

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Date: December 7, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: School Committee Conference Room

77 Poland Street, Webster

The meeting was called to order by: Chair Seddiki

The following Committee Members were present

- o Member Napierata
- o Member Millet
- o Member Blythe

The following Committee Members were absent:

Member Adamopoulos

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

I. Call to Order: Pledge of allegiance

II. Approval of November 23, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve November 23, 2021 Minutes as presented

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Personnel Updates

New Hires: - Marie Daley – Grade 1 SPED(starting in January)
- Carolyn Fagan – Remote Tutor for WMS
- Jacob Lewis - Long term substitute ELA Grade 8
- Melissa Bergeron – Interim Dean WMS. Ms. Bergeron will be joining the Webster Middle School on Monday, December 13th.

Transfers: Faith Veronis – Grade 3 SPED

Year-end Retirements: Maryann Hoenig

Retirement- Rosalie Houle – Para at PAE effective 12-6-21

Rescinded Resignation: Lauren Maher paraprofessional WMS

Still have a number of open positions – candidates are being interviewed.

2. “Story of a Building” – BHS Renovation Update

- The BHS Story of A Building presentation will be on December 8th 10:00 a.m. to noon . There are over 100 participants. You must pre-register for this event
- An assembly was held at BHS on December 3rd where the OPM and Architect provided an update on the building project to the students and staff.
- We are working on a calendar of dates for community forums for the 2022 New Year. It is our goal present ongoing updates on the status of the building project to staff, students, parents, Board of Selectman, Finance Committee, and Senior Center. A proposed calendar of events will be on the next School Building Committee Agenda for review. One suggestion on this calendar is a 4-board meeting that would include the School Committee, School Building Committee, Selectman and Finance on or around March 17th.

3. Other Updates

a. Student attendance rates by building

Bartlett High students

September	October	November
82%	85%	82%

Bartlett staff

26 Perfect (34.21%)
9> two (2.63%)
5-8 six (7.89%)
1-4 forty-two (55.26%)

Webster Middle School Students

Month Grade	Aug/Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021
5	92%	91%	89%
6	91%	87%	85%

7	86%	91%	90%
8	85%	91%	89%

Increase in absences can be attributed to close contacts

Webster Middle School staff

Month	Aug/Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021
Percentage	60% perfect 3 6.1% 1 or more	57% perfect 59% 1 or more	40% perfect 60% absences

Park Avenue Students

Month Grade	Aug/Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021
Pre-K	89%	93%	94%
K	96%	96%	95%
1	92%	96%	94%
2	95%	97%	94%
3	95%	96%	94%
4	95%	96%	94%

Park Avenue Staff

Month	Aug/Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021
Percentage	80%	61%	40%

b. Title I Conference Update

.Dr. Goguen stated that she attended with Dr. Mackay and Jill Chapdelaine. Excellent conference focused on developing strong foundational literacy skills in all students Key Note speaker included: Dr. Sharrocky Hollie who presented on his book, *Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching and Learning*. Dr. Hollie highlighted the connection between teaching methodologies and the adult mindset, with student engagement levels. He was blunt and stated we need to stop focusing on what students do not have and change the narrative to what their strengths are and build off of that. He also reminded us that reaching all students requires adults to update their teaching methodologies.

Ms. Chapdelaine and Dr. Mackay spoke of their memorable parts of the conference.

c. Meeting with the new Executive Director of United Way, Mary O'Coin.

Ms. Pierangeli and I met with the new United Way director. The United Way campaign provides funding to a variety of agencies that support our students and families, such as, the Family Health Center of Worcester who provide dental care to our students; Boys and Girls club who provide after-school programming to families; and Worcester Community Action Council who provide medical and mental health services.

d. December 3rd½ day PD

Grids are included in your packet. One interesting opportunity at BHS was from the One 8 Organization. They reached out to see if we were interested in applying for the Project Based Learning Grant, as they are aware we are in an Innovative Pathways High School. The One 8 Organization funds the Project Lead the Way / Advanced Manufacturing at Bartlett and ST Math at Park Avenue Elementary. Given they reached out to Dr. Goguen, a webinar was scheduled to explain the grant to BHS staff and administration. The grant will support the professional learning for any teacher interested in adding more hands on learning opportunities into any content area. Dr. Goguen stated this another opportunity to support building leaders and teachers with updating their teaching methodologies to incorporate more project based learning.

Member Millett asked for clarification regarding the positions that are being filled to be sure they are all certified. Dr. Goguen clarified that all are properly certified. Existing teachers that are not certified have been notified and there is a process for a waiver and a time frame for them to obtain proper licensure and if they were not there is a process for a waiver and a time frame for them to obtain proper licensure.

B. Business Manager Report

Clarification –the items listed on the agenda are from last year – not meant for this meeting

1. School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Pierangeli spoke about the assembly at BHS last Friday. Some of the students spoke about the importance since they won't be around when then changes happen in the building. The OPM and architect was impressed with the student involvement and the questions they had. A clip was shown highlighting students and the proposed renovation. Will be adding town and public forums.

Member Napierata asked about signing up for the presentation tomorrow. It is not too late to sign up.

C. Principal Report, Fran Thomas, Bartlett High School

1. MCAS Retests Completed

On November 9 and 10. Applaud some seniors that took the test even though they didn't have to in hopes of getting the John and Abigail Adams scholarship.

2. Rally Held

Rally was held before the Thanksgiving break. Had some outside guests – with sign in's for contact tracing. Unfortunately the score of the game was not as exciting.

3. High School senior Internship in Education Exploration

The state has invited schools to take part in this new program– it allows some seniors that are in good academic standings to assist in the school community. If WMS or PAE needed peer tutoring, it would allow these students to get paid. Some opportunities are lunch monitors, future teachers in the classroom.

4. WMS Innovation Pathways Presentation

We went over to WMS today to present to the 8th grade students and explain the pathways. We are also going to do a job fair and parent night. In March the application process will open

5. Student Council

Sponsoring Deck the Doors Decorate staff doors

6. Annual Winter concert – December 14th at 7:00 pm

There was discussion on finding the winter sports schedule – there is a new site MIAA is using. Mr. Thomas will ask Mr. Paranto to share on our website, Chair Seddiki asked if more could be shared with families regarding sports schedules, tryouts , etc.

IV. Student Rep – Colin Minarik

- Winter sports have started up. Tryouts were last week– Boys basketball had their scrimmage this past weekend ~ Girls Basketball has theirs coming up on Saturday
- Had an assembly last Friday regarding the BHS renovation project – went well, students excited

V. Old Business

A. COVID Protocols Update

We have been very busy. Signed up for the Test and Stay through the CIC. They will assist with that program – we are waiting to get the specifics

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 (*note: 89 close contacts for students sent home from in school setting*)

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

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

Boys and Girls Club has shut down due to COVID numbers and many of our students who go there are now quarantining as they were deemed close contacts.

The vaccination clinic only had 56 students get their vaccination. The second shot is scheduled for December 21st, noon to 4:00 p.m. at PAE. Parents/ Guardians must be present and consent forms can be located on our website and the school nurses have sent hard copies home as well.

Trying our best to provide students with work while they are out. When an entire class is impacted (3 cases) we allow for remote learning. During the weekly COVID meeting today there was much discussion on keeping students on top of their work.

B. Monthly Fundraising Update

*BHS Boys Basketball – hosting a middle school tournament

*18-22 Vocational Program – making dog biscuits. Bartlett Bites Dog Biscuits. Mrs. Baris explained the connection with the 18-22 Transition Program and the BHS Business classes with Mrs. Hoenig. The two classes developed a business plan. They did a survey of BHS staff to get an idea of the interest and moved forward. Great success.

Liz Lehans asked to speak to the Committee regarding Fundraising. For years she has raised money to purchase gifts at Christmas. Through GoFundMe (for 10 years) she has raised money. Some years she has raised enough to purchase a gift for each student to each WPS student. Over the years she thought she was fundraising for the students, not for herself. She wants to ensure that moving forward she is completes the necessary paperwork to continue. Chair Seddiki THANKED Ms. Lehans. She explained that using “Webster Pubic School”

Dr. Goguen also thanked her. When I learned there was a GoFundMe policy we spoke and explained the fundraising protocol and procedure. We have a very caring community and commend you for your services. If the GoFundMe wording is changed to “the Community of Webster. At our next School Committee meeting we can officially accept your donation and if you wish to move forward approve you as a fundraising group. It is something to fill out annually.

VI. New Business

A. Acceptance of donation from St. Constantine & Helen Church – Thanksgiving Turkeys

Fortunate to received 17 turkeys for WMS families

Motion: To accept the donation from St. Constantine & Helen Church – Thanksgiving turkeys

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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. Acceptance of donation from The Black Tavern – bags of non-perishable food

Six bags of non-perishable was donated along with 3 \$10 grocery store gift cards that will go to families in need

Motion: To accept the donation from the Black Tavern – bags of non perishable food

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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 additional ABA position at Park Avenue Elementary School

New student moving in- request from Mrs. Baris, Director of Student Services.

Motion: To approve additional ABA at Park Avenue Elementary School

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

D. MCAS Cohort Data Presentation

At a previous meeting some SC members asked for MCAS Data. Dr. Goguen said that typically we don't present Cohort data – especially at this time. DESE has told districts that they will not be held accountable for MCAS results this year.

Dr. Goguen gave the MCAS test history – began in 1998 – paper and pencil. The exam has changed over the year, as had our demographics of staff, students and curriculum. In March of 2020 all of our students went home for the remainder of the school year – there were no standardized tests given. Other factors to consider is attendance.

Starting with current Grade 12 students beginning in 2013 (grade 3) charts were shown for each MCAS that the cohort took.

Shout out to Michelle Budney, Patty Mackay and Jill Chapdelaine – they each presented details to the slides that were shown.

The Building Principals were present to answer any questions

Dr. Goguen summarized the presentation stressing that MCAS is one measurement of student achievement. Coming back from COVID we are looking at what the data is saying about our students, but to get the full picture we need to use multiple measures of data.. We were seeing an increase in MCAS scores prior to COVID, and this data also validates the current work we are doing with the Literacy Reset and focusing on teaching on-grade level standards. As we enter the budget season, this data is also used to help us assess our programming structures and provides us and opportunity to make improvements based on our student's needs. Our learning environments needs to be engaging for all students.

Chair Seddiki felt the presentation was very helpful, understanding that behaviors in the classroom very distracting. While MCAS is a priority preparing our students to learn.

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

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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:

- 12-7-2021 Agenda
- 11-23-2021 Minutes
- Story of a School Building – MSBA BHS Renovation Project
- 12/3/2021 Professional Development grid
- COVID Dashboard
- Fundraising Application – BHS MS Basketball Tournament
- 18-22 Vocational Program – sale of dog biscuit
- Request for additional ABA staff at PAE
- MCAS Presentation
- Warrant