

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, May 10, 2011

Date: Tuesday May10, 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 Geotis
- o Member Collins
- o Member McNulty

The following Committee Members were absent: Member Czechowski

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Makara to Reorganize the Committee.

Motion: Nominate Mr. Michael Makara as Chairman of the School Committee

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: Nominate Mr. Shawn Collins as Vice Chairman of the School Committee

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

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 welcomed Member Geotis as a newly elected member of the School Committee

Member Czechowski is still out recovering from her surgery, want to wish her well.

Chairman Makara wanted to take a moment to thank Member Gorski-Strong for her commitment and years of service on the School Committee. She will be sorely missed.

ion: Move to approve the meeting minute's of April 26, 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  
1 members having abstained (Member Geotis)

The motion:   X   passed  
       Failed

Chairman Makara wanted to inform everyone that the new school committee member is also an employee of the Webster School Department. We received a legal opinion by our school council, James Toomey. This will change the way the members vote on certain items due to conflict of interest.

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

- School Building Update – Dr. Ciardi and Mr. Avlas attended an Owners Project Selection meeting yesterday in Boston with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The meeting went well; we were commended on submitting a complete packet. We await their approval of RF Walsh as the OPM for the Park Avenue Elementary building project.
- We were notified that the feasibility study was received and we await their approval.
- Annual Town Meeting was held and it was voted that all money articles were held over to June 13, 2011. The school has three articles; two capitol articles to repair the Filmer Building and one for the security measures at Bartlett, along with the school budget.
- Employee Benefit Fair, Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-4PM at the Town Hall. Open enrollment changes must be completed by May 25, 2011

#### **The Principal Report Carrie Wallace, Park Avenue Elementary School**

- Mrs. Wallace reported that first grade teachers have been working with third grade teachers using technology in the classroom. This is available due to the *Max Out On Math Grant*. It has been very exciting to see the engagement
- At the second grade level we have instructional study groups which are part of the DESC initiative.
- Kindergarten registration different this year. Based on the town census, kindergarten registration was mailed out inviting parents to come April 27<sup>th</sup>. About 60 students registered that evening. Members of the staff (RN, After-care, guidance, adjustment counselor, teachers, PTO, Education Foundation) were available for parents and children to meet and ask questions.
- Teacher Appreciation last week was a big success due to the PTO – Thank you for a great job!
- Me & Someone Special Dance was held, a very nice evening.
- Upcoming field trips K=Southwick Animal Zoo Gr.1=Sturbridge Village Gr. 2 Boston Children's Museum
- Patty MacKay has been working on a bullying program with second graders titled Bully Buster Club.
- Ten teachers have been continuing their ELL training

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

Webster MS Principal Search: We are actively searching for a new MS principal; as Mr. Jason Phleps has given his notice to move on to further his career path. The search committee consists of parents, administrators, teachers and community members. The committee recruits and screens applicants to determine who they will interview. They may or may not go on a site visit. The search committee has been asked to submit three individuals to meet with Dr. Ciardi. The committee elected Dave Hurton (parent) as the chair.

DESE Site Visit On May 3<sup>rd</sup> Webster Public Schools, along with members of DSAC hosted a meeting on student achievement data to design instruction in the classroom. It was attended by approx. 30 administrators, teachers, and superintendents throughout Worcester County. Member of our staff made presentations. Carrie Wallace and Janice Daniels did a presentation on how we are using a computer program to determine what students are learning week to week, it is a common way to design instruction. It is called ASSISTments. Another presentation was how we are designing tests in teams of teachers rather than individual teachers to determine what is being mastered and what needs continued review. This presentation was done by Andrew Kelly and Beck Ducharme.

Announcement of Andrew Kelley, Ph.D. – Director of Curriculum and Instruction: Dr. Ciardi was pleased to report that Dr. Andrew Kelley has been appointed the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. His specialty has been mentoring and coaching. Academically well prepared, he is well recognized and appreciated in our system.

Andrew Kelly said that he is thankful and looking forward to this opportunity.

Chairman Makara stated that the curriculum is such an important area and we have been struggling. We welcome Dr, Kelley aboard.

dent Representative to the School Committee Dan Z. –presented

- Charitable Events held this year by Student Council and National Honor Society:
  - Humphrey’s House Fire Fundraiser \$550
  - Toys for Tots / coat drive 10 bags of toys and 15 bags of coats
  - Two blood drives
  - Shamrocks – MDA \$100
  - Daffodils for Cancer \$1,500.
  - Mr. Renault ran the Boston Marathon \$2,100. raised for his selected charity
  - TOTAL \$4,400

Dan expressed how proud he is to be a member of the Class of 2011 at Bartlett High School

Chairman Makara gave a synopsis to new Member Geotis on procedures on how school policies are adopted.

Old Business

A. Second Reading of Animals in School Policy:Dr. Ciardi explained this was a federal mandate to adopt a formal policy. No concerns were raised.

B. Report on Behavior Program at Park Avenue Elementary School Mrs. Wallace updated the Committee on the two Behavior Programs and Park Avenue Elementary

- Star Program – this program is for students at behavioral risk. This program has assisted students to integrate back into the general ed classroom.
- Learning Center – this program is to support students that need to “drop in – check in”. This has been very successful. This gives certain students a place to go when they are struggling socially and academically.

- Walker Project – The Walker Program is a consulting group that comes and works with schools that have behavioral issues. They come and assist the staff to work with students that are at risk. We have been working with them since January. A full time social worker that works with students in the Star Program, she has also made positive connections with the families of these students. The Walker Project also conducted a professional development on establishing a trauma free school.

Member McNulty asked Mrs. Wallace if she has seen a change in teachers moral with this support. She said yes, these programs are increasing moral of the staff.

C. Review of FY 12 Budget Dr. Ciardi explained this was put on the agenda in the event last night's Town Meeting voted on the FY12 Budget. He wanted to reiterate the challenges that the school faces. We currently have a level funded budget and are asking for the same this year. This year federal and state funding has been reduced so level funding will still give u a reduced budget. We are now dipping into the school choice account in the amount of \$400,000 to retain the programs and positions. We are facing layoff for FY12. We are making all attempts to take those cuts as far away from the classroom first. This year at level funding we will be reducing the secretarial and custodial staff and also the para-professional (aides), specifically at Park Ave will be dramatically reduced. For the first time in many years we will be forced to reduce teacher's positions. There is the possibility that we will be faced with a below level funding budget.

Member Geotis asked when we would hear from the State regarding available funds. Mr. Avlas said funds recently collected by the state would not be available for FY12. Member Collins concurred with Mr. Avlas that although the state's April revenues did come in higher than expected they will most likely not be used for FY12 budget.

**New Business**

**Designation of e-mail record keeper** Based on Public Records Law, electronic messages between the Committee may be considered public records. Therefore, in order to ensure compliance, we must designate an e-mail record keeper

tion to designate Lori Glennon as the School Committee e-mail record keeper

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

**Designation of Secretary to the School Committee** Under the annual reorganization the Committee designates a person that will keep an accurate journal of all Committee meetings

Motion: Designate Lori Glennon as Secretary to the School Committee

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:  passed  
 Failed

**Designation of Legislative Representative** The Committee annually designates a person to represent the Committee with respect to legislation being considered by the Massachusetts Legislature or the United States Congress or their respective committees. The representative will be bound by the official positions taken by the School Committee

**Motion to designate Craig McNulty as our Legislative Representative**

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

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:  passed  
 Failed

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

Chairman Makara wanted to acknowledge the passing of long time teacher, Denyse Ruggeri. She taught in Webster for over 30 years. Want to pass along condolences to Pulifico and Ruggeri families.

**Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM.**

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:  passed  
 Failed

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon