

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Thursday, March 15, 2018

Date: March 15, 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:

I. Call to Order: Approval of February 27, 2018 Minutes

Motion: To Approve February 27, 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

Members of the Bartlett High School Cheerleading Team came to speak of their recent state competition, placing 4th and also their National Competition (Orland, FL) placing 12th. Chairman Hurton congratulated the team on their accomplishments.

II Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Goguen updated the Committee on other happenings. There is a new initiative "In Webster Kindness Happens", all students and staff were given yellow bracelets, focusing on random acts of kindness and speaking up if they see something. This week was National Walk Out Day. Bartlett High School was on Chanel 3 TV. Superintendent Goguen shared this on Twitter. Webster Middle School brainstormed on making the world a better place. Everyone was very respectful of those that lost their lives.

Big Weekend coming up ~ Central Mass Junior Show Choir weekend. Want to encourage families and community members to attend. This will be held at Bartlett High School

Superintendent Goguen was a DECA judge this past weekend in Boston. Over 3,000 high school students participated. Connor Brennan and Dylan Thomas placed 3rd and are eligible to go to the National Competition in Atlanta in April. Mrs. Hoenig has been the DECA Advisor for over 18th years – a shout out to her!

Webster Middle School Show Choir "New Attitudes" had a competition in Connecticut and placed 2nd. They received an award for "Best Vocals" and Lucas Wolfram was awarded "Best Performer".

Very proud of our students, as are their parents, teachers and staff.

1. Entry Plan

2. Mid-Year Review

Superintendent Goguen presented her Entry Plan and Mid-Year Review - She said her task as leader of WPS is to move the district forward. The last 8 months have been spent observing and listening. Impressed with the after school and extra-curricular activities for our students. A PowerPoint presentation was given (included in packet), ending with a summary of her findings and the items to focus on.

Chairman Hurton stated that the plan demonstrates her commitment to the district and that he was impressed with her ability to understand our school and town culture. He asked how she would respond to the question "why are we not seeing the changes we'd like to see?"

Superintendent Goguen responded saying "it takes time". One of the things we are working on with the Admin Team is to put more cohesive practices in place. Instant results won't happen. Educating students and keeping them safe is our priority. We just revised registration packets to welcome families into the district. We are working on building stronger foundation at Park Avenue Elementary. Looking at all instruction programs, providing teachers professional development and getting our community to be more vested to better serve our kids.

Chairman Hurton asked what the School Committee can do to help. Superintendent Goguen said continued support. Webster Pride is here every day. An organization can only be productive if we are supportive of each other.

B. Principal Report – Ginger Coleman, Park Avenue Elementary School

1. Turn Around Progress

Meeting with DSAC next week. Measurable annual progress has been reviewed and we will be looking deeper at results towards making our goals.

2. MCAS Parent Informational Night

This can be cancelled two times due to storms – rescheduled to March 28th. This is a Q & A for parents of students taking the MCAS for the first time.

3. Kindergarten Registration

Started using the new enrollment packets this week. Kindergarten orientation will be just before school starts. Transportation and food services will be involved in this orientation. Have given out over 60 packets in two days.

4. Student of the Month

This is a successful event, celebrating students, not just academics but the whole child. Ellen Nylén, Food Services Director has assisted in the making this event successful. Next month State Representative's will be attending to see the Breakfast in the Classroom. It is held the last Friday of the month.

Member Chenevert attended the last breakfast. Shout out to the custodian (two spills at my tables) a great experience – many parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents.

Chairman Hurton asked how the addition of a Dean of Students is going. Mrs. Coleman said it has been going very well. Mr. Soto is active in the classrooms, hallways, and cafeteria.

C. Business Managers' Report

1. Transition Update

Two types of transition:

New Office Space – we have settled into our new home. People are busy, seems to be a more productive area. Flow of communication much better. Filmer still has boxes that must be removed. Last week there was a "flood" in the building, the custodian shut off the water because a valve had broken on the boiler. There was no damage.

Role as Business Manager – has been smooth. New business office staff member, Colleen Piasta, has been learning quickly, Sheryl Spink in her new role of Business Office Administrative Assistant is settling into her new role.

- Shout Out to the Highway Department during the recent weather. Clean up has been incredible
- Routine audits happening
- Finance Committee asked that we attend a meeting on March 22nd

Member Chenevert asked about retainment of the old files at Filmer. Mrs. Pierangeli said we keep SEPD and Financial records for 7 years. Holding off with digitalization until the Town Hall implements.

The Board of Selectman hired a new Accountant on Monday, Timothy Bell. Mrs. Pierangeli looks forward to working with him.

There is a Tri-Committee Board Meeting on April 2, 1-8 at 6:30 in the Board of Selectman Room at the Town Hall

III. Student Update: Lays Napoli

- First SAT prep class was held Wednesday, March 14th at 2:00 for sophomores and juniors
- Junior Class is selling socks with the Bartlett B logo
- Spring Sports signups are happening
- Senior faculty basketball game scheduled for March 15th has been rescheduled to April
- Fresh pies were distributed for PiDay
- National Honor Society participated in the Honor Bowl in Millbury and placed 2nd
- Student council sponsored the annual Mr. Bartlett completion, Alex Polanco was the crowned winner
- BHS students and staff paid tribute to the 17 victims of the Parkland tragedy through signing of a banner on Wednesday, March 14th. Everyone was given “In Webster Kindness Matter” bracelets
- Diversity week was held last week, many great speakers
- Family Feud Night will be held on Thursday, 3/22 at 6:00

IV. Old Business

A. Monthly Fundraising Report

Included in the packet are the approved fundraisers for the past month

B. Extra-Curricular Program Budget Discussion

As discussed at the last School Committee meeting, Principals’ Knowlton and Zajac have gathered information on their extra-curricular activities. Out of the \$50,958 Bartlett listed the FY19 budget proposes \$20,000 for transportation (current budget has \$15,000) Superintendent Goguen reviewed the BHS and WMS activities / fund. She reminded the Committee that the FY19 budget priorities is curriculum and instruction; although extra-curricular activities are important to student achievement and we support these activities.

There was extensive discussion over current budget and FY19 proposed budget. Chairman Hurton voiced his concern over the increased investment in athletics without funding extra-curricular are fairly. Discussion continued around where the funds for athletics will be used (new equipment replacing outdated/unsafe equipment) and the probability that FY20 budget will see less in athletics.

Member Chenevert asked for additional discussion with a more detailed breakdown. Superintendent Goguen will gather this and present at a future meeting

Webster Music Booster Parents were present and spoke of the role of the group to fundraise and support the programs of band and chorus. Amy Evora, Treasurer of Music Booster spoke specifically of money raised and where it is spent.

V. New Business

A. Out of state field trip – Grade 5 to Woodstock, CT

Bari Baggett, music teacher at Webster Middle School, is requesting approval of Grade 5 students to travel to the Hyde Cultural Center in Woodstock CT for their annual presentation of the Salt Marsh Opera Company on May 24, 2018

Motion: To approval the out of state field trip – Grade 5 to Woodstock, CT as presented

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

B. District Assessment Data Presentation

This presentation is a result of internal assessments currently used in our district. It is to show you baseline data. We are looking at the possibility of using new assessments next year. Next week we have three new assessments to review with administrators and teacher representatives. The administrative team is present to outline their schools results. Jill Chapdelaine began the presentation explaining the two types of benchmark assessments; DIBELS at PAE and Galileo at WMS and BHS. (PowerPoint included in packet)

Mrs. Coleman presented the DIBELS results in Grades K-4. This is a one minute assessment done bi-weekly or monthly depending on their current level of progress. There was review of each grade level. There were encouraging results when tracking students going from one grade to another, there was an increase in achievement. Mrs. Goguen said we will continue to use DIBELS with the New Wonders Reading Program, but there are assessments with each unit that we are using in all grade levels.

Chairman Hurton asked about Math Assessments, Superintendent Goguen said with the help of Jill Chapdelaine we are establishing a math committee. There are math assessments in the program we use, but to have a common assessment is our goal. This is the next are we will be

Mr. Zajac reviewed the Grades 5-8 Galileo results; we are striving for meeting/exceeding. There are two assessments showing students growth and achievement - Pre-Test = given in the fall and CBAS given in the winter. He explained that this is a snapshot of student achievement, scatter plot and bar graphs were presented to detail the data.

Chairman Hurton questioned the concerning low meeting/exceeding scores. Mr. Zajac explained there are gaps in mathematics, more instruction time is needed. Working with Looney Math and DSAC is assisting to identify gaps and how to implement best instruction practices with the common core. Mr. Zajac said it will take a few years to close the gaps and see results.

Member Napierata asked if the teachers are as concerned about the data. Mr. Zajac said absolutely yes. They are excited about the instruction work with Looney Math. Member Seddiki stated that “this is an emergency”. Principals agreed and gave strategies that are in place making instruction and culture changes.

Mrs. Goguen said with the addition this year of Grade Level Coordinators at Webster Middle School and Park Avenue, allowing common planning and giving support to the teachers with cohesive instruction.

Mr. Knowlton gave the Grades 9-12 data. There is a concern over the low growth pattern. Content being taught, rigor and curriculum being aligned to the standards is being reviewed. Mrs. Goguen said that working with DSAC, Looney Math, having Learning Walk Through’s in all the building to evaluate patterns will “peel the onion” to make improvement.

C. Reallocation of Staffing

Mrs. Goguen informed the Committee that Eric Tracey, Dean of Students at Bartlett High School will be splitting his day between BHS and WMS beginning Monday, March 19th. Students and staff will benefit with clear expectations making for a smooth transition to Bartlett

Member Napierata asked about long term plan for this split position. Superintendent Goguen said this is new and we will assess. With an enrollment of over 600 students there is a clear need for another administrator at Webster Middle School

D. Submission of Town Meeting Articles

Yesterday we received notice from the Town Hall that articles for the Town Meeting must be submitted by March 23rd. Looking to submit one article to repave the parking lot near the newly renovated space. Also possible landscaping in front of the 77 Poland St. entrance. Looking to use Free Cash, not to borrow.

Motion: To approval Submission of Town Meeting Article as presented

The motion was made by Member Makara
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

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

VIII. Enter into Executive Session

- According to M.G.L. Chapter 30a, Section 21 (a) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares
- To discuss the case of RC&D Inc. c. CTA Construction et.al.y. Town of Webster, Worcester Superior Court, C.A. No 1785CV-01053, pursuant to G.L. c30a , sec. 21 (a)(3)(7) and Suffolk Construction v DAM, 449 Mass. 444 (2007)

Motion: To enter into Executive Session

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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

Chairman Hurton stated that they would be entering into Executive Session and only return to Open Meeting for adjournment of the meeting

Adjournment

Motion: To approval Submission of Town Meeting Article as presented

The motion was made by Member Makara

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori A. Glennon

Documents used during this meeting include:

- February 27, 2018 Minutes
- Superintendent Goguen's Entry Findings Summary PowerPoint
- Superintendent Goguen's Entry Plan PowerPoint
- Superintendent Goguen's Mid-Year Review
- Fundraising Applications
 - Bartlett Baseball / selling sunglasses
 - National Honor Society / Family Feud Night
 - Class of 2021 / St. Patrick's Day Messages
 - Class of 2019 / selling socks
 - Bartlett Drama Club / sale of tulips
 - Class of 2020 / Panera Night
- BHS & WMS Extra Curricular Activity information
- Out of State field trip request – Grade 5 to Woodstock CT
- Town of Webster – Article Petition