

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Date: February 23, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Remote ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by: Chair Seddiki

The following Committee Members were present

- o Member Blythe
- o Member Napierata
- o Member Adamopoulos

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Millet

Chair Seddiki stated as a reminder on March 12, 2020 Governor Baker made changes in Open Meeting Law 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: Enter into Executive Session: According to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) to discuss strategy for negotiations with Webster Educators Association and Webster Cafeteria Workers

Motion: To Enter into Executive Session: According to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) to discuss strategy for negotiations with Webster Educators Association and Webster Cafeteria Workers

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos

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

II. Return to Public Session: Approval of February 9, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve February 9, 2021 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Napierata

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos

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

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Personnel Updates

New Hires: Teresa Comley – Lunch room monitor

Resignation: Leslie Baker – Director of Adult Education, effective March 19th. We are working collaboratively to fill the position

2. BHS Educational Visioning and Leadership Update

Two meetings have occurred led by David Stephens. We have two teams – Educational Visioning and Educational Leadership. The visioning team is looking a future programming and spaces for BHS. The Educational Leadership team has BHS Admin and Central Office admin. as members. Have had multiple meetings to discuss spaces needed to support manufacturing and health and human service pathways. We have begun writing the Educational Plan, difficulty is possibility of different pathways and spaces needed

3. DESE Transportation Update

DESE has updated transportation guidance as of February 11th – increasing capacity for all communities out of “red”. We are still in red and will adhere to our original plan. All our students currently fit on the busses.

4. Hybrid Update

Constantly monitoring – In an effort to ensure all open seats are filled we sent notices to families to ensure their decision of current chosen cohort. BHs continues to invite students. As recent as today, DESE Commissioner is looking to get permission for a change of time on learning. Goal to get elementary fully back by April – will now more tomorrow at the Commissioner's meeting. We are taking a closer look at available seats in Kindergarten – possibly inviting more students in.

5. Sports Update

We have a special visitor this evening – Brandon Boucher – Congratulations on scoring 1000 basketball points. Coach Paranto spoke of Brandon's many accomplishments and his contribution to the team.

A quick snapshot of the Fall2 programs was given. Football started yesterday. The Real Madrid also started yesterday – to date 27 kids have signed up. On April 26th the Real Madrid soccer starts. Other sports starting March 1st are WMS & BHs Cheerleading, WMS Football, Volleyball.

Webster Middle School End of Year Celebration game will be held on Thursday, February 25th. This will be live streamed.

6. Other updates

a. Completed the Student Tim on Learning Survey for DESE.

PAE has 5.5 hours of time on learning Monday – Thursday and 3.5 hours on Fridays.

WMS has 5.5 hours M-Th and 3.5 hours on Friday

BHS has 5.5 hours of time on learning M-Th and 3.5 hours of synchronous learning and 2.75 asynchronous time on learning on Fridays

b. The VA New England Healthcare System is partnering with DESE to offer COVID19 vaccinations to all veterans that currently work in the school. I provided DESE the names and contact info of our veteran employees after receiving explicit permission from them.

c. Professional Development Update provided

- d. EL Parent Advisory zoom meeting is occurring on February 24th at 11:00am and 7:00pm. Special Education Parent Advisory Council zoom meeting will be February 24th at 6:00pm
- e. Grant update given ~ PAE received a 3 year ST math grant. WMS 5th and 6th grade has access to this grant. Dr. Mackay spoke of the AASOT Grant. She reported that we will be offering after school and out of school activities. We currently have limited students in the Before/After Care Applied to enhance this program to service students in need. Boys & girls Club looking to partner to support students by adding instructional support for our students that are there during remote days.
- g. Mrs. Baris and Student Rep Vivian Poplawski along with other BHS students met regarding the concerns they have. As a result, extracurricular clubs will be re-implements. Looking at other types of social exchanges. Met with BHS counselors - reviewed the student wellness survey. Vivian said the meeting was positive – happy student voices are being heard.

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

On February 18th held SBC meeting – OMP provided reports on schedule, budget and state reports submitted. Architect gave presentation on existing conditions of BHS space, programs, storage, and unused space. Cost analysis will be given on the space. Will update our website with a dedicated page on the project.

2. Other Updates

Working on gas and electrical contract. As a collaborative group we received a two year contract at a much better price – able to maintain our same rate – no gas price increases over the next two years.

CARES Funding – on the Business Office page of the Website there is a breakdown In the FY21 folder.

Overall we received three grants

1. Remote Learning /Technology – we were awarded \$91,890, that was used for hot spots and chrombooks. District is responsible for \$76,000
2. The COVID Relief was awarded \$450,000 Initial expiring 12/2020 – extended to June 30th used for IT, food storage, signage, at home curriculum, COVID Professional Development and PPE
3. ESSER Cares money \$594,975 – helped with PPE and additional staff /services. This extends to FY22

C. Principal Report – Heidi Peterson, Webster Middle School Principal

1. Sandy Hook Promise

As part of the Sandy Hook Promise, 9 staff members were trained as Signs of Suicide trainers. These staff members presented Signs of Suicide to staff members and to parents. The trained staff also presented to Gr 6-8. Student Council will lead Say Something Week March 22-26 ~ this encourages students to speak up when they or a friend is in danger. The themes will be kindness with different activities.

2. National Junior Honor Society Food Drive

NJHS in conjunction with Center of Hope held a food drive – this was a drive up event held on February 13th. Collected over 800 items

3. Middle School Basketball Update

Girls and boys non-competitive teams were led by middle school teacher Dan Bengston. They participated in a season culminating in a co-ed scrimmage this week

4. 2nd Quarter Honor Roll

49 8th graders made honors or high honors for 2nd quarter. 40 7th graders, 65 6th graders and 52 5th graders made honors or high honors for 2nd Quarter.

5. Staff Attendance

At the halfway point in the year, 9 staff members continue to have perfect attendance. Also 6 cafeteria staff have perfect attendance

IV. Student Rep Update – Vivian Poplawski

- Athletic Update given
- Nichols Honors Academy meeting held on Feb. 12th
- Student Council sponsored tacky tourist day on Feb 9th and Feb 12th.
- Senior class song and class t-shirt forms were sent out on Feb 12th
- Music Booster beginning their ButterBraid fundraiser

V. Old Business

A. Approval of FY22 Budget

Mrs. Pierangeli said the Town Charter requires that we submit an approved budget to the Town Administrators Office by the end of February. We will be meeting with Town Administrator and Town Accountant tomorrow. There are a couple minor changes – but no change to the total. Submitting a budget that is 5.14% with a 1.15 million increase. Our Public Hearing is scheduled for April 13th.

Dr. Goguen said while working through the education visioning process we kept coming back to STEM, we reassessed the proposed cut of one position at WMS and put in a foreign language teacher ~ we have reconsidered and fell keeping a STEM is important. Although foreign language is important it really should be introduced at an earlier age.

Motion: To approve the FY22 Budget as presented

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

VI. New Business

A. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding – Webster Educators Assoc – SY21-22 calendar

Dr. Goguen said this MOA “WEA contract – Article VII school year may not start before the Monday prior to Labor Day. We are looking to start the school year august 25, 2021. This has been ratified by the WEA membership

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding – Webster Educators Assoc – SY21-22 calendar

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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 Memorandum of Understanding – Webster Educators Assoc – one year agreement

Dr. Goguen explained that this one year agreement extends the current agreement with a salary increase Has been ratified by the WEA members.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding – Webster Educators Assoc – one year agreement

The motion was made by Member Napierata

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

C. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding – Webster Cafeteria Workers– one year agreement

One year extension with a salary adjustment, it takes effect on 3/1/2021. Shout out for their commitment – recognize their hard work during this COVID time.

Mrs. Pierangeli thanked them for their hard work in the past year.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding – Webster Cafeteria Workers – one year agreement

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

D. Approval of 2021-2022 School Calendar

Details on the 21-22 School Year was provided. New Teacher orientation is set for August 24th. District Opening Day is August 25th with District Professional Development on August 26th & 27th. First day of school for Grades 1-12 is August 30th and September 7th for PreK and Kindergarten.

Motion: To approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as presented

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

E. Acceptance of \$500.00 donation from Exxon/Mobile

To be used by Webster Middle School math and science departments

Motion: To accept \$500.00 donation from Exxon/Mobile

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

F. Acceptance of donation of 31 backpacks from It Starts at Home

Jill St.Cyr and her organization donated 31 backpacks. These were delivered to BHS and WMS guidance to be given to students.

Motion: To accept donation of 31 backpacks from It Starts at Home

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

G. Approval of Job Description – Assistant Cook

Mrs. Pierangeli explained we continue to update job descriptions with current duties as positions become vacant

Motion: To approve Assistant Cook Job Description as presented

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos

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

H. Approval of reduction in Community Service Graduation Requirements

Mr. Thomas asked to temporarily waive the 10-hour community service graduation requirement for this year's graduating class due to limited opportunities because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Motion: To approve the waiving of Community Service Graduation Requirements

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

VI. Review / Transfer / Signing of Bills, Payrolls and Vouchers:

There were no questions

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:21 PM

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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:

- February 9, 2021 Minutes
- DESE Guidance on Transportation
- Posting for Extra Curricular Activities
- CARES Grant
- FY22 Budget
- MOU – Webster Educators Association – School Calendar – start date
- MOU – Webster Educators Association – one year agreement
- MOU – Webster Cafeteria Workers – one year agreement
- 2021-2022 School Calendar
- Job Description – Assistant Cook
- Warrant