

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Thursday, August 6, 2020

Date: August 6, 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 Dr. Goguen stated we are busy trying to fill open positions

New Hires:

Lisa Liard – Grade 5 Math and Science

Resignations:

Jennifer Chartier – PAE ELL

Other Updates

Busy preparing for the new year, have attended many human resources workshops, attended meeting with the state to review remote learning platforms, busy putting together the plans that are due to the state and busy reading all the new documents coming in from the state. Shout out to the administrators that are working on all the logistics. Busier than busy!

Chair Seddiki thanked Dr. Goguen and her team. It's an unheard of busy time of year.

III. Old Business

A. Approval of Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar

Although we updated the calendar at the last meeting, on July 27, 2020 the Commissioner of Education reduced the 180 day and student time on learning requirements for the 2020-2021 school year to 170 days and 85- hours (for elementary schools and 935 for secondary schools), so long as districts begin providing instructions to students no later than September 16, 2020.

Also on July 27th the Commissioner of Education also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Massachusetts Teacher Association, AFT-Massachusetts and the Boston Teachers' Union, to allow for all teachers to have 10 days at the start of school without students to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

With this we have made the following adjustments to the school year calendar

Important Changes:

- First day of school for grades 1-12 is September 15th
- First day of school for Pre-K and K is September 21st
- All previous Wednesday 1/2 days (Oct.7th, Dec.2nd, Feb.3rd, Mar. 3rd, Apr.7th, May 5th) have become FULL days of learning, because these Wednesday 1/2 days have been moved to Friday 1/2 days (now, Oct. 9th, Dec.4th, Feb. 5th, Mar.5th, Apr.9th, May 7th).
- Virtual Open Houses planned (PAE Sept.22nd, WMS Sept. 23rd, and BHS Sept 24th)
- Virtual Parent Conferences planned (Nov. 10th, and November 11th).
- IF the Commissioner of Education supports a waiver on time on learning (specifically needed for middle and high school), then all FRIDAY's will become 1/2 days of school for students and 1/2 days of planning for teachers, student and family outreach. IF the Commissioner does not approve the waiver, then the approved school year calendar will be followed.

Member Napierata asked for clarification that all Friday's are 1/2 days for students, Superintendent Goguen once the waiver is approved every Friday would be. Current calendar changes the Wednesday 1/2 days to Friday's of the same week. Because teachers still need to work 185 days, students attend 170 days we gained professional development days. We added December 21, 22 and 1/2 day on December 23rd are using as teacher professional development. March 18th and 19th are PD – March is a long month this breaks it up for students – all of this is contingent on getting the waiver. Will notify parents ASAP of this new calendar.

Motion: To approve revised 2020-2021 school calendar 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

B. Reopening Plan Updates

Webster was one of the first School Committee's to approve a Back to School Reopening Plan. The plan you approved has become the Comprehensive Plan submitted to the state. Students will start remotely, principals are working on groups for hybrid model. Details in the plan include safety, grading, student access, a 50- page document. The Comprehensive Plan for the district is being submitted to DESE for August 10th deadline. It takes the Three Model Plan that was submitted to DESE for July 31st to a deeper level and includes many more detail. This Comprehensive Plan incorporates what the SC voted to support on July 21st for opening the 2020-2021 school year. We will be starting in a Remote model, which will be markedly different than we all experienced in the spring, as it would be a full scheduled day, teachers would be teaching from their classrooms, and only high risk students who meet specific criteria will come in for in-person learning. The School Committee approved starting with this type of Remote model and reassessing our progress in September. It is our hope that we can move into a Hybrid model in a safe, effective and efficient manner. This plan allows educators to properly plan for the complexities associated with bringing our students back to school safely during a global health pandemic. This approach allows educators to develop and learn the new norms associated with keeping all our students safe, and in turn when students return for the Hybrid model our teachers will be ready to teach these new norms, making the transition back to school much smoother for all students. It is highly likely we could move in and out of a Remote and Hybrid model several times throughout the school year due to COVID-19.

Member Millet asked if document is pending negotiations with unions. Superintendent Goguen responded, absolutely, changes are in purple, everything is subject to change.

Motion: To approve updates to Reopening Plan

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

IV. New Business

A. Approval of Student Time on Learning Waiver

The Commissioner reduced the time on learning for students. We currently meet with requirements of time on learning at PAE, Grades 5 and 6 at WMS qualify under the elementary requirements, Grades 7 and 8 fall under secondary requirements and currently do not meet the needed hours. With the new calendar grades 5 & 6 graders meet the new requirements. We must submit a waiver by 8/14/2020.

BHS Time on Learning for Remote and Hybrid: New regulations = 935 hours for secondary, With approved school year calendar = 954 hours, with all Fridays as 1/2 days = 875 hours and 70 minutes (requires waiver).

WMS Time on Learning for Remote and Hybrid: New regulations = 850 hours for grades 5 & 6 (elementary) 935 hours for grades 7 & 8 (secondary). With approved school year calendar = 5 & 6 @ 893 hours and 30 minutes, 7 & 8 @ 963 hours and 42 minutes, with all Fridays as 1/2 days = 5 & 6 @ 839 hours and 30 minutes (requires waiver), 7 & 8 @ 898 hours (requires waiver)

PAE Time on Learning for Remote and Hybrid: New regulations = 850 hours for elementary schools. With approved school year calendar = 996 hours, with all Fridays as 1/2 days = 915 hours

Member Millet asked for clarification regarding the 1/2 days on Friday. Superintendent Goguen responded that Friday 1/2 day professional development days are not in the calendar, the Commissioner must approve. With the waiver students would participate remotely on Fridays for a 1/2 day.

Member Napierata asked if teachers will still get their prep. Superintendent Goguen said yes, the plan mirrors a typical day.

Motion: To approve the waiver for student time on learning waiver as presented

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

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

A. Approval of transfer in the amount of \$7,499.82 from Webster Middle School student Activity account to the checking account

Motion: To approve the Webster Middle School transfer as requested

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

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:21PM

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