

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Date: November 10, 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. 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 October 27, 2020 Minutes

Motion: To approve October 27, 2020 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

Chair Seddiki said before moving on with the rest of agenda, the School Committee received a letter from the Webster Teachers Association. The letter was read in its entirety (letter included in packet). 102 teachers signed the letter. Sarah Cole spoke thanking the chair for reading the letter and giving the teachers a voice.

Dr. Goguen said she supports the views the teachers expressed in the letter and feels everyone has been working collaboratively in the hybrid shift. Waiting the three weeks out of the red was the original plan, so the shift does have some day to day implications.

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Personnel Updates

New Hires: Melissa Kirkland ABA at WMS
Christine Smith ABA at WMS

Resignations: Kyrrah Wilder Para at PAE
Michelle White Para at PAE
Sandra Orne ABA at PAE

Vacant: LTS Health Teacher at BHS
LTS for Grade 1
Interim Dean of Students
Bilingual School Liaison
Custodian
Technology Support

2. Other Updates

A. PAE – we created remote learning academies for grades 1, 2, and 4

Dr. Goguen said the hybrid shift is not as easy as turning a switch. We have plans for 122 PAE students the need to be reassigned. Mrs. Parmley and Mrs. Zablocki with the help of Dr. Mackay have called each student's family to inform them of the change.

B. Re-distribution of busing routes in process

Because there have been many changes in the cohorts we have had to change bus routes. Students will need a bus pass this year.

C. Food preparations in process for increased BIC and lunch program

Continuing with the drive-through on Monday and Thursday at PAE and WMS

D. Staffing adjustments in process for staff who cannot work in a hybrid model

E. Schools have sent home reminders about Safety Protocols and new Emergency Contact information for the nurses

Principals have been communicating with students on safety protocols. New emergency forms were given to students to update contact info.

F. We have completed the application and training and waiting to hear if we can become a school district to have the BionaxNOW Rapid point of Care COVID-19 testing in our nurse's offices.

This will help to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Dr. Goguen shared a weekly snapshot of cases. Entering a phase of increased numbers. The Massachusetts metrics have changed – Webster is no longer in the red, we are in the yellow. Dr. Goguen gave the COVID statistics for our staff and students

G. Governor's new executive orders (include)

- stay at home 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
- businesses closed at 9:30 p.m.
- wearing masks at all times even with 6 feet distancing
- private inside gatherings limited to 10
- outdoor gatherings limited to 25

H. DESE updated on interpreting DPH Covid-19 Health Metrics (included)

- schools in the red go hybrid
- schools in green, yellow and grey priorities fully in-person learning with safety guidelines, if feasible

Given all the changes we will send weekly updates to our families

3. Other Updates

- As we work collaboratively with the Town, we held our 2nd meeting with the Town Hall staff to discuss HR procedures and protocols. We have a meeting scheduled for December 4th
- The Regional Environmental Council will be setting up Farmers Market for the community every other Thursday at North Village Apartments from 12:30 to 2:30
- The Food distribution drive thru- will continue to their Meals to Go schedule
- BHS held a Parent Informational Zoom on Friday for families as they prepare for the Hybrid shift

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Pierangeli said there were 10 designers that submitted RFS (Request for Service) applications (10/29 was the deadline). Our OPM (Owners Project Manager) has worked closely with MSBA getting reference checks. Will meet November 17th meeting with the Designer Selection Panel to review and put in ranking order. We will have opportunity to interview top 3 if we choose to on Dec 1st. We are excited with the quality and number of applications

2. FY20 End of Year Report Update

Mrs. Pierangeli said she discovered an error – it was regarding the pre-paid tuition. We pre-paid \$495,000 for FY21. Must pull those expenses and report in the FY21 report. By pulling that amount we did not meet FY20 maintenance of effort. Further explanation of this was given.

3. FY20 Food Services Financial Report

The Financial Report is included in the packet. Pleased with the progress in FY20 towards managing food and labor cost. Even with COVID related expenses the food services department made \$43,000 profit. Kudos to Ms. Nysten.

4. Other Updates

Working closely with AA Transportation. Concerned families are not aware about bus passes that are required this year. The bus routes were posted today. Shout out to Nancy at AA Transportation. Mrs. Pierangeli said this year is challenging, there are many variables, will do a OneCall tomorrow for families.

Member Millet said there is a lot of construction in Webster – that may add to the issues. Mrs. Pierangeli replied that she is has open communication with the Town Highway. Expect Lake Parkway to be open next week.

Member Millet asked about cohort shifts. Dr. Goguen said at this point we are not allowing changing of cohorts. Each cohort classroom has 10-12 students. We did create Remote Academy Cohorts for grades 1, 2 and 4. Families that selected remote must stay until the next marking period. That was communicated to families back in July and we must hold ground on that.

C. Principal Report – Heidi Peterson, Webster Middle School

1. Parent Conferences

Ms. Peterson said conferences began this afternoon and again Thursday evening. Using a site “my conference time” allows for parents to sign up for a designated time – more parents are involved this year than in the past.

2. WMS School Council

Very pleased to report we have a full school council this year. We have 3 staff members, plus myself along with 3 parents, one community member and 1 student. We have had two meetings to date.

3. Preparation for hybrid shift

Continuing to update classroom lists. Trying to rearrange some classrooms to keep with the class limits.

4. Staff Recognition

WMS has 40% of staff with perfect attendance so far this year. The staff is very dedicated. Additionally 40% of the staff has had 1-4 days out.

IV. Student Rep Update – Vivian Poplawski

- Athletic update given
- End of first quarter is November 13th
- Most early action / early decision deadlines are coming up for seniors applying to colleges
- NHS applications were due on 11/4 – decisions coming soon
- Students are excited about shifting into hybrid and are looking forward to being back in person.
- The Music Boosters just finished up the butter braid fundraiser. Pick up is 11/16

Vivian responded to the letter from the teachers. If the wish is to stay remote she feels the teachers should make the lessons more engaging. At the moment students are just submitting lessons, having struggles. It's not sustainable to stay the way we are.

Dr. Goguen thanked Vivian for her courage to speak up about how difficult remote learning is for everyone. Students trying to experience the normal HS life it is very challenging. Everyone is trying their best. Student input is valued.

V. Old Business

A. Monthly Report on Fundraising Applications

Chair Seddiki stated as a reminder the School Committee does not approve Fundraisers

- Music boosters Butter Braid – online sale

VI. New Business

A. Approval of Webster Middle School ELL Position from 0.5FTE to 1.0 FTE

Dr. Goguen said we currently have a 0.5FTE ELL position at WMS that we have not been able to fill and the student numbers are increasing. Mrs. Baris has included a letter supporting the request to increase the WMS ELL position from a 0.5FTE to 1.0FTE. There is also a chart outlining the breakdown of each schools ELL support – the students in need of services are greater than planned. Funding will come from savings in the LEA budget.

Motion: To approve the WMS ELL position from 0.5FTE to 1.0 FTE

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. Approval of 1.0 FTE Technology Support Personnel

Dr. Goguen said technology support personnel have been working overtime helping to meet the needs of the district. Mrs. Pierangeli has included a letter supporting the request to increase the Technology Support Personnel in the district. There are currently 3 (once the third person is hired) to service the staff and students. Funding will come from the LEA budget.

Motion: To approve 1.0 FTE Technology Support Personnel

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

Chair Seddiki asked what may happen when we are back to normal, will the additional staff still be needed. Mrs. Pierangeli said it has been a goal to have 4 tech staff, even before COVID. The budget being level funded, the funds are there to support this position.

C. Acceptance of donation of winter coats from *It Starts at Home*

Dr. Goguen stated “In Webster Kindness Matters” - Jill St.Cyr from *It Starts at Home* collected and donated 28 winter coats that were distributed to BHS and PAE. Also working to provide holiday gifts to support 60 families over the holidays

Motion: To accept donation of winter coats from *It Starts at Home*

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

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

There were no warrant this week – will be added in the next meeting.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM

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

Member Millet asked Dr. Goguen to explain how the metric has changed – putting us in yellow even though the numbers are rising. Dr. Goguen said the data has been manipulated. There is a strong push to get children in school. Commissioner Riley said research shows schools are not super spreaders. Member Napierata stated that she understands that cases are increasing, but the past 3 weeks of positive test numbers have decreased. She feels moving to hybrid is the right move, believes schools are safe because all the right things are being done. Dr. Goguen said safety first. We'll do our best, kids come first. Communication is key

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Marrazzo

Documents included in the packet:

- October 27, 2020 Minutes
- DESE Guidance on Interpreting DHP COVID 19 Health Metrics (dated 11/6/2020)
- Fundraising Application – Webster Music Booster - ButterBraid
- FY20 Food Service Report
- Memo from Director of Student Support Service – request increase of WMS ELL teacher
- Memo from Business Manager – request of additional Technology Support Position
- List of coat donation