

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Date: January 12, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Remote ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by: Vice Chair Naparata

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Millet Lost connection numerous times during the meeting
- Member Blythe
- Member Adamopoulos

The following Committee Members were absent:

- Chair Seddiki

Vice Chair Naparata 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 December 8, 2020 Minutes

Motion: To approve December 8, 2020 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos

The following roll call vote was taken:

3 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: Diane Kroell – para at PAE – start date 1/11
 Anne Thompson – Interim Dean of Students – start date 1/11
 Jessica Stelmach – para at PAE – start date 2/1
 Courtney Ordway – ABA at PAE – start date 2/1
 Paula Malone – ELL Teacher at WMS – start date 1/25

Resignation: Joanna Kicliniski – Speech and Language Pathologist
Kayla Baumlin – ABA at PAE
Stephanie Mahoney – ABA at BHS
Brittany Matthews – ABA at BHS

Retirement: as of 6/2021 Karen Miller – Para at PAE
Julia Bruton – Para at WMS

Open Positions: Special Education Teacher – PAE
Paraprofessional and ABA positions
Speech & Language Pathologist
Lunch Room Monitors

2. Hybrid Update

-We returned on Monday, January 4, 2021 – As you are aware, State and Town numbers continue to increase with positive cases. We are carefully monitoring the numbers of positive cases and quarantines in our district. We are in constant communication with the Board of Health Director. Copy of COVID Dashboard is included in packet. From 1/4 to 1/11 we have seen 22 students positive only 7 were onsite along with 7 staff, only 1 onsite. Shout out to Jen Sullivan, BOH, the school nurses and Monique Pierangeli. Would like to acknowledge all the parents for their assistants – especially keeping sick children home.

- We experienced internet/zoom issues at PAE last week. Mr. Pierangeli will provide details in her report

3. Winter Sports Update

-A meeting was held with the Board of Health Director, Athletic director, Tony Paranto, BHs Principal, Fran Thomas, BHS School Nurse, Kathy Pepin, Monique Pierangeli and myself to discuss the proposed basketball safety plan and the SWCL plan. Out of the 12 districts in SWCL league 8 are not participating. There are 4 communities at this time (Uxbridge, Grafton, Northbridge and Webster). Please note, the BOH Director supports moving forward with the practices but cannot fully support games at this time due to the spike. We are meeting again this week.

- We are proceeding with our plans and each student will need to have their parents sign a permission slip to acknowledge the additional risks and permission to video the games as there will be no spectators

- Middle School Basketball will be intramural ~ other districts don't have middle school teams

- We are still looking for a Real Madrid coach to start the non-competitive sports for the EL student population at WMS & BHS

Member Adamopoulos inquired about the number of students that have signed up. Athletic Director, Tony Paranto, said there are 20 boys and girls on the varsity basketball roster (to stay within guidelines). Practices are going well. The coach's and kids are excited.

Vice Chair Napierata wanted to recognize the administrators for allowing winter sports – hopefully everyone stays healthy and follow the safety guidelines

4. Other update

- Professional Development December 21 – 23 was successful. Grids attached for your review. Shout out to Mrs. Jill Chapdelaine for organizing this. Shout out to the teachers – this year is a year like no other
- We used CARES funds to purchase over \$62,000 of teaching materials for students, families and staff. Teachers created wish lists and these lists resulted in “at home” curriculum resources for our students. A list of items is included in packet
- COVID Dashboards included in the SC packet for your review
- Bartlett invited 80 students back into school and 30 students returned the week of January d5th. We continue to track enrollment – a breakdown of all cohorts is included in the packet

Vice Chair Napierata asked for clarification regarding the 80 BHs students invited back. Dr. Goguen said that there was a criteria set for inviting students to Cohort C (i.e. senior that is failing some classes was invited to come in 4 days/week)

- School Nurses are using the Bionax Rapid COVID Testing. Today the school nurses and myself said in on a webinar with information that the State / DESE just came out with Pooled Testing . We are looking into it more. This may come with additional costs to the district after 6 weeks, where Bionax is free to us.
- MCAS Updates:
 - DESE will reduce testing time for grades 3-8
 - The Competency Determination waiver for MCAS for HS students has been extended
 - The Alt Assessment deadline was extended
 - The MCAS Biology test has been moved to June for 9th Graders
 - The ACCESS testing window has been extended to May 20th
 - DESE will not deem any new underperforming schools/districts this year
- Food Service Director, Ellen Nysten applied for a Farm to School Implementation Planning Grant
- I along with the WMS & BHS Principals and some counselors attended the Worcester Juvenile Court Webinar with Judge Carol Erskine. Attendance concerns exist. Principals, Family Liaison and Counselors are addressing this.
- This Friday we have our Kick off Educational Visioning Meeting with Flansburg and New Vista Design
- Pleased to announce Tayla Bienda as our Worcester County Superintendents Scholar and Kira Gillet as the Project 351 Leader at WMS

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

The School Building Committee met on 12/17 to review the architect contract. We have a kick off meeting this coming Thursday and an educational planning meeting set for Friday. Now that the project is moving along we will be holding regular SBC meetings the second Thursday of every month.

2. Maintenance Update

Over Christmas break there was a leak at Webster Middle School. During routine maintenance the leak was detected. Glycol (similar to antifreeze) was leaking. Mr. Annese and other custodians came in and quickly clean up the leak (pictures of the WMS library were shown). We called *ServePro* to come in for a professional cleaning as well as a contractor that cut 2 feet up on the walls looking for any wetness. The space was put back together before everyone returned from break.

3. Technology Update

On January 4th there was an internet problem at PAE – there was not bandwidth. Students could not participate in zoom meetings Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We will update switches at PAE as well as BHS to be sure there are no problems in the future.

Mrs. Pierangeli said many parents called this week regarding their EBT cards. Everyone should have received their funds yesterday. There was some miscommunication – just want to be clear our files were submitted on time. Moving forward the state will provide funds monthly rather than quarterly

Vice chair Napierata applauded the custodial staff for the work cleaning up the leak at WMS

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

1. National Junior Honor Society

On December 14th 41 students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society – 18 7th graders and 23 8th graders

2. PBIS – Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Update

Upon return from break BPIS was kicked off on January 4th. Focus for the month of January is ZOOM etiquette

3. Professional Development

Many professional developments being offered to WMS faculty – continue to work with the May Institute and RIBIS

4. Project 351

Proud to announce that 8th Grader, Kira Gillette will serve as WMS Project 351 Ambassador for 2021. Teachers nominated 4 8th grade students ~ nominations were based on the qualities of ethics, service, kindness, compassion, humility and gratitude. The 4 students submitted essays and Kira was chosen.

5. Band and Chorus Update

Started offering small group band lessons for 8th graders. Hoping to offer chorus next semester. Since there is only one teacher, Mr. Wright is responsible for both band and chorus.

IV. Student Rep Update – Vivian Poplawski

- Boys and Girls Basketball sign ups were sent out in google form on December 14th. A meeting was held on January 4th for students intending to play
- Other winter sports have not started sign up process yet
- Second half of Q2 began last week
- Nichols Honors Academy meeting was held Friday, December 18th
- Scholarship opportunities have been posted for seniors
- Student Council planned holiday attire days on December 15 7 16 to help students get into the holiday spirit
- Class of 2021 is sending out a form to gather submissions for class songs and class shirt designs

- PBIS has started at BHS – noticing a difference

V. Old Business

A. FY22 Budget First Review

Dr. Goguen presented a PowerPoint of the proposed FY22 first draft of the budget. She highlighted the supports that have been put in place for families and staff. A review of each school's goals for next year was given. Our first draft has a 4.09% increase over FY21 budget. There is a proposed additional staff at each building – an explanation of each was given. There will be some staffing adjustments for next year to ensure we close gaps. Mrs. Pierangeli gave a breakdown of the budget figures with the proposed FY22 positions. Dr. Goguen reviewed the grade level breakdown that included current and proposed class size / teams. Graduation and dropout rates was presented, Dr. Goguen is concerned on the drop out numbers, she believes the vocational programs that will be available may help these students. A special education breakdown was given. Mrs. Baris, Director of Student Support Services spoke about the SPED statistics in our district. We are above the state average (state average is 18%, we are 22.1%). We have a significant number of students with autism, we have a lot of high needs students. Dr. Goguen said we were making substantial gains prior to the pandemic – this budget focuses on increasing staff to ramp up interventions as well as teaching core content. Mrs. Pierangeli gave a summary of the overall budget and the Circuit Breaker breakdown. School Choice funds are currently \$600,000, looking at a drop in the number of students – currently there are 13 school choice students. Dr. Goguen concluded by giving a shout out to the District Leadership Team, Curriculum Office, and SPED Office. A detailed line item budget is also included in the packet.

Mrs. Pierangeli said we don't have any idea what the FY22 revenue is going to look like, the State just tied up FY21. We are planning for a normal school year and planning as such. We are in constant communication with the Town. Member Adamopoulos questions the expected revenues – will the Town have an increase? Mrs. Pierangeli said we saw an increase in Ch.70 revenue, we worked with the Town since we had used savings from the prior year we were in a position to give more back to the Town. Member Adamopoulos followed up asking if we full amount of Ch 70 funding to Town. Mrs. Pierangeli replied that originally we agreed to 70/30, but we ended up giving a bit more back, we level funded going back into Town Meeting.

Vice Chair Napierata said this was a very thoughtful presentation and look forward to upcoming presentations.

B. Approval of Bartlett High School Renovation Project Designer Contract

The School Building Committee met on December 17th. We are asking the School Committee to approve Flansberg Design as the BHS Renovation Project Designer Contract.

Motion: To approve the Bartlett High School Renovation Project Designer Contract

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

VI. New Business

A. Acceptance of donation from Dunkin Donuts – BHS PBIS Gift Cards

The Moniz Family donated \$100 in gift cards to be used as PBIS incentive rewards

Motion: To accept generous donation of \$100 in gift cards from the Moniz Family for BHS PBIS gift cards

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

Vice Chair Napierata said on behalf of the Committee she would like to publically thank the Moniz family for the generous donations.

B. Acceptance of donation from Sts. Constantine & Helen Church – bags of food items

Bags of items with recipe card to make chicken noodle soup were donated

Motion: To accept donation of bags of food items from Sts. Constantine & Helen Church

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

Vice Chair Napierata thanked Sts. Constantine & Helen Church for their generosity.

C. Acceptance of donation from Mr. & Mrs. Snider in honor of Elizabeth Lahens for Webster Music Boosters

Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Snider from Bellingham donated \$400 in honor of the dedication of Elizabeth Lahens and her many years of dedicated work for the students of Webster Public Schools. They requested this be used by the Webster Music Boosters.

Motion: To accept donation of on behalf of Elizabeth Lahens from Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Snider

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

Vice Chair Napierata thanked Mr. and Mrs. Snider for their donation and also for recognizing Elizabeth Lahens for all of her hard work.

D. Approval of additional 1.0 ABA position

This item was passed over

E. Appoint School committee Member to the Webster Educators Association contract negotiations

Received a letter dated 1/1/2021 from Webster Educators Association President, Ellen Jeffers requesting to begin negotiations for their 2021 – 2024 contract. A school committee member can be appointed or be part of the negotiations.

Motion: To appoint Member Adamopoulos to represent School Committee in the 2021-2024 WEA contract negotiations

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Millet

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 7:41 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:

- December 8, 2020 Minutes
- Hybrid enrollment Data breakdown
- Winter sports safety guidelines
- WPS athlete participation clearance form
- WPS Sports COVID Consent form
- DESE sports guidelines
- Massachusetts Sports Guidance
- December 21, 2020 PD Grids
- Itemized list of items purchased with CARES funds
- Weekly COVID Dashboard
- FY22 Budget – Draft #1
- FY22 Budget PowerPoint Presentation
- BHS Renovation Designer Contract
- Letter from M/M Snider – donation
- Letter from WEA – request to enter into negotiations
- Warrant