

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, November 22, 2021

Date: November 22, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Remote ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by: Chair Seddiki

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Adamopoulos
- Member Napierata
- Member Millet
- Member Blythe

The following Committee Members were absent:

Chair Seddiki stated as a reminder there were changes issued by Gov. Baker modifying the Open Meeting Law requirements given the COVID19 pandemic, and Act relative to extending certain COVID19 measurements that were adopted during the state of emergency have been extended. This meeting has been posted on the district website with a Zoom link allowing the public to join in the meeting. As another reminder this meeting is being recorded both audio and video and will be posted on the district website.

A quick note – we had intended to go back to in person meeting, We are in the process of getting the equipment repaired as the meeting cannot be broadcasted live. When we are able to be in person we will do that.

Once more note – we are scheduled for a SC meeting during February vacation – we are going to cancel that meeting on February 22nd.

I. Call to Order:

II. Approval of November 9, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve November 9, 2021 Minutes as presented

The motion was made by Member Napierata

The motion was seconded by Member Blythe

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

Member Adamopoulos joined the meeting at 6:03

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Personnel Updates

New Hires: Jared Lewis at WMS – 8th grade LTS
Monica Gauthier, RN will be working 2 days a week as the Nurses office have been very busy – grateful for the extra nursing help

Resignations: Ashley Karle – para at WMS
Lauren Maher – ABA at WMS

Retirement: Gina O’Halloran – ABA at PAE
Linda Boisseau – Para at WMS

Open Positions: Grade 1, Grade 3 & Kindergarten Special Education Teachers
School Adjustment Counselor @ PAE
ELL Teacher at PAE
Academic Interventionist @WMS
Assistant Principal @ WMS
Special Education Teacher @ BHS
ELL Teacher @ BHS
Remote Academic Tutors
Misc. Para and ABA Positions

Like many districts we are finding it difficult to fill these positions

2. MSBA “Story of a Building” Update

Been extremely busy working on the presentation for the MSBA Story of A Building. The video will be live on Dec. 8th 10:00 a.m. to noon. We are being highlighted because we are doing a renovation and reducing costs as well as reusing and recycling the building we have.

In addition to the preparation for the Story of A Building there have been a number of meetings with our Designer, Landscaper Architects, HVAC and Green Engineers. Busy time. The Schematic Designs are due to MSBA Dec. 28th.

- HVAC Meeting Nov. 15
- Landscaping Meeting Nov. 15th
- Special Education Meeting Nov. 15th
- Group OPM / Designer Meeting Nov. 22
- Special Education Meeting with staff Nov. 22

3. Other Updates

A. Literacy Reset Update

1. Hill Coaching Changes- Two New Hill Coaches Emily Russen for WMS & Alex Stout for PAE
2. GLEAM monthly District Leadership meeting occurred on Nov. 17th and the next one is December 8th. This team of teachers and administrators are learning more about the purpose of doing a Literacy Needs Assessment and how this information will assist with building a stronger and more comprehensive district Literacy Plan.
3. Hill needs Assessment results will be presented to mid-December

4. Meeting with DESE- SSOS team and DESE Early Literacy Manager to discuss Early Literacy grant focus in relationship to GLEAM/Hill work. Jeanne Woolfe is the Early Literacy DESE consultant for K-3/ replacing Melissa Rice.

B. We have seen an increase in student discipline and safety issues. We had our monthly WEA Meeting with District Administration and Principals on Nov. 17th – we spoke at length of the issues. We are teaming to address issues with code of conduct/safety .We take safety very seriously.

C. Dr. Mackay and I will be attending the CACE Leadership Conference Dec. 1-3. This conference focuses on literacy skills and focuses on Title One programming.

D. The WMS National Junior Honor Society Induction on Nov. 10th was a wonderful event. Congratulations to the students who have earned this high honor.

F. Mr. Paranto and I have been working with Real Madrid from Spain. This year we have been awarded \$21,375.00 Euro's / the dollar amount is contingent upon the exchange rate of when we receive it. It is expected to come through in December. The current exchange rate equates to \$24,706.00. Athletic Director and I have been working together with Anne Lise Bayo from Fundacion Mapfre in Spain. The goal of the Real Madrid program is to provide social supports to EL students. This year we are aiming to do basketball in February and soccer in April. Looking at providing snack, dinner and transportation home along with a field trip to the Basketball Hall of Fame

G. Working with the It Starts at Home Organization on providing 50 students under the age of 14, who are in needs some holiday gifts. Our counselors (WMS/PAE) have been helping with this.

H. Competency Determinations for the classes 2020-2022 and students with IEP's who are eligible for the modified Competency Determination in ELA, Math, who were unable to take the MCAS Assessments when they were cancelled. The DESE Board of Education has approved this method of verifying competency through course level completion as a replacement. Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Baris have reviewed all the files of students that this effects.

I. Attended both CMC and SWCEC Board meetings this past week. CMC 20-21 Annual Report in SC packet. SWCEC 21 Annual Report and 1st Quarter Report in SC packet.

J. In October we applied for the Mass Grad Grant We were awarded \$20,000. Those funds will go directly to the salary of the Reengagement Specialist

K. MassStep Newsletter from DESE ~ we were highlighted. Want to give a shout out to Director Jenna Gouin and thanks to BayPath for allowing us to use their advanced manufacturing lab.

L. Remind everyone that we have the 101st BHS Thanksgiving Football game against Southbridge.

Want to thank our teachers and staff and students for all their hard work. Looking forward to tomorrow's BHS Pep Rally with COVID protocols. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

We met on 11/17 ~ discussed the project being submitted (Due December 28th). Our next meeting is 12/16. We expected MSBA to vote on our plan in February, just learned it has been pushed off until March. We have until June 30th to go to the town for support. We have been focusing on the plans for SPED programming/space. That space must be approved by DESE, once it is approved it cannot be changed. We got feedback from the BHS SPED teachers. A member of the Conversation Committee came and walked the grounds and reviewed the areas.

2. WMS Lighting Project Update

We had a grant for lighting upgrades. Not all of the equipment is in, they have done as much as they could. They will return once supplies arrive. We have until the end of December for completion.

3. FY22 Quarterly Report

In the packet is the budget. We are on track, the area to watch is the SPED tuition. It appears we are in a deficit, but we have not applied Circuit Breaker funds yet.

4. FY23 Budget Update

We are working through the budget process. Met with principals and instructional leadership teams to explain the budget process. We will be compiling the budget at our first meeting in January.

5. Other Updates

No other updates

C. Principal Report: Robin Parmley, Park Avenue Elementary School

1. Hill Literacy and EGL Support / Needs Assessment by The Hill

Mrs. Parmley gave an update on the Hill Literacy plan. Just concluded our needs assessment that will provide good data. We are in the second year of our Early Literacy Grant. This year we are focusing on building capacity for teacher leadership.

2. Parent / Teacher Conferences and Conclusion of Trimester 1

Approximately 650 participated in our conferences via phone, zoom and in person. Very encouraging. Our first trimester ends tomorrow.

3. COMPASS Launch – Safe and Supportive initiative

Bringing this back – it offers students an opportunity to take a break for a minute. There is a facilitator in the room that will assist and give them check- ins through the day. We will collect data to see how successful the plan is and the timing of the need of the COMPASS room.

4. November Character Trait: Gratitude

Living with a grateful heart in what we say and do. Very proud of our students.

IV. Student Rep: Colin Minarik

- Last football game of the year will be the Thanksgiving Day game against Southbridge
- Each grade has an assembly about behavior in the school. Principal Thomas and Ms. Nieves answered a lot of student questions
- There was a film crew at BHS showing the renovation plans. They took video of how students are using the building and how the renovation will work
- Parent/Teacher conferences. Went very smoothly – a lot of parent
- Drama Club had auditions for the play Murder on the Menu.
- The freshman class had their moving night last night. Large attendance
- Tomorrow is the pep rally to support the football team put on by the cheerleaders
- Mr. Carney is the Turkey Teacher award winner this year

V. Old Business

A. COVID Protocols Updates

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*)

A meeting was held on Nov. 17th to meet the new Board of Health Director Camille Griffin, Mrs. Pepin and Mrs. Pierangeli to review the systems we have in place to monitor and communicate COVID in the Webster Public Schools. Again, a shout out to our School Nurses for their efforts! Our numbers in the past week have increased. We sent home over 137 students this week as close contacts. The Town of Webster has seen an increase as well, with 61 new cases. We are proceeding with our COVID protocols, want the committee to be informed.

A free vaccination clinic for students has been scheduled with Transformative Health Solutions. It will be held in the Park Avenue Library on November 30th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The second shot is scheduled at Park Avenue Library on December 21st from Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Member Napierata asked for clarification about close contacts. Dr. Goguen said if anyone is vaccinated you are not sent home unless you have symptoms. That's why we are anxiously awaiting the mobile vaccine clinic.

VI. New Business

A. Approval of BCBA Job Description

We will be requesting an additional BCBA at PAE in the next agenda item – we have an updated job description for this position.

Motion: To approve the BCBA job description as presented

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

B. Approval of BCBA position at Park Avenue Elementary School

There is a memo from the Director of Student Support Services, Kathleen Baris included in the packet. The memo details the need for an additional BCBA. The funding for this position will come from grants

Mrs. Baris said that in the challenges our students are facing in our post pandemic we have seen a social emotion need in our students. There has been a significant increase, our ability to maintain behavior protocols and reduce incidents, we feel it is best to add this position

Motion: To approve the additional BCBA position at Park Avenue Elementary School

The motion was made by Member Napierata

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

C. Approval of Interim Dean of Students position at Webster Middle School

Dr. Goguen said that given the increased behaviors we are seeing, I am requesting an interim Dean for WMS. With the enrollment number of approx. 589 students, a Dean will be considered for WMS in the FY22 budget. As we are planning the FY23 budget we will include this position

Motion: To approve addition of an Interim Dean of Students at Webster Middle School

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

D. Appoint School Committee member to contract negotiations for Instructional Assistants

Motion: To appoint Member Blythe to the contract negotiations for Instructional Assistants

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

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

E. Appoint School Committee Member to contract negotiations for Webster Educators Association

Motion: To appoint Member Adamopoulos to the contract negotiations for Webster Educators Association

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:

There were no questions. Will need Member Millet to come and sign the warrant and sign payroll.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:46 PM

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:

- November 9, 2021 Minutes
- Story of a School Building Renovation – MSBA flyer
- SWCEC Annual Report
- SWCEC 1st Quarter Report
- Mass Step Newsletter
- FY22 Budget
- COVID Dashboard
- DESE FAQ's
- BCBA Job Description
- Memo for additional BCBA position
- Letter from Instructional Assistants for contract negotiations
- Letter from WEA for contract negotiations
- Warrant