

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Date: August 24, 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

The following Committee Members were absent:

- Member Blythe

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.

I. Call to Order:

II. Approval of July 13, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve July 13, 2021 Minutes as presented

The motion was made by Member Napierata

The motion was seconded by Member Adamopoulos

The following roll call vote was taken:

4 members having voted in the affirmative (with notation from Member Millet that she was
__members having voted in the negative not present for the meeting)
__members having abstained

The motion: X passed

_____Failed

Approval of July 27, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve July 27, 2021 Minutes as presented

The motion was made by Member Napierata

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

Approval of August 13, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve August 13, 2021 Minutes as presented

The motion was made by Member Napierata

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

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Personnel Updates

Been a busy and exciting summer. Looking forward to staff coming back tomorrow. New teachers came in yesterday and today – very positive experience – great group.

New Hires: Lorinda Allen – PAE Assistant Principal
 Ron Springer – WMS Assistant Principal
 Alicia Coakley- PreSchool Teacher
 Michelle Veroneau – PreSchool Teacher
 Meghan Daniels – Para at WMS
 Emily Tetreault – PAE Float Sub
 Brian Riley – WMS Float Sub (in position last year)
 Jessica Burokas – Reading Specialist at WMS
 Jacob Murphy – Social Studies Teacher at BHS
 Rebecca Pasceri – ELL PAE
 Lynn Benoit – Para at WMS
 Jennifer Byrnes – Gr 6 ELA/SS at WMS
 John Haley – ELL at BHS

Ava Landry – Adult Education

Resignations: Nicole Fortin – para at WMS
 Peter Williams – ABA at WMS
 Jessica Vaudriel – Assist Cook at PAE

2. Reopening of School

a. BHS 9th Grade BBQ/Orientation – August 17th. Very successful event. Students did a scavenger hunt through out the building to get acclimated to all the key areas in the building. This was also a fun way for students to get to know some of the staff who attended. Lunch was served outside by the cafeteria staff – shout out to the caf staff.

b. Grade 5 Orientation / Open House – August 15th. Parents and students came in person to tour the building and meet some staff. They raffled off gift prizes for students.

- c. PAE is scheduling a meet and greet this week for students to come in
- d. Shout out to Jill Chapdelaine for working very closely with our teachers on our Literacy Reset and alignment.
- e. Summer Professional Development
 - * DLT met on August 19th – topic was Evaluation Calibration – it was facilitated by DESE in the morning and leadership expectations were outlined in the afternoon
 - * Ongoing PD occurred this summer for the Literacy Reset and curriculum alignment in all 4 content areas
 - * New Teacher Orientation – August 23 and 24 – agendas in packet. The momentum in the room was exciting and look forward to it following them into the building. We went on a bus tour of Webster – sharing all the wonderful things in our community
 - * District Opening Days – August 25, 26 and 27 – agendas in packet. District convocation will happen on Friday since we have the MSBA meeting tomorrow.
- f. Updated guidance for music education has come from Massachusetts Music Educators Association – included in packet.
- g. DESE met today to vote to mandate mask wearing for everyone until October 1, 2021.
- h. DESE is not allowing any remote learning. We will not be asking our teachers to do synchronous teaching this year. When and if a student is quarantined, teachers, students and parents will need to work together to coordinate the makeup work.
- i. Scheduled another FREE vaccination clinic for students over 12, staff and community members for September 15th with the second shot on October 6th. This is being organized by Transformative Health Solutions, permission slips will be sent to families that want their children over 12 to be vaccinated.
- j. Open House Update – we are shifting back to having in person Open Houses:
 - BHS September 16th
 - WMS September 23rd
 - PAE September 30th
- k. Sports Updates:
 - * BHS Football started August 20th
 - * August 23rd all other BHS sports began – Boys and girls soccer, boys and girls cross country, golf, volleyball and fall cheerleading
 - * WMS Football starts August 30th along with Boys and Girls soccer and cross country
 - * The Real Madrid Program – fall basketball will start soon – more info to come
 - * Thursday, September 2nd the annual Chemical Health Night will be held starting at 6:00pm

3. Other Updates

- a. The first SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) meeting will be held in person on Monday, 9/27 at 6:00pm. The meeting will be a general meeting with organization of the SEPAC followed by the mandated training/presentation of "Basic Rights in Special Education" at 6:30PM
- b. Please to announce we have been selected by the USDA Food and Nutrition to receive a FY21 Farm to School turnkey Grant in the amount of \$27,819.00 –our match of \$26,500 totaling \$38,142.00. Ellen Nylen applied for this grant to expand our farm to school programming. Peter Germano has been hired as the part time Farm to School Garden Coordinator.

c. Please to announce we have been awarded \$42,000 for GLEAM Grant. This grant from DESE will provide support for the middle and high school with implementing the researched based curriculum (Wonders K-5 and Studysync 6-12)

d. MSBA BHS Renovation Project Updates:

- * We have received feedback from MSBA on our Preferred Schematic Design and I have been working with our OPM and Architects throughout the summer
- * We are slotted for the MSBA Board Meeting tomorrow
- * Letter of support for the BHS project received from State Rep Joseph McKenna and State Senator Ryan Fattman (in packet)
- * Recently contacted by MSBA – want to spotlight the renovation project in their fall story of a building project. More info to follow

Been very in the Central Office. Shout out to Desiree Moniz, Lori Marrazzo and Margarita Nieves who have been busy registering new students. Been an ongoing process, many students, increasing number of students enrolling with school choice.

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

The committee has not met in July or August. Tomorrow we are meeting with MSBA at 10:00 looking for approval of our PSI Report. It is the final approval to move into the next stage. Feedback from MSBA is good. MSBA is looking to feature our project for one of their professional developments.

2. Summer Projects Update

Been very busy getting project completed. Shout out to the custodians – appreciate their hard work getting the buildings ready, moving rooms around, receiving many deliveries – always willing to help.

PAE – phone system has been installed. Last component is the 911 feature.

Movers came – unloaded the furniture that was in storage containers. We have 25 cafeteria tables still in storage – not able to use while maintaining COVID distancing. The containers were short storage – working with the town to see if there is a place to store.

WMS – new landscaping – sod and mulch – allowing for additional green space. Looking to expand the garden, installing raised beds. Also able to complete the paving of the parking lot. Looks like a new building.

Waiting for the smart boards to arrive – a delay on all technology. Also installing new shades – coming in within next week or two.

BHS - Charter came in to upgrade some of the internet. Thank you to the Tech Team for working between 12:00 pm – 6:00 am. We are waiting for some technology for innovative pathways program and backup teacher computers.

In good shape for the opening of school.

3. FY21 Budget Closeout Update

In packet the budget was included. Is not complete – still some items that need to be journaled. There is some lines that need adjusting by the Town Accountant. There is a sizable balance remaining that may be going back to the Town

4. Other Updates

- Food Services – starting the new school year, menus are posted the beginning of the month, we do try not to have substitutions, but we are experiencing a shortage of supplies. There may be an increase in substitutions – we will post them on the Food Service page of the website.

-Transportation/ bus routes have been posted on the website. We will be issuing transportation passes this year.

Chair Seddiki extended her thanks to the custodian, office support staff, technology team ~ warm welcome to the new staff and welcome back to all our teachers

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

A. Acceptance of Donation - \$5,000 to PAE from Long Subaru

Long Subaru has partnered with AdoptAClassroom.org and ten PAE teachers will be selected to purchase \$500.00 worth of art supplies, books, flexible seating, etc. All purchases will be approved by the principal and business office. Today, Mrs. Allen, new Assistant Principal did a “spin the wheel” to choose the teachers. Grateful for their ongoing support

Motion: To accept the \$5,000 donation from Long Subaru

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

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. Approval of Surplus – Outdated items and misc. books from Webster Middle School and Adult Education Program

The list of items are included in the packet.

Member Millet asked why some of the new items are being deemed surplus – what will happen to these. Mrs. Pierangeli said we will look for a book distributor to buy back or put them up for sale.

Motion: To declare surplus and outdated items and books from Webster Middle School and the Adult Education Program and to direct the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance to auction off, donate or otherwise recycle / dispose of these materials in conjunction with the provisions of MGL30B

The motion was made by Member Millet

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

C. Approval of Employee Handbook

The Employee Handbook we have recently had our attorney review and have added some items. The WEA trumps the handbook if there is a conflict. Dr. Goguen reviewed some of the additions/updates and changes. This is a procedural handbook for our staff. A cover sheet with the updates is included

Member Millet is concerned that some of the changes may result in contractual changes. She is asking to table this until parties can get together to discuss. Feels there are some legal ramifications and need further discussion

Dr. Goguen said she has shared with the WEA President. "Typically the handbook is not a negotiated item. There does not appear to be a change in working conditions.

Member Adamopoulos asked if the attorney had vetted the changes. Dr. Goguen replied yes. Member A said that based on that he make the motion to accept the edits

Motion: To approve the 21-22 Employee Handbook

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

The following roll call vote was taken:

3 members having voted in the affirmative

1 members having voted in the negative Member Millet

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

D. Approval of Fundraising Organization – Grid Iron Club

Annually the SC approves fundraising organizations. This organization raises funds to support the BHS Football Team. We are grateful for their support

Motion: To approve the Grid iron Club as a Fundraising Organization

The motion was made by Member Napierata

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

E. Approval of District Strategic Plan/Instructional Strategies/Vision Statement/Core Beliefs/Mission Statement for 21-22 School Year

The DLT updated the District Strategic Plan/Instructional Strategies at the DLT Summer Summit. The goals remain focused on quality reaching, rigorous curriculum and working on ongoing improvements through each schools’ improvement plan to ensure students are successful. This is the foundation for the work we have been doing. This is what administrators will base their goals on.

Motion: To approve the District Strategic Plan/Instructional Strategies for 21-22 School Year

The motion was made by Member Napierata

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

G. Public Comments regarding COVID Safety Protocols for the 21-22 School Year

Chair Seddiki thanked the parents and community members in attendance for this meeting. She stated that it is valuable to have input from all. She said that if anyone wishes to speak they must state their name and address and limit the conversation to the COVID Protocols only for this upcoming school year. Dr. Goguen said there was a letter from the Webster Board of Health in the packet – Chair Seddiki read the letter. Ms. Sullivan wrote of the COVID facts, Webster cases, variant strain and the concerns she has. Parents voiced their concern about mask mandate. Dr. Goguen replied that based on the recommendation from the Webster Board of Health Director, American Pediatrics, CDC and seeing the numbers rise, for the safety of our staff and students we will mandate mask wearing. We will look at our protocols and update as needed. The conversation continued regarding the length of time students must wear their mask and students that have exemptions. Dr. Goguen agreed that children should not wear a mask for 6 hours – there are scheduled mask breaks for all students and students do not need to wear them outside.

Chair Seddiki acknowledged how difficult this past year has been for everyone. Hybrid was very challenging and hopefully we don’t go back there. Thankfully under Dr. Goguen’s leadership we have a plan. Dr. Goguen said we have weekly COVID Leadership meetings. She gave a shout out to the school nurses. Member Adamopoulos reflected back to the letter from the Webster Board of Health Director – he is concerned with the Webster numbers rising, even with individuals that have been vaccinated.

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

A. Approval of transfer from Webster Middle School Student Activity Savings account to the Checking account

Motion: To approval of \$5,239.48 transfer from Webster Middle School Student Activity Savings account to the Checking account

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

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

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

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:

- July 13, 2021 Minutes
- July 27, 2021 Minutes
- August 13, 2021 Minutes
- Agenda for New Teacher Orientation – August 23 & 24
- Professional Development – August 25, 26 & 28
- COVID Safety Protocols
- Letter from Jen Sullivan, Webster Board of Health
- Farm to School Grant letter
- Innovation Pathways Grant
- GLEAM Grant
- Letter from Rep McKenna and Senator Fattman supporting BHS project to MSBA
- FY21 End of Year Budget
- Adult Education and Middle School surplus and outdated books
- 21-22 Employee Handbook
- Fundraising Organization Application – Grid Iron Club
- 21-22 Strategic Plan – Instructional Strategies
- WMS Transfer request
- Warrants