

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2010

Date: 08/24/2010

Time: 5:00PM

Location: School Committee Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Makara

**The following Committee Members were present:**

Member Collins  
Member Czechowski  
Member Gorski-Strong  
Member McNulty

**I. Call to Order: Tour of Schools 5:00 PM**

- A. Webster Middle School
- B. Bartlett Jr Sr High School
- C. Park Avenue Elementary School

**II. Motion: to approve the meeting minutes of Tuesday, August 10, 2010**

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-strong

The following roll call was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion:     passed  
                   Failed

**III. Student Update presented by Daniel Zalewski**

- Summer activities involved many fund raising projects for the seniors
- The first day of school went smoothly at the high school
- Jr. High/Sr. High configuration is great!
- The way different teachers handled the Summer Reading is being questioned by the students

**IV. The Superintendent's Report:**

**The Assistant to the Superintendent for Business, Mr. Ted Avlas** presented information on the following

**1. Condition of Buildings**

- Majority of the "to do" lists have been completed
- Bartlett High School locker room issue addressed
- Chiller repairs at the high school are done
- Successful summer with good projects completed
- Oil tank problems at the high school may have been from the natural gas installation
- Buildings are in great shape and ready for school

**2. Report on the opening of school Presented by the Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gregory Ciardi**

- Very smooth opening
- Transportation issues minimal
- 1942 students are enrolled which is more than enrollment projections
- Grades 3 and 9 exceeded enrollment projections
- Projection was 1900

- Class sizes are large, but nothing significant
- Open positions remaining are BHS Life Skills, ED/BD Position at the high school, In School Suspension position at the high school, the Middle School has only one Autism teacher opening and Park Avenue Elementary School as an IA and TA position open.
- Legitimate concerns about major issues at Bartlett High School and Park Avenue Elementary School need to be thought about for the Capital Improvement Plan.

3. Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> will the Webster Education Foundation’s Movie Night 6:00 PM at the high school campus.

V. **Old Business- No Old Business to Report**

VI. **Dr. Ciardi introduced the following New Business:**

A. **Acceptance of the Resignation of Joan Dio, Director of Student Support Services.**

- Joan has been with the district for ten years
- She has served this school system admirably
- She has been responsible for compliance of many things including Title I, Grants etc.
- Dr. Ciardi personally thanked her for all of her years of committed service to Webster Public Schools.
- Chairman Makara stated that Mrs. Dio brought balance, compassion and caring to our district. On behalf of the School Committee and parents extended a thank you and regrets having to accept the resignation.

**Motion: to accept the resignation of the Director of Student Support Services**

The motion was made by Member Collins

The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

The following roll call was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion:      passed  
                        Failed

- Dr. Ciardi did discuss a permanent versus an interim replacement for Mrs. Dio. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. There is a “season” to hire high quality candidates.
- Dr. Ciardi might recommend interim replacement and wait until the spring to hire a permanent replacement.

**Motion: to follow the recommendation to hire an interim until spring when we can hire full time**

The motion was made by Member Gorski-Strong

The motion was seconded by Member Czechowski

The following roll call was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion:      passed  
                        Failed

B. **Update on the development of an Anti-Bullying Policy presented by Mrs. Joan Dio, Director of Student Support Services.**

- Bullying task force starting meeting in the spring to develop anti-bullying policy.
- The task force started meeting three months before the law was passed.
- Anti-Bullying policy is not something new for the district

- Task force has been meeting weekly for the last several months
- The task force is well positioned to meet mandates
- The task force includes Patty Mackay PAE, Nancy Guiney WMS, Tony Kaczynski WMS, Kim Granger BHS, Sue Smith-Scott BHS, Helen Rowlings BHS, Gina Mendillo BHS, John Daniel BHS.
- May 3, 2010 Act Relative to Bullying in School Law passed, effective immediately with times lines set.
- Policy needs to be to the DESE by December 10, 2010
- Professional Development for all faculty and staff from administration to bus drivers and cafeteria workers needs to be completed.
- A model plan is on the DESE website. We want to mesh our plan with the model plan.
- A commitment of entire school community is necessary

**C. Appointment of a School Committee Member to the Webster Education Foundation.**

- The By Law states that there must be one member of the School Committee on the board of the Webster Education Foundation
- Member Gorski-Strong has been in the position in the past and has enjoyed it

**Motion: Suggest to vote Tina Gorski-Strong back to position on the foundation**

The motion was made by Member Czechowski

The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

The following roll call was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion:      passed  
                        Failed

**D. Appointment of a School Committee Member to the Unit B Negotiating Team**

- Member Gorski-Strong was the School Committee Member last year and enjoyed it

**Motion: Move to appoint Tina Gorski –Strong to the Unit B Negotiations Team**

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Czechowski

The following roll call was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion:      passed  
                        Failed

**E. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business Ted Avlas presented a request for a .4 FTE Custodian**

- .We strive for a clean and safe environment
- Five (5) full time custodians were reduced to four (4) at Bartlett High School impacting the maintenance of this school.
- Maintenance minimum is not being met
- We like to have pride in our facilities
- Propose to add .4 to staff or 16 hours per week
- Increase of .5 custodian at the high school, decrease .1 custodian at the middle school taking a .6 custodian down to .5 add the .1 to the high school
- Documentation of budgeting needs submitted
- Enhanced longevity funds to restore 16 hours of work to staff
- Position will be posted internally first to see if any interest in current custodial staff.

**Motion: to restore .4 Custodian to staff**

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Czechowski

The following roll call was taken:

1 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion:      passed  
                   Failed

**F. Prepayment of Special Education Tuitions**

- SPED tuition is fifty percent of the department budget
- We were able to maintain and save money from FY10
- The Department of Education allows prepayment of tuition for upcoming year
- Since the last quarter of 2009 we have been looking at FY12 when funding will drop dramatically
- Requesting approval in the amount not to exceed \$132,00 FY11 tuitions out of FY 10 funds
- Law for prepayment was presented along with documentation supporting the use of funds
- This is the first time we have requested prepayment
- Net school spending of five or more percent is an issue, we are under one percent

**Motion: to approve payment prepayment not to exceed \$132,000 for FY11 from FY10**

The motion was made by Member Gorski-Strong

The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

The following roll call was taken:

5 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: Committee reviewed and signed bills and vouchers.**

**Motion: Move to convene according to MGL Chapter 39 Section 23B to consider strategy with respect to collective bargaining.**

The motion was made by Member Collins

The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

The following roll call was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion:      passed  
                   Failed

**Motion: to adjourn**

The motion was made by Member Collins

The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

The following roll call was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative  
0 members having abstained

The motion:    X passed  
                     Failed

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Munsch