

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Date: February 26, 2013 Time: 6:45 PM Location: School Committee Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by

- o Chairman Makara

The following Committee Members were present:

- o Member McNulty
- o Member Gorski-Strong

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Czechowski
- o Member Collins

Motion: Move into executive session according to MGL, Chapter 39, S23b to consider strategy with respect to collective bargaining to return to Public Session

The motion was made by Member McNulty
The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

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 return to Public Session at 7:15 PM

The motion was made by Member McNulty
The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

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

Move to approve the meeting minutes of February 12, 2013 .

The motion was made by Member McNulty
The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

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

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

(1) Update of School Building Project –

- Last week Principal Carrie Wallace, 3 teacher and Ted Avlas went to Manchester, CT to a school furniture showroom
- On 2/22/13 we met with a furniture consultant to inventory Park Avenue to see if anything is of value for the new school.
- There was a walk through at Park Avenue to prepare the upper level for demolition
- School Building Committee Meeting was Thursday, February , 2013. Lightening protection was discussed due to the revelation of the building. Modular classroom bids has been posted, they are due by 3/14/2013
- The next School Building Committee meeting is March 14, 2013
- Met with Building Inspector and Webster Fire department to review the project
- This coming Thursday will be meeting with the Webster Police Dept for a new building security plan, after that a meeting with AmComm will be held to review technology in the new school.
- Prequalification's of over 100 contractors have been received and will be decided upon by 3/6/2013

Mr. Avlas updated the committee regarding student transportation: the current contract expires the end of this year. The bid has gone out, today was the first day of receiving bids. Separate bids will be reviewed for regular transportation and special education transportation. A consulting group has been contracted to assist with this bidding process.

(2) FY12 End of Year Audit –

The end of year report has come from Borgatti & Harrison. Mr. Avlas is pleased to report that it was stated in the report that “Webster Public Schools complied in all material respects, with the requirements referred to above that are applicable to Massachusetts School Districts for the year ended June 30, 2012”. This report will be put on the school website.

Special Town Meeting held last night. The schools had one item regarding the purchase five year the town would like our article was passed over. They will be looking to make this a bylaw and will be placed on the May Town Meeting Agenda.

The Principal Report - Steven Knowlton, Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School

- The first BHS Showcase Night was held February 6th from 6-8 PM. It was an encouraging evening, there were over 100 visitors. Formal invitations were sent to all 6th grade students at WMS and local parochial schools. The BHS staff did an amazing job presenting their classroom display. Mr. Knowlton extended a Thank You to Kim Dobro and Becky Czernicki along with Curriculum Directors and Dr. Kelley for their efforts in making this evening a success.
- Dr. Kelley's booth on AP classes was shown examples of the program

District Wide Reports/Correspondence

Dr. Malkas wanted to formally announce that Webster Public Schools was offered an invitation to participate in the Cohort 6 MMSI (Massachusetts Math & Science Initiative). This program offers funds that support AP and Pre AP teacher professional development. The goal is to increase student enrollment in these classes as well as increase the students taking the tests and improving their scores. There is a nominal fee for participation, rather than being a total grant award. This fee will sustain the program. The fee assessed to WPS is \$10,000. Dr. Kelley and Dr. Malkas have begun discussion of where funds will come from. Teachers will begin training this summer. A letter of agreement for the School Committee will be forthcoming.

Dr. Kelley said that we currently have a good infrastructure with our staff, but we need additional support from MMSI. MMSI will give support to teacher and student, giving them networking with other districts in the area. Every AP offering will have a Saturday session with students from these other districts.

Member McNulty asked what would happen if the MMSI grant didn't come through to the full extent. Dr. Kelley said it would require us to find a “like school” outside the cohort that is now doing similar classes.

Dr. Malkas updated the committee on the meeting held recently with the Emergency and Medical Committee. The current plan was reviewed. During the March Professional Development Day a presentation will be given to the staff. Drills will be held this spring. We intend to schedule annual drills from this point on. Mr. Avlas and Dr. Malkas attended a MASBO meeting outlining components that should be included in district plans.

Student Representative to the School Committee Ashton Morio

Not present this evening

Old Business

A. FY14 Budget Update – Authorization to submit

Per the Town Charter, we are required to submit by February 28th to the Town Administrator our budget. Ted Avlas presented draft 3, the final draft before submission, giving a power point presentation outlining the budget changes. This showed the original 8.63% increase to the current 5.6%. All of this information will be posted on the website.

Chairman Makara questioned Schedule 19 (page 10 of the power point) ~ why was there a large reduction in Operating & Maintenance. Mr. Avlas said that last year there was not a lot of snow and there were no other big maintenance concerns. Mr. McNulty asked why the \$15,000 reduction in employee insurance, is this something we may see every year. Mr. Avlas answered no, with the revamping of employee health insurance last year and the change in plans offered we had a savings.

Move to authorize to submit the FY14 budget as presented to the Town Administrator ____.

The motion was made by Member McNulty
The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

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

B. Capitol Improvement Plan – Authorization to submit

Mr. Avlas reviewed the Capitol Improvement Plan that was presented at previous school committee meetings. The locker rooms at Bartlett are in dire need, they are a health and safety concern. We are looking for this article to be placed on the town warrant at the Town Meeting.

Move to submit the Capitol Improvement Plan to the Town Administrator as presented this evening ____.

The motion was made by Member McNulty
The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

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

C. High School Graduation Requirement Policy – Second Reading

Dr. Malkas reviewed the intent of this new policy; any policy we currently have in place do not meet the recommended Mass Core requirements. As part of the Race to the Top initiative, the district must meet goals set by the DESE. This model policy language comes from MASC along with Dr. Kelley and Mr. Knowlton

There were no questions

D. High School Grading System Policy – Second Reading

Dr. Malkas explained the major change in this policy is intended to raise the passing grade from 60 to 65 with an adjustment to the grading scale. This policy language was also modeled after the MASC sample along with Dr. Kelley and Mr. Knowlton's collaboration

There were no questions

E. Final approval of 2013-2014 School Calendar

The Committee reviewed the calendar

Motion: Move to approve the 2013-2014 Webster Public School Calendar as presented this evening

The motion was made by Member Gorski-Strong

The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

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

New Business

A. Food Services Mid Year Report

Mr. Avlas reviewed the mid year food services report. He made note that lunch counts have dropped from 67% to 59%. Through January 31, 2013 sales have gone down 20% for student lunches. The line item for equipment is up due to the purchase of a piece of equipment at Webster Middle School. The cafeteria staff has done a terrific job of working with the requirements set by the federal government.

B. MSBA Statement of Interest Submittal period

The MSBA began accepting Statement of Interest to be considered beginning January 9, 2013 through April 10, 2013. This allows district to inform the MSBA of deficiencies that exist in our school Bartlett Jr. Sr. High School is aging; it is 35 years old. We are starting to see issues with heating, plumbing and the roof. This new proves requirement School Committee approval AND the Board of Selectman. It also stipulates that the district must be able to fund the project over the next two years. It is a difficult situation since we are in the beginning process of the Park Avenue building project. There is an accelerated repair program for 75% reimbursement that can be considered for repair and/or replacement of windows, roofs and/or boilers. We have two school committee meetings before the deadline for further discussion.

Member Gorski-Strong recalled that each year we submit repairs through the Capitol Improvement Plan, we have done our due diligence, but each year the Town has voted not to support these projects. It would be responsible of us to submit the SOI.

C. Approval of SWCEC 2nd Quarterly Report

According to new Massachusetts regulations; the SWCEC quarterly report is being presented this evening. Dr. Malkas pointed out items of notice: They are running out of space, There has been an unplanned increase in enrollment at the Grow School - 110 students budget for, currently has 138. The report breaks down each schools enrollment figures. The Collaborative is looking for alternative space. The report also outlines their expansion of professional development

Motion: Move to approve the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative 2nd Quarterly Report as presented.

The motion was made by Member Gorski-Strong

The motion was seconded by Member McNulty

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

D. Approval of CMSEC 2nd Quarterly Report

As with the SWCEC, the SMSEC (Central Massachusetts Special Education Collaborative) must submit their quarterly report to us. One of the findings from a recent audit involved their retirement program; they are making appropriate changes to rectify that issue. Several new policies have been put in place to move forward to address and resolve all findings of the audit.. Enrollment is exceeding their original projection.

Motion: Move to approve the Central Massachusetts Special Education Collaborative 2nd Quarterly Report as presented

The motion was made by Member McNulty
The motion was seconded by Member Gorski Strong

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

E. Approval of BHS Art Trip to NYC

Mrs. Rebecca Osborn is planning a trip with forty students to New York City. They will visit the Metropolitan Art Museum and the American Museum of Natural History. Students will experience the cultural diversity of NYC along with curriculum components included in this trip. The trip is planned for April 12, 2013. Since this is an out of state trip it does require School Committee approval

Motion: Move to approve the Bartlett Jr. Sr. Art classes for a to visit the Metropolitan Art Museum and American Museum of Natural History in New York City on April 12, 2013

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

F. Acceptance of \$7,360.23 donation from the Gelinas estate

A generous donation has been received from the Gelinas estate to be used for scholarships for students pursuing education in Math and Science

Motion: Move to accept a donation from the Gelinas Estate in the amount of \$7360.23

The motion was made by Member McNulty
The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

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

Review / Transfer / Signing 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 McNulty

The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

The following roll call vote was taken:

 x members having voted in the affirmative

 members having voted in the negative

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon

Documents used during this meeting include:

- Agenda for Tuesday, February 26, 2013
- Minutes from February 12, 2013
- Dr. Malkas' notes
- FY12 End of Year Audit Report
- FY14 Budget, Draft 3
- FY 14 Budget Power Point Presentation
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Policy IKF – High School Graduation Requirements – Second Reading
- Policy IKA – High School Grading Systems – Second Reading
- 2013-2014 School Calendar – final draft
- Food Services Mid Year Report
- MSBA Statement of Interest Submittal Report
- SWCEC 2nd Quarterly Report
- CMSEC 2nd Quarterly Report
- BHS Art Department Field Trip request to New York City
- Letter from Kopelman & Paige PC in regards to Gelinas Estate donation to BHS