

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Date: September 28, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Remote ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by: Chair Seddiki

The following Committee Members were present

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

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.

Chair Seddiki said it is our intention to return to in person meetings – starting with the next meeting. Any community member that wishes to join us will have to join in person

Member Adamopoulos joined the meeting at 6:11

I. Call to Order:

II. Approval of August 24, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve August 24, 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:

4members having voted in the affirmative

 members having voted in the negative

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

Approval of September 14, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve September 14, 2021 Minutes as presented

The motion was made by Member Millet

The motion was seconded by Member Blythe

BHS grades 9-12 = 47

(pending completed enrollment packet = 5 additional new students)

Enrollment as of 9/24/2021

BHS 407

WMS 589

PAE 712 TOTAL 1,708 students

In comparison to last year at this time

BHS 393

WMS 570

PAE 701 TOTAL 1,664 students

Had some new school choice applicants – seen an increase at BHS. The cutoff date is October 1st

4. Central Mass Collaborative Quarter 3 & 4 Report

This was given at the 9-9-2021 CMC Board meeting and is attached for your review

5. Other Update

- a. MSBA August 24, 2021 Board Meeting – BHS Project was approved and moved into the Schematic Design Phase. Schematic Design will be submitted in January 2022 and MSBA February meeting
- b. Story of a Building Project – MSBA invitation Sept 29th Planning session. Invited to highlight our renovation project. We will be working with MSBA on how we are reducing our carbon waste and use our current building. More to come.
- c. Update on RFP for Literacy Coaches – busy with literacy reset. Hired Hill Literacy Consultants – will have a coach at each building two days a week to assist with our literacy needs assessment and literacy reset.
- d. Update on GLEAM Grant – for WMS and BHS – working with Hill (DESE approved consultants), they are providing 150 hours at each of the schools in conjunction with their literacy coaching contract. They will be working on our district needs assessment and helping with a plan to provide literacy assistance for students in need.
- e. Attended the brunch for Doug Willardson on August 30th and welcomed in the new Interim Town Manager, Greg Balukonis
- f. Community Partnerships
 1. Shared old documents from the 1915 – 1933 BHS year books (from a closet at BHS). Archivist, Curtis Cleaves from the Webster Dudley Historical Society came to get them.
 2. Working with Webster Town Library and Rena Klebart to start a Reading Club after school at WMS. The library received a grant and they will be bringing Arthur, Christina Baker Kline, Orphan Train Girl to Webster.
 3. SSOS Team from DESE along with Dr. Mackay, Mrs. Chapdelaine and myself to work with Principals Thomas and Peterson to streamline their School Improve Plans. These will be forthcoming at a later SC meeting.
 4. Monthly WEA meetings have been scheduled
 5. ESSER III Funds – received \$4.6 million – surveys have gone out to families / staff for feedback on use of funds.
 6. SEPAC meeting – September 27th at 6:00. Mrs. Baker presented the Parents Right to Know

7. Family Engagement survey put out by Margarita Nieves for what parents would like to see from the district

Dr. Mackay shared some information on our ELL program. We have purchased curriculum that will help development and support ELA proficiency. Our ELL student numbers are higher this year, partly because some students did not take the access test during COVID. Excited to start the year face to face with the students. We are planning our first ELPAC meeting next month – more info to come.

We worked with MAPFRE a couple years ago producing a video called *Safe Place Starts Here* in conjunction with Boston Children's Hospital. It was submitted last year and we were just informed we were a finalist – shout out to the PAE students and staff that were highlighted

Upcoming Flu Shots for our employees have been scheduled for next week

Recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with You Inc. They will be back in our schools to provide an additional layer of counseling to our families

Working with our Innovative Pathways consultant Abigail Callahan – first business advisory group meeting is scheduled for October 6th. We have some interest from the community and they will be in attendance for this first meeting.

Our Adult Ed program has delayed its start for students. They are working on marketing and rebranding the adult manufacturing MASSStep – due to low enrollment it has been postponed. More info to come.

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

The School Building Committee met on Sept 16th. We've been approved to enter the next phase of our project. We are getting into more details in the schematic process. We will be forming some sub separate groups. In the packet shared the presentations that were given at the last School Building Committee meeting.

2. FY21 Food Service Budget Closeout

We are in good shape. There were concerns with all the home meals we were providing, but thanks to federal and state funding we purchased majority of paper goods supplies. Current ending balance is \$18,4779.30. We just received \$44,012.00 in additional funding from the state for emergency COVID costs – based on meals sold from April – January of last year to help offset operating costs associated with COVID. Currently having difficulty with supplies, slow deliveries. With the difficulty getting plastic utensils we purchased silverware. All of this has an impact on our budget.

3. FY21 LEA Budget Closeout

We will be returning \$522,403.13 back to the Town of Webster. It will go into their free cash

4. Other Updates

Technology – late yesterday we started having problems with our phone. There was a security hack (nationwide attack) with one of our vendors. It is a reminder that we must operate in a safe manner – even when opening emails.

C. Principal Report, Heidi Peterson, Webster Middle School

1. Open House Update

Last week held in person Open House. Received good feedback from staff and families

2. School Council

Starting our School Council – our first meeting will be the second Wednesday in October. We have a full committee with staff, parents, a community member and just put out a request for an 8th grade student rep to represent the student population. .

New this year is an RTI block – every day a 30 minute block – enrichment – targeted interventions based on data (iReady scores, MCAS, last year report card) Starting on Monday.

3. Extra-Curricular and Enrichment Update

We are excited to have extracurricular begun – have drama and art club back this year. We have a staff volunteer that has started a LGBTQ Ally. Always looking for more clubs – any parent that wants to volunteer please see Ms. Peterson.

We are starting monthly parent gatherings where counselors and administrators will be presenting various topics. October topic will be bullying.

Member Napierata asked how parents know about clubs being offered. Mrs. Peterson said we usually put out during Morning announcements but we can certainly put on our class dojo.

Chair Seddiki said she attended the Open House and said it was a great experience.

IV. Student Rep – Colin Minarik

- Update on Sport given
- Senior Breakfast – held last week – went very well
- Acapella group has started – there are about 20 students attending
- BHS has completed the iReady Testing for English and math
- Open House on Sept 16th – great to be in person
- Freshman class has elected their class officers
- This afternoon sports pictures were taken in the auditorium

Dr. Goguen gave a bio on Colin – pleased to have him join us as the Student Rep

V. Old Business

Vaccination clinic we had two weeks ago only had 6 people attend – we will not have the second shot as we did not meet the threshold to have them come back. Those 6 individuals will have to go locally to receive.

A. COVID Protocols Update

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

DESE was late with setting up their testing. The permissions slips were sent Sept. 9 to families. We will only be doing symptomatic testing in our schools at this time. Board of Health Director Jennifer Sullivan has taken a new job, but is continuing to working with us on COVID cases under a contract with the Town of Webster, until the new Board of Health Director, Camille Griffin, starts soon

DESE has extended the mask mandate until November 1st

Member Millet asked about the 80% of vaccination – will that be calculated when you have a school that has students that can't be vaccinated – do they take that into consideration? Dr. Goguen said DESE has provided policy with the strategy that we prove the 80% - at this time we are not where near that in any of our schools.

Member Blythe asked for clarification on masks breaks. Ms. Peterson spoke for the WMS – mask breaks are taken outside. Math and English classes are 90 minutes long – teachers and students go outside during that time. When mask breaks are taken inside teachers rotate students in the class to take their masks off with windows open. Colin shared how mask breaks are at BHS – they are mainly at lunch. Some classes (long blocks) go for a walk outside. If classes are small we separate 6ft and open the windows – generally we go outside. Dr. Goguen said at the elementary school they also go outside and separate in the classroom.

There were questions in the chat. Dr. Goguen gave clarification on the 80% vaccination count. It is a district decision (school by school calculation). All questions / needs on specific student/parent concerns we ask that you contact the school principal or superintendent office.

VI. New Business

A. Approval of Job Description for Ground Keeper as presented

Mrs. Pierangeli said with the retirement of our grounds keeper we updated the job description. Added indoor custodian assistance and expanded on the job description.

Motion: To approve the Grounds Keeper job description 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

B. Approval to increase Grounds Keeper from .6 to 1.0 FTE

Mrs. Pierangeli said this is needed now more than ever due to school cleaning. This will be funded by Esser 2 funds.

Motion: To approve the increase from 0.6FTE to 1.0FTE for the Grounds keeper

The motion was seconded by Member Blythe

The following roll call vote was taken: Member Millet.

5 members having voted in the affirmative

 members having voted in the negative

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

C. Approval of Job Description for COVID RN/LPN

Two additional positions are being requested by the nurses due to the time it takes to contact trace and manage the high numbers of COVID situations at PAE and WMS. With all our students back in school, there are other medical needs that our nurses need to address on top of COVID. These positions are for this year only and will be funded through Esser III.

Motion: To approve the COVID RN/LPN job description 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

D. Approval of position of COVID RN/LPN

Two positions – PAE and WMS. In packet shared a letter from the Massachusetts Nurses Association asking School Committees to support the school nurses during this time. These positions are only for this year.

Motion: To approve two additional COVID RN/LPN positions

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

Shout out to our nurses – they’ve been working hard – additional responsibilities – these positions will be much appreciated

E. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement – Webster Educators Association

Dr. Goguen provided details of this Memorandum of Agreement. She said it outlines COVID safety protocols – there is one error – there is an additional word “ test” 4th bullet on page 2 that should not be included. This outlines COVID protocols, quarantines, COVID Sick Bank. Much of this is carried over from last year The union has ratified this MOA.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement – Webster Educators Association 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

F. Approval of one additional ABA position at Park Avenue Elementary School

Mrs. Baris said as the new school year has begun, we have found a shortage in one of our classroom and in need of a full time ABA due to a 1:1 student need.

Motion: To approve one additional ABA position at Park Avenue Elementary School

The motion was made by Member Blythe

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

G. Approval of one additional Paraprofessional position at Webster Middle School

Mrs. Baris said additional students have been added to one of our SPED substantially separate classrooms and there is a student that requires 1:1 services.

Motion: To approve one additional Paraprofessional position 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

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

There were no questions

Will need Mrs. Millet to come and sign the warrant

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos

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:

- August 24, 2021 Minutes
- September 14, 2021 Minutes
- CMC Quarter 3 & 4 Report
- FY21 Food Service Budget
- COVID Dashboards
- DESE guidance on mask wearing extension
- DESE guidance on vaccination rates
- Job Description – Grounds keeper/Custodian
- Job Description – COVID RN/LPN
- Letter from Massachusetts Nurses Association
- Memorandum of Agreement – WEA
- Letter supporting increase in ABA staff
- Letter supporting increase in Paraprofessional staff
- Warrant
- Letter from Boston College Center of Corporate Citizenship – film festival finalist