

Webster Public Schools  
Webster School Committee  
Open Session Minutes (M.G.L. C. 39)  
Budget Workshop

Date: February 3, 2018

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Park Avenue Elementary School Library

Present:

School Committee Chairman: David Hurton  
School Committee Member: Mike Makara  
School Committee Member: Brian Chenevert  
School Committee Member: Kathleen Napierata  
School Committee Member: Kelly Seddicki  
Ruthann Goguen, Superintendent of Schools  
Monique Pierangeli, Assistant Business Manager  
Kathleen Baris, Director of Student Support  
Janice Daniels, Interim Curriculum Director  
Ginger Coleman, PAE Principal  
Michael Zajac, WMS Principal  
Steve Knowlton, BHS Principal  
Rebecca Czernicki, Asst Principal, BHS  
Patricia Mackay, Asst Principal, PAE  
Attendees: Colleen Nasis  
Linda Millett 9:17

Call to order 9:00 am

Chairman Hurton welcomes members.

Discussion started with Mr. Hurton asking Superintendent Goguen what is her opinion in her 7 months here in Webster and where does she think things will go moving forward. Ms. Goguen states that what she sees is the district taking a system approach and making sure all programs line up from Pre-K through Grade 12, making sure that everyone is involved in the change. Ms. Goguen stated that there are many good things happening in the district.

- Understanding by Design Trainings for teachers
- Learning Walk throughs with Administrative Team which are focused on examining how our students are engaged in the lessons/learning
- Building leadership teams with teachers at each buildings

The district needs to find new ways to build stronger family relationships and administrators and teachers needs engage in reflective practices by looking at our current programs and practices and examine how well they are working. The proposed FY19 budget has a focus on increasing special education staffing to assist with closing the learning gaps, it also prioritizes a K-12 alignment of our curriculum and instructional programs. For example, bringing back foreign language at the middle school and working towards getting Algebra in the middle school are some of our goals. Our focus is to strengthen our student programming and the student achievement rates across the district. The proposed FY19 budget shows how we reallocated some of our resources to build in areas that need attention.

Open discussion ensued surrounding data assessment at the school, resources available to parents and family engagement.

Mr. Hurton then asked Ms. Goguen if there was any idea of what the contribution from the town would be. Ms. Goguen stated that in a meeting with the Town Administrator he stated he was comfortable with a 4.2 percent increase for the school department. Discussion then went on to some major items that may affect the budgets such as health insurance, school choice.

At 10:30 Mr. Hurton called for a 10 minute break.

Principal's then discussed their individual budgets and talked about programming at their schools.

Questions were asked by committee members in regards to the Park Ave Budget - Ms. Seddicki asked about the lack of a Librarian and shared her concerns.

Ms. Napierata asked questions in regards to Special Education Staffing at the schools.

Mr. Hurton questioned the amount of funds that are being put to Extra Curricular Programming. Ms. Pierangeli stated that most of the funding expensed by these programs is for Transportation and the school district is currently contributing to expense. The district is increasing the amount of the contribution for extra curricular transportation. It is recommended that in the future the schools submits budgets for their programming that can be reviewed to get a better idea of what is needed for the individual extra curricular budgets.

School committee closed the meeting stating they were happy with what was presented and had a deeper understanding of the direction the district is headed.

A motion to adjourn at 12:15 pm

Motion: Kelly Seddicki  
Second: Brian Chenevert  
Vote: Yes - 5; No - 0

Respectfully Submitted:

Monique Pierangeli