

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Date: November 9, 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 about this remote meeting – we did meet in person, but the sound was not working in the conference room so we moved back to remote to make it assessable to everyone. As soon as it is repaired we will be back in person

I. Call to Order:

II. Approval of October 26, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve October 26, 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:

5 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: Marcial Villegas – 2nd shift custodian at PAE
Jennifer Espinal – COVID RN

Transfers: Rebecca Beaupre – Gr 4 (has been a para at PAE since 2012)
Michael Scott – Grounds Keeper/Central Office custodian (From PAE)

Resignations: Mikayla Metcalf – PAE Special Education Teacher

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

At the next school committee meeting I will be requesting to hire an interim dean at WMS. It will require a vote because it is not in the budget, but there is money to fund this. I will be posting as anticipated until we have the meeting.

Seeing an increase in student behaviors at WMS and BHS. We are taking this seriously, it is not one solution. Have held many meetings, communicating to follow student handbook rules. Our main goal is to keep students safe.

Chair Seddiki stated that this year has brought unexpected challenges to our children. Unique set of challenges being seen across the district. Looking forward to hearing the strategies to address these problems.

Dr. Goguen gave details about current suspensions and disciplines. For families that are listening we need to partner on this, making sure we follow student handbooks and students come to school to learn.

November enrollment	BHS	406
	WMS	592
	PAE	712

2. MCAS Summary / Webster Middle School

Ms. Peterson explained the gap in MCAS testing due to COVID, many students did not participate. There are some rises in some sub groups – but falls in others. Today the ILT discussed the specific MCAS questions to see where our students fell below state average. It will be dissected at department meetings next week. We compare cohorts rather than results by year. Comparing last year 8th grade results to their results when they were in 7th grade is more beneficial. WE are looking at equity across the curriculum so all classes are getting the same curriculum, going at their own pace.

Dr. Goguen explained how we are dissecting the data in comparison with attendance and grades

Chair Seddiki asked if we might be able to revisit the middle school results at another meeting to go through in more depth. Would like to see how we compare with state results. Member Adamopoulos asked requested a comparison of similar students in the cohorts that they are in.

3. MSBA “Story of a Building” Update

Dr. Goguen updated the School Committee that the BHS renovation project is being highlighted by MSBA for doing a renovation rather than a rebuild. We are in the process of preparing our presentation that will be given across that state virtually on December 8th from 10-12. It is an honor to be highlighted by BSMA in one of their Story of a Building Project presentations. The flyer is included in the packet. We are working with our

Designer/Architect Kent Kovacs and a video crew to capture the existing conditions of Bartlett and to highlight how this renovation will help us transform the teaching and learning environment.

4. Other Updates

A. CMC and SWCEC Meetings – good news has come to Collaborative – they will be reimbursed for 75% of what they spent on COVID supplies

October 18th CMC meeting update:

- Welcome to new Superintendent Mike Lucas of Oxford on the CMC Board
- Like us, CMC is finding it difficult to fill open positions / 8 teacher positions and 39 paraprofessional positions are open. The CMC board approved the requested additional staff of 1 nurse, 4-5 behavioral staff and one school psychologist.
- They are working on marketing their Recovery Program to increase enrollment
- They are in a good financial position, additional staff hired in the business office
- Total enrollment 397 students (Webster has 3students)

October 22nd SWCEC meeting update:

- FY21 Audit Report was good with no findings
- Total enrollment 116 students (Webster has 7 students)

B. Thank you to the Samuel Slater Museum for hosting the Webster Educator’s Open House. The interactive approach that was taken to share Webster’s rich history is simply amazing. We are looking forward to doing field trips there and having our teachers access this wonderful resource! A special thank you to Chris Robert, and the entire Samuel Slater Team for their warm welcome to this wonderful museum.

C. In terms of the Literacy Reset we have had **multiple** meetings have occurred with the Hill Managerial Team and Central Office. The Needs Assessment surveys and focus groups are scheduled and underway. We are working to streamline the structures for when the Hill Coaches and Early Literacy Coach are in Webster. We have discovered that teachers are all signing up to have access to these coaches, so we have put schedules together to ensure coaches are in all ELA teachers rooms to provide assistance.

D. I had a meeting with Barbara DiGirolamo, Injury Prevention Program Coordinator From Boston Children’s Hospital on Friday, with the principals, to discuss the new programming she is willing to bring to Webster for FREE. This connection is a result of our partnership with Mapfre.

E. I had our monthly meeting with the WEA. We continue to work collaboratively, communication is key.

F. We continue to work with SSOS, Statewide Systems of Support Team. There have been several meetings to discuss the Literacy Reset, TAG grant goals and the use of data.

G. The BHS National Honor Society Induction was a wonderful event. Kudos to Melinda Doherty, and our sitting NHS students for putting together a fantastic ceremony to welcome the new NHS students. Mr. Adamopoulos’ wonderful speech hit the mark with his message: Show Up, Work Hard, Protect your Reputation, and surround yourself with a network of good people. Webster Pride filled the room!

H. We applied for the MassGrad Promising Practice Grant – it is a grant that would help with the new re-engagement specialist (approx. \$20,000)

I. Attended the virtual Worcester Superintendent meeting. Discussion was on staffing shortages, increasing student discipline and providing equitable access to students to get them back on track. Everyone in the district is working hard, but it is a tough year.

J. Reminder to Families: Please fill out the student verification forms that were sent home and a reminder to please send your student to school with a mask.

Member Millet asked about the number of vacancies – how are we meeting the instructional needs of the students? Dr. Goguen said we are adjusting caseloads to be sure current case loads are being met. With regards to the PAE and BHS ELL students, we are still in compliance and trying to fill all the vacancies.

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Pierangeli said the Building Committee meeting is November 17th, it was rescheduled due to BHS parent conferences. We are starting to narrow options about HVAC and athletic fields. Will be discussed at next meeting. This meeting will be in person starting at 6:00.

2. FY23 Budget Calendar

In your packet the Budget Calendar is include. We started meeting, will be busy over the next couple of months. Dr. Goguen and I will be meeting with each school's ILT to discuss the budget process and what their role is in the process.

3. Hot Water Tank at PAE

PAE opened in 2015, things are starting to break. The hot water tank is leaking, rusted out in the bottom. It is covered under warranty. Received a new tank, but we have to cover the cost of installation. When the school was built it was constructed around the water tank ~ the door is too small to remove the tank. Have had a couple companies come to give plans/proposals – looking at approximately \$15,000 cost to remove/replace.

4. Auditorium Lighting at BHS

Have had lights out in the BHS auditorium, have received a quote to fix/update. Recommend we repair with cost coming from the school rental revolving account. This account has a balance of \$50,636.00.

5. Bartlett High School Athletic Fields – softball and baseball

These two fields are overgrown in the infield. Field is too wet in the spring recommended that we complete project now. Will use school rental money for this as well.

6. Other Updates

End of year report was submitted.

C. Principal Report: Heidi Peterson, Webster Middle School

1. Public Library Field Trip

Ms. Peterson said a 7th grade ELA teacher brought his students to the public library – they were able to get library cards and check out books. Good connection to our literacy and our town library

2. Parent Conferences

Next week – we are using “my conference time .com” for families to set a time to meet with their students teachers (meeting in teams)

3. Food Drive

This is on hold ~ NHS induction is tomorrow. Mrs. Foley will do a later food drive

4. Innovative Pathways

Working on getting a presentation together for our grade 8 students. Mr Thomas is working on this and will have more info to share

IV. Student Rep: Colin Minarik

- Sports Update given. All sports have finished except football – their final game is against Southbridge on Thanksgiving.
- Seniors took their class photo outside on the soccer fields on Monday – it was amazing
- The MIAA Ambassadors, Josie Corridori, Camden Heenan and myself ran a Sock-tober drive last month. Socks were donated to the Webster – Dudley food share and MIAA
- National Honor Society held their induction ceremony for new members last week. Thank you to Mr. Adamopoulos for his speech.
- Starting to run a Toys For Tots fundraiser with the Webster Police.

V. Old Business

Did not get a chance to share this past weeks COVID numbers – it will go out tomorrow. We are seeing an increase.

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

Jen Sullivan was working for the Town on Covid and Friday, November 5th was her last day. Camille Griffin the new Board of Health Director will be taking over and working with the schools. We look forward to working with her. Shout out to our nurses, Kathy Pepin, Danielle Jalbert, Stephanie Poletta, Rachel Taylor and Sarah Phillips for incredible efforts with managing COVID and all the other medical situations that occur. I know they are looking forward to Jennifer Espinal joining the team!

B. Monthly Report on Fundraising Applications

Bartlett Boys Basketball – Meat Raffle

50/50 Raffle

Ads for the basketball programs

Student Ambassadors- Toys for Tots
Medical Career Club - sell carnations
Webster Music Boosters – butter braid sale

VI. New Business

A. Acceptance of Donation of winter coats (27) from It Starts at Home

Shout out to Jill St Cyr to and the It Starts at Home organization. She is also working on a sneaker drive and holiday gift for students age 14 and under.

Motion: To accept the 27 winter coats from It Starts at Home

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. Acceptance of Donation of tickets (7) to Hanover Theatre for 18-22 Program (anonymous)

The Bartlett High School 18-22 Program has received 5 student tickets and 2 adult tickets to travel to the Hanover Theatre in Worcester on December 17, 2021 to see A Christmas Carol. This has a monetary value of \$119.00 and was donated anonymously.

Motion: To accept the anonymous donation of tickets to the Hanover

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

B. Approval of 2021-2022 Webster Middle School Improvement Plan.

Dr. Goguen said Ms. Peterson has been working with the SSOS team. This is also the WMS TAG (Turnaround Action Plan) They worked together to streamline the goals in the plan. The three priorities are: Student Achievement & Tier I Instruction, Responding to Evidence of Student Learning and Sense of Belonging and they align to DESE's roadmap.

Ms. Peterson said the improvement plan was simplified so that we can easily follow and refer to. The goal is student achievement. Looking at data along with the social emotional piece we know students are more apt to learn when they feel welcome in school.

Member Millet commented that she would like to all principals to report back every 3 months on their SIPs to provide update on the progress of their school improve plans. Dr. Goguen agrees that would be helpful. There was discussion on having more parent and teacher input. Ms. Peterson said the School Council (teachers, student rep, community member) reviewed the plan prior to meeting with the SSOS Team. Given that we are a turnaround school the plan/goals are prescribed.

Motion: To approve the 2021-2022 Webster Middle School Improvement Plan

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

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

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

There were no questions. Will need Chair Seddiki to come and sign payroll.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:08 PM

The motion was made by Member Millet

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos

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:

- October 26, 2021 Minutes
- WMS MCAS Presentation
- FY23 Budget Calendar
- COVID Dashboard
- Monthly Fundraising Applications
- Donation to Hanover Theater
- WMS School Improvement Plan
- Warrant