

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, October 25, 2011

Date: Tuesday October 25, 2011

Time: 6:45 PM

Location: School Committee Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Makara

The following Committee Members were present:

- o Member Czechowski
- o Member McNulty
- o Member Geotis

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Collins

Member Geotis excused himself until Open Session

**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 McNulty

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: To return to Public Session**

The motion was made by       Member McNulty

The motion was seconded by   Member Member Czechowski

The following roll call vote was taken:

5 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 13, 2011 *No Makara, Czechowski* ~ Passed over

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 October 11, 2011

The motion was made by Member McNulty  
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 (Member Geotis was not present at 10/11/2011 meeting)

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 – Lee Dore and Rob Fitzgerald of Dore & Whittier Architectural Firm and Dave Billings and Lauren Kenney from R.F. Walsh were present to present the updated on the Park Avenue Elementary Building Update. (refer to copy of powerpoint included in packet)

Mr. Billings told the Committee that to date there has been a very aggressive schedule. The Preliminary design was submitted to MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Assoc), the schematic design will be submitted in the spring. Lee Dore continued to explain the tomorrow a submission will be made to MSBA that will include enrollment projections, grade configuration, technical assessment of Bartlett Jr. Sr. High and Park Avenue Elementary, educational programming and design option. Over the next couple of weeks the MSBA will return with their comments. The next set will be to submit the preferred schematic design. Mr. Billings explained that the Park Avenue Elementary site is very limite, a small site with significant slope , although the location is very desirable. The Bartlett site lay out is good, it does need some upgrades i.e. the roof is original from 1979, numerous leaks. Lee Dore outlined the five options (see attachments in the packet).

November 3 is the next School Building Committee meeting. RF Walsh is busy getting a web site link established to assist the Webster Community in keeping up to date in the Park Avenue Elementary building project.

Member McNulty was pleased to see this presentation, acknowledging that one option has already been removed from the plans and asked if there is a possibility of having more of the options removed to reduce the possibilities for the community to review. Lee Dore said it is too soon to tell, there is a lot of information to review, but it's critical to be sure all possibilities have been reviewed.

(2) Report on Park Avenue Chair Life Damage Ted Avlas reported that recently the “longest chair lift in North America” had a major breakdown. In the process of getting the repairs done, it is very expensive. The broken chain takes seven (7) weeks to construct, then installation should take just a few days. Will update the Committee on the progress of this repair.

### The Principal Report - Jennifer Lundwall – Webster Middle School

Mrs. Lundwall reported to the committee the Webster Middle School MCAS results. There was significant growth in the overall results. Trends at the middle school are steadily moving forward, there has been slow and steady growth. (see attached report in the packet).

Member McNulty thanked Mrs. Lundwall for her presentation and asked if in the few months that she has been here if there is anything you would want to implement from your previous employment. Mrs. Lundwall said that the engagement is very exciting at the Webster Public Schools. She felt that the work done with data teams and common planning team is an important focus currently being done.

### The Principal Report - Carrie Wallace – Park Avenue Elementary School

Grades PreK-2 do not take the MCAS test, however, we are responsible for three of the four years that are tested by the Grade 3 MCAS tests. Therefore, we have an AYP status. We have met AYP criteria for math again this year, but not English/Language Arts. We still have “no status”, which is a good status, because you need to miss AYP for two years in a row to reach the status of an under performing school.

The data shown is similar to the way the other two schools have presented their data. The percentage of students in the top two categories of “above proficient” and “proficient” which are the names of the categories for grade 3, for the last three years. That’s comparing our growth to the state averages for those years.

There is a lot of growth in these two categories over the last three years. In reading, in 2009, 40% of Webster 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored in the top two categories. 57% of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grades across the state scored in those categories. In 2010, 53% of Webster 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were proficient or above and 63% of the state 3<sup>rd</sup> grades scored in these two categories. In 2011, 60% of Webster 3<sup>rd</sup> graders compared to 61% of students across the state scored proficient or above. We made significant growth in 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scoring in the proficient range in reading and are only 1% point away from the state average.

We had similar results in math. In 2009, 33% of Webster 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored in the “above proficient” and “proficient” categories. 60% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders across the state scored proficient or above. In 2010, 46% of Webster 3<sup>rd</sup> graders compared to 65% of the state. In 2011, 62% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Webster were proficient or above compared to 66% of the state. We had a significant growth in this area compared to the state average and we are within 4% points of the state average as of 2011.

### District Wide Reports/Correspondence

Title I Director Position Dr. Ciardi reminded the Committee of the restructuring of our Director of Student Services roles and responsibilities. Recently a part time interim Title I Director position was approved, this position will assure that we are meeting state requirements for the NCLB (No Child Left Behind) regulations. Dr. Ciardi announced Gail Arsenault has accepted this position.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Model Classroom Award Dr. Ciardi is pleased to announce that the winner of the Fall 2011 round of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Model Technology Classroom is Lara DeRose. Lara teaches World History in our junior high school. She comes to us with experience as a World history teacher, technology trainer and Webpage Club Leader in Burlington, VT and was using html to teach web-based lessons in Plymouth as early as the 1990’s.

Lara proposed using wireless laptops, pen tablets and a smart-board to engage her students in a yearlong project entitled “Civilizing Man.” Her students will conduct a virtual crime scene investigation to figure out how Otzi the Iceman died 5300 years ago, videotape themselves standing trial in Hammurabi’s Court of Law, and attend

a virtual Meeting of the Minds in Ancient Rome. Students will organize and present their learning in an online timeline that contains pictures, video, sound, music, and blog entries.

Last year, Michele Bigelow used the 21st Century Model Technology Classroom project to integrate iPad technology and instant response systems to help her Algebra I students maintain a real-time gauge on their learning using iTunes U, the Kahn Academy and ASSISTments.

Because we use federal eRate funding to support this program, we will be able to open a new round of Requests for Proposals in December. Please keep an eye out for the RFP and submit an application. We want this program to spread great ideas and technology based learning throughout our school system

**Webster Education Foundation Annual Dinner Auction** This past Saturday was the 4<sup>th</sup> annual dinner/auction. It has the largest attendance to date, the final figures for amount raised has not yet been reported. A public Thank You to the WEF Board members and everyone that came out. Also, Thank you to Point Breeze that donated it's facility and all the meals. Every dollar from the ticket sales goes to WEF.

**Student Representative to the School Committee Tori McIntyre** not available this evening

**Old Business** none

**New Business:**

**A. Approval for Nature's Classroom Trip** – Mrs. Lundwall told the committee that this year new criteria was set for this trip. There was a large concern about excluding a lot of children due to the cost. Although the students that did not attend Nature's Classroom had a duplication of the lesson plans in the classroom, they were missing on the hands on opportunity. Also, the timing of the trip, it was just before the MCAS test, which led to too much time out of the classroom. Another Nature's Classroom location was chosen in Charlton and planned for the end of May. To reduce the cost this year's trip will have a reduced number of days and reduced travel costs. Natures Classroom has also agreed to discount our cost 10% due to the need of the community. A Parent Survey was sent out and we had a 98% return. The Middle School is planning some school fundraisers to offset the cost also; Penny Wars and PJ Day was planned.

**Motion to approve the Nature's Classroom trip as presented**

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

**B. Increase in Instructional Assistant Staffing** Dr. Bisbicos told the Committee that one Instructional Aide is needed in the Webster Middle School. There were dramatic cuts made, but we have had an increase in students with need.

**Motion to increase the staff by 1.0 Instruction Assistant**

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  
                            

**C. Approval of Special Education Program Evaluation** Dr. Bisbicos proposed an independent evaluation of special education services offered here. There are 340 special education children ages 3-22 serviced in the town, 280 attend Webster Public School and 60 are pre-school or attending a private school. There has been a large growth in diagnosis of autism and emotional needs. Along with the continuing state mandates and federal regulations to adhere to. This evaluation will determine what we are doing right and what we need to change/revamp to get the most out of the special education program. The funding for this independent evaluation will come from the special education tuition account.

Motion to transfer \$8,000 from the Special Education Tuition fund to hire and outside consultant/evaluation

The motion was made by Member Czechowski  
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  
                            

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

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon