

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, October 12, 2010

Date: 10/12/2010

Time: 7:10 PM

Location: School Committee Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Makara

**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

**The following Committee Members were present:**

Member Collins

Member Gorski Strong

Member Czechowski

Member McNulty

**II. Motion: to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2010 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:  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. Cash Handling Procedures

- How cash is handled has been reviewed in the last six months both at the District and School level
- Policy and Procedures have strong internal controls
- All areas receiving cash must be approved as cash collection points
- There has been a separation of duties which now included reconciliation, receipts and all cash is received in the business office and sent directly to the treasurer's office.
- Anyone who handles cash will know the procedures (see procedures)
- Chairman Makara asked if this policy should replace current School Committee Policy. Dr. Ciardi will compare School Committee policy versus the new policy.

**Principals Report was presented by Carolyn Wallace, Park Avenue Elementary School:**

- Getting to know students' performance by assessments such as Aimesweb.
- STAR Program is using the Superflex Program which is a user friendly program to encourage good behaviors.
- New computers are in place in classrooms
- The PTO is up and running programs for recycling paper, cell phones and ink cartridges

- A parent volunteered to do a Newsletter
- Playground clean-up has begun
- Firemen came to the school and had lunch with the students
- There is a Halloween parade planned for the students

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

**1. Enrollment-**

- Total enrollment as of October 1, 2010 is 1951 for the District
- Enrollment report generated from new Powerschool software program was presented.
- Enrollment is stable
- Enrollment projections continue to show no changes to be expected

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

- Sports updates
- Yearbook is making progress
- Senior superlatives and senior class photos were taken today
- SAT's were last Saturday
- Congressman Neal will be visiting BHS tomorrow. BHS Librarian Suzanne Larson invited the Congressman to the school when she was attending a conference over the summer in Washington.

**V. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gregory M. Ciardi reported the following Old Business**

**1. Robin Brodeur of the Webster Education Foundation presented information about the Dinner Auction that was held last month**

- The dinner raised over \$8000
- After expenses the net total raised was \$6000
- RFP's for grants will be received and awarded in February
- The entire meal for the evening was donated by AJ from Point Breeze
- Elections for the Foundation were held with Robin Brodeur as President, Vice President is Susan Rohr, Secretary is Melissa Hollbrook, Treasurer is Lynn Silvestri, Beth Esposito and Tina Puzzo are Board Members
- Ice Out Einstein lead to an RFP for proposal at the lake for WMS students. Students did take specimens back to the school from the lake that will hopefully survive in the classroom and be returned to the lake in the spring.

**2. Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School Principal, Michael Hackenson reported MCAS Results for 2010**

- Accountability data with math in restructuring year 1-performance low
- ELA is back on target
- Biggest concern is math
- Graduation rate made us not meet AYP
- Special Education had improvement rating that was on target
- Next year coming up will focus on getting ELA on Year 2 subgroup as making AYP
- Chart with Composite Performance Indicator (CPI) information was presented
- Chart shows 38% warning/failure with growth not adequate
- BHS will be using Assistsments to get student support on MCAS like questions with immediate feedback
- NWEA testing will be used to support ELA
- Nichols College will be sending tutors in to math classes
- Writing Across the Curriculum will be used with English teachers Thomas Osborn and Sarah Kane using PowerPoint and Tree maps to improve the writing process
- Teachers have volunteered to tutor during their prep period
- Core Assistance Program (CAP) students will be pulled from this time for math, science or English activities
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS will be given to 7<sup>th</sup> graders and will be scored by the math department. Curriculum will be developed from the results

- Grade reconfiguration would be beneficial to grades 7 & 8 now. We can't wait for a new elementary school
- Proposal presented to Dr. Ciardi for Teaching Associates and a Math Facilitator to put curriculum in place
- Dr. Ciardi stated that curriculum mapping exposes what our students are learning K-6 to prepare for grade 7.
- Member Collins stated that the MCAS scores are embarrassing and he would like to see improvement

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

**A. Acceptance of FIRM donation to Bartlett High School athletics**

- The FIRM organization budgeted \$5000 for use of facilities for SheRox triathlon
- The cost for use of facilities was \$2191.64
- Net balance of \$2808.46 to be donated to BHS athletics

**Motion: to accept donation from FIRM for \$2808.46 to Bartlett High School Athletics**

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. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business, Mr. Ted Avlas presented Ed Jobs Fund.**

- The federal government has taken more direct responsibility to fund schools
- Pleased to report \$541,696 of federal education money has been awarded with the purpose to create and/or restore jobs in education in FY11 and FY12
- Proposal is to add 10.5 positions
- Teaching Associates: 4 at Park Avenue Elementary School, 4 (.5) at Webster Middle School and 3 at Bartlett High School
- There will be increased funds available for substitute teachers that was cut from the FY11 budget
- We will add a Math Facilitator, grant writer and replace an Instructional Assistant position that was cut
- The net cost of these positions is \$249,600 leaving approximately \$300,000 for FY12
- Member McNulty asked Dr. Ciardi to consider incentives for the Grant Writer's position
- Ed Jobs money is bringing the district back to the minimum budget the state says we need to run the school district

**Motion: To approve Ed Jobs funded positions as presented with Teaching Associates, substitutes, Grant Writer and Math Facilitator.**

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

The motion:     passed

Failed

**C. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gregory M. Ciardi presented the committee with the request to approve an Interim Special Education Director**

- Will fill the Director of Student Support Services with interim for this school year

- Dr. Marilyn Bisbicos was a former Special Education Administrator
- Dr. Bisbicos has her Master's Degree from Syracuse University and her Doctorate from Boston University. She is an adjunct professor at UMASS Boston
- The position is a .6 FTE position as Interim Special Education Administrator

**Motion: To approve Interim Special Education Director Marilyn Bisbicos effective October 18, 2010**

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:     X passed

                  \_\_\_ Failed

**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 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