

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Date: September 8, 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:

Chairman 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.

**I. Call to Order:**

**II. Superintendent's Report**

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

**1. Personnel Updates**

**New Hires:**

Christin Economou – PAE ELL Teacher  
Sabrina Prince – Grade 6 ELA  
Niti Kapoor – Grade 7 Math  
Jessica Emery – BHS ELA Long Term Sub  
Nicole Barry- WMS Star  
Lois Taylor – PAE School Year Admin Assistant

**Resignations:**

Patrick O'Connor – Grade 6 Math  
William Helfrich – Grade 7/8 ELA

**2. DESE Waiver Update**

Pleased to say DESE Commissioner approved the time on learning waiver for WMS. Park Avenue Elementary didn't require one. BHS was not approved which means that teacher will have to plan asynchronous learning for the afternoons.

**3. Reopening of School / Professional Development Update** Strangest opening experienced ~ strange in that all staff working remotely from our classroom / office. Certainly going to be a year like we have never experienced and the best way to get through it is to be a united team. Commissioner gave extra professional development and we have had a very structured planning. Shout out to Jill Chapdelaine for her hard work planning all the PD, we had a few technology glitches, but they are being addressed.

Jill spoke about Webster Public Schools being an amazing place to work. Everyone is working hard to shine. Everyone completed all the mandated training and been provided extensive professional development. We schedule 157 sessions – still have 4 remaining days.

#### **4. Enrollment Update**

Dr. Goguen said we are keeping a close eye on enrollment. Have seen an uptick on homeschooling applications. There have been 43 new students submit applications, 13 remaining from last year – 56 total. Currently we have had 112 new students enrolled. This is the first year to have centralized registration with Mrs. Moniz – she has been very busy. Total enrollment currently is 1,670. Last May our enrollment was 1800, there's been a slight decrease. Currently the Cohort C students at BHS = 21

WMS = 38

PAE = 51

#### **5. Other Updates**

a. We have been notified that unfortunately we did not receive the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant – will have to wait to reapply next year

b. Have been notified by the Custodial Unit to enter into negotiations. Will need a school committee member on the negotiations.

c. Human Resources needs associated with COVID 19 have taken a great amount of my and Lori Marrazzo's time. If this continues we will be looking to hire part time HR assistance. This would be covered under the CARES Act.

Member Adamopoulos asked if there are any bandwidth issues with the soft opening. Mrs. Pierangeli said it has been difficult to tell – our first day Charter had issues out on the street. As of 7/1 we had increased our speed. We are closely monitoring. Mrs. Chapdelaine explained some of the chromebook issues with the first day. Dr. Goguen said we are prepared for tech support with our families. There were further questions/answers related to computer devices, equipment. Chair Seddiki asked about the start of school and Kindergarten students not having devices. Dr. Goguen said we don't want out K students in front of a screen all day. Teachers are supplying packets. This is all new – family communication is critical. Member Blythe questioned what is in place for teacher support during hybrid. Dr. Goguen replied that the hybrid model will have synchronous learning with google – ½ students in front of them, ½ students remote. This plan was so teachers didn't have to have 2 plans. We don't want students glued to the screen all day. Planning time on Friday's is critical for teachers.

### **B. Business Manager Report**

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

Have not had any meetings, OPM (owner's Project Manager) is working with the MSBA is creating the RFS (Request For Services) for a designer.

#### **2. Air Quality Report**

Included in the packet are 3 reports. Pleased with the results.

PAE opened in 2015 and has top of the line HVAC, using 100% outside air, keeping windows closed and have MERV 13 filters where we can

WMS opened in 2005. Rooftop vents are bringing in 100% outside air. Ventilators are bring in 50%. Using the best filters available for the units

BHS there were some issues that needed to be fixed replaced some exhaust vents and 3 unit ventilators. All repairs have been completed.

The custodian staff has done an outstanding job cleaning all the buildings.

Member Millet asked about what is being done for rooms without windows. Mrs. Pierangeli said that air purifiers have been ordered, inside spaces are still getting fresh air.

#### **3. COVID Safety Measure**

Shout out to Sheryl Spink – we have been ordering PPE and COVID supplies since March. Sheryl has researched where we can get the best price and quickest delivery. Every classroom has PPE supplies.

#### **4. Bussing Update**

This year has been a challenge – Mrs. Pierangeli explained the process. Currently PAE has 10 runs and WMS & BHS have 9 runs. As we get closer to the start of school expect numbers to increase. This is a very fluid situations. AA Transportation has placed hand sanitizer on all busses. They will have masks for any student that doesn't have one. Students cannot switch buses this year. Bus passes will be issued this year. Thank you to Lisa Fifield for printing all the bus passes. Also overseeing the private school routes – trying to have one bus for each school to limit cross contaminations, but the routes were too long (on bus for more than one hour). We have combined the schools, splitting the town in half.

Chair Seddiki stated on behalf of the School Committee thank you for your efforts – quite an undertaking.

### **III. Old Business**

#### **A. FY20 Budget Closeout**

Mrs. Pierangeli said this is still being worked on. The Town has a consultant helping with the CARES Grant. We will be moving some items out of our budget. With that transfer funds will be returned to the Town. Member Adamopoulos asked for that information to be shared with the Finance Committee, Mrs. Pierangeli replied, absolutely!

### **IV. New Business**

#### **A. Discussion and Approval of High School Low Risk Athletic program**

Dr. Goguen said they have met with the Board of Health and Athletic Director to discuss the regulations outlined by MIAA and DESE. We'd like to start with golf and cross country as they fall under the low risk. We would like to start slowly and add sports in. Athletic Director, Tony Paranto spoke of the daily changes. Today we learned of modifications needed for cross country and golf. Coaches are confident they can uphold all of the modifications.

Member Adamopoulos inquired about the reason of not allowing soccer starting with practices, doing drills, and spacing. He felt a lot of students attend school, get good grades so they can participate. Mr. Paranto thought many schools in our league would follow suit with same sports moving forward, just found out Millbury and Webster are the only towns in our league that are not playing soccer. Possibly revisit this, he does have concern about the cold weather for the Fall II season.

Superintendent Goguen said that since the fall season starts October 5<sup>th</sup> we have some time. Given that everyone else has decided to start soccer it doesn't make sense for us to wait. At the 9/22 meeting we can add soccer in, as we just found out today that other schools have added soccer. At that meeting we can ask the Webster Board of Health, Jen Sullivan join us

There was discussion over youth soccer regulations – how is it different. Mr. Paranto is unsure how the town started – it's a question for Ms. Sullivan. Mr. Paranto said the modifications for soccer are very different – he reviewed the modifications.

Member Napierata understands there was a meeting held with other districts in the league, and wonders if delaying a decision until 9/22 will we miss out on getting on the schedule with other schools? Mr. Paranto said it was a possibility.

Discussion continued about practicing, student involvement, game schedule. Mr. Thomas informed the committee about decisions other districts in our pods have made.

Dr. Goguen asked if a decision should be made/voted since we need School Committee approval (per DESE)

Member Millet thanked Mr. Paranto for all his hard work, considering the safety of our students.

Mrs. Blythe asked for clarification about including soccer. Member Napierata asked about Volleyball. Mr. Paranto said volleyball is in the Fall II category because it is an indoor sport. There are other Fall II sports we are considering is football, competitive cheer, soccer and volleyball.

Member Blythe asked if we needed to vote to hold team practices. Mr. Paranto said it would be included, we would be able to start October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Member Millet asked if we could vote on golf and cross county allowing Mr. Paranto to consult with BOS to bring up soccer practice allowing us to vote at the next meeting. Given that Mr. Paranto has not had time to provide us all the information this evening.

Chair Seddiki asked for clarification on volleyball – Mr. Paranto said volleyball, football and fall cheerleading has been put on hold since it is an inside sport. They can be allowed for 10 practices, although it was decided to wait until after the Oct 5<sup>th</sup> to have a slow start. Mr. Paranto explained that at any time we can pull out (COVID cases or we feel unsafe) we can sign a waiver to stop.

There was discussion on wording of the motion. Once School Committee makes a decision on sports a posting for coaches will go out.

Motion: To approve soccer, golf and cross country practices with games pending meetings with the Board of Health

The motion was made by Member Millet

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

**\*\*DISCUSSION ON THIS AGENDA ITEM WAS RE-OPENED LATER IN MEETING – FOLLOW MINUTES FOR NEW MOTION\*\***

**B. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Webster Educators Association and Instructional Assistants – COVID-19 Related**

Dr. Goguen said we only have the Webster Educators Association to bring forward tonight, still working on the Instructional Assistants. This is a very detailed MOA that outlines all the health and safety guidelines we have taken. One thing to point out, with changes happening daily, this MOA has details about a COVID occurrence, lesser requirements have just been released. Based on cases the school area could be used after 12 hours of being closed, wording in MOA does have new lesser requirements 12 hours vs 24 hours.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Webster Educators Association COVID-19 Related

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

Member Blythe asked for clarification on the motion made - we really don't need the Board of Health's permission – does it make sense to remove it from the motion.

Dr. Goguen said that although we need school committee approve we won't have a problem with the Board of Health, we understand the kids needs sports and we work collaboratively and she does not for see any issues. There was further discussion about the appropriate motion.

Dr. Goguen made the recommendation to include that we follow the safety guidance that athletic director is following

Proceed with the season in alignment set forth by the state

Motion: To proceed with a season for golf, cross country, soccer and practices for cheer, volleyball and football to be in alignment with requirements set by the State and Webster Athletic Director

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

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

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

### **X. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:35PM

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:

- August 6, 2020 Agenda
- Revised 2020-2021 school calendar
- Comprehensive Plan
- WMS Transfer Request
- Warrant