

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, May 24, 2011

Date: May 24, 2011

Time: 7:05 PM

Location: School Committee Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by Member Collins

The following Committee Members were present:

Member McNulty

Member Geotis

The following Committee Members were absent:

Chairman Makara

Member Czechowski

Motion: to approve the meeting minutes of Tuesday, May 10, 2011

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Geotis

The following roll call was taken:

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion: Passed

Failed

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

- School Building Committee Update: We have received a verbal approval of R.F. Walsh as the Owner Project Manager from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. We now begin the process to pick a designer for the project. This is a major step in the process to see if we will renovate, add on or build a new school
- Update of the FY12 budget: Senate / House Ways & Means Committee have been released. Estimated \$116,000 that we will not receive in federal funding.
- Joint meeting this Thursday, expecting a high quality of discussion on the budget
- The School Administration continues its discussion on the budget, several options have been developed.
- Lastly, the 45th annual conference of the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officers (MASBO) was held last week. The theme of this meeting as stewardship. Mr. Avlas had the opportunity to network with other school business administrators. Featured key note speaker was Patriot team member, Troy Brown. Very inspiring meetings. He thanked the committee for allowing him to attend.

The Principal Report – Jason Phelps, Webster Middle School:

- Update on School Improvement Plan ~ ELA ~ teachers are more skilled than ever before at teaching students how to use data in improving their skills. Teachers have worked together with AmesWeb, you can see data displays all around the school. In addition teachers are using Smart MCAS, which is a program that generates reading assessments. We have created a writing rubric, indicators of success

have shown that 45% were proficient readers in the fall and 73% in the spring. ~ Math ~ Eleven teachers took part in Max Out On Math program using technology in the classroom. Pairs of teachers are working together in a learning community. Most classes are at 80% mastery of math facts which translates to higher MCAS scores.

Member McNulty asked Mr. Phelps to rate the growth of progress at the WMS. Mr. Phelps said he is very happy with the vast numbers of teachers in professional development, committed teachers working at analyzing data and including the students in the results.

Member Collins congratulated Mr. Phelps on his new position and his positive stewardship.

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gregory M. Ciardi reported the following:

- Acknowledgement to Mr. Phelps as this will be his last School Committee meeting. He has shown that he cares about teachers and students. Helping staff and students focus on MCAS achievement. Thank you, Mr. Phelps
- First formal brochure for Professional Development. Summer opportunities are available to all teachers. It is online so the community can see what opportunities are being offered to our teachers. These courses begin the day after we get out of school to the day before school begins.
- Update regarding personnel law – case was decided in Hull, MA a year ago, schools had the right to non-renew a non-tenured teacher within their first three years. This case made a close association between non-renewal and dismissal. The ruling basically stated you can't let anyone go after 90 days unless you have a reason. This ruling has been reversed.

Member Collins comments on the professional development calendar, saying it shows consistency with the robust commitment of our teachers.

Student Representative to the School Committee ~ Dan Z. :

- Senior Updates: last Thursday was the last day of classes
- this coming Thursday is their field trip to High Meadows
- Friday is the Prom at the Sturbridge Host
- Introduce next year's student Rep – Tori McIntyre, class of 2013. She is the Public Relations Officer for the Student Council and an avid softball player.

Tori commented that she is very excited to be here for the next two years.

Member Collins thanked Dan for his contributions to the meetings.

Mr. Avlas wished Dan much success and commented on how he has known Dan's family and has watched Dan grow, saying that he has been a role model for all Bartlett students.

Mr. Hackenson said that Dan has been the "go to person" at the High School; he is off to Providence College in the fall.

Old Business:

A. Third and Final Reading of Animals in School Policy

Dr. Ciardi recapped that in essence no animals are allowed in the school without permission from the building principal or superintendent. This is consistent with what we already have in place.

Motion: to approve the Animals in Schools Policy (IMG)

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Geotis

The following roll call was taken:

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion: Passed

Failed

B. Review of FY2012 Budget and potential personnel reduction scenarios

Dr. Ciardi reminded the Committee and public in attendance that Town Meeting did not adopt a budget at their May meeting; it was passed on to June 13. We have legal and contractual deadline to notify employees of Reduction of Force/lay offs. Currently the Town Budget is \$900,000 out of balance. At level funding we will have 22 employees reduction in force. (refer to graphs in the supporting documents). We have been very fortunate not to have lay-offs in the past two years. Even at level funding from the Town the Federal money is not available. If the Town funds are cut and we do not have any Federal funding there will be 32 positions cut.

Member McNulty asked how this would affect class size. Dr. Ciardi said that at Park Ave Elementary the class size would go from 20 to 25, at the Middle School it would go from 24 to 30.

Member Collis wanted to commend the administration and staff for doing their part in sustaining the budget.

There was a large crowd in attendance concerned that the music program will be cut in the Middle School.

Parents and students spoke in support of the program pleading that it not be cut.

Questions/answers/discussion continued regarding budget line items and possible scenerios.

New Business:

A. Accept \$100.00 donation to PASS program

Motion: to accept \$100.00 donation to PASS Program

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Geotis

The following roll call was taken:

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion: Passed

Failed

B. Evaluation of Superintendent

Dr. Ciardi explained the process set up to evaluate the Superintendent. The first step is for the Superintendent to present a self-evaluation, the committee members then evaluate the performance of the Superintendent for the 2010-2011 school year. The proposed schedule is as follows:

May 24 - School Committee adopt evaluation process

June 14 – Presentation of the Superintendent’s self-evaluation

June 15-24 – Members individually complete evaluation

June 28 – Members share evaluations with other members

First meeting in July – Chairman presents summary evaluation

Motion: to adopt a calendar to evaluate the superintendent

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Geotis

The following roll call was taken:

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion: Passed

Failed

Review/Transfer/Signing of Bills, Payrolls and Vouchers:

Transfer request from Bartlett Jr. S. High School to transfer \$10,207.12 from the Student Activity savings account to the Student Activity checking account

Motion: to approve a transfer of \$10,207.12 from the Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School Activity Account

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Geotis

The following roll call was taken:

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion: Passed

Failed

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM:

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Geotis

The following roll call was taken:

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion: Passed

Failed

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon