

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, August 22, 2023

Date: August 22, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: School Committee Conference Room

77 Poland Street, Webster

The meeting was called to order by: Chair Seddiki

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Millet
- Member Adamopoulos
- Vice Chair Napierata
- Member Blythe

The following Committee Members were absent:

I. Tour of Schools:

Members began the evening by touring all three schools including the BHS modulars

II. Call to Order: Pledge of allegiance

Chair Seddiki reminded everyone that this meeting is being recorded both audio and visually and will be posted on the school website

III. Approval of July 18, 2023 Minutes

Motion: To approve July 18, 2023 Minutes 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

IV. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

Shout out to custodial staff and technology staff for their hard work this summer. The modulars will be ready for the start of school.

1. Personnel Update:

Ms. Pierangeli reviewed the extensive list of new hires, transfers, resignations. She then gave a list of all the open positions at each school. She met new teachers today for the first day of New Teacher Orientation

2. Instructional Leadership

The District and School Instructional Leadership team met on Wednesday August 16th at Nichols College. The morning was spent on our District prioritization and how data was used in the development and support of the prioritization. Discussed the ILT and how to help support our priority. Our SSoS partners along with Dr. Patty Mackay spoke about Culturally Responsive Instructional Practices to support our priority. The afternoon was spent with an overview of our student based coaching model provided by Diane Sweeney who developed the model.

New Teacher Orientation is being held this week on August 22 & 23. Shout out to Dr. Mackay and Michelle Budney for their organization of these two days.

3. Family and Community Engagement Update

On Thursday, August 17 the High Schools held their freshman barbecue for incoming families. Mr. Collins reviewed policies, practices and answered questions for incoming freshmen and their parents. Thanks to our Food Service Department and Chef Al (Young) for manning the grill along with the staff from Bartlett who showed up to support the event.

On Monday August 21st, Ms. Peterson held an open house for our 5th grade students ~ had a great turnout.

Our Food Service Department has wrapped up their summer feeding program. Shout out to the summer food service team for their outreach and support of our students and families. This summer we picked up additional days down at the Library, adding Wednesday and including more onsite activities thanks to our partnership with Project Bread. Umass Amherst came down to do a demo for our families on cool ways to consume fruits and veggies over the summer. They made smoothies for our families. We have seen an increase in attendance at our library site. At our next meeting I will be bringing forward a grant we received from New England Dairy which provides equipment for the district to make smoothies. This will allow us an addition to our upcoming menus for WMS and BHS for the current school.

4. Other Updates

a. Enrollment Update / Online Enrollment - New process this year. Shout out to Desiree Moniz. Ms. Pierangeli provided an estimate in enrollment.

b. Traffic Update Forum – Due to the construction at BHS there will be some traffic pattern changes. There was a zoom parent forum on Aug 16, 2023. There is info on the website.

c. Website Improvements and Updates – The IT Staff will be updating the new website.

d. Safety Meeting schedule for Aug 24, 2023 – Local safety officials with building principals will meet to review the new year

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

The building committee meeting was postponed until August 24th. The committee recently welcomed a new OPM Mike Reith who replaced John Bates. We also had a new addition Mr. Chad Healy also with Colliers who is on the grounds regularly with the modular company to make sure we are on target with our August opening.

2. Maintenance Update

PAE ~ In process of cleaning

WMS ~ Bathroom repair has been completed. Shout out to David Annese – this was a big project. Building is still being cleaned, The new steamer in the kitchen is in and running.

BHS Overall Cleaning and Moves

District Additional Offices in process

Sprinkler inspections in were done in all schools

3. Transportation Update

Transportation routes have been updated and posted online.

4. Other Updates

a. Working on closing grants and the budget ~ expect to be done by end of the week. We are updating the MUNIS system with the Town so expect to be done before that change

b. Started the FY 23 Audit process

c. State budget was approved end of July

V. Old Business

A. Policy IMG – Animals in School – Third and Final Reading
There were no questions or comments

Motion: To approve Policy IMG – animals in School 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

IV. New Business

A. Approval Employee Handbook

- Updated names
- Removed COVID protocols

Motion: To approve the Employee Handbook 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 of Substitute Handbook

- Updated names
- Increased sub rates

Motion: To approve Substitute Handbook 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

C. Approval of Bartlett High School Student Handbook

Ms. Nieves said changes made were to align with the middle school student handbook. We have grant funded student planners that include hall passes. New transportation protocols were included. Change in the lockout due to tardies – they will not stay in lock out for the entire class since we have 85 minute block class scheduling. There were changes to the athletic requirements to align with MIAA and block scheduling. Removed section on lockers, they will no longer be available.

Motion: To approve the BHS Student Handbook 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

 0 members having voted in the negative

 0 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

D. Approval of Webster Middle School Student Handbook

Ms. Peterson thanked Ms. Bergeron and Ms. DeCoursey for their help on this. There were not many changes. Updated breakfast routine – no longer breakfast in the classroom. Transportation changes, updated Yonder procedures for cell phone, align disciplinary with BHS and PAE.

Member Millet said on page 26 head covering needs to be updated ~ Ms. Peterson said the changes will be made.

Motion: To approve the WMS Student Handbook with the one edit

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

 0 members having voted in the negative

 0 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

E. Approval Park Avenue Elementary School Student Handbook

Mrs. Thompson reviewed the changes in the handbook. Working to align with WMS and BHS. Updated PBIS.

Motion: To approve the PAE Student Handbook 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

 0 members having voted in the negative

 0 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

F. Approval Coaching Handbook

Mr. Paranto presented the changes to the Coaches / Athletic Handbook, not just for coaches, but also for parents and students. Updates were made due to the BHS block scheduling we conferred with MIAA regarding passing classes and how it effect athletics.

Motion: To approve the Coaches and Athletic handbook 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

Mr. Paranto reviewed the changes that would be made for fall and winter sports due to the BHS renovation project. Volleyball numbers are up, girls soccer is low to date only 2 girls have signed up – trying to co-op with Southbridge, they only had 5 sign up. Chemical Health night is scheduled for BHS on Thursday Sept 7th, WMS is Monday Sept. 11th

G. Approval of Additional 2 ABA staff at Park Avenue Elementary School

Mrs. Baris provided a memo with explanation for these additional positions. They will be funded by the SPED grant

Motion: To approve 2 additional ABA staff at PAE

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

H. Acceptance of donation - \$15,000.00 from the Fels Family Foundation

Superintendent Pierangeli said Mrs.Fels reached out with an interest to support the music programs our schools. She also offered to support other programs and Ms. Pierangeli explained the district PBIS Program. She offered an additional \$10,000 to be divided between the three school. She thanked Mrs. Fels for the support to our school district over the years

Chair Seddiki said on behalf of the District thank you for the support.....

Motion: To accept the \$15,000.00 donation from the Fels Family Foundation

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

I. Approval of Fundraising Organization – PAE PTO

The PAE PTO has submitted their application to be an approved fundraising organization.

Motion: To approval of Fundraising Organization – PAE PTO

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

J. Approval of Surplus Items – 75 Students desks and chairs form Webster Middle School

- 30 Plastic rolling chairs from WMS

- Outdated text books from WMS

Motion: To declare surplus items of 75 students desks and chairs,30 plastic rolling chairs and outdated text books from Webster Middle School and to direct the Superintendent to auction off, donate or otherwise recycle/dispose of these materials in conjunction with provisions for MGL 30B

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:

VII. Enter into Executive Session according to M.G.L. 30A, S219(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session according to M.G.L. 30A, S219(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and 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:

5_ members having voted in the affirmative

_ members having voted in the negative

_ members having abstained

The motion: X passed

_____ Failed

Chair Seddiki said we have adjourned from Executive Session and back in Open Session

IX. Approval of contract and appointment of Business Manager

Ms. Pierangeli wanted to make the recommendation to appoint Ms. Lisa Kontoes as the Business Manager for the Webster Public Schools. Ms. Kontoes is an active Webster community member, serving on the School Committee and currently as a Selectman.

Motion: To approve the contract and appoint Lisa Kontoes to the position of Business Manager

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

1 members having abstained (Member Adamopoulos)

The motion: X passed

_____ Failed

X. Approval of increase in cafeteria staff hourly wages by 58 cent

Ms. Pierangeli said as proposed in executive session looking to increase the hourly rate of the cafeteria staff by 58 cents for this school year with appropriate agreed upon increases next year

by 58 cent an hour and adjust accordingly

Motion: To approve the increase of cafeteria staff by 58 cents an hour with adjustment the following year

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

XI. Approval of addendum to Superintendent contract

Chair Seddiki said that in recognition of additional responsibilities that have been carried out with the vacancies

Motion: To approve the addendum to the Superintendent contract 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

XII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Marrazzo

Documents included in the packet:

- July 18, 2023 Minutes
- Policy IMG – Animals in School
- 23-24 Employee Handbook
- 23-24 Substitute Handbook
- 23-24 BHS Student Handbook
- 23-24 WMS Student Handbook
- 23-24 PAE Student Handbook
- 23-24 Coach/Athletic Handbook
- Letter from Student Support Services requesting 2.0FTE ABA's
- Letter from Marilyn Fels – donation
- PAE PTO Fundraising application
- Surplus items
- Warrant