

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Date: April 14, 2020 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Remote ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by: Chairman Hurton

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Napierata
- Member Blythe
- Member Seddiki
- Member Makara (left meeting with computer problems at 6:46PM, returned at 6:54PM)

The following Committee Members were absent:

Chairman Hurton outlined the changed in Open Meeting Law issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020 given the COVID19 outbreak. The meeting is posted on the district website with the zoom link allowing the public to join in the meeting

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Hurton announced that this meeting is recorded both video and audio.

II. Approval of March 10, 2020 Minutes :

Chairman Hurton asked that a correction be made – page 5 – It is written that this was the second when this was the **third** reading of the policies.

Motion: To approve March 10, 2020 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. COVID19 School Closure Update Superintendent Goguen said that we have all been extremely busy, she is very proud of all that's been going on in the district.

A. Personnel – Received Janice Daniels intent to retire on August 17, 2020. Mrs. Daniels has been an integral part of the Admin Team and the District. Mrs. Daniels read her letter, she thanked everyone for supporting her programs and the initiatives to better the students. Chairman Hurton reflected on the curriculum improvements made under Mrs. Daniels work. He thanked her for her efforts. Mrs. Pierangeli expressed her excitement for Mrs. Daniels, but said she will miss her, she’s a pleasure to work with and will see her on the golf course. Member Seddiki thanks Mrs. Daniels for her many contributions.

B. Safety – Dr. Goguen said student/family and faculty safety is a priority. Sometimes it is hard to remember that is the focus. She is pleased with the structures put in place and being carried out to support our students. A review of all the outreach being done by each school was given

C. Academic Updates – Bartlett High School has reached all students and is providing new content. BHS and WMS report cards have been posted on PowerSchool with grades as of 3/12. Work is being collected and being graded as “collected” or “not collected” at this time. Have not determined how we will grade Q4. Working on getting info regarding PAE student outreach. All BHS students have internet access, only 25 WMS students have notified us that they do not have internet. We are also looking into the number of students that do not have computer access. Approx. 60-70 WMS students did not come to pick up chromebooks. There are approx.. 148 PreK – 4 students that do not have access to a device. We are mailing packets at this time. Looking into distributing chromebooks beginning with Gr. 4 to Gr. 2 after April vacation

D. Received the 2019-2020 annual notification from DESE on Determination of Needs for Special Education Technical Assistance or Interventions of Special Education Technical Needs Report. Proud to say Webster “meets requirements”

E. During the school closure the Federal Gov has requires we meet the free and appropriate education. We are required to meet all SEPD requirements. Mrs. Baris has done a great job of setting up the structure. Mrs. Baris spoke about the initial requirements and new guidelines to meet our obligation. We are sending letters to all families regarding the district plan. We’re developing Remote Service Learning plans for each student to meet their IEP services as best we can. She is very proud of the SPED staff

Shout out to all the Food Services workers, Ellen Nylen, Monique Pierangeli – we have served over 10,000 meals. We are condensing the WMS/BHS pick up site to the Bartlett High school. We are adding Head Start, School Street, Webster as a new site, pick up from 11-12.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING FY21 BUDGET 7:00PM

Motion: To open the Public Hearing to discuss the FY21 Budget

The motion was made by Member Blythe
The motion was seconded by Member Napierata
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 the Town Charter has language that requires us to advertise and hold a budget public hearing a certain number of days prior to the Town Meeting. Although the Town meeting has been rescheduled to June 22nd we will continue with our Public Hearing this evening.

There were no public members that requested to join the meeting.

Superintendent Goguen presented a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the highlights of the past year, along with the supports put in place for students, professional development for staff and the community partnerships. Mrs. Pierangeli reviewed the budget process, and goals for the 2020-2021 school year. The FY21 is a 3.75% increase over last years budget. Asking for the following staff increases

- PAE – 1.0 Gr 4 Teacher (due to class size)
- 2.0 Special Education Teachers
- 0.5 Speech and Language Pathology Assist (currently a 0.5 position – increase to 1.0)
- WMS – 3.0 Grade 7/8 Teachers
- 1.0 Counselor
- 0.5 ELL Teacher
- 1.0 Paraprofessional
- 0.5 Nurse Assistant (to be shared with BHS)
- BHS – 0.4 Foreign Language (currently 0.6 position – increase to 1.0)
- 0.5 Nurse Assistant (to be shared with WMS)
- 1.0 Athletic Director
- 1.0 Paraprofessional
- District – 0.5 Admin. Assistant for Centralized Registration
- 0.4 Grounds (currently a 0.6 position – increase to 1.0)

Dr. Goguen gave a review of the enrollment / class size was given along with the caseload of counselors at each school, and our student ethnicity breakdown, special education statistics. MCAS results were shown for each grade. Mrs. Pierangeli gave a breakdown of the budget with Circuit Breaker and School Choice funds use. Dr. Goguen summed up the presentation saying it was a collaborative effort, our number one goal is to take care of our kids.

Member Seddiki thanked the team and feels the budget will continue to move us in the right direction.

Motion: To adjourn the Public Hearing

The motion was made by Member Blythe
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

Superintendent Report continued Dr. Goguen said she is continuing to meet with the WEA union members. On the agenda this evening is a Memorandum of Agreement that solidifies structures we now have in place. Have also been meeting with Linda Bousseau, Paraprofessional Union President. We continue to have a great working relationship with Town officials. Shout out to Linda Marchand for getting the Easter Bunny to come to town. We worked in conjunction with Ms. Marchand to close all the playgrounds in town due to increased number of COVID19.

During this closure there are changes every day that throws a curveball – some good some bad. We have received an extension on submission of grants, allowing us to refocus the grants on what we now need. Shout out to Mrs. Daniels and Building Principals working on the TAG grant.

Adult Ed Program received notification from the Department of Education that they move 21 seats from ESOL side to the Adult Ed side. Currently have 37 open seats on the ESOL side and 71 open seats in Adult Education. They are doing remote learning, Mrs. Baker is applying for a grant that would allow partnership (Workplace Education Grant) with Gentex.

2. Southern Worcester County Collaborative Q1 and Q2 Report Included in the packet is the Q1 and Q2 SWCEC Report for School Committee review. We currently have 13 students enrolled there. They are receiving services in a remote setting at this time. Arnold Lundwall is the current SPED director, he will be taking over as the Executive Director, replacing Interim Director Allen Himmelberger. These reports show a slight deficit due to decreased enrollment which they have assured us they anticipate higher students enrolled.

Reminder to families that we will be observing April vacation next week. The food distribution will still be open. We are accepting Prek and Kindergarten registrations – information can be found on our website.

Chairman Hurton reiterated the remarkable work begin done to education our students. He asked families to be patient, information is changing daily and reminded anyone to contact a building administrator if they have any questions.

Member Makara expressed how impressed he is with the COVID19 education plan in place.

C. Business Manager Report – Monique Pierangeli

1. School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Pierangeli said she and Dr. Goguen will be attending an MSBA Virtual Meeting tomorrow at 10:00 for an invitation to the Feasibility Study. We are the 5th district on the agenda. Been informed if we are approved we will be required to attend training on Thursday morning.

2. Single Audit Report

On an annual basis we are audited for all grants that are over \$750,000 (Title 1, Food Services, SPED), they alternate every other year. This year was Title I and Food Services. Happy to report there were no findings. Shout out to Mrs. Daniels and Ms. Nylen

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

A. Approval of use of School Choice funds

Dr. Goguen said we've reallocated some TAF Grant funds for remote learning – we are obtaining additional chromebook devices, (Approx \$36,000). We are not 100% sure we will need school choice funds but would like school committee support. Mrs. Peirangeli said we are looking to procure about 300 for grades 2, 3 and 4. This will also help in the replacements needed for devices that need to be repaired.

Motion: To approve use of School Choice funds up to \$80,000 to purchase Chromebooks

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

B. Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Calendar

Chairman Hurton said usually the superintendent evaluation begins in April, as Dr. Goguen was very busy with the remote learning. We will now have Dr. Goguen present her findings at the 4/28 meeting, then SC members will complete and present at the 5/12 meeting

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

There were no questions on the Warrant. Mrs. Blythe came to the central office to sign this.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:50PM

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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 Marrazzo

Documents included in the packet:

- March 10, 2020 Minutes
- Q1 and Q2 Central Massachusetts Collaborative Reports
- Single Audit Report
- Determination of Need for Special Education Technical Assistance for Intervention from DESE
- FY21 Proposed Budget PowerPoint
- FY 21 Budget