

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, June 7, 2011

Date: Tuesday June 7, 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 Czechowski

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Collins
- o Member McNulty

Old Business

A. FY12 Budget Review:

Dr. Ciardi reminded the School Committee and public that June 13, 2011 is the Town Meeting when the budget for the school will be approved. Currently the Town of Webster is funding the school \$250,000 less than last year. There have been different scenarios worked on over the past few months. The Budget Reduction Scenario (attached) outlines the cuts. The budget being presented reflects \$720,603 in cuts.

Park Avenue Elementary currently has 20 aides, they will lose 7 (full time employees) in classroom aides, leaving 13. Webster Middle School will lose 5.5 (FTE), but there are actually more bodies, since they don't work full time. Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School will lose 6.5 (FTE); that loss will most be felt in coverage in the hallway, cafeteria and small group learning.

Member Geotis asked how many aides will be left at the Middle School. Mr. Avlas said that currently there are 6 tutors and 4.5 teaching associates; after cutting 5.5 it will leave 5 FTE's

Secretary cuts may mean offices are closed for a number of weeks in the summer. Each main office will lose a full time secretary. Also a reduction in the graphic arts department – the secretary will be cut from full time to part time. Leaving no support during the summer months. A special education secretary will also be cut at the Filmer Building.

The custodial staff will be cut by .55 = .40 cut to the Bartlett custodial staff and .15 at the Filmer Administration Building.

Previous years all attempts were made to eliminate reductions to the teaching staff that is no longer possible. There will be a cut of .5 @ Bartlett Jr. Sr. High Social Studies teacher. Two special education teachers will also be cut at Bartlett. There has been concern and speculation over teacher cuts to the Webster Middle School and Park Avenue Elementary (both classroom and specials teachers), there will not be any cuts with this budget presented.

As the Committee is aware, we have had an ongoing program for students that have behavior concerns that get in the way of learning. We have a contract with the Walker Associates, they provide social and behavior services to the school; this budget cuts the contract from \$75,000 to \$60,000, reducing services available from that agency.

We are proposing using more of the "rainy day funds" to get through FY12. Circuit breaker fund is money provided by the state to assist in educating out of placement students, we are allowed to accumulate, and we will be using and additional \$52,396. Additionally, a Title 1 Grant that is usually used in programs to help students that are having difficulty with their reading, but was are using those funds for the general good of the school and we will be using \$44,000 of those funds

There are some items that we will be added to the budget: .8 secretary for the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Because there will be seven (7) fewer aides at Park Avenue Elementary (people that were used as subs), the substitute teacher budget must be increased. Also adding a .2 business teacher at Bartlett that had been cut in the proposed January budget. The Professional Development budget will have \$20,000 added.

Due to these reductions we are cutting 26 positions from our school personnel, that are 10% - a very significant one year reduction. Even if we were level funded by the Town of Webster we still would be making cuts due to lose of Federal Funds.

Mr. Avlas concurred with Dr. Ciardi expressing the loss of federal money has had significant impact to the school budget. The Town, as well, is being faced with significant cuts.

Chairman Makara noted that the biggest concern is the health insurance. We have done everything we can to protect the classroom, cutting around the edges.

Member Czechowski asked about replacing retiring teachers. Dr. Ciardi answered, yes; they would be replaced.

Chairman Makara wanted to clarify that since we have a school employee on the Committee; to avoid conflict of interest, Mr. Geotis can not vote on any custodial matters. The motion being made tonight will be excluding any monies in the budget for custodial compensation.

Motion to approve the FY12 budget in the amount of \$15,534,631.00

The motion was made by Member Czechowski

The motion was seconded by Member Geotis

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

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM.

The motion was made by Member Czechowski

The motion was seconded by Member Geotis

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon