

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Date: October 27, 2015 Time: 7:00 PM Location: School Committee Meeting Room

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

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Gorski-Strong

The following Committee Members participated via Remote Participation

I. Call to Order: Approval of October 13, 2015 Minutes:

Motion: To approve the October 13, 2015 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 (Gorski-Strong)

The motion: X passed
 Failed

II. Superintendent's Report

A. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business' Report

Mr. Avlas gave an update on the Park Avenue Elementary School Building Committee Meeting that was held on Oct. 22nd. The general contractor, CTA is continuing to complete the punch list items, HVAC and kitchen equipment still need work. There was some confusion regarding the warranty of the building, Mr. Fitzgerald stated that it is two years from the move in date = February 2017. There is a change order for this project and a credit in the amount of just over \$500,000 will be applied, this money had been set aside for ledge removal and was not needed.

The Webster Middle School locker room project is complete.

FY15 budget was due Oct. 30th, we received a 30 day extension, however it is highly unlikely that we will meet that deadline due to the Town Hall not posting a number of transactions. More to follow

FY16 – we typically review the first quarter, but given the FY15 budget has not closed out it is not possible to produce an accurate report

FY17 work has begun. Nov. 18th will be the first DLT meeting to begin work; a full budget calendar will be presented at the next meeting.

Member Hurton asked if there is any problem with the State if we don't meet the FY15 budget deadline. Mr. Avlas responded that since there is an electronic submission there may be questions asked if not submitted. we've never gotten to this point so unsure of exact results.

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

- Recent Community Open House brought close to 200 neighbors, community partner and past employees. She said it was very gratifying to see everyone in attendance
- Annual evacuation drills have been completed. With over 800 students and 100+ staff it was done in 12 minutes.
- Today Instructional Rounds were held – administrators came and observed; it went very well
- Teachers have submitted their goals. Many have included reading initiatives as part of their goals.
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) is in week 2, seeing positive responses
- Large class sizes is a concern, registered 5 new students last week

Member Chenevert inquired about parochial school students coming to the Open House interested in attending – Mrs. Wallace said she knew of 3 families that attended. Discussion with the members regarding instructional rounds continued.

C. District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. PARCC update

Dr. Malkas updated the committee of PARCC recommendations. At a recent state meeting the DESE commissioner indicated that the current MCAS testing is no longer cutting edge and not fully aligned with the curriculum, but he is not confident PARCC is the best replacement. There may be a possible MCAS 2.0 – this is concerning to school districts that have invested time and money to implement PARCC. The test we will be required to give is a DESE decision. On October 29th we will get preliminary PARCC data results, parents will receive their student's results in early December. Discussion around MCAS, MCAS 2.0 and PARCC continued.

2. Enrollment Report

Dr. Malkas presented an enrollment report broken down by school, section and average class size based on the October 1st numbers (included in packet). Each year the district must provide DESE this data as it is used to calculate state aid and eligibility for the grand funding. NAEYC recommends 1 adult for every 12 students at PAE; in the past we were able to meet that ratio, but with the reduction in paraprofessionals every class does not have a second adult in the class.

Mr. Avlas said State Chapter 70 and Foundation budget figures are based on Oct. 1st enrollment from last year. We have already seen an increase in enrollment that we will not receive funding for until FY18. Conversation continued regarding the impact this will have on the next budget.

III. Student Update – Robert Price

- Last week was Homecoming Week and Spirit week – He felt all the events of the week united the school
- Today John & Abigail Adams Scholarships were announced, 22 students received this award. This award is given to students that received proficient and advanced in their MCAS test.
- Last week the Nichols Academy students were inducted
- Tomorrow, Nichols College Connection will be held, This is a grant funded, 2 day workshop for 22 female juniors.
- National Honor Society Induction will be held November 5th
- Bartlett High school Play – Salem's Daughter will be 10/29 at 7:00PM and 10/31 at 1:00PM

IV Old Business

A. Policy JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students – Third and Final Reading

Dr. Malkas gave an update, having received legal counsel with regards to exclusionary restraints. Clarification over the definition of exclusion was given to the Committee. One of the changes was to include “principal and his/her designee: The new regulation goes into effect January 1, 2016, the changes to this policy are based on a model from the MASC along with guidance form our legal team.

Motion: To accept Policy JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students

The motion was made by Member Makara

The motion was seconded by Member Hurton

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion: X passed
 Failed

B. Policy KF – Use of School Facilities – Third and Final Reading

Mr. Avlas pointed out one change from the last reading – at the bottom of page 2, first line of last paragraph “designated the Superintendent, or his/her designee”

Motion: To approve Policy KF – use of School Facilities

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 (Gorski-Strong)

The motion: X passed
 Failed

C. Policy AC – Nondiscrimination – Third and Final Reading

The change in this policy is to be in compliance with the Coordinated Program Review, to include protected categories as identified for corrective action, homelessness has been added since the last reading.

Motion: To approve Policy AC - Nondiscrimination

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 (Gorski-Strong)

The motion: X passed
 Failed

D. Policy ACA – Nondiscrimination Policy on the Basis of Sex – Third and Final Reading

This policy is begin revised to include the protected categories; sexual orientation and gender identity.

Motion: To approve Policy ACA – Nondiscrimination Policy on the Basis of Sex

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 (Gorski-Strong)

The motion: X passed
_____ Failed

E. Policy JLD – Guidance Programs – Third and Final Reading

This policy is being revised to include equal opportunity

Motion: To approve Policy JLD – Guidance Programs

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 (Gorski-Strong)

The motion: X passed
_____ Failed

F. Policy JM – Scholarships, Prizes and Awards – Third and Final Reading

This policy is being revised to include gender identity and homelessness

Motion: To approve Policy JM –Scholarships, Prizes and Awards

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 (Gorski-Strong)

The motion: X passed
_____ Failed

V New Business

A. Parent Concern – Class Size

Park Avenue Elementary parent, Kate Hastings came to the committee with a concern over class size. Her oldest, last year in Kindergarten although the class size was large each class had a paraprofessional. This is one teacher with 30 six year olds is “scary”. Her concern is that each student is not receiving the adequate attention they need. The high student / teacher ratio along with the high percentage of low income /demographics makes for an unsafe atmosphere. Looking for help to resolve this concern. Mrs. Hastings gave statistics of surrounding districts supporting the needs of our students, along with some national programs that benefited schools facing similar challenges.

Ease member of the Committee commended Mrs. Hastings for coming to this meeting and offered some explanation of the budget process, need for more parent involvement and the District’s commitment for a safe, nurturing environment.

B. Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative 1st Quarter Report

According to Mass General Law, the Collaborative’s Quarterly Report is shared with each members School Committee.

Motion: Move to accept the Quarter 1 Report from Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative

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

1. Introduction, Elizabeth Fitzmaurice, Executive Director, SWCEC

Beth Fitzmaurice presented a power point outlining the role SWCEC has in educating students that require specialized services. She reviewed the mission and vision of the Collaborative and gave a spotlight on the programs offered along with future plans.

C. School Committee Member Request – Athletic Practice Schedule

At the request of Member Hurton, this is brought to the Committee to discuss the number of sports and extracurricular events scheduled on Sunday’s. Other parents have approached Mr. Hurton with concern. Member Hurton stated that since one of the districts priorities is family engagement he is strongly recommending the Committee look at a policy restricting Sunday events. Member Chenevert agreed with Member Hurton and gave a specific situation of a player not starting because she missed Sunday practices. Dr. Malkas and Mr. Knowlton said efforts have been made to avoid Sunday practices, but due to availability of practice space that is sometimes unavoidable. Mr. Knowlton also said to his knowledge there are no extracurricular activities that are planned for Sunday’s. The discussion continued with other options that may be available to alleviate Sunday practices. Chairman Collins asked if there were MIAA regulations / restrictions on hours/ days of week that practices can be held. Member Hurton requested that this item remain on the agenda and that the Committee consider a formal vote to restrict Sunday practices.

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:

4 members having voted in the affirmative
 members having voted in the negative
 members having abstained

The motion: X passed
 Failed

Chairman Collins offered condolences to the family of former Superintendent Jeremiah Moriarty , who recently passed away. He was the superintendent in Webster for 21 years.

Member Hurton also offered condolences to David Pepka’s family; he was a BHS graduate and parent of a senior at BHS.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon

Documents used during this meeting:

- ❖ October 13, 2015 Minutes
- ❖ Policy JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students – Third and Final Reading
- ❖ Policy KF – Use of School Facilities – Third and Final Reading
- ❖ Policy AC – Nondiscrimination – Third and Final Reading
- ❖ Policy JLLD – Guidance Programs – Third and Final Reading
- ❖ Policy JM – Scholarships, Prizes and Award – Third and Final Reading
- ❖ Letter from parent – Kate Hastings
- ❖ Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative – 1st Quarter Report
- ❖ SWCEC School Committee Presentation power point