

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, April 26, 2011

Date: Tuesday April 26, 2011

Time: 6:50 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 McNulty

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Czechowski

Motion: Move to go into executive session according to MGL Chapter 39 S23B to consider strategy with respect to collective bargaining and return to open session immediately following

The motion was made by Member Collins

The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

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

Motion: Move to approve the meeting minute's of Tuesday, April 12, 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
 members having abstained

The motion: X passed
 Failed

Motion: Move to approve the executive meeting minute's of April 12, 2011.

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

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

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

- Mr. Avlas updated the Committee on the Park Avenue Elementary School Building Project – The Feasibility Study has been submitted to the Mass School Building Committee (MSBA), they have acknowledged its receipt. We should hear very soon of its approval. The Owner's Project Management Selection meeting is being held, Monday, May 2nd. A few additional documents will be submitted. Dr. Ciardi and m. Avlas will be attending that meeting. The next step is the Designer Selection.
- During April vacation the maintenance crew did spring cleaning inside and out; major job was to spread 85 yards of mulch at the middle school; that hadn't been done in 6 years. Large contributions from the middle school and high school staff that assisted in this project.
- Upcoming meetings: Met with finance committee to present the FY12 budget. This Thursday there is a joint meeting with the finance committee, board of selectman and school committee will meet with administration in the FY 12 budget process. The Town Administrator informed the Board of Selectman that they most likely will not be voting on the budget in May, it will be recessed until June. Town Meeting; May 9th; the school has three articles placed on the warrant. One of the articles had questions regarding funding, Mr. Avlas said the COPS Grant money is still available and we would receive 50% reimbursement.

The Principal Report ~ Michael Hackenson, Bartlett

- A schedule of Senior events was passed out outlining upcoming events for the senior class (attached). Graduation is June 3, 2011
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges contacted Mr. Hackenson regarding an upcoming accreditation. They asked if the accreditation could be postponed from 2013 to 2014 because they have an overabundance scheduled. Dr. Ciardi and Mr. Hackenson agreed to this.
- There was a presentation from a visiting artist to our 6-8 graders and selected BHS art classes. Andrew Fish and his wife Veronica Fish both artists, gave the message to kids to never give up on their passion. That visit was sponsored from a grant by the Webster Arts Council and Mrs. Larson.
- Chanel 5, *Chronicle*, will be featuring Webster Lake and the Select Chorus will be signing the Lake Song tomorrow evening at 7:30PM
- Sue Sabaj and Miranda Biron came tonight to share the experience from their recent Foreign Language Club trip. There were 6 students that traveled to Spain and Italy. The trip started in Madrid, then an 8 hour bus ride to Barcelona then a ferry to Rome. Miranda wanted to thank the Committee for approving this trip, expressing how meaningful this experience was. Ms. Sabaj said the tour guide commented on how well the Bartlett students behaved. The Committee wanted to thank Ms. Sabaj for her continuing to take the students on these trips.

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

Webster MS Principal Search: The process has begun ~ Dr. Ciardi hope to have a search committee formed by the end of this month, applications are already coming, hopefully by the middle of June we will have a new principal.

DESE Site Visit: This visit concluded the Thursday before April vacation. In four months a report will be published with their findings. An interim report will be sent to us for review of its accuracy. We received very positive feedback in the summary meeting.. The visiting team visited 60 classrooms and conducted 23 interviews.

Ms. Gorsky-Strong asked Dr. Ciardi if they asked about our operation or budget. Dr. Ciardi said yes and Chairman Makara said that during his interview budget issues were discussed.

Student Representative to the School Committee Dan Z. --presented

- Bartlett sports are going well. The softball team is 2-5; baseball is 1-6; tennis 3-2
- Annul Talent Show sponsored by the National Honor Society ~ 7:00pm, April 28th
- Annual Super Team Banquet ~ Monday, May 2nd at Point Breeze
- Hypnotism Show ~ May 5th at 7:00PM

Old Business

A. Discuss/Vote on School Choice: There was no further discussion

Motion to allow School Choice for al grades at Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School to restrict enrollment so that the graduating class numbers do not rise above 170 students in each graduating class

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: 4 Passed
 _____ Failed

Motion to allow School Choice for al grades at Webster Middle School to restrict enrollment so that the graduating class numbers do not rise above 160 students in each graduating class

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

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

otion to allow School Choice for al grades at Park Avenue Elementary School to restrict enrollment so that the average class sizes do not rise above 20 in the Kindergarten and 21 in Grades One and Two

The motion was made by Member Gorsky-Strong
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: 4 Passed
_____ Failed

B. Vote of FY 12 Budget

Dr. Ciardi reminded the Committee that this is the last meeting prior to the Town Meeting, traditionally this is when the Committee would take a final vote on the budget. The budget has been on the agenda numerous times. The original budget had reductions by the administration, more cuts are required. The town budget draft has the school department at level funding in FY12 compared to FY11. In order to reach that level we need to identify an additional \$470,603 in reductions. A number of options were presented to the Committee (see attached). In the past we have not had to have staff lay-offs, unfortunately, we are at a point where there are no additional non-instructional savings we can make. At this point we will have staff reduction by lay-off.

Member Collins was concerned with the classroom implications with the budget cut. He felt we were jeopardizing public education in Webster. Member McNulty asked the building principals that were present if they felt the MCAS scores would be impacted with these cuts. Both Mr. Hackenson and Mrs. Wallace noted the progress that has been made and is concerned not only with classroom performance but also moral. Member Gorsky-Strong wanted to commend the staff for all their hard work with all the challenges in front of us. She asked Mr. Avlas to explain what "level funding" is. Mr. Avlas explained that Chapter 70 is the major funding of state aid to public elementary and secondary schools. In addition to providing state aid to support school operations, it also establishes minimum spending requirements for each school district and minimum requirements for each municipality's share of school costs. He asked the Committee to go to page 21 of the FY12 budget for reference. Dr. Ciardi wanted to stress that this may not be the ultimate cuts that are made, there is a possibility that we could be at the state minimum funding. Class sizes would be up to 30 in the middle school and 26 in the elementary school.

Motion to approve FY2012 Budget in the amount of \$15,784,631.00

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

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

C. Revised Bullying Prevention Plan

Dr. Ciardi notified the Committee that the Bullying Prevention Plan that was submitted in December has come back for specific revisions. It was accepted by the DESE suggesting certain items needed revisions. They felt we didn't have enough attention on the topic of retaliation. The second major change was to clarify that reports could be made anonymously (refer to the bottom of page 4, top of page 5). We have an anonymous hotline, boxes, but the language has been revised to be clearer. The third item is what happens when a report is filed. (see page 12-13) It was clarified by adding three paragraphs listing out the steps to be taken. The last item had to do with parent education/notification (page 10). Added 3 paragraphs to be more explicate. We will resubmit to the DESE, there are not required actions to be taken by the Committee, these changes to not modify the policy at all

New Business

A. Approve of a one year extension of the AA Transportation contract

Mr. Avlas explained that we are currently under contract with AA Transportation, since 2007 (three year contract). We have a very good relationship with them. When we eliminated six of the fourteen buses AA did a very good job of rearranging the bus routes to save the school a large amount of money. Any contract exceeding three years need School Committee approval; tonight we are only looking for a one year extension. With the possibility of new routes due to SPED transportation which is a major impact on the budget, A one year extension is suggested to give the school department time to rebid in 2013 for a three year contract.

Member Collins asked if there was a fuel adjustment clause, Mr. Avlas responded that no there was no clause.

Motion to approve a one year extension of AA Transportation contract

The motion was made by _ Member Gorski-Strong
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

B. First Reading of Animals in School Policy

Dr. Ciardi informed the committee that in September, 2010 the United States Dept. of Justice published regulations stating that school districts must adopt a policy regarding the presence of animals in schools. Any animal going to a school must be approved by the school principal. There is a list of specific animals prohibited from schools. This policy lays out the guidelines regarding specific animals in schools, exceptions to this are service animals. This is the first of three readings. There is one technicality; in the forth paragraph "Guidelines for Animals in Schools or on School Grounds" does not exist. The second reading will have the actual document, "Animals in the classroom, recommendations for schools".

Chairman Makara wanted to make notice that Member Czechowski has not been with us for the past two meetings; he wanted to wish her well in her recovery.

Also, condolences go to Mary Chamberlain, teacher at Bartlett, whose mother just passed away.

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

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:10PM.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon