

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, December 22, 2015

Date: December 22, 2015 Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Park Avenue Elementary School Library

The meeting was called to order by

- Vice Chair Makara

The following Committee Members were present:

- Member Chenevert
- Member Hurton

The following Committee Members were absent:

- Member Gorski-Strong
- Chairman Collins

The following Committee Members participated via Remote Participation

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

Passed over until the next meeting

II. Superintendent's Report

A. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business' Report

Mr. Avlas stated there was no Park Avenue Elementary School Building Committee meeting to report on. The Bay Path students are on break so there is no work being done on the Administrative Renovation.

Budget discussion has resumed with the District Leadership Team. Will make a presentation to the School Committee on January 12th. Will continue to monitor budget news from Beacon Hill. Mr. Avlas gave a review of the state hearing held last week.

B. Principal Report – Jennifer Lundwall, Webster Middle School

Mrs. Lundwall gave updates on:

Attendance – Maintaining a 95% average throughout the school.

Many 7th & 8th grade students has improved their school attendance record.

Academics – Standard Based Report Cards will be going out after the Holidays. There are still some parent questions on the grading system. Sample of report card was given to the Committee for review (included in packet)

Grade 6 held its annual food drive. This year over two car loads were brought to the Webster food Bank. One group made holiday placemats that were brought to the Senior Center another group did a fundraiser for Cat Connection

Community Service Learning Project established a school based food bank. Community partner with Angel Backpack. It will provide students in need with food for the days they are not in school. The Life Skills and ABA students are using this as a vocational project.

Member Hurton inquired about the confusion with Standard Based Report Cards and wondered if there is a plan to inform parents. Mrs. Lundwall said that during recent Parent/Teacher conferences there was further explanation given. From Those meeting s teacher sent Mrs. Lundwall the most common questions/concerns. There are plans for Parent Coffee's. Although parents have voiced concerns about Bay Path and Nichols Academy understanding the grading system translation, they have told us they do not have an issue with this report card. Mrs. Lundwall strongly encourages any parent to come to her with their concerns as it assists her in the transition.

Dr. Kelley gave further explanation of the grading translation.

Dr. Malkas spoke for the disconnect between grades students and the standard based testing. This new grading practice is objective and transparent, she said transition is difficult but she feels with time the long term benefits will be seen.

C. District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Accountability Status

Dr. Malkas presented the 2015 Accountability Data. Stating that we have not met our state imposed target, we are however improving. By 2017 it is projected that we are on course to meet our targets. She reviewed the district accomplishments and challenges (PowerPoint in packet). Bartlett High School (testing last year grades 7-12) went from 9% to 14% for school cohort. We are compared to all schools in the state with “like” grade reconfigurations. A review of each school and subject was given

2. District Improvement Plan Update

Dr. Kelley reported on the three strategic objectives of the district: Academic Engagement, Attainment of Diploma and Accessing Community Partners. A PowerPoint gave details of each initiative. There was discussion on a plan to showcase all the good being done in the schools and ways to encourage parent engagement.

III. Student Update – Robert Price

- Tomorrow is the last day of school before the break. There will be a Band & Chorus performance for the school
- National Honor Society held it’s annual coat and toy drive. Coats were donated to the Webster-Dudley Food Share and toys were delivered to Webster Policy
- Students from the National Honor Society and Life Skills program went to the Hanover Theater to attend the Christmas Carol performance
- Boys Varsity Basketball team will be playing in a Holiday Tournament

IV Old Business

A. Policy EEAA – Walkers and Riders – revision – Third and Final Reading

Dr. Malkas said the changes made to this policy are due to the Park Avenue Elementary grade reconfiguration.

Motion: To approve Policy EEAA – Walkers and Riders

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Chenevert

The following roll call vote was taken:

 3 members having voted in the affirmative

 0 members having voted in the negative

 0 members having abstained

The motion: X passed
 Failed

C. Discussion regarding Policy JJE – Fundraising Policy

Dr. Malkas reviewed the discussion held over the past few meeting. Provided in the packet are samples from other districts. She is recommending a committee is formed to develop policy, protocol and procedures for fundraising.

V New Business

A. Approval of letter regarding proposed OSV Charter School

Dr. Malkas presented the draft at the last school committee meeting, this evening the final letter is being offered for members to sign. The letter must be submitted by January 6, 2016.

Motion: To approve the letter on behalf of the Webster School Committee as presented

The motion was made by Member Hurton

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

B. Acceptance of Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative FY15 Annual report and Auditors Report

Dr. Malkas stated that in accordance with 603 CMR, 50.0 each collaborative must submit an annual report and the report of an independent auditor to each member school committee for review. The SWCEC board has reviewed the annual AND audit reports, action has been take to insure the financial operation of the collaborative.

Motion: Move to accept the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative FY 15 Annual and Audit reports

The motion was made by Member Hurton

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 revised 2015-2016 Webster Middle School Handbook

Mrs. Lundwall reviewed changes (in gray highlight). Many of them are specific to the 7th & 8th grade students with the grade reconfiguration. On page 4 the school day hours and procedures is specifically outlined. Starting on page 16 expectations are broken down by grade level / team.

Motion: Move to accept the Webster Middle School Handbooks with the changes as presented

The motion was made by Member Hurton

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

D. Approval of additional 0.5 FTE Instructional Assistant at Webster Middle School

Dr. Malkas explained that last year at Bartlett there was an in-school suspension position. The majority of the students serviced in that room was grade 7 & 8 students. In the course of the transition this position did not carry over to the Webster Middle School, however the need still exists. The approval of this addition would allow this position for the remainder of the school year. In-School Suspension is still happening, but students are staying in the main office. Having student sitting in the main office is putting an undue burden on the staff working in the office.

Mr. Avlas said there is money in the budget (salary adjustments) for paraprofessional for the second ½ of the school year (approx.. \$11,500.)

Motion: Move to approve the addition of a 0.5FTE Instructional Assistant at Webster Middle School

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Hurton

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 Bartlett High School Activity savings to checking account

Motion: To approve the transfer of \$23,153.10 from the Bartlett High School activity savings account to the checking account

The motion was made by Member Hurton

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

Mr. Hurton wanted to convey a story that occurred recently with our Life Skills class; in preparation to go to the Hanover Theater they boys went to a local barber shop. When one of the men at the shop heard of the reason they were there he secretly paid for their hair cuts.

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM

The motion was made by Member Hurton

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:

- December 8, 2015 Minutes
- December 22, 2015 Minutes
- WMS Standardized Report card sample
- Department of Education 2015 Accountability Data
- 2015 Accountability Status PowerPoint
- 2015-2016 Action Plan PowerPoint
- Policy EEAA – Walkers and Riders – Third and Final Reading
- Samples policies for fundraising
- Letter to DOE regarding proposed Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School
- SWCEC 2014-2015 Annual Report
- SWCEC FY15 Auditors Report
- 2015-2016 Webster Middle School Student Handbook
- Bartlett High School Transfer request