

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Date: September 22, 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 Blythe
- Member Millet
- Member Adamopoulos

The following Committee Members were absent:

Chair Seddiki outlined the changed 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.

Chair Seddiki informed School Committee that a member of our Webster Public School staff experienced a devastating fire in their home. Any donations can be left at Park Avenue Elementary School. She wanted to publically state that our hearts go out to the family.

Dr. Goguen is not available to attend the meeting tonight, Mrs. Pierangeli will provide information on behalf of Dr. Goguen.

**I. Call to Order:**

**II. Superintendent's Report**

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

**1. Personnel Updates**

**New Hires:**

Nicole Barry – SPED at WMS  
Riley Hubner – Gr 8 Math at WMS  
Rachel Taylor – Float Nurse at PAE  
Jennifer Matthews – STEM Teacher at WMS  
Jenna Johnson – Music Teacher at WMS

**Resignations:**

Maria Reardon – Para at PAE

**Recalls:** We have recalled 4 paraprofessionals – 2 have declined the offer. There are 7 remaining that are still able to be called back

Kyra Wilder  
Brandon Wade  
Tara Berry  
Kirsten Lundstrom

**Transfer:**

Janice Romano – para to ABA at PAE

**Vacant:** SPED 18-22 Transitional Program at BHS  
.05 FTE ELL at WMS  
ABA at PAE & WMS  
SPED Long Term Sub at PAE  
Foreign Language LTS at BHS

**2. School Opening**

Mrs. Pierangeli said the staff began on August 31<sup>st</sup> and students in cohort C arrived on September 15<sup>th</sup>. All the hard work forom this summer assisted with creating a positive and safe environment for teachers/staff and students was noticed by many. There are many bright moments this past week, along with the expected technology glitches that we all faced. Teamwork and problem solving kept everyone engaged. Dr. Goguen was able to pop into a few classes and was very happy with what she was. Not to say we didn't have some tech issues, we are all doing the best we can do adapt.

Chair Seddiki spoke as a parent to say it's been an amazing week. The kids are excited to see their friends and interact with them in small groups.

**3. Other Updates**

\*Introduction of Vivian Poplawski

Vivian is not only an excellent student, she is heavily involved with many extracurricular activities. She is a Senior Class Officer, and a member of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team. She is also a member of the Nichols Honors Academy, and puts her musical talents to work as a member of the Marching Band, Concert Band and Pit Band for Show Choir. She has consistently exhibited the maturity and leadership qualities which exemplify a Bartlett High student, and will keep the School Committee and entire community fully informed with regard to the goings on at Bartlett High School

\*Rapid Response Mobile Unit Webinar

Dr. Goguen and the school nurses participated in this webinar

\* Fire Drills

By last fire drills must be completed within the first 3 days of school. Happy to report they have all been completed, thank you to the Webster Fire Department.

### \*Covid Leadership Team

This team will meet on a weekly basis. Comprised of Dr. Goguen, Mrs. Kathy Baris, School Principals, School Nurses, and the Webster Board of Health, Jennifer Sullivan and Mrs. Pierangeli

### \*Extra-curricular Activities:

Met with the Union and will be offering the following extra curricular activities to get the year started

- Student Council (WMS & BHS)
- National Honor Society (BHS)
- Jr. National Honor Society (WMS)
- Yearbook (WMS & BHS)
- Senior Class Advisor

## **B. Business Manager Report**

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

Project is moving along – The OPM (Owners Project Manager) is busy with the RFS (Request for Services). Just received the request for designer approval, we will advertise. Next SBC meeting is 10/7/2020

### **2. Boiler Project Update**

Installation of new boiler is almost complete, expect project to be done in a week. By law we must have heat turned on by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **3. Tennis Court Update**

The Town Meeting in June approved funds to resurface the tennis courts. They have been power washed and refinished and reinstall the posts. Will return next week to resurface.

### **4. Other Updates**

- Technology – There have been some bumps in the road – most issues are connectivity. The Chromebooks for K and Grade 1 students have been shipped, expect delivery tomorrow. Mrs. Parmley will coordinate pickup.
- Many of our classroom teachers have desk top computers. Given the nature of remote teaching they need ability to move around their classroom more. We received 160 laptops that will help facilitate remote learning.
- Web cameras for everyone in the district arrived and are being distributed.
- Hotspots have arrived.

## **C. Principal Report – Heidi Peterson, Webster Middle School**

### **1. School Opening**

Very smooth start of the school year. We have approx. 50 in person students at this time. Staff was excited to see their students. Shout out to Ms. Tucker and Ms. Radlo in the office – they have been busy fielding all types of calls, always with a smile.

## **2. Open House**

Open House is tomorrow evening from 6-8– it will be virtual. Zoom links have been posted on class dodo and Facebook. A schedule of the evening was reviewed by Ms. Peterson

## **3. Professional Development**

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

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

- Finished first week of remote learning
- Mandatory attendance policy has made students attend classes
- Connectivity problems with both teachers and students have been affecting students ability to learn
- Athletics – fall sign ups on google form was sent out 9/11
- Upcoming events - Seniors working with guidance dept. to start after school tutoring program

## **IV. Old Business**

### **A. Review of Safety Plans for Fall Sports**

Mrs. Pierangeli said that Athletic Director Tony Paranto has prepared a detailed plan on the sports that have been approved by the School committee at the 9/8/2020 meeting. Mr. Paranto said he is in the process of hiring coaches. A 10 game schedule has been made with the districts in our pod (Douglas, Uxbridge, Oxford, Auburn, Sutton and Millbury). She stated that it is important for everyone to know there was a meeting with Kathy Pepin, BHS Nurse, Mr. Thomas, Jennifer Sullivan, Webster board of Health and Dr. Goguen to review this plan.

Member Millet expressed concern of the additional sports that were added at the last meeting. Seeing some towns that started sports are seeing a rise in COVID cases. Concerned we are starting some sports too soon.

Mr. Paranto responded that the town seeing a rise in cases also have a large student population. We have taken a lot of precautions.

Member Millet questioned transportation for students that aren't in school – would that be a problem for them to get to school for practices. Mr. Paranto said in a regular season there are Saturday practices as well as some during school vacations and students found ways to get here – he doesn't feel it will be a problem.

Chair Seddiki asked Mr. Paranto if he's had sufficient time to plan for the start of sports. Mr. Paranto said he has done his due diligence – he will train coaches so they are prepared as well. BHS Principal, Mr. Thomas said he has been part of the SWCL (Southern Worcester County League) Principals that have met with their athletic directors and MIAA to have this thorough, well thought out plan. The numbers of students that have signed up are small. Mr. Thomas said we have had some blips in attendance and if we can get kids involved in sports they are more likely to attend school on a regular basis, but student's safety comes first.

### **B. Reassessment of School Plans**

Mrs. Pierangeli said the start of school this year has been remote with the intent to have discussion to move to hybrid. With the start of sports, voted by the School Committee on 9/8/2020, we feel it has pushed us to the hybrid model sooner than planned. Dr. Goguen's plan was to move slow, ensure staff feel safe with all protocols

put in place before bringing students back. With the start of sports it is expediting the process. On 9/16/2020 the COVID leadership Team met to discuss sports – even with safety protocols this team recognizes difficulty of starting sports and student not attending school in person. This group is looking to move to hybrid as long as:  
#1 COVID numbers remain low in Webster  
#2 no outbreak in schools  
#3 recommendation of BOH

Member Blythe asked what is the data and matrix we're using to achieve the hybrid model. Mrs. Pierangeli review the 3 criteria's (listed above). Member Blythe questioned families that have chosen to keep their children remote – what are the guidelines for those families. Mrs. Pierangeli replied that the selection families have chosen will remain for the first term. Tracking cohorts impacts class size and bus routes.

Member Napierata noted the connection between the starting of sports and beginning hybrid. She asked if Mrs. Pierangeli thought we would be moving to hybrid if there hadn't been the start of sports? Mrs. Pierangeli said No – we would have like to have 3-4 weeks of data – sports has sped up the process.

Member Millet stated the feels like we're rushing – it's being steered by sports – it should be about safety.

Motion: To approve updates to Reopening Plan

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos

The following roll call vote was taken:

4 members having voted in the affirmative

1 members having voted in the negative (Member Millet)

   members having abstained

The motion:   X   passed

       Failed

**IV. New Business**

**A. Acceptance of donation from St. Constantine & Helen Orthodox Church**

Received 45 backpacks filled with school supplies – these will be used for PAE students.

Motion: To accept of donation from St. Constantine & Helen Orthodox Church

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Millet

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. Acceptance of donation from Lifesong Church**

Received child masks and school supplies

Motion: To accept of donation from Lifesong Church

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

**C. Acceptance of \$5,000 donation from Curaleaf**

This donation will be used to purchase additional PPE supplies.

Motion: To accept of donation of \$5000 from Curaleaf

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

**D. Acceptance of donation of hand sanitizer and face shields from Gentex**

Received a generous 9 five liter jugs of hand sanitizer, 10 full assembled face shields, 140 replacement shields and 40 additional shield bands

Motion: To accept donation from Gentex

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

Mrs. Pierangeli and Chair Seddiki both expressed their gratitude for all the generous donations and continue support of the Webster Public Schools

**E. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with the Instructional Assistants – COVID-19 Related**

Mrs. Pierangeli said that there was a meeting yesterday afternoon and have come to a tentative agreement, working to get this complete. Item has been tabled until a future meeting

**F. Approval of increase of BCBA from 0.9FTE to 1.0FTE**

Mrs. Baris told the Committee that we currently have two BCBA's in the district. Requesting that they both be 1.0FTE due to increased needs in the preschool level. This will add a ½ day of services. Funding for this will come from local budget (memo included in packet)

**Motion: To approve increase of BCBA from 0.9FTE to 1.0FTE**

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Millet

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

**G. Approval of additional 1.0FTE ABA position**

Mrs. Baris said that due to student needs and further assessment of programs it has been determined that we are short a paraprofessional, we seek approval to add 1.0 ABA position at WMS. Funding will come from local budget

**Motion: To approve additional 1.0 ABA at WMS**

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Millet

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

**H. Appoint School Committee member to the Custodian Union, Council 93 contract negotiations**

Mrs. Pierangeli said that we received a letter requesting to enter into negotiations for the custodian contract that ends 6/30/2022

**Motion: To appoint Member Blythe as the SC member to the Custodian Union Council 93 contract negotiations**

The motion was made by Member Napierata

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopolous

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

**I. Approval of Amended Policy EBCFA – Face**

The amended policy includes the following language – excludes face shields and gaiters as sole means of protection – this aligns with the CDC guidelines

**Motion: To approve Amended Policy EBCFA – Face Coverings as presented**

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

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

**X. Adjournment**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:03PM**

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:

- 9-22-2020 Agenda
- Bartlett Fall 2020 Athletic plan
- Memo from K. Baris to increase BCBA to 1.0
- Memo from K. Baris for additional ABA position at WMS
- Letter from AFSCME93 – request to enter into negotiations
- Amended Policy EBCFA
- Warrant dated 9/18/2020