

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Date: May 11, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Remote ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by: Chair Seddiki

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Millet
- Member Blythe
- Member Napierata
- Member Adamopoulos

The following Committee Members were absent:

Chair Seddiki stated as a reminder the changes in Open Meeting Law issued, just over a year ago, by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020 given the COVID19 outbreak and the Executive Order modifying Open Meetings. The meeting is posted on the district website with the zoom link allowing the public to join in the meeting. As another reminder this meeting is being recorded both audio and video and will be posted on the district website.

I. Call to Order:

II. Approval of April 27, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve April 27, 2021 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Napierata

The motion was seconded by Member Blythe

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

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Personnel Updates

New Hires: Katie Demaio – Adult Education – Lead Education & Employment Advisor

2. Town Meeting Update

Town budget passed – worked collaboratively with the town to come up with the additional funds that were needed

3. Southern Worcester County Collaborative Q3 Report

Lena Travinski, Assistant to the Executive Director received her business manager certification and will be taking over for Business Manager, John Love, who is retiring at the end of this school year. Arnold Lundwall finishing his first year – doing a great job. They have seen a \$350-400 K loss due to drop in enrollment. We have 12 students in a variety of their programs. We have 2 students that will be graduating on June 8th

4. Other Updates

*MCAS started at PAE and WMS – a bit complicated with remote testing. Shout out to principals and Dr. Mackay.

*Been working Tiered Focus Monitoring visit – this week – wrapping up tomorrow with interviews. Shout out to Mrs. Baris and Dr. Mackay in the preparation of this extensive visit. Mrs. Baris gave some explanation of the Tiered Focus Monitor audit (previously known as the Coordinated Program Review). It is done every 6 years to audit regulations/compliance of any Federal Programs (i.e. Civil rights, Special Education, ELL). Focus on areas that the Department of Education would like out District to focus on based on our data. They also reviewed how we addressed process and compliance during COVID. Hopefully at the end of the day tomorrow we can get some initial feedback and get a jump start on any finding. Dr. Mackay spoke about the ELL portion of the audit. Initial findings are good, some minor areas that we need to focus on, Curriculum and translation are areas we will put more systems in place across the district.

*Pleased to notify you that the Annual Superintendents Scholar Luncheon will be held in person this year on May 25th at Foley Stadium in Worcester. Talya Binienda is the chosen scholar this year.

*Unit B negotiations are scheduled to begin this Thursday

*Taking a deeper look at the district literacy curriculum. Looking to have a reset with the help of our early literacy consultants to align the literacy block. Interventions for students that are below grade level are explicit based on their needs to close some learning gaps. We are in the process of writing the GLEAM Literacy grant – it is due Thursday. This will provide some cohesive literacy programming across the district.

*It Starts at Home received a Mapfre grant – They are using that to supply educational care packages for some of our students.

*Shout out to Moniz Family, Desire Moniz and Dunkin Donuts for their donation of the DD Truck that came to the WMS last Friday

*COVID numbers = 7 cases this past week – seeing a decline

*Enrollment figures were shared ~ as of 5/3 PAE has 587 in person students and 124 remote students
WMS has 435 in person students and 138 remote students
BHS has 237 in person students and 127 remote students

Yesterday we interviewed to consultants for the Innovation Pathways, to hire to help us as we proceed

Yesterday received notice from DESE that our Title I, IIa and Title IVa was successfully completed – not further action required.

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Pierangeli reported that there is a meeting May 27th. Still waiting for feedback on report that was submitted. Looking to have a community forum on that date as well to get feedback. Will have another in June. This will assist us to have a final plan to submit in July. Also on June 18th we will hold two district presentations to inform staff on the project. These will be virtual meetings.

C. Principal Report – Fran Thomas, Bartlett High School

1. Course Selection

Middle School has begun process to choose classes. Approx. 50 students have not submitted their selection. Doing it on line this year.

2. Exam Season – AP - MCAS

Juniors and seniors are taking the AP exams. Being done in the gym so remote students can come in. That will go until May 17th. Similar process with MCAS, there is no remote option for HS students. Sophomores must take the test. Juniors and seniors may take to be eligible to scholarships. They have the option of taking it in the fall – can only take it once though. Freshman bio exams will be done the beginning of June

3. Update on Dual Enrollment Expansion

Working with Nichols College offering some accelerated courses. Looking into an articulations program that provides some credits. Looking at creating a summer bridge program for seniors that are not ready or don't have the necessary GPA for college – Nichols will take those students for a one week session in the summer that would allow them entrance into Nichols

Mr. Thomas provided some tentative Senior events ~ more info to come in the student report

- outdoor graduation
- prom
- misc. celebrations for seniors

IV. Student Update – Vivian Poplawski

- Athletic Update given
- DECA's senior sweatshirts were picked up in person by students this afternoon. Remote students can pick theirs up in the office
- Friday, April 13th seniors wore their college gear to celebrate National Decision Day
- The Yearbook Club is working to gather votes for senior class quotes
- Nichols Leadership Academy met to work on creating resumes
- AP exams have been going on the past two weeks – students are working very hard
- Senior Events current working on graduation parade, senior BBQ, senior trip, outdoor prom (more casual being held at the school), movie night blow up projector), senior sunrise (come to school watch the sunrise),

Mr. Thomas shared that Senior Events are in the planning phase, waiting to get approvals and solid plans:

Senior award BBQ	June 2
Prom	June 5
Parade	June 6
Class trip	June 6
Graduation	June 11 DESE guidelines allow for 6 family members to attend with graduates. They will be 3ft apart. Rain date Sunday 13 th
Senior signs	are coming

V. Old Business

A. Monthly Fundraising Update

Chair Seddiki reminded it's not the role of School Committee to approve but to review fundraisers. This evening the WMS National Jr Honor Society is selling coffee to raise money for next year's induction

B. Superintendent Evaluation – Presentation of Goals

Dr. Goguen provided a detailed list of her evidence of meeting her goals this year. The District has worked collaboratively to keep everyone safe during the pandemic along with keeping connections with our students. Proud to say we have done that better than other districts. She provided a brief overview of her evidence. We are a turnaround district which requires more structures in place for our students. In the area of Management and Operations – we collaboratively produced a budget with the Town and DLT. Working to produce a rigorous educational plan to help to understand why we need a renovation at Bartlett High School. The COVID safety protocols are extensive - shout out to our Board of Health Director, school nurses and COVID leadership team. Increased involvement with the Adult Education Program, hiring a bi-lingual family engagement liaison, continue to work with our community partners.

Dr. Goguen invited members to come into the office to view the binders with all the evidence.

Member Napierata recommended that new members take the time to go and look at the binders – the binders are organized directly to the goals

Member Millet spoke of the phenomenal job everyone has done during this time, including the help from our community. Would like to see our website updated to showcase our students and see more in our local newspaper highlighting all the good things our students are doing. A huge thank you for the job done during this difficult time.

Member Adamopoulos thanked Dr. Goguen for her leadership during this unique year. Balancing both needs of staff, families, students and SC – testament of what she has done.

Chair Seddiki said that keeping a school district running during a pandemic is not easy – she did not just keep it running but with help of the Staff keep us thriving and moving forward. Never been more proud that witnessing this past school year and Dr. Goguen's strong leadership.

Member Blythe echoed everyone's sentiments. This year has been hard – from day 1 last March you made safety a priority. Thank you for your tireless work – it shows. The kids are back, and so happy to be back. AS well as the entire staff.

Dr. Goguen said it is a team effort, always looking ahead at the next step.

VI. New Business

A. Designation of Email Record Keeper

Lori Marrazzo is currently the email record keeper

Motion: To designate Lori Marrazzo as the email record keeper

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos

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. Designation of Legislative Representative

Member Adamopoulos has been in this role for the past year

Motion: To designate Member Adamopoulos as the Legislative Representative

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

C. Appoint School Committee Member as Payroll Designee

Chair Seddiki has been in this role for the past year

Motion: To appoint Chair Seddiki as the Payroll Designee

The motion was made by Member Napierata

The motion was seconded by Member Millet

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. Appoint School Committee Back-up Payroll Designee

Member Blythe has been in this role for the past year

Motion: To designate Member Blythe as the Legislative Representative

The motion was made by Member Napierata

The motion was seconded by Member Millet

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 School Committee Member as Warrant Designee

Member Millet has been in this role for the past year

Motion: To appoint Member Millet as the Warrant Designee

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

The following roll call vote was taken:

 members having voted in the affirmative

 members having voted in the negative

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

F. Appoint School Committee Member as Back-up Warrant Designee

Member Blythe has been in this role for the past year

Motion: To appoint Member Blythe as Back - up Warrant Designee

The motion was made by Member Napierata

The motion was seconded by Member Millet

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. End of Year Transfer Request

Mr. Pierangeli requested School Committee approval allowing the transfer of funds between multiple accounts. This will help expedite the end of year transfer procedures and enable the school department to effectively close out the FY21 school year budget. Once done will share upon request

Motion: To approve end of year transfer between accounts

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos

The following roll call vote was taken:

 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:

There were no questions

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:03 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Marrazzo

Documents included in the packet:

- April 27, 2021 Minutes
- SWCEC Q3 Report
- May 7th Professional Development Grid
- COVID Dashboard
- Enrollment Cohort Breakdown
- Fundraising Application
- Superintendent Annual Goals Evidence
- Letter from Business Office seeking approval for end of year transfers