

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Date: October 13, 2020

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Remote ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by: Chair Seddiki

The following Committee Members were present

- o Member Napierata
- o Member Millet
- o Member Adamopoulos Arrived at 6:08pm

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Blythe

Chair Seddiki stated as a reminder that the changes in Open Meeting Law issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020 given the COVID19 outbreak. 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 August 25, 2020 Minutes

Motion: To approve August 25, 2020 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Napierata

The motion was seconded by Member Millet

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

Approval of September 8, 2020 Minutes

Tabled until next meeting

Approval of September 22, 2020 Minutes

Motion: To approve September 22, 2020 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Napierata

The motion was seconded by Member Millet

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:

Kimberly Festa – 18-22 Transition Specialist at BHS

Recalls: We are in the process of recalling all the paraprofessionals. Two have accepted other jobs, one will be on a leave of absence and four are returning.

Vacant: SPED at BHS
 .05 FTE ELL at WMS
 School Year Administrative Assistant at BHS
 Foreign Language LTS at BHS

2. Enrollment Summary

As of 10/9/2020 PAE has 759 students enrolled	151 are requesting remote
WMS has 570 students enrolled	165 are requesting remote
BHS has 393 students enrolled	132 are requesting remote

We recently sent out a parent survey regarding bussing, and cohort selection

3. Sports Update

Athletic Director, Tony Paranto is working diligently to adhere to the new guidelines. Soccer games are starting next week. We haven't found cheer or volleyball coaches yet. Currently Webster is in the red matrix, that impacts the conversation of sports continuing. We will watch closely.

4. Shifting to Hybrid Update

Pending an increase in cases and recommendation from the Board of Health we plan to move to hybrid on Monday, October 19th. We have weekly COVID leadership meetings and increased communication with Board of Health. We met today and discussed that Webster is in its second week of being red. Seeing an increase – 27 new cases in past 5 days. Using a 14 day matrix average – we will be in red until October 22nd. DESE recommendation is using 3 solid weeks of data. The shift to hybrid is very complex – taking into consideration cohorts, bussing, food distribution, and staffing.. Shout Out to teachers across the district – we are in unprecedented times, teachers and parents are being challenged to support children. We recently posted for 2 technology support (2 for each building) to support our teachers. The Board of Health is reporting isolated cases, no clusters, she is recommending not moving to hybrid. The earliest we could consider hybrid is November 10th.

Member Millet inquired if there needs to be a School Committee vote. Dr. Goguen said that it has been the recommendation to watch the data and proceed based on those numbers. Having SC vote would show support of this decision

Member Adamopoulos as if we had any students test positive. Dr. Goguen said she can't share specifics, but there have been young children infected, but none in school. Keeping a close eye on contact tracing.

Motion: To support the Superintendent in her recommendation to delay opening of hybrid until Town of Webster is out of red for three weeks

The motion was made by Member Napierata

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

Dr. Goguen stated that the schools have been very busy in the remote model, we are seeing an increase in student and staff absences and this is a concern that when we move to hybrid we won't have enough staffing. In this COVID time people are being cautious and this plays into the support we have. We will need an emergency plan for this once we move to hybrid.

Parent Stephen Negrotti inquired how Dudley schools are back – doesn't understand how one town can be back and one town can't? Dr. Goguen replied that she can't speak for Dudley. Out plan, along with the board of Health and the COVID Leadership team, based on data is to remain remote. She understands families' frustration, it's frustrating for everyone.

5. Other Updates

- October 9th was a ½ day Professional Development – shout out to Jill Chapdelaine for organizing this event. Review of the sessions offered was given
- Received and responded to a Freedom of Information Act on the District's Dyslexia screening procedures

- Received an Early Literacy Grant from DESE, the original amount we were notified of has been reduced from \$56,000 to \$49,375. This grant will be used to support PAE literacy training. They will provide us a consultant
- Mr. Thomas applied for the Innovative Pathways Planning Grant. The MassHire Central Region workforce Board will partner with BHS to focus on advanced manufacturing and Health care and social assistance. Good timing with the building project
- Dr. Mackay recently ran a New Teacher Orientation for staff that were not hired until after the initial August orientation. They will receive ALICE training tomorrow
- The monthly District Leadership Meeting was held on Oct 1st. As previously shared, fire drills were held the first week of school
- PAE ELL teachers and Dr. Mackay held an ELL Parent Information Event on Oct 1st.
- Received notification that MCAS testing will happen this year with slight adjustments:
 - BHS ELA and Math in January with the Legacy test for grades 11 and 12
 - BHS ELA and Math in May with next Generation test for grades 10
 - BHS Biology in February with Legacy test for grade 9
 - MCAS Alt assessment will be due April 1st
 - Access for ELL students will be administered in an expanded testing window – January and February.

We have not received details on middle or elementary MCAS testing dates

- Received the John and Abigail Adams scholarship recipients – notifications will be going out soon
- One Goal Programs is being offered at BHS by Mr. Carney. This program is targeted to help first generation college students. Fourteen students are currently enrolled
- Through the District Attorney’s office we have an agreement with the Sandy Hook Promise. We have posted for advisors for a SAVE Promise Club ~ this will be virtual.
- COVID Sick Bank is being established, available for all employees
- The Webster Board of Health has set up a flu clinic October 24th from 10-12 – there will be a tent at Bartlett
- The District Benchmark Calendar has been shared with staff
- WMS & BHS Tag Grant has been revised – will be submitted Thursday

Member Napierata asked for clarification regarding the dates/types of MCAS tests. Mr. Thomas responded that students can take both the January and May. Member Napierata inquired when students would have the availability of the Innovative Pathways Grant – Mr. Thomas replied that it will be for next year.

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Pierangeli reported that the School Building Committee met on October 7th. Moving to the Designer Selection phase. On 10/2 had an informational session that had interested designers/architects come for a walk through at BHS. There is a Q&A period for interested parties to submit their questions to the OPM. (Owners Project Manager). They have until 10/29 to submit RFS (Request for Service). This will go to the Designer Selection Panel at the MSBA – three finalists will be chosen. We are on schedule, hoping to go to the November 17th meeting and hope to have an executed agreement by December 11th to have an architect.

2. Boiler Project Update

Pictures of the boiler room before and after were shared. Phase I is just about done. When the project is complete we are anticipating the other boilers will need attention so looking for additional grant funding.

3. Tennis Court Update

Pictures of the tennis court were shared. Mrs. Pierangeli thanked the Webster community and the Town Administrator for their support of the project. One of the courts will be painted for pickleball.

Member Napierata asked if nets would be up this fall. Mrs. Pierangeli said it takes 3-4 weeks to cure, hopefully nets will be up before it snows.

4. Transportation Update

Keeping a close eye on transportation ~ a lot of activity with the possibility of shifting to hybrid. Holding off on publishing bus routes.

5. End of Year Report

We were given an extension to October 16th. The final report will be shared at a later date. There is a surplus of \$112,000 that we will be returning to the Town.

6. Other Updates

- Technology – a lot of new technology has been distributed as quickly as it is coming in. There are three people in the tech dept. – they have been hustling. Shout out to Dan Kelly and Jill Chapdelaine – helped out nights and week-ends. Great team effort. Seeing collaboration to find best practices.
- Shout out to custodial staff – working hard to keep everything clean and safe
- Food Services – we we've been working through models we have been looking at best way to serve our families. Have been trying to provide bulk meals so families don't have to come out every day. Next week meals will be distributed on Monday/Thursday. A one call will go out to explain to families. Hopefully this will help.

Member Napierata said the meals have been fantastic, taking advantage of those services – her children look forward to school lunch. She asked for clarification on the days meals will be distributed. Chair Seddiki commented that we do

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

1. Parent Information Nights

Virtual Parent information night was held on 9/3 and 9/9 with 4 sessions for our Prek – Grade 4. Went over expectations, what a typical day looks like and a Q&A session

2. Open House

Held virtually on 9/17 where we reviewed key information – families were able to go into classrooms virtually.

3. Device / packet Carline Events

Staff participated in two weeks of PD. Learning new technology, how to best teach children remotely and hybrid as well as sever mindfulness sessions.

IV. Student Rep Update – Vivian Poplawski

- Most after school clubs are still on hold
- Class wide zoom meetings were held on 9/25 to answer students questions about remote learning
- College application info session (via zoom) held on 10/2
- Seniors have begun meeting with guidance – many colleges have opened Early Decision and Early Action applications for fall 2021

- One month of remote learning students have begun feeling burnt out and are looking forward to in person learning
- Sports began 10/5 – students going a good job adhering to new guidelines
- Parent Open House was held on 9/24 via zoom

Chair Seddiki spoke of the difficulty it must be for high school students in the remote learning setting being so different than elementary students. The experience is so different. Thank you for sharing

V. Old Business

A. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement – Instructional Assistants

Dr. Goguen said this MOA is similar to the once recently approved for the teachers. This one goes into detail of the reduced hours of the instructional assistants

Motion: To approve Memorandum of Agreement between the Webster School Committee and the Webster Instructional Assistants

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

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 (Member Millet)

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

VI. New Business

A. Approval of Surplus Items – Webster Middle School Outdated Items

Mrs. Pierangeli said we have some outdated materials at WMS (list included in packet)

Motion: To declare the attached list of items as obsolete and to direct the Business Manager to auction off, donate or otherwise recycle / dispose of these materials in conjunction with provisions of M.G.L. 30B

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

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

B. Designate a School Committee Designee for Designer Selection Panel for Bartlett High School Building Project

Dr. Goguen is asking the School Committee to select a designee for the Designer Selection Panel for the BHS project. We are allowed to have 3 members on the committee; the Superintendent or designee, SC member or designee and one representative from the School Building Committee (Ted Avlas). Dr. Goguen's recommendation is Monique Pierangeli. We would meet with a subcommittee prior to going to the MSBA in November for the final selection.

Mrs. Pierangeli said we head to Designer Selection Panel to vote in the architect for the project. There are 13 appointment members to this committee, three from Webster.

Motion: To designate Monique Pierangeli as the School committee Designee for the Designer Selection

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

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

C. Approval of Job Description – Family Liaison

Dr. Goguen said this is an updated job description, we had a family liaison in the District (part time). That person took another position. We would use some of the COVID releaf funds to assist us keeping family connections with families in need. The job description provides goals we have to be sure all families have equal access.

Motion: To approve the Family Liaison Job Description

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

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

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

There were not questions

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:12PM

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

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:

- 10-13-2020 Agenda
- 8-25-2020 Minutes
- 9-22-2020 Minutes
- Early literacy Grant award letter
- Professional Development Grid for 10-9-2020
- Memorandum of Agreement for the Webster Instructional Assistants
- Webster Middle School Surplus Items
- Bilingual School Liaison
- Warrant dated 10/9/2020