

Meeting: November 23, 2015

Staples High School, Cafeteria B (Room 301)

**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Michael Gordon      Chair  
Jeannie Smith      Vice Chair  
Elaine Whitney      Secretary  
Mark Mathias  
Brett Aronow  
Karen Kleine  
Paul Block

**Administrators Present:**

Elliott Landon      Superintendent of Schools  
Elio Longo          Dir. of School Business Operations  
James D'Amico      Dir. of Secondary Ed. & Research  
Julie Droller        Dir. of Elementary Education  
John Bayers         Dir. of Human Resources  
Michael Rizzo        Director of Pupil Services

Brett Aronow arrived at 7:15 p.m.; Paul Block arrived at 7:20 p.m.

**PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 7:03 p.m., Staples High School, Cafeteria (Room 301)

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Jeannie Smith nominated Michael Gordon to serve as Chair of the Westport Board of Education from November 2015 - November 2016.

**MOTION:** Jeannie Smith  
**SECOND:** Mark Mathias  
**RESULT:** Passed  
**VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Michael Gordon abstained; Brett Aronow and Paul Block absent)

Michael Gordon nominated Jeannie Smith to serve as Vice Chair of the Westport Board of Education from November 2015 - November 2016.

**MOTION:** Michael Gordon  
**SECOND:** Karen Kleine  
**RESULT:** Passed  
**VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Jeannie Smith abstained; Brett Aronow and Paul Block absent)

Brett Aronow nominated Elaine Whitney to serve as Secretary of the Westport Board of Education from November 2015 - November 2016.

**MOTION:** Brett Aronow  
**SECOND:** Jeannie Smith  
**RESULT:** Passed  
**VOTE:** 5-0-1 (Elaine Whitney abstained; Paul Block absent)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Elaine Whitney moved to discuss Capital Projects in Rank Order of Priority just before Funding for CES Gymnatorium and Cafeteria Air Conditioning; seconded by Mark Mathias and passed 6-1 (Paul Block opposed).

Michael Gordon moved to vote on the approval of the minutes before the information items; seconded by Jeannie Smith and passed unanimously.

**MINUTES** Elaine Whitney moved to approve the November 9, 2015 minutes; seconded by Michael Gordon and passed unanimously.

### **INFORMATION:**

Monitors on School Buses - WITHDRAWN  
Request for Text Amendment - WITHDRAWN  
Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs)  
Westport Education Association Contract: 7/1/16-6/30/19

### **DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

Mark Mathias moved to move the STEM-related discussion/action items up to before the discussion of proposed course additions; seconded by Jeannie Smith and passed unanimously.

Course Sequencing and Offerings in STEM, 6-12

No action was taken.

K-5 STEM and Science Coaches; Creation of Mini-Maker Spaces in the Schools; and, Elementary School World Language Program

No action was taken.

Proposed Course Additions: 2016-17 School Year

**Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the offering of an A.P. Music Theory course at Staples High School for the 2016-2017 school year.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney  
**SECOND:** Jeannie Smith  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 7-0

**Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the offering of courses in Mandarin Chinese 5 and A.P. Chinese Language and Culture at Staples High School for the 2016-2017 school year.**

**MOTION:** Brett Aronow  
**SECOND:** Karen Kleine  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 7-0

**Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the offering of courses in Gothic and Horror Literature and Sports Literature and Research at Staples High School for the 2016-2017 school year.**

**MOTION:** Brett Aronow  
**SECOND:** Jeannie Smith  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 7-0

**Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the offering of courses in Earth Science, 3-D design and Engineering, Creative Technological Solutions, and Materials and Design Science at Staples High School for the 2016-2017 school year.**

**MOTION:** Brett Aronow  
**SECOND:** Elaine Whitney  
**RESULT:** Passed  
**VOTE:** 6-0-1 (Mark Mathias abstained)

Capital Projects in Rank Order of Priority (moved up per earlier vote)

No action was taken.

Funding for CES Gymnatorium and Cafeteria Air Conditioning

**Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Administration to spend no more than \$290,000 from the Capital Expenditure Offset Account and the School Food Service Capital Account for the purpose of installing air conditioning in the Coleytown Elementary School gymnasium and school cafeteria, as soon as may be reasonably possible within the 2015-2016 school year.**

**MOTION:** Paul Block  
**SECOND:** Michael Gordon

Elaine Whitney moved to amend the motion to read as follows:

**Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the installation of air conditioning in the Coleytown Elementary School gymnasium and school cafeteria for completion targeted in Spring 2016, authorizes the issuance of a request for proposal, and authorizes the Chair and the Superintendent to seek a capital appropriation from the Board of Finance and the RTM to fund the project, with an estimated cost of \$290,000.**

Vote on motion to amend:

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney  
**SECOND:** Brett Aronow  
**RESULT:** Passed  
**VOTE:** 4-3 (Elaine Whitney, Mark Mathias, Brett Aronow and Karen Kleine in favor; Michael Gordon, Jeannie Smith and Paul Block opposed)

Vote on motion as amended:

**Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the installation of air conditioning in the Coleytown Elementary School gymnasium and school cafeteria for completion targeted in Spring 2016, authorizes the issuance of a request for proposal, and authorizes the Chair and the Superintendent to seek a capital appropriation from the Board of Finance and the RTM to fund the project, with an estimated cost of \$290,000.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney  
**SECOND:** Brett Aronow  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 7-0

Seat Belts on School Buses

No action was taken.

Michael Gordon moved to continue the meeting past 10:30 p.m.; seconded by Karen Kleine and passed unanimously (6-0; Brett Aronow was not present in the room at the time of the vote.)

Acceptance of Gift

**Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts with great appreciation a gift from Fran Tanguay of Westport of a Steinway and Son Model M Baby Grand Piano, valued at \$24,000, for placement at Staples High School.**

**MOTION:** Michael Gordon  
**SECOND:** Jeannie Smith  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 6-0 (Brett Aronow was not present in the room at the time of the vote)

**UPDATE:**

Health and Medical Insurance Revenues and Expenses; Projected Year-End Balance in Health Reserve Account

No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael Gordon moved to adjourn at 10:42 p.m.; seconded by Jeannie Smith and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Whitney, Secretary  
(Minutes written by Lisa Marriott)