

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

Date: March 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

- o Member Napierata
- o Member Chenevert

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Seddiki
- o Member Makara

**I. Call to Order: Approval of March 15, 2018 Minutes**

**Motion: To Approve March 15, 2018 Minutes**

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

**II Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Goguen just attended the Central Massachusetts Collaborative Board meeting and procured at 0% tuition increase for Webster, rates went up 8% for non-members.

Administrative Team recently completed learning walk through's with the DSAC Team at Park Avenue Elementary School. It has been very helpful to calibrate the student engagement expectations.

Park Avenue and Ellen Nylen have been recognized by the Worcester County Food Bank. They will be coming to observe Breakfast in the Classroom on April 27<sup>th</sup>, Senator Fattman will also be attending. The Breakfast in the Classroom has also been awarded the Healthy Start Award – we will be going to the State House on May 10<sup>th</sup> to receive this award

**1. School Choice Survey Results**

To understand why the school choice numbers are so high, Superintendent Goguen sent out a survey to 130 school choice parents, 23 responses were received. Results were presented in three graphs (included in packet)

**2. Webster library time Capsule Project**

The Webster Library is in the process of putting together a time capsule. We are looking to partner with Webster Library to share student voices – teachers will be using this as a writing prompt and art work assignment.

### 3. New Registration packet

Mrs. Goguen explained the goal to have more consistent practices in the district, one being a new registration packet. The Administrative Team reviewed the packet initially, Michelle Budney and Stacy Quilty worked hard to pull together a cohesive packet. There are provisions for translation. A meeting was held with administrative assistants and anyone else that works with students enrolling / transferring in the district that will work with the new packet and is currently being implemented.

### 4. Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative FY19 Tuition

The board voted a 5% increase for next year's tuition. A FY19 Tiered Tuition Pilot was approved (included in packet). Webster currently has 15 students enrolled in the program.

### 5. Personnel Update

Superintendent Goguen reported that Mr. Knowlton has submitted his letter of resignation effective June 30, 2018. She publically thanked him for his years of dedicated service at Bartlett High School, bringing the school to a safe climate, we will certainly miss him. The position has been posted, a search committee will be formed.

Lester Boggio has been hired as a Grade 1 Teacher beginning April 9<sup>th</sup>. He is replacing Susan Lewis who will be moving to the newly approved ELL position.

Gil Parmley has been hired as a custodian, shared at PAE and WMS, and will start April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Chairman Hurton, on behalf of the School Committee, thanked Mr. Knowlton for his 6 years in Webster as well as his 36 years in public education. There is a vast improvement at Bartlett, Mr. Knowlton and his team are credited for those changes.

Mr. Knowlton followed up that he was surrounded by good staff and wonderful kids – it is a community effort. He thanked all of them for their hard work.

Chairman Hurton requested additional details from the school choice presentation, information that Mrs. Goguen had was given for clarification.

## **B. Principal Report – Steven Knowlton, Bartlett High School**

### 1. Student Walkout Event on March 14, 2018

In conjunction with the National School Walk Out Day, Bartlett High School Students observed this event by gathering in the gym (due to snow), signing a banner pledging support of the students / families affected by the Parkland event. Mr. Knowlton spoke of the cooperation of students and staff coming together for this event.

### 2. BHS Students qualify for National DECA Competition

Two students qualified for the National DECA Competition in Atlanta, GA – Connor Brennan and Dylan Thomas will be going April 20 – 25, 2018. This is the first time in 15 years that a Bartlett student has qualified for Nationals. They will be competing in business Law.

### 3. MCAS Testing

Testing started today with Grade 10 ELA long competition. Last week our staff participated in the mandatory training – yesterday a pep rally was held for the sophomores.

#### 4. Graduation / Drop Out Rates

Mr. Knowlton presented next year's School Improvement Plan. The goals are focusing on addressing achievement gaps and students success. We worked with DSAC team to update this plan. Goals 1-5 have been modified; Goal 6 has the most changes focusing on our at risk students.

There was continued discussion on the Freshman Strong effectiveness as they come to the end of their senior year. Mr. Knowlton acknowledged that the group has a high transient population. Chairman Hurton continued the conversation about tracking student population.

### C. Business Managers' Report

#### 1. Update on Finance Committee Meeting

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> Superintendent Goguen and Mrs. Pierangeli attended the Finance Committee meeting. There was discussion of 70/30 split of incoming revenue (70% school / 30% town) we will continue to working as a collaborative team to determine if this is a viable agreement. There will be further discussion that will include the members of the School Committee.

There is a Tri-Board Meeting scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> that will

#### 2. AHERA Report

AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act) Report was presented. The report summarizes recent inspections of Webster Middle School and Park Avenue Elementary School. Both plans were in place, there were no corrective actions found.

### III. Student Update: Lays Napoli

- Wednesday, 3/28 at 6:30 is College Admissions Night
- MCAS testing began today
- Prom theme will be Enchanted Garden in the newly renovated Indian Ranch – tickets go on sale after April vacation for \$65.00 each.
- Class of 2020 sold Easter Egg Messages during lunches and delivered them Wednesday during last period
- French Club had a bake sale and sold hot chocolate on 3/26/2018
- Empty Bowls Night will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup>
- Impressions Show choir placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the small mixed division at the competition in Andover
- Today the Farm to School provided cheese samples while the jazz band played
- Lock Down Drill went well

### IV. Old Business

#### A. Discussion / Approval Revised 2017-2018 School Calendar

To date we have had six (6) snow days. A survey was sent to staff with three scenarios to pick from. 65% of the faculty responded they wanted the additional days added at the end of the calendar. The survey did not go to parents after reviewing the 65% response.

**Motion: To approve the revised 2017-2018 School Calendar as presented**

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

**B. Superintendent Mid Cycle Goals**

At the last meeting Mrs. Goguen gave a detailed report of her entry plan. All members reviewed the mid-cycle report and submitted their comments along with ranking the goals as ~ all members ranked Mrs. Goguen's goals as "on target". All members expressed appreciation for her efforts, honesty and transparency.

**V. New Business**

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

Chairman Hurton said the purpose of this discussion is to review local educational funding / programs and the challenges towns have to fund the needs.

Senator Fattman said he was pleased to see the efforts by Mrs. Goguen and Town Administrator Willardson, as that is not always the case. Districts that he represents are heavily dependent on state funding. Education reform presents a problem keeping up with current changes. Overall the fiscal trend at the state level is on the upswing.

Representative McKenna shares same concerns with Senator Fattman and Chairman Hurton. Increases in health insurance and special education has created a greater gap than was accounted for. Handouts were given outlining the proposed budget. Both said they have a greater ability to advocate for Webster with a specific requests.

The discussion continued regarding mandates, additional initiatives and funding and priorities.

**B. Out of state field trip – BHS to Newport RI**

Maryann Hoenig and Ben Jenness will be bringing 50 students to Newport RI for a tour of Salve Regina University and Vanderbilt Mansion to discuss business majors and entrepreneurship opportunities

**Motion: To approval the out of state field trip – BHs to Newport RI**

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

**C. Out of state field trip – BHS DECA students to National Competition in Atlanta, GA**

Connor Brennan and Dylan Thomas will be going to the DECA competition in Atlanta GA April 20-25<sup>th</sup>. Dylan's father, Sydney Thomas and Peter Carney will be chaperones.

Motion: To approval the out of state field trip – BHS DECA students to National Competition in Atlanta, GA

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

#### D. FY18 Student Activity Audit Report

Mrs. Pierangeli presented the FY18 Student Activity Audit Report – we are required to have external audits on all accounts over \$25,000. We felt with a new middle school principal and new office staff at PAE it was a good time to audit all three student activity accounts. There was a few minor recommendations that have been addressed

Due to the large amounts in the accounts Mrs. Pierangeli is recommending Bartlett has an audit every two years and alternate WMS / PAE.

There was further discussion on types of revolving accounts along with the BHS athletics general account, graduating class accounts and scholarship accounts.

#### E. FY18 End of Year Audit Report

Mrs. Pierangeli presented the FY 18 End of Year Financial Report. There was one recommendation regarding some revenue that was not reported, that was on the Town side. It amended and corrected.

#### F. Acceptance of Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Second Quarter Report

Superintendent Goguen presented the SWCEC 2nd quarter report

Motion: To accept the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Second Quarter Report

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

Chairman abstained from signing the warrant

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

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:55PM

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori A. Glennon

Documents used during this meeting include:

- March 15, 2018 Minutes
- School Choice Survey Results
- Webster Public Library Time Capsule Project flyer
- NEW student registration packet
- SWCEC FY19 Tuition Pilot
- BHS 2018-2019 Improvement Plan
- AHERA Notification
- Snow Day / end of school staff survey
- Revised 2017-2018 school calendar
- Out of state field trip – BHS Business Class to Newport RI
- Out of state field trip – BHS DECA to Atlanta GA
- FY18 Student Activity Audit Report
- FY18 End of Year Audit Report
- SWCEC Second Quarter Report