

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Date: April 11, 2017 Time: 6:45 PM Location: Park Avenue Elementary School Library

The meeting was called to order by: Vice Chair Makara

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Hurton
- Member Gorski-Strong
- Member Chenevert – arrived at 7:05 PM

The following Committee Members were absent:

- Chairman Collins

The following Committee Members participated via Remote Participation

I. Call to Order: Move to go into Executive Session according to M.G.L. Chapter 30A S21 (a) to discuss contract negotiations with nonunion personnel

Motion: To Move to go into Executive Session according to M.G.L. Chapter 30A S21 (a) to discuss contract negotiations with nonunion personnel

The motion was made by Member Hurton

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

The motion: X _____ passed
 _____ Failed

Returned to Open Session at 7:10PM

II. Approval of March 28 2017 Minutes

Motion: To approve the March 28 2017 Minutes

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
 1 members having abstained (Member Gorski-Strong)

The motion: X _____ passed
 _____ Failed

III. School Committee Vacancy

Member Makara stated that at the last meeting we were notified of Chairman Collins resignation. We appreciate all his time on the Committee. May 1st is the next Town election, after which we will formally reorganize the Committee, since it is only one month away, Member Makara is suggesting he by the interim Chair. Following the town Charter, we will notify the Board of Selectman of the vacancy (page 11, Section f, #2). The vacancy will be posted for one week, will have a join meeting with the BOS (they must have a quorum, the school committee does not) to meet with interested candidates, that person will fill the vacancy until the next town election

Motion: To notify the Board of Selectman of vacancy on the School Committee

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

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business' Report

- Library Building Committee – meeting was held this evening. Construction is being delayed due to weather. The Ground Breaking was held last Tuesday. Thanks to former Senator Moore and Shawn Collins for their help in securing a 70% reimbursement with the State. The Library received a generous donation from Mr. and Mrs. Fels.
- Charter Review Committee – Counsel comments have been reviewed. The committee is reaching out to the public for their feedback. Will present at Fall Town Meeting
- Town Meeting Warrant – Our warrant for the Administration Renovation was presented at the Board of Selectman's meeting last night and was supported by the Board

B. Principal Report – Jennifer Lundwall, Webster Middle School Principal

- Attendance = Grade 5 – 94%
Grade 6 – 94%
Grade 7 – 93%
Grade 8 – 94%
As of 4/10/17 Grade 8 has a 99% attendance rate
- MCAS testing starts tomorrow, resumes after vacation
- Enrichment Project – “Waste food into energy”
- Community Matters – Leadership team participated in workshop and have begun to roll out to remaining staff
- Course Selection Sheet was provided to Committee to show the offerings
- Sample of correspondence sent to families regarding MCAS was presented

C. District Wide Reports / Correspondence

Working on the Turn Around Grant for Park Avenue Elementary School – hopefully have an MOA at next meeting. Creating a job description for a teacher leadership position. There will also be extended day opportunities for teachers. The cost for those will come from the grant. These offerings are specific to PAE staff.

V. Student Update – Lyndsay Makie

- Third Quarter has finally ended – fourth quarter has just begun
- Student Council & NHS offering free prom dresses
- Last Friday, Piotr Kicilinski and myself attended 70th annual Student Government Day
- NHS hosting Talent Show on April 27th
- NHS attending a cultural event on May 16th with a trip into Boston
- Art Class taking their annual trip to NYC end of April
- Show Choir has a competition in Waltham being awarded a silver medal and placing third for their performance.

VI. Old Business

A. Report on Fundraising Applications

Mr. Lind presented a packet of the most recent application fundraising applications.

B. FY18 Budget Discussion

Mr. Lind met with the Administrative Team along with individual school administrators in an attempt to reduce the school budget by \$380,000. Recommendations were reviewed (included in packet). There were reviewed with the incoming superintendent. The list is in order of preferred elimination

Mr. Avlas said the deficit is currently at \$366,025.00, if additional state funding comes in the Town Administrator said the additional money would go to the schools. At the next meeting the final budget will be presented during the Public Hearing.

VII. New Business

A. Approval of Occupational Therapy Assistant position

Included in the packet is a memo from Mrs. Baris requesting the approval of an Occupational Therapy Assistant. This position is due to the retirement of our occupational therapist. Mrs. Baris explained that we are currently contracting with French River for an Occupational Therapist 13 hrs/week. We can effectively service students with an addition of 0.6FTE COTA.

Motion: To approve the addition of a 0.6FTE COTA as presented

The motion was made by Member Gorski-Strong

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

 1 members having abstained (Member Hurton)

The motion: X passed
 Failed

B. Approval of out of state field trip- Grades 3 & 4 to Hyde Cultural Center, Woodstock, CT

At the last meeting Mr. Lind notified committee members of an out of state field trip that did not made the agenda in a timely manner. Looking for approval of a field trip that already occurred.

Motion: To approve the out of state field trip – Grades 3 & 4 to Hyde Cultural Center, Woodstock, CT

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

C. School Choice Discussion

Mr. Lind explained that every year we are required to identify: (1) if we will continue to participate in School Choice and (2) the space open in each grade level. He is recommending a slight change in the way it's been done before. Looking to set limits on specific grade levels. Using estimated enrollment there are zero available seats in grades K-6. There was a chart showing the recommended seats available for School Choice students (included in packet)

Motion: To continue offering School Choice

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

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

Motion: To accept the enrollment numbers for School Choice as presented

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

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

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

VII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon

Documents used during this meeting include:

- Minutes from March 28, 2017
- Pages 11, 31 & 31 form Town Charter regarding Board Vacancies
- WMS Course Selection Sheet
- WMS letter to families regarding MCAS testing
- Fundraising Applications
- Memo from Kathleen Baris requesting additional 0.6 FTE COTA position
- Out of state field trip request – Gr. 3 & 4 to Woodstock CT
- School Choice memo and grade level enrollment chart