

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, November 23, 2020

Date: November 23, 2020

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Remote ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by: Chair Seddiki

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Napierata
- Member Millet
- Member Blythe
- 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. This meeting is being recorded both audio and video and will be posted on the district website.

**I. Call to Order:**

**II. Approval of November 10, 2020 Minutes**

Motion: To approve November 10, 2020 Minutes

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

**III. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence**

**1. Personnel Updates**

**New Hires:** Caroline Daniel – BHS School year admin assistant  
Morgan Ferschke – LTS SPED at BHS  
Margarita Nieves Carvajal – Bilingual School Liaison  
Christopher Gallerani – Technology Support  
Lee Nalewajk – Technology Support  
Martin Stepalavich - Custodian at WMS

Pleased to tell you that Susan Ricard will stay in the Gr 4 live classroom for the rest of the year. Since we have lost two Title I teachers this year to cover classrooms we are looking at how we need to re-organize our Title I program to meet the needs of our students. We preciously had Faith Veronis transfer out of Title I. These shifts provide consistency for our students.

**Resignations:** Debra Ramsdell – Technology Staff

**Vacant:** LTS Health Teacher at BHS - currently the Long Term Building Float sub, Barry Berthiaume is filling in

LTS for Grade 1  
Interim Dean of Students

## 2. Hybrid Shift Update

Dr. Goguen said there has been a mix of feelings about the shift. Ranging from anxiety, fear, joy and frustration with figuring out the teaching of live students and remote at the same time. I ask everyone to understand that the Webster Public School employees are all working very hard at this, we are all on a learning curve. Teachers, staff and administrators are continuing to work diligently to master the technology set up for synchronous learning across the district and make the shift successful. The first week went relatively smoothly. Dr. Makay and I spent the week at WMS. Seeing more and more students shift to full remote – a snapshot of the cohort enrollment numbers was given. The first week went relatively smoothly. Dr. Mackay and I have been at WMS all week – I can share what I saw firsthand. Shout out to Gr 5 & 6 – masterful skills. Teaching with students in front and on camera is a challenging feat - similar to running a game show.

Students were eager to come back. Hearing BHS is having a difficult time with social distancing. Principals held voluntary staff meetings to collect teacher feedback. I sent out a district survey – a mix of feelings about the shift.

## 3. BinoxNow Rapid Testing

We have been accepted as one of the 134 school districts to pilot the Page I of Abbott BinowNow rapid test kits for schools. The nurses have completed the training and we are waiting for the parent/guardian consent forms from DES/DPH. The abbot BinoxNow test is a rapid antigen test. They perform best when the person is tested in the early stages of infection. PCR tests will be recommended to any positive test result

## 4. Enrollment update

October 2019 our total enrollment was 1841. October 2020 it is 1682. Across the state enrollment has seen a 3.9% decrease, primarily in Prek/K. Webster has had a decrease in kindergarten – 157 last year, 95 this year – a decrease of 62 students. As we enter the FY22 budget season we need to keep this decrease in mind as it will impact our FY22 budget unless changes are made at the state level

Member Napierata heard that the state may use FY19 enrollment figures for budget purposes so not to penalize districts. Dr. Goguen said she had heard that there have been discussions about using FY19 enrollment, but does not have final details

## **5. Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative 2020 Annual Report**

Webster has 12 students enrolled in SECEC. They are also seeing a decrease in enrollment – 113 less this year. That has financial implications, but they do have a reserve to go to.

## **6. Central Massachusetts Collaborative 2020 Annual Report**

Webster has 3 students enrolled in CMC. They are seeing a decrease in enrollment as well. Financial Audit form FY20 results were good.

## **7. Other updates**

- DESE reviews district Student Information System to identify significant disproportionality in special education. Pleased to report we have not been identified as having a significant disproportionality by race or ethnicity.
- We are finalizing giving out the remainder of the food vouchers given to us from Mapfre.
- Thank you to the Greek Orthodox Church for their recent donation of food baskets and Price Chopper gifts cards to PAE and WMS families. Due to the late date of receiving these it will be on the next agenda for acceptance.
- COVID Weekly Dashboard – included in packet. This will be shared weekly. If we have staffing shortage there is an emergency plan in place. On these days Cohort C and staff will still be present.

I'd like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, Safe thanksgiving and ask everyone to be mindful of the travel guidelines.

Chair Seddiki thanked Dr. Goguen for her tireless efforts at creatively meeting the needs of our students. It is much appreciated.

## **B. Business Manager Report**

### **1. School Building Committee Update**

On 11/17 Dr. Goguen, Ted Avlas and Mrs. Pierangeli participated in Designer Selection Panel at MSBA (via zoom). Ten qualified candidates submitted plans. It has been narrowed down to 3. Next Wednesday we have a meeting with the MSBA to hold interviews with the three. Then it will come to the School Committee for approval.

### **2. Transportation Update**

With the shift to hybrid we had more students take the busses. BHS enrollment has dropped so bus capacity is not a problem. PAE has 3 busses at capacity and one over capacity (27 students) ~ so far there have not been 27 students riding that bus – we are closely monitoring and following up with families that said they wanted a bus pass. Running smoothly. Under the state regulations bus windows must be kept open for air circulation– it's getting chilly out there! Dress appropriately

Want to take a moment ~ Overall hybrid has gone well. Dr. Goguen gives credit to teams, staff, bus drivers but not taking much credit herself. We wouldn't be where we are without her strong leadership, and planning. Debrief after situations to see what we can do better. Overall this has been a successful week. Shout out for her hard work.

### **3. FY21 Budget Update**

Typically quarterly reports are given – haven't done that for you yet. At the next meeting I will have a quarterly report for you. Also food service report. The state still working on FY21 budget. Projecting an increase in Chapter 70 funds. Our budget is working off a level funded Ch. 70 at this time.

Also wanted to inform families there is a change in meal deliveries for next week. We are having pick upon Tuesday 12/1 and Thursday 12/3. This change is due to the holiday week-end and not getting delivery in time.

Chair Seddiki thanked Mrs. Pierangeli for her report and her comments regarding Dr. Goguen. She seconds these comments and appreciates her leadership

### **C. Principal Report – Robin Parmley, Park Avenue Elementary School**

#### **1. Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences and Virtual Hybrid Info Night**

Had strong attendance at our Parent/Teacher conferences. Same evening held an information night

#### **2. Launching the Hybrid Model**

We were happy to welcome our Polar Bears back – the staff and students are doing an amazing job.

#### **3. Unified Arts**

Shout Out to all the Unified Arts teachers. Extremely creative in engaging students. They have held car line events to get items to families. Students look forward to their UA days.

Learning each day and making adjustments as needed to get better each day. Kudos to staff, so proud of them. Thank you to Deb Zablocki, custodians, RN's Administrative Assistants - so much attention to detail. We also had a fire drill during the first week for each cohort – went very well

### **IV. Student Rep Update – Vivian Poplawski**

- Athletic update given
- NHS decisions were released
- Report cards for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter were sent home this week
- Nichols Honors Academy held a zoom meeting on 11/18 for all NHA members
- Majority of students are glad to be back in hybrid model ~ want to remind students about social distancing especially in the hallways

### **V. Old Business**

Asking to table the following sports item until we have more detailed information

#### **A. Real Madrid Sports Update**

As a reminder we applied for a grant for ELL students to have a basketball and soccer sports club. Due to COVID we haven't been able to begin. We are in the process of gathering info from MIAA.

#### **B. Winter Sports Update / Discussion / MIAA Guidelines**

Table this item as well. Will be attending a meeting next week with area superintendents to discuss.

## VI. New Business

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

## X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:36 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:

- November 10, 2020 Minutes
- SWCEC Annual Report
- CMC Annual Report
- Massachusetts Guidance on sports – dated 11/12/2020