

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Date: January 26, 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 Hurton
- o Member Gorski-Strong (left at 8:30PM)
- o Member Makara
- o Chairman Collins

The following Committee Members were absent:

The following Committee Members participated via Remote Participation

I. Call to Order: Approval of December 8, 2015 Minutes:

Motion: To approve the December 8, 2015 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

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 (Members Makara and Hurton)

The motion: X passed
 Failed

Approval of January 12, 2016 Minutes:

Motion: To approve the January 12, 2016 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Makara

The following roll call vote was taken:

- 4 members having voted in the affirmative
- members having voted in the negative
- members having abstained (Member Gorski-Strong)

The motion: X passed
 Failed

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business' Report

Mr. Avlas came from a Library Building Committee meeting and gave an update to the Committee. An architect and owners project manager has been hired for the project.

Park Avenue Elementary Project update – School Building Committee met last week. Reviewed final punch list. Decisions to be made on the remaining items.

Administrative Renovation – Demolition is continuing. Electric work has begun. An outside plumbing company will begin work over February vacation.

The Governor’s budget is coming out tomorrow. We will find out what our Chapter 70 funding will be. There has been speculation of a 1.6% increase in education and 4.3% in municipal funding.

B. Principal Report – Carolyn Wallace, Park Avenue Elementary

Progress is being made in many areas at Park Avenue

- Academically – working with RTI and BRSI on improving student reading ability. Currently in the process of collecting mid-year benchmark testing. This year using DIBELS testing, have hired four retired teachers to perform this testing. First grade students have completed the testing and it’s been determined that they have not reached the target where they should be. BRSI has made some recommendation that were implemented and improvements have been made. At the next professional development day all grade level results will be reviewed.
- PBIS – Powerful Paws. After collecting 10 students will be acknowledged with small token (i.e. more computer time, eat lunch with friends). There are now classroom paws – after 10 a class reward is given (i.e. additional recess time, PJ day). Implementation has made days go by more smoothly
- Instructional rounds with 5 outside district administrators was held on Thursday, January 21st. Received many positive comments
- Class size remains a concern. Enrollment is increasing, numbers so high there is a strain on every program. We have had 12 new students have enrolled in the past 2 weeks.
- PTO held “Noodles & Doodles”. Over 500 people came for pasta dinner and art show – very successful
- This Thursday is the Grade 2 concert.

C. District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Standard Based Education

Dr. Malkas stated that at 12:01am DESE released the Educator Evaluation data for the state. This information will be presented at next meeting as we have not had sufficient time to review the data.

Dr. Malkas and Dr. Kelley met with Webster Middle School parents recently to hear their concerns around the new standard based report cards. Working to clear some of the confusion.

Dr. Kelley presented (power point) a review of the Massachusetts Frameworks Standard Based Learning – The purpose is to show students are learning content, knowledge and skills. He demonstrated how teachers are required to link to the standards, plan their curriculum, and based on content knowledge and skills of the standard determines the teacher evaluation. K-12 we are teaching and assessing based on the common core standards.

Dr. Kelley has a Twitter accounts and has asked parents to communicate through that.

Dr. Malkas reiterated that teaching has become complex, it’s not what page you reach at the end of the year it’s how many students have understood at a proficient level. It’s not coverage it’s content.

Mrs. Wallace said that Park Avenue Elementary is in the process of creating a new report card that will reflect the standards. She stated this is very important in a transient district, knowing that every town in Massachusetts is teaching to the same standards and expectations no matter where in the state they are coming from.

IV. Student Update – Robert Price

- YOU-niversity – Robert observed the program – very impressed with the number of students attending.
- Boys basketball game lost to Tantasqua last night. Girls are playing tonight
- Boys and Girls track compete later this week
- Mock Trail Team went to Worcester Court House today. Bartlett lost by a few points.
- The quarter ends this Friday
- Saturday, February 6th the Show Choir has its first competition
- National Honor Society and Medical Careers Club are selling Krispie Kreme donuts as a fundraiser

V Old Business

A. FY 16 Budget ~ 2nd Quarter Review

Mr. Avlas provided copies of the updated FY16 budget. We are at Day 84 of the school budget (46%). A review of some specific line items was given.

V New Business

A. Approval of overnight field trip – Bartlett High School Student Council

Mrs. Donna Hurton, Student Council Advisor came to request an overnight field trip to the annual MASC State Conference in Hyannis MA from March 9-11, 2016. Five girls and one boy will be attending the conference. They will learn leadership skills to bring back to the student council members.

Motion: To approve the Student Council overnight field trip on March 9-11 to Hyannis, MA

The motion was made by Member Makara

The motion was seconded by Member Chenevert

The following roll call vote was taken:

4 members having voted in the affirmative
 members having voted in the negative
 1 members having abstained (Member Hurton)

The motion: X passed
 Failed

A. Approval of overnight field trip – Bartlett High School DECA

Mrs. Maryann Hoenig was present to request an overnight field trip for DECA students to attend the State Career Development Conference at the Marriot Copley in Boston. Three students will be attending and competing against other schools.

Motion: To approve the DECA Competition overnight field trip on March 10 – 12

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

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

C. Appointment of a School Committee member to Custodian negotiations

Dr. Malkas stated that a letter from the custodian bargaining unit requesting to enter into negotiations. Their contract is currently in effect through June 2017. They have specific requests relating with overtime (Article 4-4 and 4-8)

Member Makara volunteered to be the designated member

Motion: To appoint Member Makara to the custodian negotiations

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Chenevert

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

D. Acceptance of Central Massachusetts Special Education Collaborative Annual Report

In accordance with 603 CMR, 50.0, each collaborative must submit an annual report to each member school district. This report was prepared by Mr. Tempesto, the new Executive Director. Dr. Malkas gave a brief update of the programs. Pointing out there is a concern with the new Rockdale (Recovery) High School due to lower than anticipated enrollment

Motion: To accept the 2015-2016 CMSEC Annual Report

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Makara

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

E. Acceptance of Southern Worcester Special Education Collaborative 2nd Quarter Report

In accordance with 603 CMR, 50.0, each collaborative must submit a quarterly report to each member school district. Dr. Malkas brought attention to page 8, with a year to date income of \$377,383.00, allowing for a surplus needed to stabilize the Collaborative.

Motion: To accept the SWCEC 2nd Quarter Report

The motion was made by Member Makara

The motion was seconded by Member Hurton

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

F. Acceptance of All Saints Academy

Under MGL c.76 s.1 the local school committees is asked to accept the reorganization of a private school. We must formally vote to accept the reorganization of St. Anne's and St. Louis' Schools. Dr. Malkas met with Dr. Josephson and is assured of the curricular and instruction plan will provide academic preparation for the students of All Saints' Academy. Also discussed the needs of Webster students attending these schools with Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Baris.

Motion: To approve the acceptance of All Saints Academy

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Makara

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

G. Discussion of 2016-2017 School Calendar

First review of the proposed 2016-2017 school calendar. Dr. Malkas pointed out:

- Contractually the first day of school cannot begin any earlier than the first Monday before Labor Day. Proposing to start on August 29th, 2016, that being the first day for teacher professional development/orientation
- First day for students Grade 1-12 is August 31st, Kindergarten and Pre K is September 6th
- October 7th – Professional Development Day – regional superintendents have been working to make this a regional professional development to share resources
- November 8th – Election Day – would normally be a school committee meeting date, recommending holding one SC meeting on 11/15/16
- December - the normal school committee meetings (2nd & 4th of the month) would be 13th and 27th – recommending the 6th and 20th.
- January – DLT is suggesting not to have a 1/ 2 professional development on the 1st Wednesday as we have just returned from break
- Try something new – move the PD from a Friday to a Tuesday of a long week-end. January 16th MLK Day, January 17th Professional Development
- March – Professional Development on Monday, March 20th

Looking for feedback from the Committee. Chairman Collins asked if there was consideration over parents having difficulty taking a Tuesday vs a Friday from their employment. Dr. Malkas feels that as long as the calendar is given out in advance families can plan. Dr. Kelley said more districts are moving their PD to the Tuesday. Mr. Avlas stated that traditionally we have two school committee meetings in November and one in December, is suggesting Nov. 15th and 29 and December 13th, keeping the two week rotation.

Dr. Malkas will place the draft calendar on the school web site and ask for parent feedback. Dr. Kelley will put on his Twitter account.

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

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Makara

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

Documents used during this meeting include:

- December 8, 2015 Minutes
- January 12, 2016 Minutes
- Standard Based Learning Power Point
- FY16 Budget
- Overnight field trip request – BHS Student Council to Hyannis, MA
- Overnight field trip request – BHS DECA to Boston for competition
- Letter from AFSCME, Local 1709 Council 93
- Central Massachusetts Special Education Collaborative Annual Report
- Southern Worcester Special Education Collaborative 2nd Quarter Report
- Letter from Diocese of Worcester Catholic Schools Office
- 2016-2017 School Calendar – 1st Draft