

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Date: February 27, 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 February 13, 2024 Minutes

Motion: To approve February 13, 2024 Minutes as presented

The motion was made by Member Millet

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

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 Hire: Karla Maldonado – Bilingual Paraprofessional at PAE

Resignation: Chrissy Meleti – ELL Teacher at BHS

2. Other Updates

- Bartlett Renovation project is well under way – more info to follow from Ms. Kontoes. Administration along with public safety leaders and the building project staff will be holding a safety meeting next week to review current status of project.
- Held Attendance Academy at WMS over February break. Twenty students were chosen – 12 attended. This was an opportunity for students to make up days they were absent along with catching up on

missed assignments and MCAS prep. Discussions regarding holding a April Academy and possible Saturday School

- This coming Friday is a ½ day Professional Development

B. Business Manager Report

1. School Building Committee Update

A PowerPoint was provided of demolition being done

- Trailers for General Contractor, Architect and OPM have been delivered to the grass area of the Central Office Parking lot. Temporary generator access will be used to power the trailers while waiting for National Grid to complete the work order for temporary electricity for the project duration.
- Temp walls between section B and C have been installed to secure the construction zone. Temporary stairs have been installed to provide an emergency egress from the second floor to the first floor.
- Prep activities to enable the chair lift have been completed which includes abatement, installation of temporary walls around the area until the chair lift is installed, cutting, cubing, and removing concrete/metal decking for the opening in the second floor. The chair lift installation is pending engineering approval and the state permit so the installation timeframe is to be determined pending these items. In the interim, access to the existing elevator is available.
- The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Monday, April 8, at 11:00.

2. Maintenance Update

BHS ~ No updates at this time

WMS ~ All classroom HVAC filters have been changed

PAE ~ Two roller shades (library & cafeteria) have been repaired. The boiler has been cleaned.

C. Principal Report – Heidi Peterson, Webster Middle School

1. STEM Update

Twelve students will be participating in the PLTW Showcase in May at Boston.

2. Attendance Update

Now at 110 days of school we have seen some progress – at 82 days there was 90% student attendance, have increased to 91%. The numbers of chronic attendance is still high. Friday's have the highest attendance day.

A survey was sent to parents regarding the ½ day professional development days. There were 58 responses; most responded that their student does attend on the ½ days, the ones that do not attend said transportation and care were the reasons they did not attend. There were suggestions to boost attendance on those days.

3. I-Ready

A review of the mid-year assessments was provided. Have seen improvement. Grade 5 Reading stayed the same with students on or above grade level. Saw an 11% increase with students previously below grade level. Math saw a 24% to 30% increase on or above grade level. Grade 6 Reading increased from 26% to 35% in the on or above grade level. Math had an increase of 26% to 32%. Grade 7 Reading had a 29% increase to 32% at the on or above grade level. Math has a 12% to 19% increase with students testing on or above grade level. Grade 8 did not see as much improvement. Ms. Peterson provided a more detailed report on the sub groups.

III. Student Rep Update – Muhammad Aslam

1. Back from Vacation

Year going by quickly

2. Quinsigamond Community College Decision Day

QCC came to present to interested seniors – they were able to have an interview and a decision was made on the spot if they were accepted

3. Internships

PLTW Internships going well. Marketing Internship students go to Choice1. The BioMedical internship students go to Gentex.

V. Old Business

A. Policy EEBA – Multi Function School Activity Vehicle – First Reading

No questions

B. Final Review and Approval of FY25 Budget

Mrs. Pierangeli said there are no changes from the last presentation. The Town Charter requires that we submit a budget to the Town by Feb 28th. We are recommending to put forward 5.35%. Tuesday, March 5th there will be a Budget Workshop starting at 5:00

Motion: To approve the FY25 Budget 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

VI. New Business

A. Approval of additional 1.0FTE Paraprofessional at Webster Middle School

Mrs. Baris has submitted a memo requesting an additional paraprofessional at WMS. A new student has moved from out of state, his IEP requires a 1:1 throughout the day. Funding for this position come from current budget salary savings

Motion: To approve an additional 1.0FTE Paraprofessional at WMS

The motion was made by Member Millet

The motion was seconded by Member Blythe

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. Discussion and Approval of 1% cap of Webster Student Enrollment in Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual School (CMVS)

There are currently two virtual schools in Massachusetts – Greater Commonwealth Virtual School (GCVS) and TEC Connections Academy (TECCA) Commonwealth Virtual School. Statewide there is a 2% cap of district students able to attend. On an annual basis we are able to restrict enrollment based on 1% of our October 1 data with a vote from the School Committee. Currently, the percentage of Webster students who attend CMVS is 1.65%. By restricting the enrollment to 1%, will not impact any of the students who currently attend the CMVS. This would go into effect in the 24-25 school year. In order to restrict enrollment the Department requires a vote to be taken prior to March 1, 2024. The current sending tuition per student is \$9,672. The district's October 1 enrollment was 1685. The current enrollment in TEC Connections was 22 and Greater Commonwealth Virtual School was 6. The vote tonight for the 1% cap will not have an immediate financial impact until the current students either graduate or return to sending districts.

Motion: To approve a 1% cap of Webster Students Enrollment in Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools (CMVS)

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

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

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:57 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:

- February 13, 2024 Minutes
- Policy EEBA – Multi Function School Activity Vehicle
- FY25 Budget
- Request for additional 1.0FTE Paraprofessional at BHS
- Virtual School Cap
- BHS Renovation Project Phase I
- Warrant