle school, for possible use in fifth grade next year. The Decorations Committee has been busy creating a book display using plaster. The students are currently planning the LRC Book Swap, and a "Beach Read" for a sustained silent reading event during the last week of school. Lastly, the students are creating a promotional PowerPoint for a fourth-grade transition meeting.

**Hurlbutt Elementary School**

**Dr. Michael Cicchetti, Principal**

*In this issue...*

*April Poetry Month*

*2013 Kindergarten Recycling Regatta*

*Grade 1 Fairy Tales, Folk Tales, and Fables*

*Grade 2 Spanish Class Symbolic Butterfly Migration*

*Welcoming a New Kindergarten Class*

*Parent Activities*

### **April Poetry Month**

Hurlbutt staff and students celebrated poetry during the month of April. As a culminating experience, on April 26, each class performed a poem for students in their grade level. Students were even treated to a performance by their teachers. Poems were shared during morning announcements by the principals. Staff mystery readers recorded reading poems and students

had a chance to guess the identity of the school staff member. Poems surrounded students throughout the school, including food-related poems read aloud during lunch. “Poem in My Pocket Day” was celebrated on May 3 during which all members of the Hurlbutt school community carried a favorite poem in their pocket to share with others during the day. All of these events and activities served to support the poetry unit at each grade level. The month’s activities also provided opportunities for students to hear a variety of poems as a way of increasing their awareness and appreciation of poetry and poets.



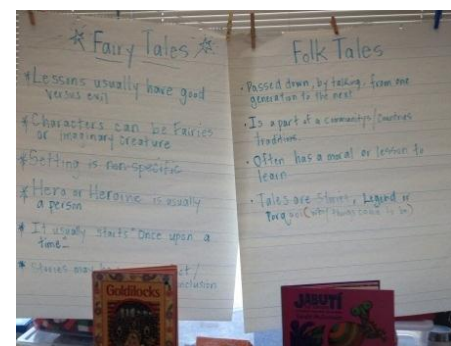
### **Anchors Away for the 2013 Kindergarten Recycling Regatta**

This month’s kindergarten recycling regatta was an exciting culminating activity within the kindergarten science curriculum, bringing together the sink and float concepts from their properties unit and the conservation themes of reusing and recycling. After some well-planned sink and float explorations, the kindergarteners began collecting various used packaging materials on Earth Day. The materials were reused to create boats of their own design. Regatta event categories included stability in rough waters, holding the most weight without sinking, and speed in the wind. Much predicting, designing, testing and redesigning took place for this enjoyable, science-filled event.



### **Grade 1 Fairy Tales, Folk Tales, and Fables**

First-grade students were immersed in an exciting study of tales. Through an inquiry model of exploration, students discovered similarities and differences between and among fairy tales, folk tales, and fables. Students learned how to analyze various forms and versions of tales to identify and discuss plausible messages, lessons, or morals. Within this unit, students accurately cited textual evidence to orally support their thinking. Students compared and contrasted the similarities and differences between tales written by different authors as well as analyzed how tales are crafted in different cultures. Students also created opinion pieces of writing while citing textual evidence to support their thinking, an expectation of the Common Core State Standards. Lastly, students applied what they learned as readers to their lives as writers by choosing the form of tales that best fit their purpose and message, then drafted and published their own tales.



### **Grade 2 Spanish Class Symbolic Butterfly Migration**

In second-grade Spanish classes, Hurlbutt students united with children across North America in a symbolic migration to celebrate the magical journey of the monarch butterfly from the United

States and Canada to Mexico in the fall, with a return North in the spring. In September, students created butterflies with messages of friendship in Spanish and mailed them to schools near the winter butterfly sanctuaries in Mexico. Children in Mexico protected their butterflies, as the sanctuaries in Mexico protect the real monarch butterflies. Sra. Gonzalez helped Hurlbutt students track the progress of their butterflies. They also saw photos online of children in Mexico holding the actual butterfly their class made, along with recent videos and photos of life in the sanctuaries. As part of the symbolic butterfly project, second graders used their knowledge of migration, life cycle and butterfly vocabulary to recite various poems and eventually write their own original poetry. Once the cold winter months were over in Weston, the monarch butterflies began their journey north. Just recently, Hurlbutt students received paper butterflies that completed their migration, along with letters and photos from children in Mexico and across the United States. The monarch butterfly and its spectacular migration served to unite Hurlbutt students with children from all across North America.



#### **About the Symbolic Migration ([www.journeynorth.com](http://www.journeynorth.com))**

The paper butterflies' fall flight is timed to correspond with the real monarchs' journey south. The paper butterflies arrive in Mexico around the time of the Day of the Dead/Dia de los Muertos (November 2), just as the real monarchs do. According to Mexican legend, these returning butterflies are thought to carry the ancestors' souls and play a role in the Dia de los Muertos celebrations. Mexican students from the sanctuary region greet the butterflies. At the same time in the mountains nearby, the entire eastern population of North American monarch butterflies is arriving in Mexico for the winter. Sometime in the spring, when the real monarchs' departure from Mexico is announced, the paper butterflies return. The symbolic butterflies carry a message from the Mexican students to the Canadian and American students who made them.

#### **Welcoming a New Kindergarten Class**

On April 29, Hurlbutt Elementary School welcomed approximately eighty parents during a kindergarten orientation program in the South House cafeteria. Administrators, teachers and support personnel each played a role in providing parents with a glimpse of the kindergarten experience. The presentation was organized around the goal of the kindergarten program: *Offering a balanced program so all children can grow and be successful academically, physically, emotionally and socially.* Teachers reviewed the typical daily schedule, the workshop model and Common Core, and components of literacy, numeracy, science, social studies, and special subject areas. The importance of snack, lunch, recess, purposeful play, and quiet time were also discussed. The program concluded with information about readiness and transition, communications they could expect from the school, and health requirements. Following the presentation, PTO volunteer parents conducted tours of the school with groups of kindergarten parents.

#### **Parent Activities**

The final months of the school year bring an increased level of support from the Hurlbutt PTO. Most recently, parents provided a staff appreciation luncheon including volunteers to assist staff with



cafeteria and recess supervision. Earlier that morning, parents coordinated students' arriving at school with flowers for their teachers; additional flowers were given to all non-classroom staff members.

The PTO approved funding for hard covers for the 38 iPads they funded the previous month. PTO funding also supported seven teachers who attended a one-day conference, *Teaching and Learning with iPads*, at the University of Connecticut. After an opening panel discussion by educators from Branford and Glastonbury, teachers attended three break-out sessions on topics such as:

- Children's Literature – A Cross Curriculum Approach Using the iPad and Project Based Learning
- Effective Instruction with One iPad in the Classroom
- Engaging Students by Using and Creating eBooks
- Make Your SMART Board Even Smarter
- Top App Picks for Educators