

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Date: March 22, 2016 Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Park Avenue Elementary School Library

The meeting was called to order by

The following Committee Members were present:

- o Member Chenevert
- o Member Makara
- o Chairman Collins

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Hurton
- o Member Gorski-Strong

The following Committee Members participated via Remote Participation

I. Call to Order: Approval of March 8, 2016 Minutes:

Motion: To approve the March 8 2016 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Makara

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

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business' Report

- Park Avenue Elementary Building Project will hold a meeting next Monday (3/28) at 6:00
- Administration Renovation Project – BayPath is finishing the demolition. Construction documents have been submitted to the Town Building Commission. HVAC has gone out to bid

Budget Calendar Update

March 21st ~ Public Hearing will be held

March 31st ~ Joint Meeting – School Committee, Board of Selectman & Finance Committee will be held at Park Avenue Elementary Library at 7:00PM and will be televised

April 12th ~ School Committee Budget Public Hearing

April 28th ~ School Committee approve and submit FY17 Budget

B. Principal Report – Carolyn Wallace, Park Avenue Elementary School

- March 31st - MultiCultural Event 5:30 – 7:30 Each grade level has a region they're presenting, PreK and K have Webster, MA
- April 4th ~ Kindergarten Family Night – DW goes to Kindergarten will be presented at 6:30PM
- April 13th – Kindergarten Parent (only) Information Night & Registration.
- PARCC Testing for grades 3 and 4 will be done on computers at PAE
- Committee has been formed to begin process of a new report card with tri-mesters.
- On March 19th PAE hosted the Boy Scout Pinewood Derby along with the PTO Book fair – very success
- Mrs. Wallace was chosen to participate in a DESE Principal Advisory Cabinet recently. She and 5 other principals along with 6 representatives from Ireland met to discuss topics such as teacher evaluation, education programs and social issues.

C. District Wide Reports / Correspondence

Dr. Malkas reviewed the new Opioid Bill that Fob. Baker signed; Chapter 71 section 96 revision states that each school will have a policy regarding substance use prevention and the education of its students about the dangers of substance abuse. The school shall notify the parents or guardians of all students attending the school of the policy and shall post the policy on the school's website. Have not received enough info to implement, the policy should be in place for the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Waiting for further info from DESE and MASC

1. Statewide Assessment Schedule

The Spring 2016 Testing schedule was reviewed (included in packets) and will be posted on the web site. Grades 3-8 will be participating in the PARCC testing. Park Avenue students will do on the computer, grades 5-8 will be paper/pencil tested.

III. Student Update – Robert Price

- This past Saturday the Show Choir participated in a competition at Andover HS; received the silver award and also an award for best ending. Next Saturday will be a competition in Waltham
- Spring sports has begun
- May 4th – Super Teams Banquet
- Tomorrow at 7:00PM Mr. Bartlett will be held
- March 30th the Student Council is holding a Dress Swap. Can trade a dress for a \$10 donation
- Medical Careers Club went to Worcester State; for District Attorney Early's Wellness Conference. One of the speakers was former NFL player Shawn Louiseau

IV Old Business

A. FY17 Budget Update

Mr. Avlas stated that last night at the Board of Selectman's meeting the draft budget was presented. (included in packet) The last page shows a 4.65% town appropriation. Major increases are health insurance (15%), retirement and medicare. The town is proposing the same level of funding as last year.

1. Budget Workshop Update

Dr. Malkas spoke to the discussion at the last meeting where it was agreed to meet for a budget workshop. She has created expert groups and will jigsaw information, convening as a group to discuss priorities. If we are looking at a maintenance of effort budget then there's opportunity to prioritize requests. In addition to non-renewals, resignation and retirements it may allow fore-allocating of funds. Looking for guidance from School Committee members to set priorities.

V New Business

A. Special Education Update

In Mrs. Baris' absence (attending state-wide special education director conference), Dr. Malkas presented a power point on the Special Education update (included in packet)

Mr. Avlas gave a history of educating students with special needs and the services provided

B Acceptance of \$2,700 donation from Long Subaru to Webster Middle School

Long Subaru previously donated \$10,000 to Webster Middle STEM Program. Their goal was surpassed and are giving an additional \$2,700.

Motion: To accept \$2,700 donation from Long Subaru to Webster Middle School

The motion was made by Member Makara
The motion was seconded by Member Chenevert

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. Approval of Town Meeting Articles

Mr. Avlas presented one article to be put on the Special Town Meeting. Asking for funding to repair and repave Bartlett High School grounds including driveways, sidewalks and entrances. Also providing directional signage. Working with the Highway Department to determine cost

Motion: To approve Articles for the May 9, 2016 Special Town Meeting as presented

The motion was made by Member Makara
The motion was seconded by Member Chenevert

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

One additional warrant was presented; The budget presented does not allow for all of our priorities. A district priority has been technology. Looking to lease 900 Chrome Books at a cost of \$56,000 / year for WMS and BHS. Chrome Books are used in over 50% of school districts across the country. At last year's town Meeting funds were appropriated for WiFi that is being unused.

Motion: To approve Article as presented for Annual Town Meeting

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Makara

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 Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools

The Massachusetts Teachers Association has requested that School Committees consider a resolution against the lifting of the cap on Commonwealth charter schools. Dr. Malkas stated that Oxford, Northbridge and Worcester has voted to support this resolution. There was discussion over the intent of this resolution and it was decided to wait until we have a full committee.

E. Approval of out of state field trip – First Grade to Mystic Aquarium, Mystic CT

Students in the first grade will visit the Mystic Aquarium on June 7, 2016. This will give students an opportunity to visit the aquarium they may otherwise not have.

Motion: To approval the out of state field trip – First Grade to Mystic Aquarium, Mystic CT

The motion was made by Member Makara

The motion was seconded by Member Chenevert

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. Approval of out of state field trip – Kindergarten and Grade 3 to Roger Williams Zoo, Providence, RI

The curriculum in the Tools of the Mind support this field trip for kindergarten and grade 3 to Roger Williams Zoo on June 3rd.

Motion: To approve the out of state field trip – Kindergarten to Roger Williams Zoo, Providence, RI

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Makara

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

G. Approval of our of state field trip – Bartlett High School to New York City

Mr. Sean Harrington and Ms. Brittany Gyllenhammer were present to outline the request for the trip to New York City (itinerary included in packet). This is the fifth year taking this trip.

Motion: To approve the out of state field trip – Bartlett High School to New York City

The motion was made by Member Makara
The motion was seconded by Member Chenevert

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

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

A. Approve transfer request from Park Avenue Elementary School Students Activity Savings to Checking Account.

Mr. Avlas explained that with the Park Avenue Elementary new grade reconfiguration this is a request to increase their limit form \$5,000 to \$10,000

Motion: To approve the request to increase the Park Avenue Elementary transfer by \$5,000.00

The motion was made by Member Makara
The motion was seconded by Member Chenevert

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 adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM

The motion was made by Member Makara
The motion was seconded by Member Chenevert

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon

Documents used during this meeting include:

- March 8, 2016 Minutes
- 2015-2016 Statewide Testing Schedule
- FY17 Budget update
- Special Education Power Point presentation
- Special Town Meeting Article
- Regular Town Meeting Article
- Resolution against lifting the cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools
- Field Trip Request – 1st grade to Mystic Aquarium, Mystic CT
- Field Trip Request – Kindergarten and Grade 3 to Roger Williams Zoo, Providence RI
- Field Trip Request – Bartlett High School
- Park Avenue Elementary School transfer request.