

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Date: February 9, 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 Millet
- o Member Blythe
- o Member Napierata
- o Member Adamopoulos

The following Committee Members were absent:

Chair Seddiki stated as a reminder the changes in Open Meeting Law issued 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 January 26, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve January 26, 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: Cathleen Nikosey – PAE SPED Teacher

Resignation: Lisa DePasquale – para at WMS

Open Positions: Misc paraprofessional positions
Speech & Language Pathologist
Lunch Room Monitors

2. Central Massachusetts Collaborative 1st and 2nd Quarter Report

Quarter 1 and 2 Report attached for review. Congratulations to our students Jason Davis on his recent graduation from Recovery High School. Webster now has 2 students enrolled at CMC, their out of district enrollment is up. Last board meeting was January 28th. CMC Business office is fully staffed, increasing their technology for students and staff with CARES funds.

3. Hybrid Update

Dealing with COVID continues to be a challenge with teaching and learning. We are seeing a downward slide in cases. To date we have had to report 102 positive cases to DESE since the beginning of the year. We continue to monitor each situation with care and immediate contact tracing. We have seen a slight decrease, but the positivity rate in Webster the past 2 weeks was 8.5%. Shout out to Kathy Pepin, Monique Pierangeli and Jen Sullivan for their hard work.

We recently had questions about when we're planning to bring children back. We are doing our best to adhere to the DESE and CDC guidelines. Other districts may be bringing students back – strategic methods were given, they also have 50% of population that chose to remain remote. Webster has been providing full day of learning. We are taking steps at Bartlett High School to bring more students in. We are in the process of drafting a letter to families that choose a cohort, but are not sending students on those designated days.

Ellen Jeffers and Dr. Goguen signed a letter to Gov. Baker to expedite educator vaccines. We have an extremely collaborative relationship with our unions

Member Napierata commented that our model has been working, it seems more students/families have chosen to keep their students in a remote learning setting. Question about cases reported to DESE – where is the discrepancy? Dr. Goguen and Mrs. Pierangeli explained that DESE only counts is students or staff are in school for the past 7 days. They also don't count remote students.

Member Adamopoulos inquired if we are setting criteria for bringing back students back – i.e. # of staff vaccinated. Dr. Goguen said the criteria for 6 ft. lunch has not changed – we do not have the space to accommodate.

4. Sports Update

* Athletic Director Paranto organized Senior Games – parents were able to attend – socially distanced. Planning a middle school co-ed game.

* Fall 2 MIAA rules and modifications for each sport included in the packet. Season will run Feb 22nd through April 25th. BHS will offer football, cheer, and volleyball

* There have been two meetings to discuss Safety Guidelines with the Fall 2 season with the Board of Health, Principals and Athletic Director

*We anticipate playing other districts in SWCL = Webster, Auburn, Tantasqua, Grafton, Northbridge, Leicester, David Prouty, Southbridge, Quaboag, Oxford, Millbury, Uxbridge

* Real Madrid basketball will begin February 22nd. The Athletic Director has attended training. There was a zoom meeting for parents Monday 2/8, 27 students have signed up.

Mr. Paranto said he is excited to start the Fall II season starting up. Spring sports starts the Monday after vacation.

Member Blythe thanked everyone that had a part in bringing sports back – students are loving it. Member Adamopoulos asked about the practicality of playing football given the weather conditions – getting hurt playing on frozen fields. Mr. Paranto said that is a concern – currently guidelines allow for inside practice. We are looking at local schools that have turf. Games are expected to start mid-March with a 5 game season

5. Other updates

1. District and School Report Cards have been posted on our website and were sent home to all families
2. The Tiered Focus Monitoring Process involved a Needs Assessment and Program Evaluation for Title I, II, IV and will help us with our planning for next year. Dr. Mackay said that in her first year in this position she has 2 audits. Through this process we are finding cohesive ways for family involvement and engagement. Dr. Goguen gave a shout out to Mrs. Baris and Michelle Budney for assisting in this audit.
3. BHS project – There was a District Safety Meeting on February 4th. Kent Kovacs of Flansburg Architects joined our meeting to introduce the BHS project. On February 5th Kent held BHS teacher forums
4. Mapfre Partnership – meetings have started again. March 2nd is Read Across America – Mapfre volunteers will record books. We are starting the Best Buddies up.
5. WMS and BHS will undergo a Total Site Visit (TSV) through American Institutes for Research (AIR) as part of their status as Schools Requiring Assistance or Intervention from DESE. These visits, interviews and forums will be virtual. Principals are in the process of setting them up.

Dr. Mackay said we have begun the process of ACCESS testing for all EL students. This meeting provided info for families. The State requires all testing be done in person. Goal is to have testing completed by MCAS season. Mrs. Baris said it was a nicely attended. Ms. Margarita Nieves was there to help with translation. We have done a lot of work over the past 3 years and it is nice to see it come together.

6. Friday, February 5th PD grids in your packet for review. Many teachers facilitated during this success PD.

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Pierangeli said work is being done on the Educational Vision Process. Next School Building Committee meeting will be February 18th.

2. Other Updates

Working on a few contracts for next year: Electric, Gas and Transportation. Working with other district in the French River Collaborative.

C. Principal Report – Fran Thomas, Bartlett High School

1. Community Service Graduation Requirements

Last year senior community service hours were reduced to 5 hours due to the pandemic. Looking for approval to waive those hours for this year.

Since the Program of Studies is approved by the School Committee this change would need a vote. This item will have to be put on a future agenda for a vote.

2. DELL/WPS Soft Skills Update

This is a virtual field trip for students to WPS for a STEM/Soft Skills challenge Capstone. Current and graduate students will be part of the presentations.

3. One Goal Virtual Field Trip – Induction

This is also a virtual field trip tomorrow. Information included in packet. This is geared to first generation college students and stays with the cohort for 3 years to navigate college process.

4. Girls Who Code – New Program

This is a 2 week summer program for girls interested in the computer/technology field. Flyer included in packet. Students will network with other students across the country. Students were notified of this today.

Lastly, we were informed on 2/5 that we received a \$40,000 grant from Lead the Way to pay for engineering courses and PD for teachers. This is a hands on project for engineering pathways. Students can earn 3 college credits. This allows for multiple pathways and prepares our students for job openings. Thanks to Ms. Michele Bigelow for her work on this grant.

Member Napierata asked how students would have access to these programs. Mr. Thomas said the Innovate Pathways would launch in the Fall for incoming 9th graders. There was discussion on the process. Would enroll 12-15 in each pathway (health & engineering).

IV. Student Rep Update – Vivian Poplawski

- Sports update given
- Start of second semester on February 1st
- Mock AP exams for AP Literature and AP Language Composition held on Friday, Feb 5th
- Class of 2021 received their gap and gown form. Senior bio's must be returned by Feb 11th.

Vivian gave her perspective on the current struggles students are having. Chair Seddiki thanked her for bringing her unique perspective. Dr. Goguen thanked her for her courageous voice. There have been many behind the scene discussion on tracking students, building relationships, providing PD for staff on student mental health.

V. Old Business

A. FY22 Budget Update

Mrs. Pierangeli said that since the last meeting the state came out with preliminary numbers for the foundation budget. She provided a PowerPoint reviewing the FY22 Foundation Budget. Five areas impact Ch 70: benefits and fixed charges, guidance and psychological services, special education OOD tuition, English learners and low income. Last year we had a .55% decrease, we are looking for an increase of 5.14 this year.

Dr. Goguen provided a review of our students population and need.

VI. New Business

A. Capital Improvement Update

The Capital Improvement plan is reviewed on an annual basis – this is a 5 year plan. Park Avenue Elementary is a newer building with no scheduled maintenance. Webster Middle School opened in 2005 – starting to see items in need of repair. We are looking to update their phone system this year. Bartlett High School has many items that we are looking to have tied into the renovation project.

Motion: To approve the Capital Improvement Plan update as presented

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. Green Communities Grant - Lighting Project Application for Webster Middle School

Webster is a green community – we are eligible for 2 grants that would allow us to update lighting to LED. This would cost over \$150,000 – we are eligible for \$100,000 in grants. Will submit the grant in April.

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

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:09 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:

- 2-9-2021 Minutes
- Central Massachusetts Collaborative Q1 & Q2 Reports
- COVID Dashboard
- MIAA Fall II guidelines
- Real Madrid basketball flyer
- Professional Development Grids for 2/5/2021
- Bartlett High School Renovation Project – Educational Leadership Group and Visioning Working Group
- WPS Family Involvement and Two Way Engagement Procedure
- WPI Stem/Soft Skills Flyer
- OneGoal Induction Flyer
- Girls Who Code Flyer
- FY22 Foundation Budget PowerPoint
- FY22 Capital Improvement Plan
- Warrant