

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, January 25, 2011

Date: January 25, 2011

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: School Committee Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Makara

The following Committee Members were present:

- o Member Gorski-Strong
- o Member Collins
- o Member Czechowski
- o Member McNulty

The following Committee Members were absent:

Motion: Move to approve the meeting minutes of January 11, 2011.

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Collins

The following roll call vote was taken:

4 members having voted in the affirmative

 members having voted in the negative

1 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

The Assistant to the Superintendent for Business, Mr. Ted Avlas updated the committee on

Mr. Avlas wanted to make a formal announcement – we have cancelled all snow for the rest of the year.

Webster Admin Team is eagerly awaiting the Governors budget that will be released tomorrow, the foundations budget will be released soon after that. Once it is received The Team will move forward quickly. The first draft of the FY 2012 budget will be presented tonight.

The School Building Committee has advertised for services for the Owners Project Manager. We are currently receiving responses; they are due by 2/4/2011. Tomorrow there is an informational meeting at the PAE at 10:00 for all interest respondents for a walk through. Things are happening quickly.

The Principal Report - Mr. Michael Hackenson, Principal Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School

- o Linda Ralph, a junior at BHS, has reached the finals for the Lions Club Speech contest. She is one of four that will represent District 33 in the State Finals. The last time we had someone reach the finals was Member Collins
- o There has been a change in the France trip; originally scheduled to go to Amsterdam and Brussels, they will now be going to Paris and the Chateau.
- o The BHS Guidance Dept is sponsoring a College Goals Day on Saturday, January 30th along with MEFA for all interested families to help them fill out the FASFA form.
- o This spring the Guidance Dept, with the kindness of the Webster Education Foundation, acquired a grant to take juniors to local colleges. They will be visiting Assumption, Clark, Worcester State and Nichols.

- Rebecca Osborn, BHS Art Teacher, received an Art Grant from the Massachusetts Art Council for a resident artist to visit BHS. Students will learn the process in creating a children's story book, then they will develop a book of their own.
- Congratulations to Gina Scaglia, Dr. Ciardi and Mr. Hackenson had the honor to escort Gina to the Superintendents Scholar Luncheon, January 13th at Assumption College. Gina plans to attend Quinnipiac College in the fall.
- 8th grade student, Karolina Dzleminski is here tonight, she was chosen by her teachers and the administration because of her outgoingness, dedication and hardworking at school to represent Bartlett at the 351 Project. This is a project that Gov. Patrick and the Lt. Gov. established. Karolina spoke about her experiences of the day. Students were assigned to service projects; she went to the Dimmick Center to paint a room. Karolina said it was a very inspiring day and she feels much honored to have had the experience.

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gregory M. Ciardi presented information on the following:

- The school calendar has our last day of school (180 days) on June 9, 2011. There is always 5 days built in to the calendar, as of tonight 4 days have been used. If all are used the School Committee must come back and revise the calendar.
- For information for anyone wanting to know how this decision is made; the Policy Dept and Highway Dept. are on the roads all night long, they call Mr. Avlas at 4:30 AM with the conditions of the roads/parking lots. Dr. Ciardi and Mr. Avlas make a decision taking their report into consideration. If there is anyone that does not want to get the 6:15AM call announcing no school they can access the One Call system on-line on the school's web site and remove their name or call the Superintendent's office. We are on many radio stations, TV, Worcester Telegram & Gazette, now Facebook and Twitter.
- Dr. Ciardi wanted to update the committee about a review by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This is a standard rolling review called a Coordinated Program Review. This review is to be sure we are in compliance with state and federal laws. They look at special education, civil rights, english as a second language. We went through a CPR review in 2009, this year we are scheduled for a Site Review. This is a multi day visit that will occur in April. When the CPR was done in 2009, it generated findings, those findings are meant are to generate an action plan on our part, and we move forward fixing anything on the report. We were part of a pilot project using a web portal rather than e-mail to submit our final report and that didn't pilot project didn't work. We just learned of some significant documentation that we must complete for the 2009 CPR. This will be a large task for the administration team at the Filmer Building.
- Dr. Ciardi is happy to report to the committee Webster Public Schools has secured a grant writer, Felicia Hayes.
- Dr. Ciardi informed the board that all parties had been completed their report for submission to the Annual Town Report

Student Representative to the School Committee Dan Z. –presented

Old Business

Presentation of School Improvement Plan by Michael Hackenson, Principal BHS:

Last Year our theme was “a time for a change”; we achieved this by restructuring the 7th and 8th grade to make it more of a middle school. We brought in teacher assistants to help with the math. This year the School Improvement Advisory Council tried to create goals that were measurable, so you will see a different style from the past couple years. They are also in line with the district goals.

Goal #1 Improve Math Skills of Grades 7 & 8 ~ the focus is number sense is playing a heavy role in this goal. There are common assessments to identify strengths and weaknesses. Mock MCAS questions are used as a review, one each month. Teachers are focusing on displaying student work, gives students self pride and success. The MCAS results will be our measurement.

Goal #2 Utilize curriculum diaries to align a vertical and horizontal curriculum in all disciplines ~ Established a K-12 curriculum diaries/mapping in all subject areas. Using Tuesday afternoons and ½ day on Wednesday to establish these curriculum mapping. The heavy focus is on ELA and math.

Goal #3 Incorporate nonfiction writing in all subject areas to improve student skills using school wide rubric~ To incorporate non-fiction writing in all learning areas. A school wide rubric has been established for scoring writing assignments. A monthly survey is given to teachers to see how often non-fiction assignments they are assigning.

Goal #4 Data analysis of ELA MCAS to identify discrepancies between standards and strands ~ BHR does very well in grade 10 for math and ELA; there is room for improvement in grades 6, 7 & 8 in the ELA testing. MCAS results will be the measurement of this goal.

Goal #5 Improve the learning environment at BHS and student success ~ Major concern with the number of suspensions at BHS. We need to curb suspensions, students out of school makes for possible retentions and the possibility of dropping out of school. We were successful, with SC approval, to put in a Pass Program, similar to an in-school suspension program. This is a place where students can get their academic work done. This will be measured by comparing the number of suspensions from last year to this year. Also, an alternative to suspension is Saturday School, there have been six Saturday Schools scheduled.

Motion to authorize the Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School Improvement Plan

The motion was made by Member Gorski-Strong

The motion was seconded by Member Czechowski

The following roll call vote was taken:

 5 members having voted in the affirmative

 members having voted in the negative

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

New Business

A. First Review of FY 2012 – Dr. Ciardi wanted to make notice that all building principals and department heads are present tonight. In September the Admin. Team began working on the budget. Mr. Avlas will present the first public review of the budget, pointing out the major lines. Mr. Avlas said this is a lot of speculation until tomorrow’s budget comes out. Cuts have been made and probably more will be made. Mr. Avlas has been targeting for FY 12 for three years, we are very fortunate to have been banking school choice, ed jobs money to be able to use it now. Mr. Avlas has advertised for a Public Hearing on the School Budge for February 8, 2011, at that time the committee can take a final vote to approve the FY12 budget.

B. Authorization to post FY 2012 positions – Dr. Ciardi is requesting authorization to post for FY-2012 open positions. Explaining if we wait there is a possibility of loosing quality candidates. Director of Student Services and Director of Curriculum are the positions in discussion.

Also, there has been a call for a joint meeting of the Selectmen and Finance Committee on Monday, February 7, 2011 to discuss budget issues. The decision of the SC tonight is whether you want to post that as a formal meeting. The options are to attend the meeting of another body, which would mean the SC members would not be able to vote just participate. Dr. Ciardi recommends that the SC posts the meeting in order to vote.

Dr. Ciardi would also like the Committee to consider adding an additional meeting to the calendar, suggesting February 15, 2011 in order to meet after the public hearing of the budget.

.. First Review of Capital Improvement Plan – Mr. Avlas informed the Committee that there is nothing real dramatic in our school campus. Bartlett is not in a critical stage, the WMS has a small number of items, The Filmer Building needs to have soffits replaced, it is now damaging the outside of the building; it is our responsibility to maintain the integrity of this building. We are moving forward with PAE.

Motion to approve the first review of FY 2012 Budget

The motion was made by Member Collins
The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

The following roll call vote was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative
_____ members having voted in the negative
_____ members having abstained

The motion: X passed
_____ Failed

Motion to authorize posting of FY 2012 positions

The motion was made by Member Gorski-Strong ~ to wait until the 2/15 meeting for this authorization
The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

The following roll call vote was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative
_____ members having voted in the negative
_____ members having abstained

The motion: X passed
_____ Failed

Motion to Post the Joint Meeting of 2/7/2011

The motion was made by Member Collins
The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

The following roll call vote was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative
_____ members having voted in the negative
_____ members having abstained

The motion: X passed
_____ Failed

Motion to add February 15, 2011 to the SC calendar

The motion was made by Member McNulty
The motion was seconded by Member Collins

The following roll call vote was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative
_____ members having voted in the negative
_____ members having abstained

The motion: X passed
_____ Failed

Review / Transfer / Singing of Bills, Payrolls and Vouchers: Committee reviewed and signed bills and vouchers.

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was made by Member Gorski-Strong
The motion was seconded by Member Collins

The following roll call vote was taken:

 5 members having voted in the affirmative
 members having voted in the negative
 members having abstained

The motion: X passed
 Failed

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon