

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Date: October 13, 2015 Time: 7:00 PM Location: School Committee Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by

- Chairman Collins

The following Committee Members were present:

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

The following Committee Members were absent:

The following Committee Members participated via Remote Participation

I. Call to Order: Approval of September 22, 2015 Minutes:

Motion: To approve the September 22, 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
1 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 District Renovation Project – During the course of the demolition it was discovered that there was some hazardous materials on the steel fireproofing. An inspection determined the steel fireproofing came back clean, but other items came back as hazardous, primarily adhesives that were used in the classrooms. An air Quality test was performed – results were free of harmful materials. An abatement company will remove the hazardous materials. Staff and students will be notified. This will result in a small delay in completing the project.

Member Hurton asked how the budget and timeline will be effected by this discovery. Mr. Avlas stated the impact is not yet determined, but will keep the Committee updated.

The next Park Avenue Elementary School Building Committee meeting is Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. Avlas is requesting that the location of School Committee Meeting be changed to Park Avenue Elementary School library. This space has the ability to provide live feed of the meetings. The current School Committee Conference Room at Filmer will become additional administrative offices for Mrs. Daniels and Dr. Kelley. He will keep the Committee informed of the first meeting to be held at PAE, possibly the first meeting in November.

B. Principal Report – Steven Knowlton, Bartlett High School

Mr. Knowlton along with Dr. Kelley presented a power point presentation on the Grade 9 changes at Bartlett. The class of 2018 STRONG TEAM was established after teachers voiced concern about the number of students failing. This is not a unique problem at BHS, national figures show grade 9 has a higher percentage of failure. To remedy the situation BHS made a connection with Fitchburg High School who had developed a “school within a school”. The STRONG TEAM was implemented during the 2013-2014 school year and following that cohort of students there has been an increase in standardized testing and a decrease in drop outs. To be part of the STRONG TEAM students have to show initiative to belong to the team

Mr. Knowlton stated that visiting Fitchburg High School also gave them the idea of the Bartlett Honor Academy and teaming up with Nichols College

C. District Wide Reports / Correspondence

Dr. Malkas presented a draft of the District Improvement Plan. This draft is being presented as the final plan is taking longer than expected. The five A’s of the previous improvement plan has been reduced to three – Academic Engagement, Attainment of Diploma for College and Career Readiness and Accessing and Engaging Family and Community Partners We are receiving assistance with this plan from DSAC. More to follow.

III. Student Update – Robert Price

- Tomorrow 10th graders have the option to take the PSAT’s during school
- Next week is Homecoming. Starts off Monday with the Pep Rally – each day has an event with the Homecoming Dance on Saturday
- AP English has a study session on Saturday, 10/14
- Thursday, Oct. 22nd - Dodge Ball Tournament

IV Old Business

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

Dr. Malkas gave an update from Attorney Tobin – clarification was given on “time out” – page 3, 3rd and 4th paragraph.

Dr. Malkas stated that this is an MASC recommended policy. There was additional clarification requested by the Committee, until received by legal counsel they will wait to vote on this policy.

B. Policy KF – Use of School Facilities – Second Reading

Mr. Avlas presented the current Policy KF and the revised / new policy KF. The new policy has specific Massachusetts General Laws included.

Member Hurton questioned the top of page 3 “Assistant to the Superintendent” – what happens in the future if we don’t have that position. it was decided to change the wording to “Superintendent or Designee”

C. Policy AC – Nondiscrimination – Second Reading

In order to address the items brought forward from the Coordinated Program Review (CPR) this policy must be updated to include protected categories – included homelessness

D. Policy ACA – Nondiscrimination Policy on the Basis of Sex – Second Reading

Same as above – including gender identity and sexual orientation

E. Policy JLD – Guidance Programs – Second Reading

Same as above – did not include any of the protected categories previously – have added a sentence to include them all

F. Policy JM – Scholarships, Prizes and Awards – Second Reading

Same as above – included gender identity. A decision was made to also include homelessness.

V New Business

A. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement – Administrators Assistant

This Memorandum of Agreement between the Webster School Committee and the Webster Administrative Assistant’s bargaining unit clarifies hours of work for school year administrative assistants. The MOA clarifies section 4-6, defining hours of work. Past practice has school year administrative assistants would work 7 hours per day and have ½ hour for lunch, in reality they 1/ 2hour lunch was part of the 7 hours; they were in fact being paid for 5/6 hours / day. We worked with the union to clarify this agreement.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the Administrative Assistants Association as presented

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

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

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 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

- ❖ September 22, 2015 Minutes
- ❖ Freshman Strong Power point presentation
- ❖ 2015-2018 District Plan
- ❖ Policy JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students – Third and Final Reading
- ❖ Policy KF – Use of School Facilities – Second Reading
- ❖ Policy AC – Nondiscrimination – Second Reading
- ❖ Policy JLLD – Guidance Programs – Second Reading
- ❖ Policy JM – Scholarships, Prices and Awards – Second Reading

❖ Memorandum of Agreement – Administrative Assistants