

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, April 12, 2011

Date: Tuesday April 12, 2011

Time: 6:55 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 (arrived at 7:15)
- o Member Collins
- o Member McNulty

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Czechowski

Motion: Move go into executive session according to MGL, Chapter 39, S23b to consider strategy with respect to collective bargaining to return to Public Session at 7:00PM

The motion was made by Member Collins

The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion: X Passed
 Failed

Committee returned to Public Session at 7:00

Motion: Move to approve the meeting minute's of Tuesday, March 22, 2011.

The motion was made by Member Collins

The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion: X Passed
 Failed

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

- ❖ Update on the School Building Committee; RFWalsh has been selected as the OPM for the Park Ave Elementary project. Their name will be submitted to the MSBA for approval at the May 2, 2011 meeting. The next step is to submit the Feasibility Study that was approved at the March 22, 211 School Committee Meeting, the minutes from that meeting will be certified and submitted to the MSBP for their approval.
- ❖ Three articles approved by the School Committee were submitted for the May 9, 2011 Town Meeting
- ❖ Our Administrative Team continues with the deliberation of FY11 level funding. As it stands now, \$47,000 cuts will be required to bring to level funding.

The Principal Report – Jason Phelps, Webster Middle School – Mr. Phelps was not available to attend this meeting.

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

- ❖ Felicia Hayes, our Grant Writer, had planned to be here tonight, but is not feeling well. Last night there was a meeting between the Webster Education Foundation and Felicia, discussing many ways the two can collaborate.
- ❖ Announcement made that Jason Phelps, Principal of the Webster Middle School, has given his resignation effective June 30, 2011. Mr. Phelps has been with us for seven years and has been appointed to a MS Principal in Millis, MA. A formal search committee will set forth immediately.
- ❖ This week the DESE (Department of Elementary & Secondary Education) is joining us this week for a district review. There are six members here for 4 days, meeting with parent, administrators, teachers and others. At the conclusion a draft of the findings will come down, in about four months a final report will be issued.

Student Representative to the School Committee Dan Z. Dan was not available to attend this meeting.

New Business:

Discussion of Parent/Administration Standing Committee – Dave Hurton

Dr. Ciardi explained to the committee that members of the administrative staff have been informally meeting with a parent group for a couple years now. Topics range from school climate to school discipline. Mr. Hurton has been spear heading these discussions.

Mr. Hurton having many children in the school system, being at the ball fields and socially interacting with members of the community, it was obvious that some change needed to take place, not only with discipline, but also curriculum, Mr. Hurton thought there was a need to not only have parents and Dr. Ciardi but also to have a teacher on this committee to make it well balanced.

Member Gorski-Strong suggested hosting a meeting informing parents and community members to make this an inclusive opportunity. Possibly coordinate with another planned event at the schools. Discussion continued on appointing a School Member or asking a member to agree to attend each meeting, Chairman Makara agreed to volunteer be the school committee rep.

Old Business:

A. Third Quarter FY2011 Budget Update – Ted Avlas updated the Committee on the FY011 budget. He reviewed adjustments to specific line items. Through three quarters we are going to have some excess balances in some areas, that being said, we will need additional monies to support other areas.

Dr. Ciardi wanted to clarify that on line 16 the Coordinator of Reading is not a new position, it is a revised position with a title change.

Motion: Pursuant to MGL Ch. 36, Sec 12B move to adjourn Public Session

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
 members having abstained

Motion: Pursuant to MGL Ch. 36, Sec 12B move to Public Choice Hearing

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
 members having abstained

Public Hearing on 2011-2012 School Choice: Dr. Ciardi stated that Webster Public has been involved in school choice since 2005. Ideally you want to attract students to our district, and to reduce the numbers of students that leave us to school choice. He presented statistics showing the numbers of students that leave and the number of student that come to Webster Public along with the financial piece. Our goal should be that we have as much money coming in as going out for this program. At the next meeting, if the Committee decides to continue participating in the School Choice we will set grade level limits and allow school choice up to that capacity.

Member McNulty asked how we would advertise our school. Dr. Ciardi commented that our school web site is a positive venue. He continued to comment that we have not used the press or a direct out reach to families showing the success of our students, showing what colleges they are attending, sports accomplishments, etc. Member Gorski-Strong discussed ways to market the school system and to celebrate the student successes, educating the community to be ambassadors of the school, using local realtors to enhance the perception of our school. Member Collins noted that surrounding towns have similar struggles and benefits, wondered what attracted Webster residents to go elsewhere and secondly what attracted other to come to Webster. Chairman Makara questioned the numbers of home schooled students in Webster; Dr. Ciardi responded that he did not have that number at hand, but it was not a significant number.

Dave Hurton stated that it is difficult to “sell” the school when the perception of the schools is not good. The community must advertise all the positive events of the schools. Mr. Hackenson summarized a “Shadow Day” for 8th grade parochial school students and their parents to come for a day at Bartlett. Usually there are approx. 20 students. Last Friday, Chanel 5, Chronicle, came to Webster doing a special about myths and legends. They came to Bartlett and the Select Chorus sang the *Lake Song*, it will air in early May.

Motion: Move to close the Public Hearing on School Choice

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
 members having abstained

Motion: Move to reconvene Public Session

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

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

New Business

A. Approve 2010-2011 Webster Cafeteria Workers Contract

Mrs. Pierangeli negotiated with the Webster Cafeteria Workers on this contract.

Motion: Move to approve the memorandum of the 2010-2011 Webster Cafeteria Workers Contract

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
 members having abstained

The motion: x Passed
 Failed

Chairman Makara wanted to thank the cafeteria workers for their cooperation and help.

B. Appoint Member to the Owners Project Manager Designer Selection Panel

Mr. Avlas explained to the committee that the next step in the Park Avenue building project process is to appoint a member to the Designer Selection Panel. He asked the school committee to entertain the selection appointing Mr. Avlas as the School Committee designee.

Motion: Move to appoint Ted Avlas to the Owners Project Manager Designer Selection Panel

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

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion: x Passed
 Failed

D. Discussion of concert fundraiser – Deb Keefe

Deb Keefe, a member of the Alumni Choir, is organizing a fundraiser concert for curtains for the Bartlett Jr. Sr. High school auditorium. The event will take place on June 12, 2011 at 2:00. The Alumni Choir will join with the HS Select and Show Choirs to sign songs of their own and jointly. Hopefully raising enough money to also update the lighting in the auditorium.

Chariman Makara made a motion for the School Committee to formally endorse this event.

Motion: Move to formally endorse the fundraising effort of the Alumni Choir event

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

The following roll call vote was taken:

4 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 Public Session and go back into executive session according to MGL Chapter 39, S23B to consider strategy with respect to collective bargaining

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

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion: 4 Passed
 Failed

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon