

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF TUESDAY, December 6, 2011

Date: Tuesday December 6, 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 Czechowski
- o Member Geotis
- o Member McNulty

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Collins

Chairman Makara explained that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Grade Level Reconfiguration of the Webster Public Schools that will be approved and passed along to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The option that is preferred by town residents, staff and administration consists of three (3) buildings:

Elementary School	K-4
Middle School	6-8
High School	9-12

Included in the packet is supporting documents regarding grade configuration studies completed and meeting held. A parent Survey is included that shows two out of three parents that completed the survey are dissatisfied with the current grade configuration. Also included is a PowerPoint presentation.

This recommended grade configuration would be the least disruptive to the transitioning third (3rd) and seventh (7th) grade students. Data reveals that the MCAS results are lower in those two grades, leading to believe that the transitioning to another building would be a factor.

Dr. Ciardi told the Committee that the next step in this process is to submit the School Committee approval to the MSBA on December 9, 2011. The meeting for review has been postponed from December 14th to January 11, 2012 for the presentation in Boston to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Member Geotis asked is the Life Skills students would all be moved into one building. Dr. Ciardi responded no, each school has its own space for the students. Member Geotis then asked about teacher certification with the grade configuration changes. Dr. Ciardi said there are not concerns relating to Massachusetts teachers licenses/certifications.

Member Czechowski commented that this proposal is excellent. she questioned where the students would be during construction. Dr. Ciardi explained that engineers have reviewed the Park Avenue site and the possibilities of putting modular classroom on the site, and moving the students in phases.

Member McNulty stated that it is clear from the facts presented that we've exposed a flaw with our current grade configuration. He is concerned with what will happen at Town Meeting. Dr. Ciardi reiterated his explanation of development age and learning around the country. He stated that the phrase "students learn to read in grades K-4 and are reading to learn in grades 4 on.

Motion: Move to support the grade configuration as presented: three buildings consisting of K-4, 5-8 and 9-12

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

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 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