

## **Board of Education Regular Meeting**

Monday, August 10, 2020 4:00 PM

Via Zoom \*Members of the public can view the meeting by watching the live stream on the WPS YouTube channel. Please view the Google Calendar on the District website for link and agenda., 24 School Road, Weston, CT 06883-1623

- I. **Review and Vote on Possible Delay to First Day of School Due to Aftermath of Tropical Storm  
Isaiah**

**WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Weston, CT**

**Meeting Date:** August 10, 2020

**Information Only**

**Action Requested**

**Agenda Item Subject:** Review and Vote on Possible Delay to First Day of School Due to Aftermath of Tropical Storm Isaiah

**Submitted by:** William McKersie

**Document Summary/Purpose and/or Recommended Action:**

Background:

The WPS Cabinet and Principals are recommending that the scheduled start of the 2020-21 School Year be delayed from the scheduled Monday, August 31, 2020 to Tuesday, September 8, 2020. If approved, the change would result in the first reporting day for teachers being Monday, August 31, 2020 (instead of Monday, August 24, 2020). Leadership Team members and 12 Month support staff, many of whom have worked by contract over the summer, would have their required return date as Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

The one-week delay is required because of the serious impact the Tropical Storm had on preparations for Fall 2020 Reopening. After the Storm hit on Tuesday, August 4, the WPS and much of the region have been without power and Internet access, as well as struggling with intermittent mobile service, through at least Monday, August 10, 2020. Indeed, more than half of Weston still is without power and Internet, and the same is true for many of our staff living elsewhere in the region.

The result is that the Leadership Team and support staff have been unable to work together or communicate as they prepared for the return of teachers on August 24. The Leadership Team has been working full time during the outages, but not able to coordinate with fellow administrators, districtwide or even in the same building. Quite important, the Leadership Team has not been able to work with Curriculum Instructional Leaders and other teachers on planning for the five-days of teacher preparation (August 24-28), which is widely regarded as pivotal for a strong reopening of school. Doug Pregman, President of the WTA, endorses the schedule change.

In a normal year, the loss of preparation time might be surmountable. However, in a year when we are reopening in a scenario never before tried, we must have five full days of preparation time for teachers, and have ample planning time to make the days productive for all concerned. Without this preparation, we are not confident that the Fall 2020 Reopening will be optimal.

The WPD and EOC, who have been guiding Weston through the power outage, also endorse the calendar change. It will help reduce pressures for preparations on Town of Weston officials, who will be affected by our different approach to the reopening of schools, especially regarding traffic management.

New Calendar Dates (Full Calendar to be Revised Later):

- Monday, August 31, 2020      New Return date for Teachers
- Tuesday, September 8, 2020      New First Day of School
- Wednesday, June 16, 2021      New Projected Last day of School
- Thursday, June 17, 2021      New Projected Last Day for Teachers

Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends that the Weston Board of Education modify the currently approved 2020-21 School Calendar such that the First Day of School for students will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The return date for teachers will be set for Monday, August 31, 2020. Accordingly, the projected last day of school for students would be Wednesday, June 16, 2021 and projected last day for teachers would be Thursday, June 17, 2021. We will bring a fully revised School Calendar for 2020-21 to the BOE for ratification at the August 24, 2020 meeting.

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