

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Date: January 11, 2022

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: School Committee Conference Room

77 Poland Street, Webster

The meeting was called to order by: Vice Chair Napierata

The following Committee Members were present

- o Member Millet
- o Member Blythe

The following Committee Members were absent:

- o Member Adamopoulos
- o Chair Seddiki

I. Call to Order: Pledge of allegiance

As a reminder this meeting is being recorded both audio and visually and will be posted on the district website

II. Approval of December 7, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve December 7, 2021 Minutes as presented

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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: Sandra White – ABA at PAE
Samantha Chase - BCBA

Resignation: Lisa Delude Petrell – Team Chair effective 1/14/2022
Carolyn Fagan – Remote Tutor

Open Positions: We are finding it very difficult to fill our open positions
PAE School Adjustment Counselor
Kindergarten Special Education Teacher

	ELL Teacher
	3 ABA's
	2 Paraprofessionals
WMS	Assistant Principal
	Academic Interventionist
	6 Paraprofessionals
BHS	Special Education Teacher
	ELL Teacher
	2 Paraprofessionals

We are currently not meeting the optimal hours recommended for all EL students, but we are in compliance. DESE has been informed.

2. District Safety Meeting Update

This month's district safety meeting included a full presentation by our OPM and Architect on the Bartlett High School Renovation Project. Chief Shaw and SRO Whiting were present to learn more about the upcoming work as it relates to the project and public safety. The police were very excited to see about how this renovation was going to enhance the educational programming and school-wide security and safety measures.

3. Staff Meetings / Data Presentation

The MCAS historical cohort data, the i-Ready Assessment data, and the summaries of the 2021 MCAS results were shared by the Central Office Team at both the WMS and PAE staff Meetings on January 4th. We plan on presenting at BHS's next staff meeting on January 11th.

Staff were given the opportunity to share reflections and what they thought the action steps should be. Principal and ILT's will continue to review the multiple measures of student achievement data we have.

Some of the action steps from WMS included the use of more SEI strategies in the classroom, more purposeful planning with teams, and raising the bar for special education students.

Some of the action steps from PAE included a focus on early intervention and using the appropriate intervention materials for special education students.

4. GLEAM / Literacy Needs Assessment

On January 5th, Hill presented the results of the Literacy Needs Assessment they have been conducting to the GLEAM Leadership Team (Teachers, Special Educators, EL Teachers, Administrators, Central office). The Needs Assessment results were based on observations of 58 classroom, focus groups with 123 staff members, and the results from the road map inventories that some teachers completed. The results are complex and the GLEAM Leadership Team will be digesting the information and meeting again on January 19th to begin to plan action steps with the Hill Consultants. The results will be shared with the entire staff on February 11th PD Day

5. Sports Update

The Southern Worcester County league of Athletic Directors met to discuss sports protocols and they will be making the following changes effective January 5th until at least January 19th

- The ability to hold practices and games will be evaluated on a team by team basis
- Through at least January 19th, spectators will be limited to immediate same household family members of each athlete (siblings must be accompanied by at least one adult)
- No food or drink will be consumed in the gym, other than the water/drinks for athletes and coaches. There will be no concessions offered.

- If a student athlete is experiencing any symptoms, the student-athlete must not attend practices or games and should not be in contact with his or her primary care physician and the school nurse
- Close contact determinations are made by school health staff. Parents, coaches and student athletes do not determine close contact designation or quarantine rules

6. Student Opportunity Act Update

Before COVID hit we were instructed to create a Student Opportunity Act. We received notification from DESE that all district need to update their Plans. This is due on April 1st. It does not require School Committee approval. It will be shared once it is complete. This will outline how we are using our ESSER funds.

7. Other Updates

a. Enrollment Update

From December to January we have seen a decrease in student enrollment by 17 students at BHS, a decrease of 2 students at WMS and an increase of 2 students at PAE. We currently have 16 pending enrollments (6 for PAE, 6 at WMS and 4 at BHS)

Total Enrollment Numbers as of 1/4/2022:	PAE	719
	WMS	590
	BHS	389

b. Staff/Student Attendance

We are seeing an increase in staff and student absences. Not all of these absences are COVID related

Park Avenue

Monday - Students out = 103
Staff out = 16

Tuesday - Students out = 127
Staff out = 17

Wednesday - Students out = 140
Staff out = 19

Thursday - Students out = 173
Staff out = 21

Webster Middle

Monday - Students out = 84
Staff out = 10

Tuesday - Students out = 91
Staff out = 15

Wednesday - Students out = 114
Staff out = 11

Thursday - Students out = 130
Staff out = 13

Bartlett

Monday - Students out = 92
Staff out = 9

Tuesday - Students out = 117
Staff out = 8

Wednesday - Students out = 127
Staff out = 11

Thursday - Students out = 141
Staff out = 14

Families and staff have been informed, in my newsletter, that if we reach a critical mass where there is a staffing shortage, that school will close for the day and make it up as DESE is not allowing remote learning.

Want to give a tremendous amount of credit to the staff, with the high number of student absences we are able to move people around, but it is difficult

C. Monthly Principal Reports on Behavior Data as requested

PAE December data:

Bullying Investigations- 2
Incidents-24
Suspensions- 2

WMS December data:

Bullying Investigations- 1
Incidents- 62
Suspensions- 8 out of school suspensions/ 4 in school suspensions

BHS December data:

Bullying Investigations- 2
Incidents- 194
Suspensions-5

D. Project Based Learning Grant – One 8 - for BHS

Project Based Learning Grant is funded by the One8 Project – they also funded the Project Lead the Way at BHS and STMath at PAE. After a session with the entire BHS staff and then another session with the Health & PE and SS Departments, we found two staff members interested in learning more about incorporating project based learning into their courses. We needed teacher interest to apply for this PBL grant and Ben Jenness and Jim Nebelung stepped up. Dr. Goguen will keep the Committee informed should we get this grant. This blends nicely with the BHS Renovation Project.

E Health and Human Service Pathway at BHS

Several meetings have occurred with our Innovation Pathways Consultant Abigail Callahan to discuss the development of the Health and Human pathway courses at Bartlett. At this moment in time, we are leaning towards relying on the Project Lead the Way prescribed courses for Bio Tech Pathways. This would require the training of one / two teachers and would follow a similar route as we did with the Advanced Manufacturing Pathway by using the Project Lead the Way courses and guidance. We need to find a teacher that would be interested in this pathway. In the working phase.

F. BHS Renovation Project Update

The Schematic Design was submitted on December 28th to MSBA and the Special Education program details were submitted to DESE by MSBA on January 6th. The SPED Submission is included in the packet. Next meeting is planned for January 24th

Member Blythe asked for clarification on the behavior data – what do these reported incidents represent. Mr. Thomas said the incident report also includes phone calls to parents (i.e. missing homework concern). Not all incidents are discipline. Ms. Peterson said it is another outcome of COVID – student discipline is up. Luckily the Dean of Students has joined us and able to address some of the incidents. Most of our WMS incidents are classroom misbehaviors. Vice Chair Napierata asked for further info on students that have more frequent incidents at WMS and what the proactive steps are. Ms. Peterson stated that the 4 counselors are involved in assisting. The Dean is present in the building to alleviate situations that may occur.

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Pierangeli reported that on January 6th the OPM submitted the Schematic Report to the MSBA. The School Building Committee met on December 6th to approve the report, will be meeting again January 20th to approve the minutes so the OPM can submitted for final approval. Will meet with MSBA on January 24th. We expect the vote to go through in March. Will be presenting this to members of the Town in the few weeks.

2. Town Administrator Search Update

Been meeting actively to select finalist. Interviewed two last night and one now – hoping to appoint someone by the end of the week. Reviewed 20 applicants – narrowed down to 8, 3 were submitted to the Town for final selection. Mrs. Pierangeli thanked the School Committee for allowing her to represent the committee on the search

3. Transportation

We notified parents in the last superintendent newsletter that due to driver shortages/absences that might be a day that a bus needs to complete a run and go back out for a second run. That could affect the PAE route. We will notify parents in a One Call.

4. District Projects Update

Completed the lightening project at WMS before the December 31st contract deadline. Also completed the WMS weatherization project – already notice a difference. Completed 99% of the boiler project at PAE, has been inspected. Luckily did not have to remove a door to install the new boiler.

C. Principal Report, Heidi Peterson, Webster Middle School

1. Collaboration with LUK, Inc.

Ms. Peterson explained a partnership that we have with LUK, Inc. They are a counseling service that received a 3 year grant to support two counselors to come into WMS to assist with high risk students. They can service up to 30 students beyond what our counselors can do. There may also be some after school activities i.e. hike at Douglas Park. Also include a family education piece.

2. Access Testing

Today we started of ACCESS testing for our EL students – that will go for the next two weeks. Starting iReady testing- mid year benchmark for reading and math – that will go for next two weeks.

3. Interim Dean of Students

Melissa Bergeron started the week before Christmas – doing a fabulous job – nice addition to our staff.

4. Parent Events

Holding monthly parent events – the guidance staff has been leading. Next one is Thursday January 20th the topic is Self-Care, focusing on parents.

IV. Student Rep – Colin Minarik

- Sports Update Given
- Many staff and students out with COVID – overview of impact with high number of staff and students was given.
- Over break the Basketball Program hosted a middle school tournament with Webster Middle being the champs this year

V. Old Business

A. COVID Protocols Update

Events are being postponed: BHS Dinner Theatre & DECA competition.

DESE provided KN95 masks and 230 test kits for staff over the holiday break. A distribution pick up for staff was held on Sunday, January 2nd, for staff to pick up test kits. Not enough test kits were given to Webster for all staff to receive a kit. Teaching staff and paraprofessionals were prioritized.

The Test and Stay program began on January 3rd. With this program we are seeing a reduction in the students that have to stay home as being a close contact.

There was discussion on changing the 10 days quarantine period to 5 days for staff and students. Dr. Goguen said there is conflicting information from DESE and CDC. The COVID leadership meets weekly – had an emergency meeting yesterday and met again today – there was not a consensus on changing our current protocols. We meet weekly and will update the Committee if anything changes. Member Blythe asked about surrounding districts that are doing the 5 days – how are they managing? Dr. Goguen said that today there was meeting with superintendents. Every district is finding the spread to be high, we have been careful in our close contacts – that is not the case in all districts.

Emergency Protocols for cancelling school should we experience staffing shortages has been communicated.

Covid Dashboard Aug. 30 to Sept. 7 = 20 students/ 2 staff with Covid.

Covid Dashboard Sept. 8 to Sept. 14 = 8 students/ 1 staff

Covid Dashboard Sept. 15 -21 = 11 students/ 0 staff

Covid Dashboard Sept. 21-28= 12 students/ 0 staff

Covid Dashboard Sept. 29-Oct.5 = 8 students/ 2 staff

Covid Dashboard Oct.6 – 12 = 2 students/ 1 staff

Covid Dashboard Oct.13 -Oct.19 = 5 students/ 1 staff

Covid Dashboard Oct. 20-Oct. 26 = 1 student/ 2 staff

Covid Dashboard Oct. 27- Nov. 2 = 2 students/ 1 staff

Covid Dashboard Nov. 3 – Nov. 9 = 8 students / 0 staff

Covid Dashboard Nov. 10-16 = 8 students/ 1 staff

Covid Dashboard Nov. 17-24 = 13 students/ 3 staff

Covid Dashborad Nov. 25-30= 8 students / 1 staff

Covid Dashboard Dec. 1-7= 21 students/ 1 staff

Covid Dashboard Dec. 8-14 = 12 students/ 1 staff

Covid Dashboard Dec. 15-Jan 4 = 68 students/ 23

B. Monthly Fundraising Update

- BHS Student Council – Sell snowballs to fill snowman – proceeds for Webster- Dudley Food Share
- Class of 2023 – sell candy canes
- Class of 2025 – hot chocolate sale

Member Millet asked that the district website be updated to show the February 22nd SC meeting has been cancelled.

VI. New Business

A. Appoint School Committee Member to the Custodian Contract Negotiations

Motion: To appoint Member Blythe to the Custodian Contract Negotiations

The motion was made by Member Millet

The motion was seconded by Member Blythe

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

B. Appoint School Committee Member to the Administrative Assistant Contract Negotiations

Motion: To appoint Vice Chair Napierata to the Administrative Assistant Contract Negotiations

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

C. Appoint School Committee Member to the Unit B Contract Negotiations

Motion: To appoint Member Millet to the Unit B Contract Negotiations

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

D. Approval of additional 1.0FTE Special Education Teacher at Webster Middle School

Dr. Goguen said the programming at student needs at WMS has been reviewed and we are asking to an additional SPED teacher to split the Resource Room. Ms. Peterson explained the Grade 7/8 Resource room has a total of 25 students. With the class block schedule, students are not getting the 90 minute math blocks because there is only one teacher.

Motion: To approve additional 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at WMS

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

E. Acceptance of donation from Knights of Columbus/Christ the King Church – 16 winter coats

PAE received this generous donation – they have been distributed.

Motion: To accept the donation form Knights of Columbus/Christ the King Church of 16 winter coats

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

F. Acceptance of donation from Mapfre and It Starts at Home – 245 backpacks with school supplies, 100 hygiene bags, 50- lunch bags and misc clothing

This was two pallets that was sorted prior to the holidays. Mapfre and It Starts at Home worked together in response of some items that our nursing staff compiled. Items were delivered to the schools.

Motion: To approve donation from Mapfre and It Starts at Home – 245 backpacks with school supplies, 100 hygiene bags, 50- lunch bags and misc clothing

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

G. FY23 Budget – First Review

Dr. Goguen and Mrs. Pierangeli presented a PowerPoint on the first review of the FY23 Budget. Highlights of the Mission Statement, our safety protocols, instructional practices, equitable access, staffing and supports for students and families was reviewed. Mrs. Chapdelaine gave an overview of the curriculum and instruction highlights listing all the new programs being used. Dr. Mackay explained the new EL curriculum and the new plan that will be submitted to DESE. Dr. Goguen provided a list of our community partnerships, grateful for their support throughout the year. Mrs. Pierangeli explained the FY23 Budget Goals, the proposed budget is a 4.37% increase from the FY22 budget. Dr. Goguen reviewed the proposed additional staffing across the district. There will be 4 current positions that are currently funded by ESSER fund that will be funded in the FY23 LEA Budget. A breakdown of our student populations / compared with state numbers was reviewed as well as our special education and EL student statistics. Mrs. Pierangeli gave an explanation of the Circuit Breaker and School Choice funds and the budgeted, carryover and expense rationale.

Member Millet said that according to state regulations School Councils should have budget input, she feels it is important to have School Council. Parents, students and community member input. Dr. Goguen stated that one thing we did this year is a survey to staff, students and parents on how to spend ESSER funds. Dr. Goguen agreed with Member Millet, but wanted to note that some schools find it challenging to have buy in. Every time we meet with EL Parent groups, SPED Parents groups their input is brought back to administration. Ms. Peterson said WMS School Council did discuss what the needs of the school are. Mrs. Pierangeli gave

Member Millet asked about the District and schools websites – they are out of date. She said this is where parents/community go – it's a place to showcase our celebrations. There was discussion about class dojo, school facebook and other ways communication is given. Dr. Goguen said she will address with the principals.

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

VII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Marrazzo

Documents included in the packet:

- 1-11-2022 Agenda
- 12-7-2021 Minutes
- SPED Submittal to MSBA for BHS Renovation Project

- COVID Dashboard
- Fundraising Application – BHS Student Council – selling snowballs
 - Class of 2023 – selling candy canes
 - Class of 2025 – sale of hot chocolate
- Letter from Custodians requesting to enter into contract negotiations
- Letter from Administrative Assistants requesting to enter into contract negotiations
- Letter from Unit B requesting to enter into contract negotiations
- Request for additional SPED Teacher at WMS
- FY23 Budget Presentation
- Warrant