

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Date: January 9, 2024

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 December 12, 2023 Minutes

Motion: To approve December 12, 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

Special visitor this evening, Murphy and SRO Mehlhouse. Murphy is 10 weeks, English lab. He has been to all the school sand meeting students and staff. Will be evaluated in a few weeks and start a 25 week training.

1. Personnel Update

Resignation Valerie Krogul – Speech and Language Pathologist
 Jonathan Russell – WMS Library / Media Teacher

2. Instructional Leadership Update

- This month we are starting to conducting Benchmark Assessments thorough out the schools
- The District Leadership Team will continue to do walkthroughs on a regular basis – rotating schools
- The Tier Focus Monitoring Review (TFM) that was postponed in the fall has been rescheduled – begin preparation for the DESE visit in May

3. Family and Community Engagement

- Looking at expanding our family engagement. Currently reviewing our in-house practices/systems

4. Other Updates

- Ms. Pierangeli gave an overview of the CMC Annual Report
- Shout out to Business Manager, Lisa Kontoes for all her efforts with the BHS Building project

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

The File Sub Bids were received on 1/3/24 – in the process of being finalized. The bids came in \$388,202 over budget. A review of the bidders was provided. Monday January 22nd will have a meeting to finalize the general contractor bid.

2. Maintenance Update

BHS ~ Boiler Update – Good news ~ the installation of the 2 new boilers is 70% complete. Full installation is expected to be completed by 1/12. Thanks to Rick Lafond and Tim Bell at the Town Hall for use of ARPA funds to pay for the boiler – use of school funds not needed

WMS ~ No updates at this time

PAE ~ No updates at this time

C. Principal Report – Heidi Peterson

1. Student of the Month Breakfast

Every month we recognize students for student of the month. Each month has a new focus. Cafeteria staff does a great job putting on the breakfast

2. Access Testing

Currently testing for our ELL students. Students are tested individually so is a lengthy process. Dr. Mackay shared how important it is for students to come to school – there is a small window to complete this testing. This is happening at all 3 schools

3. Tier 2 PBIS

The May Institute has been working with WMS and we are ready to move to the next step. The Tier 2 involves staff members to go into classrooms in a coaching role.

4. Attendance Update

Using the Open Architect system; it provides attendance, testing, discipline all in one place. Been in school 82 days – compared to last year overall attendance rate is staying static (last year 90.5%, this year 90.7%), chronic absence (10 or more days) has fallen slightly (last year 32.5%, this year 31.5%), Fridays are the highest days of absenteeism. Additional statistics were provided

V. Student Rep Update – Muhammad Aslam

1. Student Testing Update

Last week had iReady math testing during homeroom. This week ELL testing. Today had Mock AP Testing

2. Class of 2024 Update

Last week meeting held with all upcoming senior events

3. FAFSA Meeting

FAFSA assistance in Guidance Office.

4. Sports Update

VI. Old Business

A. Monthly Report on Fundraising Applications

As a reminder the School Committee does not approve Fundraisers.

- Bartlett High School = PBIS Semi Formal Winter Dance
- Bartlett High School = Class of 2024 – Snack Shop on Wednesdays
- Bartlett High School = Class of 2024 – Sales of drinks and snacks at Winer Semi-Formal Dance
- Webster Middle School – NJHS – Semi Formal Dance for Gr 7 & 8

VII. New Business

A. Acceptance of donations – Winter coats for PAE students from Christ the King Church and Knights of Columbus Council 12691 - Christmas gifts for PAE and WMs students form Nowak Plumbing

Thank the Christ the King Church and Knights of Columbus Council 12691 for winter coats for PAE students. Nick Nowak pulled up with a truck load of Christmas presents – he is a resident of Webster and wants to give back

Motion: To accept the donations 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. FY25 Budget First Review

Ms. Pierangeli began the presentation with a review of the District goals, curriculum review and work being done in the District

Mrs. Puliafico reviewed positions that were added to the current school year and the need to retain these positions.

Ms. Peterson highlighted her staff that are new this year.

Mr. Collins provided details about the new positions in BHS.

Mrs. Baris gave a breakdown of the disability percentage of our students, pointing out Webster is above the state average. Our highest number of students is autism (115 students)

Dr. Mackay reviewed the ELL profile of our students

Ms. Kontoes said the first draft of the proposed budget has an increase of 7.09%. She provided an explanation of the drivers of this increase. There are 22 positions that are currently funded with ESSER Funds. We are looking to move 19 of those positions into the FY25 budget – not including the Building Float Subs at each building.

Member Adamopoulos voiced concern over the state shortfalls and how it could affect local aid. Ms. Pierangeli said the DLT will come up with some options. Chair Seddiki expressed interest in holding a budget workshop. Member Napierata said the presentation was very clear on where the ESSER funds were going and holding on to those positions. Member Millet questioned the loss of building subs given there is no pool of daily subs. She is concerned about the continued use of paraprofessionals as substitutes. She would like to see building subs included in the budget. Ms. Millet said work needs to be done to obtain subs.

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

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:55 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:

- December 12, 2023 Minutes
- 2023 Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Annual Report
- Fundraising Applications
- FY25 Budget – first Review
- FY25 Budget – PowerPoint Presentation
- Warrant