

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Monday, March 30, 2020

Date: March 30, 2020 Time: 5:00 PM Location: School Committee Conference Room and Remote ZOOM
77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570

The meeting was called to order by: Chairman Hurton

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Napierata
- Member Blythe
- Member Seddiki

The following Committee Members were absent:

- Member Makara

Chairman Hurton outlined the changed in Open Meeting Law issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020 given the COVID19 outbreak.

Chairman Hurton and Mrs. Pierangeli were present in the School Committee Conference Room. Superintendent Goguen and other School Committee members participated via ZOOM.

Superintendent Goguen stated that these are unprecedented times, drastic shift to shut down schools. Provide enrichment and lessons to our students on line. She gave a shout out to staff for putting in extra efforts to make this all possible. Thursday March 12th was our last day in school, Monday, March 15th enrichments was provided to students. Per Gov. Baker, schools are closed until May 4th, with a possibility they may not reopen this year. We are planning for worst case scenario.

I. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

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

II. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. COVID19 School Closure Update Superintendent Goguen stated that these are unprecedented times, drastic shift to shut down schools. Provide enrichment and lessons to our students on line. She gave a shout out to staff for putting in extra efforts to make this all possible. Thursday March 12th was our last day in school, Monday, March 15th enrichments was provided to students. Per Gov. Baker, schools are closed until May 4th, with a possibility they may not reopen this year. We are planning for worst case scenario.

Superintendent Goguen gave a review of staff expectations. Custodians and food services are on a rotating shift schedule. We have three grab and go meal distributions – one at each school each day and at North Village 3 days/week. Essential Central Office staff has been going into the office with special permission. On March 27th DESE Commissioner Riley gave remote learning guidelines, happy to report we already had those guidelines in place. He stressed remote learning is not strictly on-line learning. Pleased to share that at Bartlett High School there are only 16 students that have not responded to teacher outreach to date. Additional steps are being taken to reach those students. Assignments are not being graded, but we are collecting and giving feedback. Parents have the ability to log into PowerSchool to see what students are doing. PAE and WMS teachers are using Class DOJO. PAE sent out Trimester 2 Report Cards. WMS and BHS will send report cards (not mailed, through PowerSchool) based on work completed by March 12th, giving students opportunity to make up work. For special education students we are obligated to provide IEP services. Shout out to Kathy Baris for providing teachers with logs, and consent forms for virtual IEP meetings. New legislation is being considered to address MCAS concerns and allow spending flexibilities.

Superintendent Goguen is asking School Committee for permission to waive the Bartlett High School AP class credits if students do not take the AP test.

Reminder that outreach is the #1 priority; safety social, emotional supports, for staff and students. We have an established contact with DCF and will utilize their services when needed.

We have allowed staff to return to their classroom to gather items. Shout out to the custodians for their thorough cleaning of the buildings. Shout out to the Tech Department and Monique Pierangeli for distributing over 400 Chrome books to WMS students.

Food Distribution has been amazing. Shout out to Ellen Nysten and Monique Pierangeli for organizing the grab and go meals. We have been distributing 550-600 meals a day. Looking to add Head Start as an additional location. Thank you to the Central Office staff for coming into the office to process payroll and pay bills.

Superintendent Goguen gave updates on grants and program compliance. The CDR Review report that was performed last year was received. Once we are back the administrative team will review

Other Updates:

- *Recommending sticking to our school calendar, keeping April Vacation

- *Encourage parents to email any WPS staff with questions / concerns

Member Blythe expressed her gratitude for all that has been done. Principals doing a great job keeping in touch with students. She is hearing many positive comments.

Member Napierata also commented on the amazing work done and how quickly systems were put in place so our students will not be left behind.

Member Seddiki concurred with other members. Appreciates all the efforts done.

Chairman Hurton stressed patience from parents as we continue in these unchartered times.

Motion: To give Superintendent Goguen permission to waive Bartlett High School AP course credit requirements

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

C. Business Manager Report – Monique Pierangeli

1. School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Pierangeli has reached out to MSBA for confirmation that we are placed on the April 4th meeting agenda. Phone call has been scheduled for tomorrow

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

A. Approval of hourly employees during school shutdown

Superintendent Goguen explained that we are seeking School Committee support to continue to pay hourly employees through the school closure. It is important to note that all non-essential hourly staff are on call during this time and are in daily communication with their building administrators. Both the Governor and Commission of Education are in support of this decision

Motion: To approve continuation of pay for hourly employees

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

B. Approval of Town Meeting Articles

Mrs. Pierangeli presented two (2) Town Meeting Articles.

The first is to purchase two (2) multi purpose vehicles. This will offset some of our current transportation costs. They will be 14 passenger bus. A teacher or coach could drive.

Member Seddiki asked how long it would take to see savings. Mrs. Pierangeli replied that we currently spend \$20,000/year just in Life Skill runs, in 2 to 2 ½ years one bus would be paid for. These vehicles usually last 10+ years. There would be a significant savings in the athletic transportation budget.

Motion: To approve the Town Meeting article to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from any available funds in the treasury, a sum of, not to exceed \$110,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing 2 district multifunction school activity bus or take any action thereon

The motion was made by Member Seddiki

The motion was seconded by Member Blythe

The following roll call vote was taken:

4 members having voted in the affirmative

 members having voted in the negative

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

The second article is for the Bartlett tennis courts – looking to repair and resurface. The last time this was done was 2005, all three courts are in need, the poles are not secure, and the surface has cracks and holes

Motion: To approve the Town Meeting article to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from any available funds in the treasury, a sum of, not to exceed \$55,000.00 for the purpose of funding repairs and resurfacing of the Bartlett High School Tennis Courts or take any action thereon

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

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

A. Approve transfer in the amount of \$8,267.67 from the Webster Middle School Student Activity Savings to Checking account

Motion: To approve \$8,267.67 from the Webster Middle School Student Activity Savings account to Checking account

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

B. Approval of transfer of funds for Bartlett High School Grant Writer

Superintendent Goguen explained that we have to incorporate other educational / hands on opportunities to obtain a grant that will assist in the renovation. There are a number of available grants and we are looking to hire this consultant to help us write a comprehensive grant. These funds will be transferred from the Bartlett “other tech”.

Motion: To approve the transfer of \$5,000.00 from the Bartlett High School “other tech” account to “contracted services” for grant consultant

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:55PM

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Marrazzo

Documents included in the packet:

- March 24, 2020 letter to parents from Superintendent Goguen
- March 25, 2020 memo to School Committee from Superintendent Goguen
- Town Meeting Article - \$55,000 for School Tennis Court repair
- Town Meeting Article - \$110,000 to purchase 2 multifunctional activity buses
- Webster Middle School transfer request