

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Date: October 27, 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.

Chair Seddiki spoke of the challenges presented since March 2019 due to COVID-19. She spoke of the original plan to bring students into school with the hybrid on Oct 19th, but since our community had an uptick in virus cases it was put on hold. Out of an abundance of caution and in an effort to safeguard our teachers and students, we as a committee, under Dr. Goguen's leadership, decided to delay the transition. While remote learning has not been without difficulty it is important to note that our students have been provided with a technology device. Webster School district has been following the guidance issued by the State. We are committed to bring students back to school, we are equally committed to the well-being of our teachers, staff and students. If parents have questions or concerns please start with the building principal, further questions can be addressed to Dr. Goguen or any of you School committee members. We are in this together and appreciate everyone being here tonight

**I. Call to Order:**

**II. Approval of September 8, 2020 Minutes**

Motion: To approve September 8, 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

**Approval of October 13, 2020 Minutes**

Motion: To approve October 13, 2020 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Napierata

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

1 members having abstained (Member Blythe)

The motion:   X   passed

       Failed

### **III. Superintendent's Report**

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

##### **1. Personnel Updates**

**New Hires:** None

**Resignations:** Frank Stearns - Technology  
Vernon Tyson - Custodian

**Vacant:** .05 FTE ELL at WMS  
School Year Administrative Assistant at BHS  
Foreign Language LTS at BHS  
Bilingual School Liaison  
Custodian  
Technology Support

##### **2. Other Updates**

**a. Shift to Hybrid Update** – As we begin to discuss the shift to hybrid, as Chair Seddiki just said this is a difficult time for everyone. It is important that we stay united, there are challenges for all of us. Nothing can replace in person learning. Dr. Goguen gave a review of our model, recapping the programs/plans done for staff, students and families. Reality is, COVID-19 has us on a roller coaster. The guidance has changed. It is important of the community to know we're looking at data daily. The DESE guideline chart was shown, their expectation for learning model is remote for any town in the red. As of 10/23/2020 Webster is in the forth week of being red and will continue to be in the red for the foreseeable future. There have been 49 new cases, totaling 363 cases. Current positivity rate is 3.95% and increasing.

Worried about having enough staff, don't have enough subs. New CDC guidelines have changed close contact guidelines. Are in constant contact with the Webster Board of Health, Jen Sullivan. Important as a community to address that Webster is in the red – not in one location, spread across the town.

Member Blythe acknowledged that the staff/administration are going an amazing job. Wondering about the plan to shift to hybrid, wondering if we should have a special meeting before 11/10. Look at different data metrics, move forward with the plan to get students back. Member Adamopoulos supported this given the message Gov. Bakers press conference today stating that schools are not super spreaders.

Member Millet suggested that we wait until we have more data. Webster residents received a message last night from Mass.gov. Look at numbers – it could get worse before it gets better. Would like us to be cautious.

Member Napierata said at the Nov 10<sup>th</sup> meeting we will have two more weeks of data. We previously made a motion to be 3 weeks out of the red.

Member Blythe recommending to get students in school as soon as possible

From DESE:

It is critically important that school districts do not make decisions based on a single report from DPH. Instead, we recommend that school districts wait for color changes in either direction in three consecutive weekly reports before considering a change to an instructional model (remote, hybrid, in-person).

**b. Town Children's Flu Clinic-** As of 10-23-2020 16 Families had signed up

**c. Webster Public Schools Employee Flu Clinic – 60 staff participated this year.**

Unlike years past, this was held at Walgreens in a tent. Thank you to Lori Marrazzo for organizing this annual event and assisting our employees with getting the Flu Shot!

**d. Full Remote Learning Option regardless of school model by school:**

PAE - 138 remote only – total enrollment 743

WMS - 158 remote only – total 571

BHS - 129 remote only – total enrollment 393

\*Remote only numbers have decreased slightly at each school.

Teachers are doing a great job in a blended learning environment and reaching out to families

**e. The estimated number of students not logging in for remote learning this school year?**

PAE- 2

WMS- 0

BHS-18

**The estimated number of students being monitored for low participation?**

PAE- 30

WMS- 35

BHS-18

Enrollment has dipped. October 2019 total enrollment was 1841. October 2020 it's 1685. Have seen a decrease in kindergarten enrollment and an increase in homeschool students.

**f. BinaxNOW Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 Testing for K-12 Schools**

Massachusetts will obtain 2 million of these tests. This will allow testing in the schools – at no cost for students and staff. We are attending a webinar to gain more details

**g. Goals meetings are underway across the district**

**h. Sustainable Improvement Plans for WMS & BHS Update**

These have been updated and submitted. We have been notified that we will be receiving \$50,000 for implementation of the strategies outlined in the plans. Priority is for equity and access to high quality instruction. Some of the funds will be used to hire Ribas and Looney Math to assist with best practices. Shout out to Dr. Mackay, Mr. Thomas and Ms. Peterson.

**i. WEA Meetings** Meet frequently with WEA and Instruction Assistants

## **B. Business Manager Report**

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

Mrs. Pierangeli said the project is moving through the feasibility stage. The RFS is due Thursday. Received confirmation from MSBA that we are scheduled to attend the Designer Selection Panel meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Avlas, Dr. Goguen and Mrs. Pierangeli will have voting rights. This will be a zoom meeting.

### **2. End of Year Report Update**

The Financial Report was been completed and submitted last week. Usually we get audited in February, this gives us a snapshot of district spending.

### **3. Town Meeting Update**

Town Meeting was held on 10/19. There was a minor adjustment to the FY21 budget. \$50,000 was added towards transportation.

### **4. Other Updates**

\* Mrs. Pierangeli shared a picture of the completed tennis courts. She thanked Mr. Paranto for overseeing the project. It should be open to the public by the end of the week.

\* Food Services bulk meal distribution is on Mondays and Thursdays. We have seen an increase in participation. Thank you for Ms. Nylen and her staff for their hard work

## **C. Principal Report – Fran Thomas, Bartlett High School**

### **1. John & Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients**

Mr. Thomas reported that 25 students are this years John & Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients.

### **2. Innovative Pathways Planning Grant Update**

We have been given the preliminary word that we've been awarded an Innovation Planning grant in the amount of \$29,900 to develop our two pathways – healthcare/human assistance and advanced manufacturing. We have commitments from such external partners as Gentex, IPG Photonics, The Christopher House Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing Center, sunrise Senior Living and UMass memorial. Graduating students will have an advanced skill set. The next steps of the program were outlined.

### **3. Dual college courses at QCC & Nichols**

Last year 7 students enrolled in the dual enrollment – this year 14 students currently take a 3 credit course through QCC and have signed up so far for the Nichols course.

### **4. One Goal Program**

There are 14 students enrolled in our One Goal course. Students will earn 3 credits for a ½ year course. This is designed for first generation college students. It follows the cohort for 3 years, supporting them in combination of mentorship and course work. It will stay with them in their freshman year in college.

## **5. AP Results from last year**

Mr. Thomas gave a 3 year look back at AP tests taken and the number of qualifying scores

2018	145 took the test /55 qualifying score	38%	
2019	155	41	26%
2020	94	51	54%

Although less students took the test in 2020 there was a higher percentage of students that had a qualifying score

Member Blythe asked about the timeline for the Innovative Pathways. Mrs. Thomas said it would launch in the Fall of 2021

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

- Progress reports were sent out October 17<sup>th</sup>
- Information regarding NHS applications were sent out to eligible students. There was a zoom meeting held for applicants on Friday Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> – applications are due November 4<sup>th</sup>
- Remote learning has been a drain on students, getting burnt out.
- Boys golf played Sutton on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>
- Girls soccer played Uxbridge on Oct 19 & Oct 21
- Girls and boys cross country played Sutton on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Students are valuing time spent at sports and are hoping fall sports will continue
- Music Boosters are selling butter braids and cookie dough to benefit the music department, marching band and show choir

Vivian shared a letter that the girl's varsity soccer team wrote in support of the sports that are being played. She also shared a message from the cross country captains thanking the committee for allowing the sport this fall.

Member Blythe asked about Vivian's comments about being burnt out – Vivian said every day is repetitive, there is no schedule rotation, no changes. Some teachers have been giving a lot of homework, it is mentally draining. Mr. Thomas said remote learning is not ideal for anyone. Teachers are juggling getting ready for MCAS, daily instruction, trying to balance the needs of all students.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Close out of FY20 Budget**

Mrs. Pierangeli said a few changes were made to close out the FY 20 budget. \$74,739.09 was returned to the Town. Will start working on FY22 budget soon.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Approval of Superintendent 2020-2021 Goals**

Dr. Goguen said her goals for 2020-2021 are aligned to our District Strategic Plan/ Instructional Strategies 2020-2021 and teaching and learning during the COVID Global Pandemic. Goals outlined and meet DESE Standards: Instructional Leadership, Management and Operations, Family and Community Engagement and Professional Culture. She offered to meet with School Committee members to review her evidence

Motion: To approve the 2020-2021 Superintendent Goals 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. Approval of sports while in remote / red**

As we have discussed, a SC vote is necessary to continue with sports because we are in remote and in the red. At this week's COVID Leadership meeting we discussed the safety guidelines. At this meeting we are asking to continue with the recommendation to keep things as is and continue to monitor the safety guidelines. There are benefits for the kids

Member Napierata said that on behalf of the School Committee members, thank you Dr. Goguen and Mr. Paranto for your hard work to make this possible. There was conversation on the vote to be taken this evening. DESE requires School Committee approval for continued sports while remote.

There was discussion about winter sports. Mr. Paranto said we will be following state and MIAA guidelines – currently they are not supporting winter sports. There may be an attempt to have a modified season. Attending weekly meetings and will update committee.

Motion: To approve of continued sports while in remote / red

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos

The following roll call vote was taken:

   members having voted in the affirmative

   members having voted in the negative

   members having abstained

The motion:   X   passed

       Failed

### **C. Policy AC, JB, JLD-E – First Reading**

**Note: Policy JBA, JF-E-1, JF-E-2, JJ-E are all no longer MASC policies.**

In gathering documents for the upcoming Special Education Coordinated Program Review it came to our attention that in 2016 (last update to protected classes) we added new protected classes, but an oversight was made in dropping “national origin.” We are putting “national origin” back in the policies to ensure compliance.

It was decided to have this be the first and final ready as it is a slight change to a policy

Motion: To approve of Policy AC, JB, JLD-E

The motion was made by Member Blythe  
The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos  
The following roll call vote was taken:  
\_ members having voted in the affirmative  
\_ members having voted in the negative  
\_ members having abstained  
The motion: X passed  
\_\_\_\_\_ Failed

#### **D. Approval of snow days being remote learning days**

The DESE Commissioner has informed districts that a snow day can be scheduled as a remote learning day. It is my recommendation that we approve this plan. If the district incurs a power failure on the snow or other storm day, we will have to request a waiver to have the day count as a school day. Requesting the SC to approve snow days as remote days. If plans are set in advance we would not have to make up the day.

Member Napierata questioned if teachers would report to the buildings. Dr. Goguen said it depends on the snow – generally a snow day would have bad travel, teachers ready to reach from home. Safety is always our priority. Discussion continued for clarification regarding snow days, lack of power, lack of internet.

Motion: To approve snow days being remote learning days

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos  
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

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

There were no questions

#### **X. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:41PM

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Marrazzo

Documents included in the packet:

- 8-25-2020 Minutes
- 10-13-2020 Minutes
- Staff Absence
- WPS COVID Guidance and Protocols
- COVID Tracing chart
- Children's Flu Clinic flyer
- FY20 End of Year Financial Report
- BHS Principal Report
- FY20 Budget closeout
- 2020-2021 Superintendent Goals
- Policy AC – Nondiscrimination
- Policy JB – Equal Educational Opportunities
- Policy JFBB – School Choice
- Policy JLD-E – Guidance Program
- Warrant