

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, September 27, 2011

Date: Tuesday September 27, 2011

Time: 6: 50 PM

Location: School Committee Meeting Room

- o The meeting was called to order by Chairman Makara

The following Committee Members were present:

- o Member Geotis
- o Member Czechowski
- o Member Collins (arrived at 7:10)

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member McNulty

**Motion: To enter into Executive Session according to M.G.I. Ch39 S23B to consider strategy with respect to collective bargaining to return to public session there after**

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: To return to Public Session**

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 approve the meeting minutes of August 23, 2011**

The motion was made by Member Geotis

The motion was seconded by Member Czechowski

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 approve the meeting minutes of September 13, 2011    Passed over to next meeting

The motion was made by  
The motion was seconded by

The following roll call vote was taken:

    members having voted in the affirmative  
    members having voted in the negative  
    members having abstained

The motion:      X   passed  
                         Failed

**The Assistant to the Superintendent for Business, Mr. Ted Avlas updated the committee on**

(1) Update of School Building Project – On Monday 9/26/2011, Dr. Ciardi and I met with the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) team along with R.F. Walsh and Dore & Whittier to discuss the Park Avenue Building Project. Discussion was based on the communication between parties, status on contracts & agreements, feasibility study submittals, facility and maintenance. We may be able to increase our reimbursement with the maintenance portion of the project; on top of the 74.74 % we may be able to receive up to an additional 2 points. Other incentives were discussed to raise our reimbursement rate.. The Project Scope and Budget Agreement were also discussed. The group took a tour of Park Avenue Elementary to witness what our needs are. Then we came back to Filmer Administrative Building for a noon meeting with Dore & Whittier and the Administration Team. We reviewed 5-6 options; renovations, remodeling, one school, two schools, grade reconfigurations, site configurations. Educational needs were discussed to be sure we meet 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, Special Educations integration, technology, alternative education students, where do we want to be in the future. This is an aggressive approach and the time table is very short. The next School Building Committee meeting is Thursday, October 6, 2011.

Chairman Makara asked if the two MSBA representatives have anything in particular to share regarding our project? Mr. Avlas responded that it was a meeting to be sure everyone is on the same page, there are many items coming up we must be prepared for and deadlines to meet.

**The Principal Report - Jennifer Lundwall**

This year at the Middle School we have Grade Level Common Planning Time – to date excellent conversations have been ongoing; teachers are gaining ideas from each other. We are already seeing the positive impact with the    This year we expanded enrichment block with the unified arts in order to allow the common planning time for the grade level teachers

*Steps to Respect* has been taken on by our new health teacher, Megan Lazorski. Along with the new health and wellness curriculum, she is doing an amazing job.

Thank you to the United Way – A Day of Giving – they planted mums and spread mulch around the Middle School.

### **District Wide Reports/Correspondence**

**2011 MCAS Results** – the test results were released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education last week and Dr. Ciardi is pleased to report that the school system is making a steady progress towards higher levels of achievement on the MCAS tests. Of the 17 tests that we administrated the percentage of students scoring in the top two categories (advanced or proficient) increased on 12 of the 17 tests. That is a significant change in one year. A new measure the state is reporting on is called the Student Growth Report; this compares students in each one of our grades to cohorts of other students in the state. Pleased to report our students have improved, some of this growth was exceptional. Our 10<sup>th</sup> grade improved their ELA results by 69%. The results indicated that Webster 10<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are showing a greater improvement over other students in the same grade in the sate of Massachusetts. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is a measure set by the NCLB law. The goal of NCLB is to be advanced or proficient by the year 2014. NCLB is recently being discussed and reviewed nationally. This also includes the subgroups of students on individual education plans, students with English as a second language. Refer to memo and charts on the MCAS results in packet. 82% of Massachusetts schools did not make AYP. Over the next two meetings our building principals will join us to give a detailed report of their school MCAS results along with their action plan.

Chairman Makara asked that based on this discussion what does it mean for the status of our district. Dr. Ciardi responded that he expects later this week DESE will request a waiver of NCLB benchmarks. We will not be giving up the more local DESE rankings of placing school district 1-5 (ranking of 5 is when the state takes over a district.) We are at a level 3. quite common with districts in Massachusetts and gives us support services.

Member Collins said that today the Massachusetts Commission did request a waiver. Member Collins wanted to commend our administrators and teachers for producing the results we have seen to date.

Tori McIntyre told the committee that as part of the sophomore class last year the MCAS puts a lot of stress on everyone. Personally, she had never passed the math portion of the MCAS; not passing threatens her ability to graduate from high school. She feels the MCAS puts a burden on teachers and students.

### **Student Representative to the School Committee Tori McIntyre**

Tori gave an update on BHS sports: Varsity boy's soccer won their last game, while the varsity girl's soccer team tied. This year's Homecoming was an enjoyable day. The blood drive recently held was very successful. Today student elections were held for Student Council. Bartlett is in the process of adding a Student Government. With this students would be able to have a say in the school, and also give students an experience in politics. The Student Government will be made up of 5 teachers and two students form each grade level. Students wishing to be on Student Government must write an essay and have three referrals.

Chairman Makara asked how this differs from Student Council. Tori explained that Student Council plans events and fundraisers, Student Government will address the day to day concerns and issues.

Member Collins reiterated his approval of the Student Government BHS, giving students a chance to be interactive with teachers and taking an active role in their school.

Old Business

New Business:

A. FY11 Final budget – Mr. Avlas reported to the Committee that he is very pleased with the way this year has ended. Please refer to the attached 22 page supporting report. Each page has columns with defined headings at the top, explanations of each line item are at the bottom of the page.

Chairman Makara commended Dr. Ciardi and Mr. Avlas not only for staying on budget, but in fact under budget.

Motion to approve the Final FY11 Budget

The motion was made by Member Collins  
The motion was seconded by Member Czechowski

The following roll call vote was taken:

4 members having voted in the affirmative  
    members having voted in the negative  
    members having abstained

The motion:   X   passed  
       Failed

B. FY11 Final revolving account statement – Mr. Avlas presented the final FY11 revolving account report – see sheets included in packet. Many of these accounts are revolving accounts.

Motion to accept final FY11 Revolving accounted as presented

The motion was made by Member Collins  
The motion was seconded by Member Czechowski

The following roll call vote was taken:

4 members having voted in the affirmative  
    members having voted in the negative  
    members having abstained

The motion:   X   passed  
       Failed

C. Head Injury / Concussion – Dr. Ciardi explained that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has issued every school district to adopt a policy regarding head injuries and concussions and to submit verification by 01-2012. Since this is a policy addition, it will be referred to the Policy Sub Committee and will go through our normal three readings. The Sub Committee team must consist of a school administrator, school nurse, guidance counselor, parent, teacher, athletic trainer, athletic director, student, school physician and neuropsychologist, if available. Enclosed in the packet is the recommendation from the Department of Health.

Rene Langevin, Athletic Director, presented to the board the proposal being made by the MIAA for all Massachusetts school districts to adopt a policy on head injury. Webster has already put in place (1) policy to inform parents with a *Parents Night*, to discuss all athletic rules and regulations. This year a physician came in to speak about injury prevention. No doubt concussions are a long term , serious concern. Parents must sign a sheet saying they give permission for their child to participate, this year a question is included regarding head injury/concussion. (2) questionnaire for parents and students to identify a head injury/concussion. (3) coaches are mandated to take an on-line course from the Massachusetts Dept. of Health.

Chairman Makara asked what the next steps would be. Dr. Ciardi replied that there is currently a January 1, 2012 deadline to adopt a new policy. The good news is that our Athletic Director has already started taking the necessary steps. The School Committee must convene a sub committee.

D. Personnel Announcement – Dr. Ciardi publically announced his intent to retire at the end of his current contract, June 30, 2012. He is doing it at this time as he wanted to give the Committee time to begin the search. This year there are significant challenges facing the district; Park Avenue Building Project with a Town Meeting vote, key positions to be filled, negotiating with all our union contracts, and deeply involved with improving our teaching in the classrooms. Dr. Ciardi is confident in the progress with all these tasks.

Chairman Makara thanked Dr. Ciardi for giving this advance notice to allow us the time to be ahead of the game. He also commended Dr. Ciardi on the leadership he has shown, always giving credit to someone else. The last search Mr. Czechowski, Ted Avlas and I were on the search committee and contracted with MASC. We ask Lori Glennon to begin the necessary steps to assist in obtaining information for this search.

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

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM.

The motion was made by Member Collins  
The motion was seconded by Member Geotis

The following roll call vote was taken:

4 members having voted in the affirmative  
       members having voted in the negative  
       members having abstained

The motion:   X   passed  
       Failed

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon