

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Date: September 13, 2016

Time: 6:45 PM

Location: Park Avenue Elementary School Library

The meeting was called to order by

The following Committee Members were present:

- Chairman Collins
- Member Makara
- Member Hurton
- Member Chenevert

The following Committee Members were absent:

- Member Gorski-Strong

The following Committee Members participated via Remote Participation

I. Call to Order: Move into Executive Session in Accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, S21(a) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and to reconvene in Open Session

Motion: To Move into Executive Session in Accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, S21(a) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and to reconvene in Open Session

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

Motion: To return to public session immediately following executive session

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

II. Approval of August 23, 2016 Minutes:

Motion: To approve the August 23, 2016 Minutes

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

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business' Report

- Administration Renovation – 30 Bay Path students there working yesterday, the numbers vary each day. There will be a budget update at the next meeting
- Park Avenue Playground bids are due tomorrow
- Interviews for Town Administrator began this evening. It was decided to interview an additional two finalists; 9/28 the final three will be interviewed
- Would like to commend the janitorial staff for their hard work inside and out to get the schools ready for opening of school

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

- PAE had two first days of school, Grades 1-4 on 8/31 and PreK-K on 9/6. Very smooth opening with no transportation issues
- PBIS is having a positive carryover from last year
- Academically Benchmark Assessments have already begun
- RTI will begin soon
- Very grateful for the many donations of school supplies received this year
- Mrs. Wallace said with the new assistant principal brings new challenges, but pleased to have Dr. Mackay join her

C. District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Update on School Opening

After a year of transition the start of this school year has been excellent, from the condition of the schools, transportation, food services, etc..

2. Charter School Discussion

On the November Ballot there will be Question #2, lifting the number of student enrollment in charter schools. Over 100 school committees and town officials have opposed this. Funding in state aid lost to Charter schools from our district is \$79,000.

Member Makara commented that last year with the potential opening of Sturbridge Village Charter School we learned a lot and have been able to decipher facts. He is in support of signing a letter opposing this. Member Hurton strongly agrees with Member Makara. Mr. Lind has sample letters he will review and through council will be sure the resolution we submit is accurate. Member Chenevert concurs with the other members and supports writing the resolution. Members encouraged parents to educate themselves. At the next meeting a draft of the resolution will be available for signatures. There was additional conversation regarding the Sturbridge Charter and the resubmission for concern. Mr. Lind will provide more details specific to that school.

3. Class Size Discussion

- a. Grade 4 Currently there are 5 grade 4 classrooms. There are 32 students per class. Funding sources to add an additional classroom is not available. This is a challenge, will continue to monitor
- b. Bartlett High School Large enrollment in class sizes is being solved internally. Some Social Studies and ELA classes have over 30 students, combining some small classes to free up teaching assignments has been done.
- c. Special Education New enrollments with students requiring additional services and WMS and BHS, possibly needing an additional paraprofessional and ABA. Looking for funding solutions without touch revolving accounts.

There was discussion regarding school choice and circuit breaker funds. Member Hurton proposed we consider using school choice to fund Grade 4 teacher. Member Makara agreed. Mr. Avlas spoke of using revolving funds to balance the budget. Next year we will not receive the Chapter funds. He noted that enrollment is down at WMS and BHS.

Discussion continued on the need and the filling of a grade 4 teacher. Chairman Collins is concerned about the funding sources, using our reserve for something that may not be sustained, especially in light of the Town voters denying additional funds. The decision was made to post as an anticipated vacancy and obtain additional information on enrollment and funding.

IV. Student Update : Lyndsay Makie

- Orientation for Grade 9 Nicholas Academy students was held.
- 9/20 Honors Award Banquet will be held
- 9/6 Open House
- 9/21 Medical Careers Club will hold a Blood Drive
- Grade 9 class officers elections was just held
- National Honor Society is getting the school store ready to open
- Show Choir held their try-outs
- An update of sports teams was given

V. Old Business

- A. Policy IHAMB – Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs – Third and Final Reading

Motion: To approve Policy IHAMB – Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs

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

B. Policy JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug use to Students Prohibited – Third and Final Reading

Motion: To approve Policy JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug use to Students Prohibited

The motion was made by Member Makara
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. Approval of Revision to Policy JM – Policy on Scholarships, Prizes and Awards

Mr. Lind explained that this policy had just been updated on 10/2015, but it does not include all 9 protected categories. The Committee is requesting that this be a first of three reading and not a vote for revision.

This was the first reading for Policy JM

D. Approval of revision to Policy AV – Nondiscrimination

same as above

E. Public Acknowledgement of Backpack and School Supply Donations

Mr. Lind said the District would like to acknowledge a number of people and organizations for their efforts in supporting our students with donations of backpacks and school supplies.

* Winn Residential donated 80 backpacks filled with supplies

* Anna Whitted and Pete’s Tire donated 520 drawstring bags filled with school supplies

* Long Subaru – backpacks and School Supplies with their national “Fill the Outback”
program

* Commerce Insurance – backpacks and school supplies

And just today Nichols College donated backpacks and supplies to BHS

VI. New Business

A. Approval of Superintendent Goals

Mr. Lind presented his final draft of the Superintendent’s Goals for this year. The Committee has seen the draft of the goals. Member Hurton and Chairman Collins commended Mr. Lind on his work compiling these goals and aligning them with the District Goals.

Motion: To approve Superintendent Goals as presented

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

B. Introduction of Food Services Manager

Mrs. Pierangeli introduced Ms. Ellen Nylen, the new Food Services Manager. After an extensive search Ms. Nylen has relocated from Indiana. Ms. Nylen gave her background and her goals for Webster.

C. FY16 End of Year Food Services Report

Mrs. Pierangeli presented the Food Services Report. There was a loss of \$75,737.34, but have an ending balance of \$78,971.60. Participating in CEP did come at a cost, which was not unexpected. A line by line explanation was given (report included in packet) Monthly participation was reviewed.

D. FY16 End of Year Revolving Accounts Report

Mr. Avlas reviewed the Revolving Accounts with a brief explanation of each (report included in packet)

E. Town Meeting Articles Discussion

Town Meeting will be held October 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM at Bartlett High School. The school does not have any articles for this meeting. Chairman Collins requested a handout on the Administrative Renovation project

F. Policy Revision Regarding Protected Classes Discussion

This was discussed earlier in the meeting. These policies were identified as missing one or more protected classes. None have a time sensitive need.

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

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon

Documents used during this meeting include:

- August 23, 2016 Minutes
- Policy JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug use by Students Prohibited – Third and Final Reading
- Policy IHAMB – Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs – Third and Final Reading

- Policy JM – ~~Revision~~—First Reading
- Policy AC – ~~Revision~~—First Reading
- Superintendent Goals
- FY 16 Food Services Report
- FY16 Revolving Account
- Notice from Board of Selectmen regarding Town Meeting
- Policy JB – Equal Education Opportunities – First Reading
- Policy JJ-E Co-curricular and Extracurricular Activities – First Reading
- Policy JBA – Student to Student Harassment – First Reading
- Policy JFCC – School Choice – First Reading
- Policy JF-E-1 – School Admissions – First Reading
- Policy JF-E-2 – School Admissions – First Reading