

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Date: February 27, 2018

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: School Committee Conference Room  
77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570

The meeting was called to order by: Chairman Hurton

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Napierata
- Member Seddiki
- Member Makara
- Member Chenevert

The following Committee Members were absent:

Chairman Hurton expressed his distress over another school shooting last week in Parkland Florida where 14 students and 3 faculty members were killed. He asked for a moment of silence.

**I. Call to Order: Approval of February 3, 2018 Budget Workshop Minutes**

**Motion: To Approve February 3, 2018 Budget Workshop Minutes**

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Seddiki

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

**Approval of February 13, 2018 Minutes**

**Motion: To Approve February 13, 2018 Minutes**

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Seddiki

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

**II Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Goguen welcomed everyone to the new office space. She thanked the Webster community for their support, the work of Bay Path students along with the Central Office Staff and District Custodian. We are thrilled to be in this new space. There will be a Ribbon Cutting later in the Spring, it will give the Bay Path students a chance to show off their work.

Mr. Peter Carney and the Webster Middle School Choir were present and performed two songs for the Committee. They will be participating in a competition to be held March 17<sup>th</sup> at Bartlett High School

## 1. Park Avenue Elementary Monitoring Site Visit

Superintendent Goguen reviewed the results from a recent AIR (American Institute for Research) site visit to Park Avenue Elementary. Scores have gone up from last year in all domains, with the largest gain in Instructional Support.

## 2. Personnel Update

Eleanor Argentieri has been hired as the Special Education Life Skills Teacher

Superintendent Goguen also spoke of the tragedy in Parkland Florida, our thoughts are with them. A letter went out to staff and families the next day outlining the safety measure we have in place and providing reference if additional support is needed. We hold District Safety Meeting with local officials regularly. There will be a National Walk Out Day on March 14th at 10:00AM. District administrators held a meeting to discuss our students' participation middle school and high school principals are meeting with their students council to discuss a plan. We are discussion a "17 Acts of Random Kindness" in lieu of the walk out. More info to follow.

Superintendent Goguen said the State's graduation rates were released yesterday. Bartlett dropout rates have gone down and graduate rates have gone up from 62.2% in 2016 to 72.1% in 2017.

Food Services Director Ellen Nylen received word today that she was given an agricultural grant for all kindergarten students to go to Whittier Farms in Sutton, MA.

Mrs. Goguen was the bingo caller today at the senior center.

Superintendent Goguen publically thanked Mr. Avlas for his years of service to the Webster School District. She wished him all the best in his retirement.

Mr. Avlas thanked everyone; as a prior school committee member now a business manager working towards the same goal. He quoted Winnie the Pooh "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard".

## **B. Principal Report – Michael Zajac, Webster Middle School**

### 1. Around the World Tournament

Webster Middle School tradition continued with the annual Around the World Basketball Tournament just before February break. Over 600 students participated, the WMS Band performed. It was an entertaining event for all.

### 2. Spirit Week

Another tradition; the week before vacation Student Council planned daily events for Spirit Week. There was a dance Thursday afternoon – one for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders another for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, both were well attended.

### 3. MCAS Preparation

This year WMS will have computer based testing. Teachers will be demonstrating the tests to students in advance and giving practice tests.

### 4. DCAS Update

Continuing to work with DCAS team. We've had wonderful learning walks, looking at daily instruction. We are developing a plan to improve student achievement.

## C. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business' Report

### 1. Administration Renovation Project Update

District Administrative Staff and Custodians have worked very hard over the past two weeks. Thankful for the support from the community, Bay Path did a great job on the project. We now turn Filmer over to the Town.

### 2. Park Avenue Building Project Update

Will be scheduling a PAE School Building Committee meeting on recent events and will come back to the School Committee after that.

### 3. Library Building Project Update

Completion date set at May 11<sup>th</sup>. Putting together a Time Capsule – more details to follow.

## III. Student Update: Lays Napoli

- Progress Report grades close this Friday for Quarter 3
- BHS is offering SAT prep classes beginning this Wednesday for interested sophomores and juniors
- Cheerleaders won SWCL for the 6<sup>th</sup> time in a row and were grand champs at the competition this weekend. Regional competition will take place in Holyoke this weekend.
- Next week is Diversity Week –will have daily assemblies and speakers
- Congratulations to the Show Choir – they were second runner up in their division in Nashville.

## IV. Old Business

### A. Authorization to submit FY19 Budget

Mr. Avlas said the budget has not changed, Draft 3 as presented will be submitted to the Town Administrator tomorrow. This budget is 4.2% above FY18 for a total of \$20,929,695.00. Superintendent Goguen reviewed the reallocated positions. There was discussion around funding of extracurricular activities and athletics. Mrs. Goguen said the priority of the budget is curriculum and academics. Consideration has been given to all activities, with only so much money to be spread.

Motion: To authorize to submit FY19 Budget as presented in the amount of \$20,929,695.00

The motion was made by Member Seddiki

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

1 members having abstained (Chairman Hurton)

The motion:   X   passed

       Failed

## V. New Business

### A. Senator Ryan Fattman and Representative Joseph McKenna – Budget Discussion

Neither were present this evening

### B. Tina Grosowsky – Tobacco Free Community

Chairman Hurton met Ms. Grosowsky at an Opioid Task Force meeting. Ms. Grosowsky is the Project coordinator for Central Mass Tobacco Free Community Partnership UMass Medical, she presented a powerpoint on the new products being geared to children / young adults. These new products are sweet, easy to get and cheap. Nicotine affects a young person's brain development. Examples of e-cigarettes, blunts, vaping were passed around. Ms. Grosowsky is promoting public awareness of the easy access and dangers along with what can be done to be involved and make changes.

Chairman Hurton and Mrs. Goguen thanked Ms. Grosowsky

C. Approval of out of state field trip – Bartlett AP Computer Science to Providence RI

Mr. Ben Jenness is requesting permission to take four AP Computer Science students to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual High School Programming contract held at Providence College on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Motion: To approve the of out of state field trip – Bartlett AP Computer Science to Providence RI

The motion was made by Member Seddiki

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

D. Approval of 2019-2023 Transportation Contract

Mrs. Pierangeli presented the 2019-2023 transportation bid from AA Transportation. It is a three year bid for additional 2 year option. This bid is at level funding for the first year. Aa Transportation has been our provider for over 20 years.

Motion: Approve the 2019-2023 Transportation Contract

The motion was made by Member Seddiki

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

E. Appoint Sick Bank Designee

With the retirement of Mr. Avlas the School Committee is obligated to appoint a designee to the Sick Bank. Superintendent Goguen is recommending Monique Pierangeli

Motion: To appoint Monique Pierangeli as the School Committee Sick Bank Designee

The motion was made by Member Seddiki

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

F. Approval of Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Avlas has created a new FY19 Capital Improvement Plan. Superintendent Goguen highlighted the needs at Webster Middle School and Bartlett High School along with a maintenance schedule through 2023. The high school is where then extent of the plan lies.

Motion: Approval of Capital Improvement Plan

The motion was made by Member Seddiki  
The motion was seconded by Member Chenevert  
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

G. Open Meeting Law Complaint Discussion / Response

Chairman Hurton stated that Mrs. Linda Millet filed an Open Meeting Law violation. Mr. Hurton explained the process required by the Office of the Attorney General. Mr. Hurton read the complaint and summarized the Budget Workshop on February 3, 2018. This was a normally scheduled meeting, it was an open forum posted appropriately, To respond to Ms. Millet's complaints he said:

- \* He asked meeting attendees to speak "in an outside voice" in the absence of microphones
- \* He did ask her to refrain from continuing her discussion regarding health insurance as that has nothing to do with the school budget and his feeling that if it continued it would be a violation of OML as it wasn't on the agenda
- \* He did not ask her to leave, tried to re-direct her on the discussion of the school budget

To her last comment regarding retaliation of two pending grievances he adamantly denies. He is overly conscious of his school committee position as his wife is a WEA union member. He does not vote on any WEA union members and takes the OML Guide very seriously as well as attending a seminar hosted by our Town Administrator. Chairman referenced the OML guide "Public Participation – What public participation in meetings must be allowed" (page 15).

Member Makara is puzzled by this, it was an open meeting and all regulations were followed. Member Chenevert commended Chairman Hurton on his articulation of the events and does not feel there was a violation. Member Seddiki felt Ms. Millet was off topic in speaking about health insurance and Chairman Hurton was right in stopping the conversation. Member Napierata agrees with other members.

Chairman Hurton address the action that Ms. Millet has requested. He does not feel he violated the Open Meeting Law and apologizes if she felt offended by the events of the meeting

Motion: As council to provide formal letter stating that no Open Meeting Law was violated. Vice chair Makara will sign the response letter so there is no perception of conflict of interest.

The motion was made by Member Chenevert  
The motion was seconded by Member Seddiki  
The following roll call vote was taken:  
    4 members having voted in the affirmative  
       members having voted in the negative  
    1 members having abstained (Chairman Hurton)  
The motion:    X Passed  
                     Failed

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

A. Approve transfer request in the amount of \$707.82 from Park Avenue Elementary School Student Activity Savings to Checking Account

Motion: Approve transfer in the amount of \$707.82 request Park Avenue Elementary School Student Activity Savings to Checking Account

The motion was made by Member Seddiki

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

A. Approve transfer in the amount of \$23,311.22 request from Bartlett High School Student Activity Savings to Checking Account

Motion: Approve transfer in the amount of \$23,311.22 request Bartlett High School Student Activity Savings to Checking Account

The motion was made by Member Seddiki

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 (Chairman Hurton

The motion:   X   Passed

   Failed

Chairman Hurton publically thanked Matthew Huberdault for his years working to record all the School Committee meetings in the past.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Seddiki

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 A. Glennon

Documents used during this meeting include:

- February 13, 2018 Minutes
- Park Avenue Elementary School AIR 9(American Institutes for Research) Report
- handouts on tobacco, e-cigarettes
- Bartlett field trip request – AP Computer Science students to Providence RI
- FY19 WPS Capital Improvement Plan
- AA Transportation bid form
- Open Meeting Law Guide and violation filed
- Park Avenue Elementary Transfer request
- Bartlett High School Transfer request