

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, November 8, 2011

Date: Tuesday November 8, 2011

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: School Committee Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by

- o Chairman Makara

The following Committee Members were present:

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

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Collins

Motion: Move to approve the meeting minute's of September 13, 2011 (pass over to next meeting)

Motion: Move to approve the meeting minute's of October 25, 2011

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

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

(1) Update of School Building Project – On November 3, 2011 the School Building Committee met. There are four options being discussed. There are meetings scheduled to inform the public, staff, community and parents.
Wednesday, November 9, 2011 4:00 PM @ Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School for all staff
Wednesday, November 9, 2011 6:00 PM @ Park Avenue Elementary for parents, a light dinner will be served at 5:30
Wednesday, November 16, 2011 6:00 PM @ Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School for parents of Webster Middle School and BHS parents with a light dinner served at 5:30. November 17, 2011 is the next School Building Committee meeting.
December 3, 2011 is the deadline to submit the final option to the MSBA. The Park Avenue Building Project website will be up shortly, all the information regarding the project will be readily available.

(2) Report on recent storm – No major issues from the loss of power at Webster Middle School and Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School from the October 30th storm. It was found that the refrigeration at BHS was not connected to the generator. An electrician will be brought in to rectify this. All food was safely moved to the Park Avenue Elementary School, under the observation of the Board of Health.

Mr. Avlas also wanted to update the committee on the FY13 Budget – Deliberations have begun with the school and department heads. On 11/16/2011 at the Admin Team Meeting the budget will be discussed further. The FY13 Budget Calendar will be given to the School Committee at the next scheduled meeting.

The Principal Report - Jennifer Lundwall

- The addition of Common Planning Time has allowed grade level teachers and department teams time to review student work and their instruction. It has allowed the development of team work; and also allowed the creation of enrichment blocks that enable students' additional fine arts study period. The 4th grade will be culminating their studies with a trip to Clayville Program, similar to Sturbridge Village.
- Webster Middle School held it's first PJ Day – staff and students raised \$600 for the Nature's Classroom trip.
- There is continuing collaboration with consultant, Shepili Fox – the focus has been on math instruction. Teachers are finding this a worthwhile experience.
- The PASS Program is holding it's 2nd Annual Family Night – it is not only for PASS families, also for all 3rd grade families. It is being held November 16, 2011 at 5:00PM
- The Fluoride Program began today; will be held every Tuesday – all students and families can participate

District Wide Reports/Correspondence – Dr. Ciardi informed the Committee

- Included in this packet is a November 1, 2011 press release from Governor Patrick on the Nation's Report Card for 4th and 8th grade students nationally taking the annual National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) exam. This is the fourth year that Massachusetts 4th and 8th grade students have ranked first in the nation
- Head Injury and Concussion Policy update – Rene Langevin was here to inform the Committee what is being done in Webster; there are regulations proposed that all schools have a policy in place by January 1, 2012. All policies must have three readings, it is virtually impossible to meet the January 1st deadline. MIAA and MASC are still working on a draft policy. Dr. Ciardi is expecting the Massachusetts Public Health Dept. to extend the deadline to March.
- The Webster Education Foundation has given it's final accounting figures for the recently held 4th Annual Auction There were 139 attendees, 59 donations, \$9,287 raised after expenses. Public thank you to Robin Brodeur and her committee for a very successful evening.
- Dr. Ciardi has repeatedly spoken about measuring the progress at Webster Public Schools by the number of people driving down Route 395 to Webster. To affirm that:
 - (a) On October 12, 2011 Dr. Ciardi was invited to speak at the Central Massachusetts School Districts meeting to describe the positive relationship between Webster Public Schools and the District and School Assistance Center with relation to our professional develop and how we analysis our testing data
 - (b) The Director of Curriculum from the Millis Public schools will be coming here to see how we are differentiating our 3rd grade reading program.
 - (c) Van Constintine hosted a group of English teachers from around Central Massachusetts to discuss instruction and curriculum and how it is being aligned here in Webster.
 - (d) Brandy Whitney has been doing a fantastic job with the new STEM Program – so much so that the architects for the Park Avenue Building Project, Dore & Whittier are working with an the eighth grade class as they discuss renovations with the project.
 - (e) Instructional Coaches from Worcester Vocational High School will becoming to observe the STEM Program and how it is integrating science and engineering.

All of this demonstrates that there is more hard work being done and we are beginning to be recognized outside our borders.

Student Representative to the School Committee Tori McIntyre

- Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School just ended it's first marking quarter
- BHS Football defeated David Prouty 22-21. This coming Friday is Senior Night
- BHS Soccer defeated Northbridge in the semi-finals, but lost to Groton-Dunstable this afternoon
- Student Council is continuing it's work with the Community Service Project helping at the Webster-Dudley Food Share

Old Business

A. Superintendent Search Update

Chairman Makara updated the Committee informing them of the meeting that has been rescheduled; the MASC representative Pat Corriera had to cancel due to a broken ankle. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2011 to discuss the search for a new superintendent. Looking to acquire a strict timeline and an organized approach in the process.

New Business:

A. Request for Head Teacher Position

Dr. Ciardi explained to the Committee that at Bartlett Jr. Sr. High school there is a principal and two assistant principals, there is always someone in the building to be in charge. At the Webster Middle School there is one principal and one assistant principal. At Park Avenue Elementary there is only one principals, if she is out of the building there is a significant problem since there is over 500 students and 50 staff members without an administrator in the building. Dr. Ciardi is requesting a stipend position of a head teacher . The School Committee requires any new position have a job description which is included in the packet. Linda Millett, The Webster Educator Association President has reviewed and discussed this with the Park Avenue Elementary representative and they have no opposition to this position. The stipend funding would come from the salary line item from differentials due to retirements.

Mrs. Wallace explained that in the times that she has been out of the building the Adjustment Counselor handles any situations that occur, which is a conflict when discipline issues occur. This position would be filled by someone at the PAE. If the principal is out of the building for a short time, the head teacher would remain in their classroom and only be called out if needed. If the principal is out for the entire day a sub would take over the classroom duties and the head teacher would take over the role of the principal for the day.

Motion to approve a position of Head Teacher at Park Avenue at a rate of \$2,000

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. Discussion of 2012-2013 School Calendar

Dr. Ciardi told the Committee that this is on the agenda this evening since last year Member Collins requested a more robust discussion when setting the 2012-2013 school calendar . Webster is one of the earliest communities to start the school year, this allows for cancellations due to severe weather push the calendar up to ending June 30th. There is rising concern with the MCAS testing dates; this year the schedule has testing during the last week of school. Discussion continued concerning possibly inviting the community for feed back, putting something on our website or a Public Hearing. Chariman Makara asked what the deadline is to set the calendar, Dr. Ciardi responded typically it is late February, early March.

Mrs. Zalewski, Food Service Manager presented to the committee last year's food services report. (copy included in packet).

C. Food Services FY11 Financial Report

Mrs. Zalewski, Food Service Manager presented to the committee last year's food services report. (copy included in packet).

*Page 4 outlines a three year comparison of lunch counts. We had 67 participation last year, the state requires 47%. The breakfast count is lower at PAE, that may be due to the fact that a free fruit/veggie snack is being provided at 10:00AM for the students

*Pages 5-7 represent counts for each school. Bartlett had the most increase in lunch participation; possibly due to the increase in variety being offered.

*Page 8-9 represent the private schools in Webster

*Page 11 breaks down the reimbursement rates and meal costs for the last three years.

*Page 12 shows the free & reduced enrollment

Mr. Avlas continued with the financial piece of the food services report (refer to page 13); the revenue from student lunch sales is steadily declining due to an increase in students on free & reduced lunch. Webster Public Schools no longer provide meals to the Senior Center. The food services program has had a total income increase of 14% over the past five years. A large expense in FY1 was \$20,000 to replace a steamer at Webster Middle School. Not reflected in this report is \$32,000 reimbursement that was not received until after the fiscal year closing.

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

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.

The motion was made by Member McNulty

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