

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, September 28, 2010

Date: 09/28/2010

Time: 7:10 PM

Location: School Committee Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Makara

The following Committee Members were present:

Member Collins
Member Gorski Strong
Member Czechowski
Member McNulty

I. Motion: Move to go into executive session according to M.G.L. Chapter 39 S23B to consider strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

The motion was made by Member Collins

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

Return to Regular Session 7:20 PM

II. Motion: to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2010 meeting

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. Dr. Gregory Ciardi presented the Superintendent's Report

Assistant to the Superintendent for Business' Report

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

1. **Webster Water Department Annual Lead and Copper Report-** A letter dated September 15, 2010 stated that there were over action levels of lead in a water sample taken at Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School.
 - First draw water samples are over the limit, but flush draws taken after five minutes of water running consistently were under levels
 - August 25, 2010 lead levels were identified. Staff immediately stopped using kitchen water for cooking
 - Once readings came back after water flushing had been done, the kitchen staff got the okay to use kitchen water after flushing.
 - A minimum of five minutes of flushing will be done every morning. The flushing program in which any sources of water used for drinking or cooking will be logged. The log will be kept on file in the school.
 - A plumber did asses the plumbing at the high school stating that the plumbing probably does have lead in soldering.
 - Simple flushing eliminates the problem
 - The procedure will make us confident no dangerous levels are in the schools including the water fountains.
2. **Ed Jobs Funds-New job program** starting August 10, 2010 that creates jobs in education.

- Bill allows state to allocate money using Chapter 70 funds to districts
- SFSF funds are in separate fund \$185, 912
- Ed Jobs state reallocated SFSF funds with a change of \$51,018
- Difference added to Ed Jobs Grant \$514,697
- SFSF funds available through September 30, 2011
- Ed Jobs funds are available in FY11 and FY12
- May be recommending to the Committee both FY11 and FY12 use of the funds in the future
- Money provided to save jobs in FY11, but ability to use over two years makes the most sense
- Recommended application date is by October 15, 2010

Principals Report was presented by Michael Hackenson, Principal Bartlett Jr Sr High School:

1. NEASC letter reviewed Pre-Self Study and approved it.
 - Next step in the NEASC Accreditation process is preparation for the site visit in 2013.
 - Professional learning communities were commended
 - The next step is to begin working on the Mission and Expectations statement in January of 2011.
2. September 13, 2010 was Parents' Back to School Night
 - Parents did arrive on time this year
 - There was a good turnout overall
 - Student Council members helped parents find their classrooms
 - Number of Jr. High parents in attendance was low. Most Jr High parents did attend meeting at the opening of school.
 - There were good comments and positive feedback from parents about the new junior high configuration,
 - The hardest change with the new junior high configuration has been with the faculty. Students made the transition easier.
 - PASS (Positive Alternative for Student Success) Program has begun. The program is designed to keep kids in school versus suspensions. The purpose is to keep students up with their work
3. College Fair was held on September 24, 2010
 - Forty colleges were in attendance
 - Juniors and Seniors met in the gym with college representatives
 - It was a very successful day

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gregory Ciardi reported the following District Wide News:

1. Race to the Top-Memorandum of Agreement to participate has been signed
 - Initiative will have impact on schools
 - Massachusetts won the slot in August scoring number one
 - Webster will be eligible for \$254, 000 of RTTT funds
 - October 22, 2010 is the deadline to submit a work plan
 - Linda Millet, President of the WEA and Dr. Ciardi, Superintendent attended a Webinar last week where the DESE provided guidance on RTTT
 - Year one will have limited use of funds with 5% allotted to create a work plan
2. MCAS Scores-last spring's results are in
 - September 14, 2010 the results went public
 - Overview of scores showed no status in ELA and math as a district.
 - Performance in ELA was moderate and low in mathematics
 - Our improvement rating did show improvement but below target. The scores are rising, not rising first enough
 - Documents provided showing a grade by grade summary and charts of growth percentile
 - Dr. Ciardi stated that ELA is not where we want to be, but moving
 - Math achievement is lower
 - Dr. Ciardi stated we have work to do, specifically in mathematics

- Individual principals will present each of their schools results over the course of the next few meetings
- Important to know that Park Avenue Elementary made AYP with improvement faster than predicted
- School Improvement Plans presented with analysis for improvements this year to make AYP.
- The possibility of a mathematics coordinator and/or math tutors can be federally funded

IV. Student Representative to the School Committee Daniel Zalewski presented the following:

- Athletic updates-BHS had its first football win and the boys' soccer team remains undefeated
- Senior bathrooms have been painted
- Student Council had their freshmen elections
- The prom date was set for May 24, 2011 locations are being considered
- National Honor Society students participated in a Walk to Cure Cancer

V. There was no Old Business presented this evening

VI. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gregory M. Ciardi reported the following New Business:

A. Acceptance of donation of \$11,100 of equipment to Bartlett High School football from Sports Alive

- New helmets and equipment was needed. A donation was made to Sports Alive by alumni
- Sports Alive purchased equipment for Bartlett High School football
- A letter was submitted documenting the use of the equipment donated

Motion: to approve donation \$11,100 directed to football equipment

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Collins

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. Approval Amsterdam and Paris Trip presented by Rachel Morandi, French Teacher Bartlett High School.

- French 3,4, and 5 students are planning a trip to France and Amsterdam during the next April vacation
- Students will visit the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam
- The trip will be organized by EF Tours the same company used in the past
- A new binder will have to be submitted as the current binder expires October 1, 2010
- Another Ethics form will have to be submitted for any other employees who attend the trip

Motion: To accept the planned trip April 16th to 24th

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

C. Acceptance of donation from the estate of Emily Roberts in the amount of \$97,653.99 for Bartlett High School scholarships with a new account set up in her name and the scholarship managed at the high school.

- Emily Roberts was a retired teacher who left \$97,653.99 for student scholarships

Motion: To accept the donation in the amount of \$97,653.99 to Bartlett High School Scholarships

The motion was made by Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Collins

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. Memorandum of Agreement Webster Education Association

- Due to circumstances beyond our control a one year contract has been agreed upon with the hope that the next contract will be three years
- Pay rates will stay the same with the exception of changes in degree status (lane changes).
- Dr. Ciardi is grateful for the negotiations

Motion: To approve Memorandum of Agreement between the School Committee and the Webster Education Association extending contract for one year.

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

Note: The Committee verified that stipends will be paid

F. Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Amended Agreement

- Housekeeping changes to Agreement
- Change is a Board Member can be selected with annual vote
- Change in the number of people for a quorum from four (4) to eight (8) given the size of the Collaborative

Motion: To accept the amended Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative contract

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

G. Surplus Material Park Avenue Elementary School

- A list of reading materials that is older than the current series was provided
- Outdated VCR tapes
- Park Avenue Elementary School Principal Carrie Wallace suggested moving the outdated materials onto other children in other schools or to other receptacles

Motion: To declare items as surplus materials from Park Avenue Elementary School

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

- H. Park Avenue Elementary School presented a request for Tools of the Mind .2 Coach for kindergarten and PreK
- Tools kids from last year are excited about the program this year
 - Reading Specialist is retiring, Joan Dio is gone
 - A coach is important for success of the program
 - Dr. Ciardi supported the position stating funding is available in the budget

Motion: Move to approve .2 Tools of the Mind Coach

The motion was made by Member Collins
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

Member Collins suggested having a job description for the position.

I. Food Service FY10 Report

- Park Avenue Elementary School time change caused major staff changes for all three schools cafeteria staff
- Managers at Park Avenue Elementary School and Bartlett Jr Sr High School switched
- Meal counts showed a 5% increase in meal participation, well above state recommendation
- Bartlett Jr Sr High School FY09 participation 49% and FY10 participation 60%
- Al la Carte gone and vending machines gone from BHS increasing participation
- WMS 79% participation with a slight decrease in breakfast participation
- PAE had a slight decrease in participation at 62% with an increase in breakfast participation
- A four year comparison showed a 8% decrease in total expenses with net profit of \$71,857.61
- First time since 2007 without a loss
- Charged account report shows a decrease in amount of pending charges. 2009 total balance was \$11,299.63 and 2010 total negative balance is \$1,163.46
- BHS is now mandated to serve breakfast by the DESE.
- Direct certification has increased significantly this year to 576 students who qualify directly without having to fill out an application

Chairman Makara publically thanked each of the Webster Public Schools Food Service employees for their hard work and dedication.

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

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting:

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: X passed
 ___ Failed

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Munsch