

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, October 11, 2011

Date: Tuesday October 11, 2011

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: School Committee Meeting Room

- o The meeting was called to order by Chairman Makara

The following Committee Members were present:

- o Member Czechowski
- o Member McNulty
- o Member Collins (arrived at 7:20)

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Geotis

Motion: Move to approve the meeting minute's of September 13, 2011 *Passed over until the next meeting*.

The motion was made by Member

The motion was seconded by Member

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 minute's of September 28, 2011.

The motion was made by Member Collins

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
 1 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 – The Park Avenue Elementary Building Project is currently in the Feasibility Study Phase. This is the first step is to have a Preliminary Design – this outlines the requirements needed to define our education plan. The district is working with our designer to review current and future needs. The Second step is the Site Development. We have a list of proposed alternatives, the committee is working hard to narrow down the list to three. There is a special school building committee meeting tomorrow to be ready to submit plans to the MSBA.

Mr. Avlas reminded the committee that there is a Town Meeting October 17, 2011 at 7:00 at Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School. The School Committee does not have any articles in the warrant.

The Principal Report - Michael Hackenson

Dr. Ciardi reported to the Committee that an error was found in calculating the 10th grade math MCAS scores. Included in the packet is a revised report of our 10th grade scores. In the 17 tests given Webster students went from 10 tests to 13 tests where advanced or proficient was achieved.

It was reported that Webster School District's Accountability Status was categorized as *Improvement Year 1*. With the new scores we are now *Improvement Year 2* in the sub groups. Seventy percent of our students (previously reported at 63%) scored advanced or proficient.

Mr. Hackenson asked the Committee to refer to the Steady Progress 2011 MCAS hand-out. 85% of Massachusetts schools are not making CPI (Composite Performance Indicator) – Webster's 10th graders scored 94.5% in ELA and 87.6% in math. We continue to close the gap between state scores and scores of our students. Looking at the hand-out the scores in **bold** reflect the same class (i.e. ELA grade 8 scored 79.1%, the same group of students now in grade 10 scored 94.4%)

To continue with the increase in performance, Dr. Andrew Kelly reported that Bartlett Jr. Sr. High school has an obligation to its students by offering more rigorous classes, more Advanced Placement classes. Not only have students participate in these classes, but also taking the AP exam. More pathways for our students must be offered to make further advancement.

Dr. Ciardi said that we needed a foundation to get to where we are tonight. That foundation has been made by building a strong Professional Learning Community . It is encouraging that we are closing the gap with the state scores. The next step is to focus on our top achieving students, increase AP courses and the students that take the course & test.

Chairman Makara remarked that this is good news. He believes that we loose many students that are looking for advanced courses.

Member McNulty thanked Mr. Hackenson and Dr. Kelley for this report. He asked if they believe there is an appetite for more AP courses.

Dr. Kelley responded "absolutely". We must provide more professional development for our teachers in order for all students to have the courses available with support.

Member Collins voiced his concern that there are still too many of our students not making the benchmark. He feels the gap is not close enough

District Wide Reports/Correspondence

Advocacy Program @ Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School

Dr. Ciardi explained that this has been the most difficult year; 10% of staff laid off, many cuts. We have been making due, but one place we are in need is the Advocacy Program at Bartlett Jr.. Sr. High School. Last year there were two teachers and two teaching associates. This year we have one teacher and one teaching associate with 32 students. Dr. Ciardi is informing the committee that an additional teaching associate will be added, increasing the FTE from what the committee had originally approved. Special Education grant funding will be used to add this position.

Student Representative to the School Committee Tori McIntyre

Student Representatives have been chosen for the Student Government.

Upcoming events: Football game against Shepherd Hill this Friday
 National Honor Society Induction, Thursday, 10/20
 Honors Banquet, Thursday, 10/27

Old Business

LITERACY LAB – Janice Daniels, coordinator of Reading presented to the committee on the new Literacy Lab. There has been much hard work over the past year to implement this program. Three to four years ago it was determined that there is a great need at the junior high level of students not reading at grade level. That is when the plan came to create the Literacy Lab. Students are targeted through assessments to determine the amount of time spent in the lab. It is a five day program, some students are there all five days others come 2 – 3 days a week (for a period). Student performance is constantly monitored.

Chairman Makara asked how many students are serviced at t Literacy Lab.

Mrs. Daniels said that currently there are approximately 40 7th graders and 20 eighth graders. Half of these students are special education students. The goal is to have them excel out of the program.

She told the committee that a Book Club has started with the new Librarian, Dena Caron and the new Reading Specialist, Elizabeth Argentieri. There are 12 students attending, they are reading War Horse, the group plans on going to see the movie when it is release in December.

Mrs. Daniels invited the school committee members to come in at any time and visit the new Literacy Lab.

Dr. Ciardi thanked Mrs. Daniels, saying that she was the driving force for this project.

UPDATE WEBSTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION – Robin Brodeur, President updated the committee on WEF events. She was happy to report WEF was the recipient of a donation from Lake Realty in the amount of \$500.00. Funds also raised were \$4,000 from the Ice Out Event, \$7,000 from the Dinner Auction and \$3,600 from the Car Raffle (done together with Commerce Insurance. All the money raised goes to teacher grants. You can see all the grants given at www.websteredfoundation.com/awarded grants. The WEF is attempting to establish themselves more in the community, a Business After Hours recently hosted by WEF. Staff member have recently been added to the board of director. Trying to get information to hold an electronic recycling fundraiser, Ted Avlas is getting more info for the foundation. The **Annual Dinner Auction** is being held Saturday, October 22, 2011 at Point Breeze.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM THE BOATERS OF WEBSTER – Joanne Saad and Cindy Healy from the Boaster of Webster presented a donation to the Webster Education Foundation. They have also donated to the Bartlett High School Scholarship.

New Business:

A. ACCEPTANCE OF TECHNICS ORGAN TO BARTLETT JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL - Dr. Ciardi told the committee that a community member has donated musical equipment, a Technics organ to the music department at Bartlett. The original value over \$20,000. Dr. Ciardi recommends the committee accept this donation

Motion to accept the donation of a Technics musical organ

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

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. ACCEPTANCE OF \$500.00 DONATION TO PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Dr. Ciardi presented to the Committee a \$500 donation from BJ Wholesale Club Adopt-A-School Program. A grandparent nominated PAE, along with the donation a one year membership is also donated. This donation will be used to fund field trips.

Motion to accept the \$500.00 donation from BJ's Wholesale Club to Park Avenue Elementary

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

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. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS – Chairman Makara said the process to formally set up the search process has begun. The last search committee Chairman Makara and Member Czechowski were involved. It is recommended that MASC be hired to assist in the search, MASC will give third part credibility and provide support in this endeavor. Pat Corriera from MASC has been invited to a school committee meeting to make a presentation on the search. She will come October 27, 2011 at 6:00, the meeting will be posted. Chairman Makara went on to say that is better to being this search sooner rather than later/

Motion to approve the request from Bartlett Jr. Sr. High school to transfer \$5,509.94 from the Student Activity savings account to the Student Activity checking account.

The motion was made by Member McNulty
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

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

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM

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

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