

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Date: November 14, 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

II. Approval of October 24, 2023 Minutes

Motion: To approve October 24, 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

III. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Personnel Update

New Hires Connie Lambert – BHS School Year Admin Assistant
 Alexandria Donnelly – BHS Admin Assistant
 Lakeesha Torres – WMS ABA
 Kaili Elwood – PAE Paraprofessional
 Robert Trueman – Tech Support

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|-------------|--|
| Transfer | Jared Karp - WMS Building Float Sub to BHS ELA Teacher |
| Resignation | Ellen Windus – BHS Math Teacher Rita Lancellotta – BHS ELL Teacher Kelly Warner – WMS Academic Interventionist |
| Retirement | Jill Chapdelaine – Director of Curriculum and Instruction (effective 2/24) |

2. Family and Community Engagement Update

Ms. Pierangeli along with other district staff and parent representatives attended the Family and Community engagement Summit on 10/26 in Marlborough. It was hosted by Massachusetts Dept. of Education. Great opportunity to network as a team and attend smaller session. We followed up with an internal meeting with building principals and family engagement staff. Working to create a consistent way of outreach for our families. One takeaway is the need for a Family Engagement Coordinator.

3. Instructional Leadership Update

The Tier Focused Monitoring (TFM) visit has been postponed from December until May 2024. We are continuing to receive support from our SSOs Partners (Statewide Systems of Support) The focus of their support is:

- 1.) to help us identify clear priorities anchored in culturally responsive grade appropriate instruction and sense of belonging.
- 2.) to target support in service of those priorities, with a particular focus on supporting school and district ILTs, and with the adoption and implementation of High Quality Instructional Materials.

Our SSoS partners worked with us this summer in developing our District Instructional Priority and they continue to work with us and our District Leadership Team. As part of this process, the Associate Commissioner Dr. Charmie Curry will be coming to our district On Dec 11, 2023 to visit classrooms within our Middle School and High Schools to view the progress of our work.

The District has been notified that it has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). This assessment is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education. Public Schools in Massachusetts are required to participate under the Mass Education Reform Act of 1993. Additionally, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 requires states and districts that receive funds under Title I to participate in all activities related to reading and Math. The assessment will happen between January 20 and March 8, 2024. The assessment is conducted for Grade 4 in Math and Reading.

Members of the Gleam Leadership Team, TNTP Partners, SSoS partners, ELL Consultant, and Representatives from Park Ave conducted Learning Walkthroughs last week at Webster Middle School and Bartlett High. Once walkthroughs are completed feedback is compiled and will be reviewed at the next Gleam Leadership Team meeting.

4. John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients

A list of the students that received this award was read (list in packet) ~ very proud of these students

5. Other Updates

A. The district received the Targeted Assistance Grant for \$50,000 to support WMS & BHS. The grant will cover PD for co-teaching and PD for meeting needs of our Students with Disabilities. Shout out to Dr. Mackay for obtaining this grant.

B. Ms. Pierangeli had the pleasure of attending the Bartlett NHS ceremony and the WMS NJHS events.

C. Food Service Director Kelsey Sanders has been working hard to get our Wellness Committee up and running. She has received 15 staff members who have volunteered their time to participate. The National School Lunch Program requires us to have a Local Wellness Policy. The wellness committee will review our wellness policy and will be conducting a needs assessment of our school community in relation to the guidelines below and draft an updated version of our Webster Wellness Policy which is outdated and hasn't been updated since 2019 due to the COVID break.

D. Ms. Pierangeli previously informed the School Committee of the Chronic Absenteeism Recovery Initiative that is being offered through the state. We have applied for this initiative. By participating in the initiative we are committing to improve family engagement and communication and participate in a DESE led webinar focused on strengthening the family-school partnership to better support students. Implement robust tracking and monitoring systems for chronically absent students to provide the necessary support and intervention. This program is called Open Architect.

E. The district received notification from the MSBA that they had made adjustments for districts whose projects were approved prior to October 1, 2022. This makes the Bartlett High School Project eligible since it was approved on March 2, 2022. The actual amount of the award will be determined once the District/Town submits the required budget and project information, and partners with the MSBA to apply the revised project funding limit. Meeting with Rep McKenna on the project and changes in funding.

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

- Music & Athletic (strength training) equipment was moved to MAPRE on 11/9/23.
- Additional signs have been added at the entrance to the campus to aid parents in finding visitor parking spots for Bartlett.
- Planning Board Meeting was held yesterday, November 13th. Looking for approval to move forward, Town Engineer outlined items that were address. We did not get approval, waiting for Town Planner's review. Going back to Planning Board the end of November.
- Filed Sub-Bid and General Contractor bid submissions were extended by two days so that bidders had time to review Bid packet addendums. File Sub-Bids have been received – came in under budget and the General Contractor bids are due this Friday.
- Petrini & Associates provided modifications to construction contractual documents and those modifications were included in the final Bid addenda.
- Construction is scheduled to start on 11/27.
- School Building Committee will meet on Monday, November 20th to finalize the bid awards.

2. Maintenance Update

BHS ~ Large boiler has been serviced. It was suspected that two nipples were broken. One of the two nipples were replaced which revealed that the barrel is leaking. The barrel cannot be bonded or welded. The boiler is scheduled to be replaced in Phase I of the Building Project. We are exploring options as the smaller boiler will not be able to support the school if temperatures drop into the 20s.

WMS ~ The roof on the garage has been replaced. DPW attempted to move the new storage containers to their permanent location but the DPW trucks were not wide enough so we are exploring alternative options for getting them moved.

PAE ~ The water heat sensors have been repaired. Two large roller shades in the Library and Cafeteria are not working properly; currently working on getting quotes to repair them.

C. Principal Report – Heidi Peterson, Webster Middle School

1. Therapy Dog Introduction

Guidance Counselor Jennifer Keary was present with the WMS Therapy Dog, Lane. Lane is a 3 y/o shepherd hound mix from Aruba, he started coming to WMS last week. He will be doing classroom visits and incorporated in group and individual therapy

2. Pen Pals

A 5th grade para has established pen pals with a local senior center. Looking to set up a meeting with the Pen Pals in March. Great writing assignment

3. Grade 8 High School Visits

The 8th graders have visited BayPath and BHS to see what choices are for high school next year

4. Extracurricular Activities

We have many after school activities – had too many students take the late bus, needed a second bus. Have 14 after school clubs currently. Most are student started clubs.

Last night Ms. DeCorcey and the WMS Bocci Unified Team participated in a competition sponsored by the Special Olympics. Next sport will be basketball

Family Bowling this Sunday from 4pm-6pm. Event was sold out quickly

Mapfre sponsored a Safety Care Bus that came to WMS – it had virtual games on various safety measures for out 5th grade students. A video was shown from the event.

Using a new system – electronic pass system. Students had a paper pass previously - now it's all electronic. Allows staff to track data/students. The system limits how many passes are out at a time, we define the number of passes allowed. It also allows for pass system to be temporarily shut down – for example, if an ambulance was called and we needed a “hold in place” - we have the ability to turn off the electronic pass system.

There was discussion about the late bus being used for the afterschool clubs. Concern with the limited stops and students knowing where they should get off closest to their home.

IV. Student Rep Update – Muhammad Aslam

A. Student Trips

- MIAA students went to Gillette Stadium for a Leadership Conference last Thursday
- Student Council members are going to Tantasqua this Thursday for a conference

B. Financial Aid Night

Very helpful evening

C. Middle School Visit

8th grade students came to BHS. Demonstrated the Innovative Pathways for them.

D. Sports Update

Fall sports are ending – great season Winter sports starting.

V. Old Business

A. Monthly Report on Fundraising Applications

As a reminder it is not the role of the School Committee to approve – only to review

- Bartlett High School – PBIS Family Feud Night
- Bartlett High School – Student Council sale of turkey feathers

VI. New Business

A. Approval of surplus items – misc books from Webster Middle School Library

A list of books was in the packet – these are outdated books from WMS

Motion: To declare surplus items of misc. books from Webster Middle School Library and to direct the Superintendent or Business Manager to auction off, donate or otherwise recycle/dispose of these materials in conjunction with the provisions of 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

B. Acceptance of misc. donations to Park Avenue Elementary School

In the packet there is a list of items that were donated to the Family Liaison at PAE. Thank you to Ms. DeOliveira.

Motion: To accept misc. donations to Park Avenue Elementary 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

C. Approval of 2023 School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding

The MOU was included in the packet - Ms. Pierangeli said this MOU is done on an annual basis.

Motion: To approve the 2023 School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding

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 Job Description – Director of Curriculum and Instruction

With the retirement announcement we are updating this job description. Once approved we will post the position

Motion: To approve the job description of Director of Curriculum and Instruction

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

E. Discussion and Approval of Superintendent 2023-2024 Goals

- 2023 School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding
- Director for Curriculum and Instruction Job Description
- DESE Superintendent Goals Rubric
- Ms. Pierangeli 23-24 Superintendent Goals
- Warrant