

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Date: September 14, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Remote ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by: Vice Chair Napierata

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Blythe
- Member Millet

The following Committee Members were absent:

- Member Adamopoulos
- Chair Seddiki

Vice Chair Napierata 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.

Vice Chair Napierata said Dr. Goguen is not present this evening – she had a family emergency

**I. Call to Order: Move to go into Executive Session according to MGL30A, S219(a) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and to reconvene in Open Session**

Motion: Move to go into Executive Session according to MGL30A, S219(a) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and to reconvene in Open Session

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

**II. Approval and Release of Executive Session Minutes: July 16, 2021, November 12, 2019 and November 26, 2019 Minutes**

Motion: To approve and release July 16, 2019, November 12, 2019 and November 26, 2019 Executive Session 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

Vice Chair Napierata said Dr. Goguen is not present this evening – she had a family emergency. Items in the Superintendent Report will be presented at a future meeting when Dr. Goguen is present

### **III. Superintendent’s Report**

#### **A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence**

##### **1. Personnel Updates**

##### **2. School Openings**

##### **3. Enrollment Update**

##### **4. Central Mass Collaborative Quarter 3 & 4**

##### **5. Other Updates**

#### **B. Business Manager Report**

##### **1. School Building Committee Update**

Dr. Goguen and Mrs. Pierangeli attended an MSBA Board meeting with the OPM and Architect on August 24, 2021. We are now entering into the Schematic Phase. We have an approved design that the architects will work on to be more precise. Next Building Committee meeting is this Thursday night. Will update timeline and look at reimbursable and non-reimbursable items.

##### **2. New Online Payment System**

Working with the Treasure and town accountant. “CityHall Systems” – we are moving away from the Unibank system. We will be able to implement student activities (class dues, AP exams) and will now be able to pay online. If you’re paying by a check it is free and a lower rate if paying with credit card.

##### **3. Green Community Grant**

We have partnered with the Town to apply for a Green Community Grant that allowed us to get new lights in the WMS parking lot. In addition we were awarded \$99,940 to install LED lights in WMS and a weathering project, we received \$35,455 that will allow us to weather strip and seal doors and windows. Work will be done before the end of December. We will see long term savings with these grants.

##### **4. Other Updates**

\*Received the window shades at WMS – all installed

\*Transportation – off to great start to the school year. Running smoothly, so far we have not have disruption as other districts are having. Due to limited drivers we are combining some sports teams on to one bus. Thank you to AA Transportation

### **C. Principal Report: Fran Thomas, Bartlett High School**

Mr. Thomas gave an introduction to the new Student Representative – Colin Minarik. Colin is a great representative/ambassador of Bartlett High School. He is a member of the varsity soccer, basketball and tennis teams. He is on National Honor Society and is the VP of his class. He has done a lot of community service, he is a great young man.

#### **1. Enrollment Update**

43 new students: 19 are from Worcester (4 are school choice), 9 are returning to BHS, the remaining come from a variety of places

Given the new freshman and the being the first time some sophomores have entered the building for the first time (being remote last year). Off to a good start

#### **2. New Programs:**

Google Certification: Piloting a new program, we are one of the first public high schools in the country. We will be offering a course under office tech training students that will provide them with a certification from google for technology tech jobs. The students will be matched with companies looking for IT support. This is a ½ year course. A separate module of this is offers training to our teacher.

Drivers Ed: Working with the Business Office, the Central Massachusetts Safety Council approached us over the summer about offering drivers ed to our students. It is the discussion phase.

2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort of One Goal: Ms. Doherty is advisor for this – it is our second year with the cohort group. This program aids first generation college students through the college process; financial aid, picking a college, application process, etc.

Member Blythe thanked Mr. Thomas for bringing new programs to the students at BHS. Who is this Google certification course eligible to? Mr. Thomas said it is open to any student ~ will be

Mr. Thomas said it is eligible for all students. It will be offered the second ½ of the school year. Targeting students that will go to work after this course

There was discussion about College Fair – Mr. Thomas said they are planning for two this year – one for seniors and another for juniors to assist with the number of people in the gym. The one for the junior will be in early spring

#### **3. Changes in Show Choir**

Mr. Carney was present to discuss the ending of Show Choir. He explained that Show Choir has been a large part of BHS, the enrollment has been dropping. Due to the pandemic and the elimination of WMS choir last year there was not a large interest. Mr. Carney introduced what a new acapella program would be, there is no choreography with acapella. Had auditions tonight, impressed with the students talents.

Members thanked him for thinking of an alternative to the music programs. Member Napierata said that with the increase in music programs at WMS hopefully Show Choice will return

### **IV. Student Representative – Colin Minarik**

- Highlights of BHS sports was given
- Student Council held a carwash fundraiser this past Saturday
- Rotating Schedule is back – students like not having the same class at the same time everyday

- There is no study hall offered this year – many students are disappointed especially students that take multiple AP class and those attending Nichols College courses
- Spoke with Mr. Thomas and Dr. Goguen regarding students not having Wi-Fi for their personal devices to upload work. It was explained by Mr. Thomas that students cannot use their personal cell phones on the Wi-Fi; that is due to bandwidth and security issue. Mrs. Pierangeli said it is mostly a security concern, our bandwidth has been expanded, but can be drained with the addition of 300 personal devices.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Monthly Report on Fundraising Applications**

BHS Student Council – Carwash

### **B. COVID Protocols Updates**

Mrs. Pierangeli gave the update:

- Free COVID vaccine tomorrow at BHS
- COVID dashboard going out weekly to families and staff
- We are sending COVID info into the State. New process this year – last year we called into a call center with very specific information. This year we report on line, school and total number in a 7 day period.
- Board of Health Director, Jen Sullivan, has taken a new job, she will continue to work with the school.
- DESE rolled out new system for COVID pool testing. Permission slips were sent out, ur district is only doing symptomatic testing, not the pool testing

### **C. Approval of revised 2021-2022 Employee Handbook**

Mrs. Pierangeli stated there were two revisions to the Employee Handbook – change in language for Notification of arrests and language defining excessive absences.

#### **Motion: To approve the revised 2021-2022 Employee Handbook**

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Millet

The following roll call vote was taken:

  members having voted in the affirmative

  3  members having voted in the negative

  members having abstained

The motion:       passed

  X  Failed

Member Millet said she does not approve the Employee Handbook and is unable to second the motion. Vice Chair Napierata asked for clarification of Member Millet’s concerns. Member Millet said she feels there could be legal actions or grievances. Vice Chair Napierata said the handbook has previously been approved and tonight we are only approving these two changes. Mrs. Pierangeli said the Union was in agreement with the changes. Member Millet said it is not with the two revisions – it is with other items

The agenda item failed – we will revisit at another time

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Approval of Fundraising Organization – BHS Gridiron Club**

Thank you for Lori and Ray Patterson for stepping up to lead this group

Motion: To approve the fundraising application for the BHS GridIron Club

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

**B. Acceptance of Donations:**

Mrs. Pierangeli said Swiss Turn donated a 3D printer. Holy Trinity Church donated misc. school supplies and backpacks. Ms Anna Whitted – misc. school supplies, Jane Pastori – donating some funds to cover rental of instruments to WMS student in honor of a friend that recently passed away.

Motion: To accept the donations from Swiss Turn, Holy Trinity, Ann Whitted and Jane Pastore as presented

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

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

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

**X. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:53 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:

- Executive Session Minutes
- COVID Dashboard
- Fundraising application – BHS Student Council Handbooks
- 2021-2022 Employee Handbook
- Fundraising Organization application
- Donation letter from Swissturn
- Donation picture from holy Trinity
- Donation letter from Jane Pastore
- Warrant