

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Thursday, July 16, 2019

Date: July 16, 2019 Time: 6:30 PM Location: School Committee Conference Room
77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570

The meeting was called to order by: Chairman Hurton

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Napierata
- Member Seddiki
- Member Blythe

The following Committee Members were absent:

I. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

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

II. Approval of June 20, 2019 Minutes

Motion: To Approve June 20, 2019 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Seddiki
The motion was seconded by Member Napierata
The following roll call vote was taken:
3 members having voted in the affirmative
 members having voted in the negative
 1 members having abstained (Member Blythe)
The motion: X Passed
 Failed

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Personnel Update

- A. Introduction of Francis Thomas, Bartlett High School Interim Principal
Superintendent Goguen said a series of interviews were held, Mr. Thomas was unanimously decided on. A bio of Mr. Thomas was given. Mr. Thomas said he is happy to here, he had a tour of the town today, and everyone has been very welcoming. This Thursday there will be a Meet and Greet for staff and families
- B. Introduction of Gina Nieves, Bartlett High School Dean of Students
Superintendent Goguen shared Ms. Nieves bio. Gina said she is happy to be here for the kids.
- C. Introduction of Daniel Kelly, Webster Middle School Interim Dean of Students
A bio of Mr. Kelly was given, he said he is very excited to take this plunge and is thankful for the opportunity.

New Hires: Patrick Diggins – BHS Adjustment Counselor
Brandon Meece – PAE Grade 3 Teacher

2. Annual MASS Superintendent Conference

This year marked the 25th anniversary for the summer executive institute and it was dedicated and renamed the Paul Andrews Summer Institute for his 25 years of dedicated service. The conference validated our work here in Webster. Topics included: Equitable access for our students, SEI, ELL supports, closing achievement gaps, social emotional learning building trusting relationships and citioners, and empowering students to have a voice in our society. Highlights included a presentations from: the Commissioner of Education, Jeffrey Riley; Keynote speaker Dr. Adolfo Brown; Legal updates by Attorney Long; Updates to the MTRS retirement system; and Katherine Craven, Chair of DESE Board of Education.

3. Other Update:

- SWCEC – Executive director, Elizabeth Fitzmaurice has resigned. They are in the process of hiring an interim replacement.
- We received notification that Webster Public Schools has been awarded the continuation of the Adult Education grant in the amount of \$376,592 for FY2020. Last year’s grant was for \$470,000 ~ some reductions ...cut of 64 seats, but increase in the per seat reimbursement
- WEA Monthly meetings have been scheduled to ensure collaboration and communication. Scheduling monthly meeting to keep the lines of communication open.
- Summer School Programs & Summer Eats Programs are up and running. Summer Eats – North Village on Tuesday and Thursday, Town Library on Friday and Hoops for Hope
- Ongoing work with Mapfre – looking in the Real Madrid Sports Achievement Program. Working on Food for Thought Grant trying to incorporate nutrition, education and health curriculum. Meeting tomorrow with Ellen Nysten and health teachers to get their feedback.
- Working with HeadStart on a grant to increase parent education and strengthen the transition from HeadStart to Kindergarten
- Busy planning for next year – on target for MSBA project. July 1st the eligibility period begins, we have 270 days (March 27, 2020 expires.) Mrs. Pierangeli reviewed the timeline. Lisa Kontoes, was appointed as Selectman’s Rep at last night’s meeting. Maintenance and Capitol Planning will be a task Mrs. Pierangeli will be working on. The Feasibility Study will need to be approved at Town Meeting then submitted to MSBA. April is the last MSBA Meeting for us to get on their agenda.

B. Business Manager Report

1. FY19 Budget Update

Mrs. Pierangeli said we’re very close to closing out FY19 Budget. Last official warrant was submitted yesterday. There is some surplus, but a large deficient in transportation on the town side. Much of the deficient is due to the homeless and foster care transportation - looking to assist the town with that deficient. Requesting approval to move \$150,000.

Motion: To authorize the Business Manager to finalize the FY19 budget and to transfer \$150,000 from the Town side to help offset the deficient in transportation

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

2. Summer Projects

Mrs. Pierangeli said the custodians have been very busy cleaning - we haven't had many large projects. Replaced garage doors at Bartlett, gutters at BHS will be replaced. Due to large growth at Park Avenue Elementary we are using rooms that were not designed to be for students, we need to add a second egress, getting quotes and will be installing a second exit. At PAE Library ~ reading nooks looking to glass enclosure to create small work spaces. Nothing major at Webster Middle School, some roof top unit repairs. Technology summer work – we have ordered new chrome books.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

A. Acceptance of resignation of School Committee Member.

Chairman Hurton stated that unfortunately, last week, we received a resignation letter from Brian Chenevert. The process for replacement was reviewed in the Town Charter. The Opening will be posted, then a joint meeting with Selectmen will be held. Interested applicants will be reviewed. The selected person will remain for the length of his term.

Superintendent Goguen gave a shout out to Mr. Chenevert, she said he brought a high level of professionalism. She thanked him for his dedication. Mrs. Pierangeli reiterated Superintendent Goguen's statement.

Motion: Move to enter into Executive Session, According to MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) to consider the grievance brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual

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

Chairman Hurton stated that the Executive session has paused and we will continue with the Open Session meeting and then reconvene in Executive Session

B. Appoint designee to Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative

As outlined in MGL Ch. 40, Section 4E, School Committees must annually appoint a designee to education collaborative. In the past the superintendent has been the designee

Motion: To appoint Dr. Goguen as the designee to Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative

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. Appoint designee to Central Massachusetts Collaborative

As outlined in MGL Ch. 40, Section 4E, School Committees must annually appoint a designee to education collaborative. In the past the superintendent has been the designee

Motion: To appoint Dr. Goguen as the designee to Central Massachusetts Collaborative

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

D. Appoint School Committee Member to School Building Committee

We are looking for two volunteers from the School Committee. Mr. Hurton and Mrs. Blythe have volunteered

Motion: To appoint Chairman Hurton and Member Blythe to School Building Committee

The motion was made by Member Seddiki
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. Approval of School Building Committee

The first step in creating a School Building Committee, the MSBA has recommendations for who is on the committee. Proposed list was reviewed (included in packet). One person can service in more than one role. There are 7 voting members and a total of 13 members.

Motion: To approve the School Building Committee as presented.

The motion was made by Member Seddiki
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. Approval of Bartlett High School Student Handbook

Ms. Czernicki and Ms. Nieves reviewed the handbook and made the recommended changes. Chairman Hurton asked about the 10 point deduction based on absences. Mrs. Nieves explained that the 10 point attendance policy (page 29). Mr. Thomas stated having a level of accountability from staff and students must be put in place. Having opportunities to make up the 10 points will be provided. Superintendent Goguen followed up saying this is a new school year with new leadership and new turnaround plan. Attendance is crucial, we cannot have chronic absenteeism.

Member Seddiki asked for BHS team to bring attendance data to us quarterly.

Motion: To approve Bartlett High School Student Handbook as presented

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

G. Approval of Webster Middle School Student Handbook

In Mr. Zajac's absence Dr. Goguen said there were minor changes to this year's handbook. She reviewed the changes. Chairman Hurton pointed out SC name changes and adding "interim" to Mr. Kelly's title.

Member Napierata asked about page 15 – a student participating in a sport / extracurricular activity must arrive prior to 11:00am compared to Bartlett High School being 8:00am. After some discussion it was suggested to change the time prior to the end of first period (8:47am).

Motion: To approve Webster Middle School Student Handbook amended with the unexcused absence students must be at school prior to the end of first period

The motion was made by Member Seddiki

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

H. Approval of Park Avenue Elementary School Student Handbook

Mrs. Parmley reviewed the changes to their handbook. Page 9 ~ we have gone from a 7 day to a 6 day UA cycle Page 18 ~ Common language and expectations. Last year we had 90% of our teachers using Class Dojo – this year we are striving to have 100% participation.

Superintendent Goguen gave a Shout Out to Mrs. Parmley for changing the code of conduct in a positive way at PAE. "Hey Hoooo" and then hearing all the students repeat back and become quiet is remarkable. I have suggested to Mr. Zajac that he spend some time with you to witness this. Mrs. Parmley said it was a team effort

Motion: To approve Park Avenue Elementary School Student Handbook as presented

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

I. Approval of increase in Bartlett High school foreign Language Teacher form 0.5FTE to 0.6FTE

Dr. Goguen explained the difficulty in finding a 0.5FTE foreign language teacher, hoping by increasing to a 0.6FTE more candidates will be interested. The estimated annual cost is \$7,000 and Mrs. Pierangeli said there are funds in the budget to support this increase.

Motion: To approve increase in Bartlett High school foreign Language Teacher form 0.5FTE to 0.6FTE

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

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

A. Approve transfer request from Webster Middle School Student Activity Savings to Checking account

Motion: To approve \$8,247.15 transfer request from Webster Middle School Student Activity Savings 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

Chairman Hurton recused himself from this agenda item

B. Approve transfer request from Bartlett High School Student Activity Savings to Checking account

Motion: To approve \$18,770.30 transfer request from Bartlett High School Student Activity Savings to Checking account

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

The following roll call vote was taken:

3 members having voted in the affirmative

 members having voted in the negative

1 members having abstained (Chairman Hurton

The motion: X passed

 Failed

Chairman Hurton stated that there will be a two minute recess and will return to continue in open session

Motion to reconvene to enter into Executive Session, According to MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) to consider the grievance brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual only to return to open session to adjourn our Open session meeting

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

Member Napierata left the meeting at 10:11 PM

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:13 PM

The motion was made by Member Seddiki
The motion was seconded by Member Blythe
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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Glennon

Documents included in the packet:

- June 20, 2019 Minutes
- Letter from DESE regarding Adult Education Grant
- Letter of resignation from Brian Chenevert
- Webster Charter referencing filling elected official positions
- Letter to MSBA with list of School Building Committee members
- Bartlett High School Student Handbook
- Webster Middle School Student Handbook
- Park Avenue Elementary School Handbook
- Webster Middle School Transfer Request
- Bartlett High School Transfer Request