

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Date: October 24, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: School Committee Conference Room

77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570

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. Call to Order: Pledge of allegiance

Chair Seddiki requested a moment of silence for the recent loss of a PAE student. Keeping his family in our thoughts

II. Approval of October 10, 2023 Minutes

Motion: To approve October 10, 2023 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

1 members having abstained (Member Blythe)

The motion: X passed

 Failed

III. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Personnel Update

New Hires Katie Lloyd Evanski – ABA at WMS
 Mandy Jaromonski – Para at WMS
 Julie Laub - BCBA

2. Family and Community Engagement Update

Ms. Pierangeli sat in on a meeting with the Commissioner of Education, he announced this week that there will be a statewide push for parent and family engagement to help with the issue of chronic absenteeism. Although the state did improve with attendance, there is still a large issue with absenteeism across the state. The state reported 1 in 4 students are chronically absent which means they are missing 10% of days enrolled so 18 days are absent in the current school year.

On October 18th we were honored to welcome Her Royal Highness, the Infanta Elena, sister of King Felipe VI of Spain, officials from Fundación MAPFRE, and physicians from UMass Memorial Medical Center to promote childhood safety. The special visit included the Safety Quest RV, outfitted with computer games designed to teach students about fire, home, play and street safety. In addition to the Safety Quest program at Webster Middle School they also visited the Real Madrid Program where the WMS students put on a display of basketball and soccer. Our guest also visited the Bartlett High School Programs and I will wait to give Principal Collins the opportunity to speak about the visit to Bartlett. Principal Collins and Student Rep Muhammad Aslam shared their experience from this visit. Shout out to Danielle Jalbert for working with Mapfre in getting the Safety Quest van come to WMS.

3. Instructional Leadership Update

Our Curriculum Director and our PLTW Coordinator Michele Bigelow were asked to present at the PLTW Fall Conference Leadership session by the One 8 Foundation Applied Learning Hub. They were highlighted because Webster was able to increase student engagement in PLTW courses in all sub groups. (ELL, SWD, Female, Race). We have expanded our PLTW offerings to Webster Middle School Students in grades 5-8 and that is called the PLTW gateway program. Curriculum focuses on robotics and automation, green architecture, computer science for innovators and makers. These are being taught by our STEM Teacher Kate Berti. In order to be a PLTW teacher they have to go through extensive training outside of school hours. I would just like to give our teachers a shout out for going above and beyond.

We just recently joined a DESE program called IMplement MA to evaluate and select a high school biology curriculum. A leadership team and a curriculum council has been formed made up of teachers, coaches, site based and central office administrators. The Leadership team has already begun an in depth series of trainings. (5- 3 hour training throughout the year). This is a year-long process to help us to select a high quality, culturally responsive curriculum.

The district professional development committee has been formed to have a voice in the professional development process and offerings. A GLEAM leadership team has been identified and they will be having their first meeting on Nov 2nd . We will be having our first walkthroughs on Nov 6th . We have continued to offer our instructional coaches training to help them implement student centered coaching cycles.

Dr. Patty Mackay provided an update on the PAE Extended Day Program – this year we were awarded an additional \$10,000 to fund teachers to attend a Project Based Learning program for the after school program. This will enable students to get a start on skills and feed into the WMS program.

Dr. Mackay presented an overview on the Seal of Bi-literacy. There are phases in the process to be a district where students have the availability to take assessments in both English and their chosen language. A committee has been formed. Students that pass will have the honor of having the seal included in their diploma.

4. Other Updates

SWCEC Quarter 1 Report attached for SC review

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

- Preparing to move athletic and music equipment into storage at MAPFRE on 11/9/23
- Along with the Athletic Director we performed a walkthrough of St. Joseph's School gymnasium in preparation for the winter athletic season. Big thanks to Beth Boudreau, School Principal, for accommodating the High School program.
- Parents have expressed concern that finding visitor parking is difficult. Additional signs will be added at the entrance to the campus to aid parents in finding the parking spots.
- Awaiting Planning Board approval to move forward with obtaining site permit for construction. Next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for 10/30 which now interferes with the rescheduled Town Meeting. Rescheduled to November 13th.
- Filed Sub-Bid due on 10/31
- General Contractor bids due on 11/14 and we anticipate issuing the bid award on or about 11/17
- Construction is scheduled to start in 11/27 and contracts are currently under review by Petrini & Associates (the same firm who provided services with former district construction projects).

2. Maintenance Update

BHS ~ Large boiler did fire up but is leaking; working to have it evaluated for service.. We have some remaining parts from the last repair and hopefully we will be able to use them which will help offset the cost as we wait for our new building.

WMS ~ The extensive vandalism at WMS on 9/29 (27 window screens, 1 window, 2 security camera domes and 2 card swipes) is being assessed and repaired.

PAE ~ Continue work on outside maintenance. Had all outside fencing tightened as it was starting to loosen after normal wear and tear. Water heater sensors being services as well as drainage on the playgrounds. Repairing some of the playground equipment as well.

C. Principal Report – Ryan Collins, Bartlett High School

1. Homecoming Week Celebrations

Wonderful week. Shout out to Melinda Doherty and the Student Council for their hard work

2. Attendance and Home visits / Re-Engagement

Our Re-engagement Specialist is a valued member of the student support team this year. We have redesigned student re-engagement, home visits, and letters going home. Being more proactive than reactive.

3. Quarter one and Block Scheduling Update

Changing the schedule was a task, but having the extra block time in class has allowed more time to dive into projects. Getting great feedback from teachers and students.

4. Mapfre Community Partnership

During the visit from Mapfre visitors our 18-22 students in partnership with Best Buddies demonstrated the jobs they do in our community. Moving forward a goal is a food pantry for our students.

5. PBIS Update and Behavior Incentives

At the high school we are introducing Bartlett Bucks (aligned with WMS incentives). Looking to have more family engagement nights that will allow students and families.

IV. Student Rep Update – Muhammad Aslam

A. Homecoming Recap

Pink out day was the most participated (Barbie Day). The Dance was a big success.

B. Special Guest

The Royal Highness of Spain visited as part of the Mapfre event. It was very nice to meet experience meeting her. Students in the Spanish classes had the opportunity to have a conversation with her

C. Sports Update

DECA students went to Bentley University for a Leadership Conference

NHS induction ceremony is tomorrow night

The traditional Thanksgiving Pep Rally will be held in ½ of the old gym if the construction team has not started their work. Plan B is to use the WMS gym.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

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

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:48 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:

- October 10, 2023 Minutes
- Picture from Mapfre Safety Fair
- Letter to families – Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy
- SWCEC Quarter 1 report and supporting documents
- Fundraising Organization Application – The GridIron Club
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