

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Date: November 24, 2015      Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Park Avenue Elementary School Library

The meeting was called to order by

- o Chairman Collins

The following Committee Members were present:

- o Member Hurton
- o Member Makara
- o Member Chenevert
- o Member Gorski-Strong

The following Committee Members were absent:

The following Committee Members participated via Remote Participation

**I. Call to Order: Approval of November 10, 2015 Minutes:**

Motion: To approve the November 10, 2015 Minutes

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
- 0 members having voted in the negative
- 0 members having abstained (Gorski-Strong)

The motion:      X   passed  
                        Failed

**II. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business' Report**

Mr. Avlas updated the Committee on the Park Avenue Elementary Building project – last Thursday a Building Committee Meeting was held, the Owners Project Manager stated the progress is being made on the punch list. Some items may be completed in the Spring. The next Building Project Meeting will be held after the first of the year. Received the LEED Gold plaque to be displayed in the Lobby; highest level for building a “green building”

The Webster Middle School Locker Room project is complete and in working condition.

Mrs. Pierangeli updated the Committee on the technology upgrades. Bartlett and Webster Middle are both 99% completed. Although WMS has some phone issues. The project went very smoothly. Funds for this project were approved at Town Meeting (\$235,000), we will receive a \$150,000 ERATE reimbursement.

**B. Principal Report – Steven Knowlton, Bartlett High School**

- November 12<sup>th</sup> - Financial Aid Night – approx. 54 students and parents attended.
- February 23<sup>rd</sup> - FAFSA night
- December 3<sup>rd</sup> – BHS Showcase Night – all Webster Middle School and local parochial schools have been invited

- November 18<sup>th</sup> – Parent / Teacher Conferences were held – about 25% of parents attended.
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – Winter Concert – 7:00PM
- In the spring of 2015, BHS NEASC Report was received. As a result multiple commendations for high quality work was given along with four area identified as concern. These are: Technology, Disposal of hazardous materials in the science labs, Lack of library/media specialist and Curriculum Development. A response from us on those items is due back outlining our action plan by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Member Hurton asked for an update on 10<sup>th</sup> grade Bartlett Strong student. Mr. Knowlton said that after the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter he does not have specific figures, but there is a concern on the number of failures, there is a meeting scheduled for Monday, 11/30 to discuss this with staff. Dr. Malkas spoke of the newly established Student Support at BHS with a team of Mrs. Daniels, Mrs. Baris and Dr. Kelley.

### **C. District Wide Reports / Correspondence**

#### **1. Board of Education Assessment Decision**

Dr. Malkas detailed the announcement made November 17<sup>th</sup> from the DESE recognizing MCAS 2.0 as the latest state wide standardized testing, along with PARCC . There have been numerous webinars on accountability and implementation. The results for Grades 3-8 PARCC are still embargoed. Since we participated in the pilot PARCC last year we now have the option of continuing with paper/pencil PARCC or transition to computer based testing. Grades 3 & 4 have the infrastructure to complete the PARCC electronically. We've already been practicing this with the Galileo assessments, so students are familiar. At WMS we don't have sufficient devices so will continue with pencil / paper version. The high school will take MCAS for ELA and Mathematics. December 18<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to register the district for the testing options.

Conversation around expectations, accommodations, means for taking the tests, MCAS vs PARCC and accountability continued.

To summarize, this year will look much like last and we will remain in a “hold harmless” status.

Dr. Malkas gave members a copy of the letter received from DESE recognizing Park Avenue Elementary as a Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge Champion (enclosed in packet). Dr. Malkas stated that as a result of students having breakfast there has been a decline in visits to the nurse and less referrals for discipline. Congratulations to Principal Wallace and her staff.

### **III. Student Update – Robert Price**

- November 21<sup>st</sup> – Chicken Bowl Football game was held. Hope for better results next year
- November 19<sup>th</sup> was the start of Spirit Week – Pep Rally is tomorrow
- Thanksgiving Day Football Game – 97<sup>th</sup> Annual. 10:15 in Southbridge

Mr. Hurton wanted to congratulate the BHS Cheerleaders for their accomplishments at the State Cheerleading Competition.

Mr. Avlas commented on Student Rep, Robert Price, as a role model for the football team and wished them well in the game Thanksgiving Day.

### **IV Old Business**

#### **A. Coordinated Program Review – Final Report (ELL)**

Spring 2015 Webster Public Schools participated in a week long Coordinated Program Review site visit. This is the final ELL report findings presentation. Mrs. Baris reviewed the final report. There are 18 areas of regulations that we must be compliant in; out of the 18, 9 were completely implement, 6 partially implemented and 3 not implemented. In the correction plan we must submit we will outline all 18 and the steps being taken to become compliant in all of them. We have one year in which to complete this. Mrs. Baris outlined all 18 elements. (complete report included in packet)

**V New Business**

**A. Appoint School Committee Member to Webster Instructional Assistant’s and ABA Negotiations**

Dr. Malkas said the contract for the Webster Instructional Assistants and AVA will be ending June 2016. Have been very successful with Interest Based Bargaining with other contracts. Plan to enter into negotiations after the first of the year.

Motion: Move to appoint Member Hurton to the Webster Instructional Assistant’s and ABA negotiations.

The motion was made by Member Makara

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

**B. Policy EEAA – Walkers and Riders – revision – First Reading**

Last year during the grade reconfiguration we discussed the changes in this policy. Policy EEAA must be revised to represent current grade reconfigurations, all students at PAE (K-4) are eligible for transportation. Students in WMS and BHS are eligible for transportation services if they reside more than 1.5 miles from the school.

**C. Discussion regarding Policy JJE – Fund-raising Policy**

Dr. Malkas is requesting changes to the current Policy JJE – Fundraising to include language for recognition by the School Committee for nonprofit organizations approval for fundraising on behalf of Webster Public Schools, as well as prior approval for the use of district and school name, logo and colors with third parties. Under #3, suggesting letter f. to read “ would include duly authorized non-profit booster organizations, clubs and groups that represent the schools”. The issue of 3<sup>rd</sup> party using our logo without permission is what precipitated this request.

Discussion around level of consistency, notification of all fundraising along with who is doing the fundraising, purpose, frequency - so community isn’t hit with many fundraising at same time.

**D. Discussion on Old Sturbridge Village Charter School**

Old Sturbridge Village is a finalist for a new charter school and there is a Public Hearing December 7<sup>th</sup> at Tantasqua High School. Dr. Malkas plans to attend this Public Hearing. Chairman Collins would like to prepare a statement to the State outlining our concerns. Member Hurton proposed Dr. Malkas write a draft for the Committee to formally submit to DESE. Dr. Malkas stated that she will create a draft and welcomed comments from the Committee to be included in the letter, it would have to be formally voted on by the Committee.

**E. FY15 End of the Year Budget Review**

Mr. Avlas presented the final itemized FY15 Budget along with a list of Impact Items. There was discussion around the actual operating budget, encumbered figures, grant funded programs, circuit breaker money, electric expenses and net metering.

**F. Approval to increase 0.6FTE to 0.8FTE English teacher at BHS**

Dr. Malkas outlined the need for an increase in FTE of an English / Language Arts Teacher at BHS. This will reduce class sizes and allow for additional 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS / Academic support. Mr. Knowlton stated..... Mr. Avlas said there is money that can be transferred due to retirement and .....

Motion: Move to increase 0.6FTE to 0.8FTE English Teacher at Bartlett High School

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

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

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

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 PM

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lori Glennon

Documents used during this meeting:

- November 10, 2015 Minutes
- DESE letter – Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge Champion
- FAFSA Day Brochure
- DESE Press Release (dated 11/17/2015) – Next Generation MCAS
- DESE Coordinated Program Review Report of Findings - ELL
- Letter requesting to open negotiations – Instructional Assistants / ABA from President, Linda Boisseau
- Policy EEAA – Walkers and Riders - Current AND Revised Policy
- Policy JJE – Fund-Raising Policy
- DESE Press Release (dated 11/9/2015) – Public Hearing for Old Sturbridge Village Charter School
- FY15 End of Year Budget
- FY15 Final Budget – Impact Items
- FY15 Circuit Breaker / School Choice Revenues / Expenses
- 2014-2015 Revolving Accounts