

**WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, September 10, 2024**

Date: September 10, 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 Blythe
- Member Sgariglia

The following Committee Members were absent:

- Member Adamopoulos

**I. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Seddiki stated as a reminder this meeting is being taped both audio and video and will be put on the district website

**II. Approval of August 20, 2024 Minutes**

Motion: To approve August 20, 2024 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

**1. Personnel Update**

**Retirements -**

Carol Daly  
Patricia Konieczny

**New Hires -**

**Park Ave Elementary:**

Tessa Stacy - Preschool Teacher

**Webster Middle School:**

Nathan Arnold - Grade 7 ELA Teacher

Rosedely Perez-Carrion - ABA

**Bartlett High School:**

Mary Foley-Powers - Special Education Teacher

Daniel Gutierrez - Biology Teacher

Superintendent Pierangeli announced that Mr. Peter Carney will be the new Interim Assistant Principal at Bartlett High School and that Ms. Baggette will be returning as the music substitute to assist as we work through this transition

**Resignations -**

**Park Ave Elementary**

Madison Ouellette - ABA  
AnnMarie Cooper - Grade 2 Teacher

**Webster Middle School**

Deborah Langlois - ELA Teacher

**Bartlett High School**

Gabrielle Cochrane - Biology Teacher

**Transfers -**

No Transfers at this time.

**Vacant-**

SCHOOL	POSITION
PAE	ABA - 5.4 positions
PAE	Paraprofessionals - 2 position
WMS	Paraprofessionals - 3 positions
BHS	Paraprofessionals ( 4 positions )
District	School Psychologist

Superintendent Pierangeli also announced that Ms. Alicja Wisnosky will continue working as a contractor and that we are still advertising for this School Psychologist position.

**2. Instructional Leadership Update**

The Superintendent reported that the school year is off to a great start. The District opened the buildings to staff on August 26 for three days of Professional Development, staff meetings, and time for teachers to set up their classrooms. The day began with a breakfast provided by our wonderful cafeteria team, followed by convocation at 8:00 am. Superintendent Pierangeli started the year with a message focused on gratitude and introduced our instructional priorities for the year, emphasizing the importance of building connections with

students to enhance our teaching. Dr. Luff, our guest speaker, connected well with the staff and delivered an inspiring message about perseverance and engagement.

Superintendent Pierangeli and Chair Seddiki expressed how on point and inspiring they found Dr. Luff's message.

Superintendent Pierangeli is very appreciative of all the staff at Webster Public Schools and is grateful for the returning staff members who previously worked here and are now contributing to our district's collaborative efforts.

The Superintendent reported that we welcomed back students in grades 1 through 12 on August 29 and 30. It was wonderful to see all the smiles and excitement from our students. On Wednesday, September 4, we welcomed our PreK and Kindergarten students.

The Superintendent noted that the District Benchmark calendar is included in your packet and that principals will begin initial assessments this coming week.

Chair Seddiki inquired about how communication regarding benchmarks is being shared with families. Superintendent Pierangeli will work on developing messaging to address this.

### **3. Other updates**

Superintendent Pierangeli took a moment to congratulate Michele Bigelow, who was chosen as the Blackstone Valley Hub Partner of the Year for 2024. Ms. Bigelow attended an Education Breakfast in Mendon with Congressman Jake Auchincloss, where she was recognized for her achievements in developing partnerships and pathways at Bartlett High School.

Superintendent Pierangeli noted that a Family Needs Assessment Survey has been sent out to our families. This survey updates parents on the Instructional Priority and provides an opportunity for families to offer input on programming and how funds should be utilized. Superintendent Pierangeli also explained that they are gathering the results and will report on them at the next meeting.

The Webster Library reached out to Superintendent Pierangeli about bringing an author into the district to meet with our students. The Superintendent explained that they are currently collaborating on this and are considering bringing an author to our middle school. The Superintendent also noted that more information will be provided soon.

Superintendent Pierangeli shared the enrollment numbers for the start of the school year, noting that enrollment is up. Some students are still completing the registration process, and the district is working to finalize their information. The Superintendent also provided a report on total enrollment, new enrollments, transfers, and school choice, which has been included in the packet.

Member Millet inquired whether these numbers included students who had dropped out. The Superintendent explained that there were no students who dropped out during the summer. Member Millet also suggested conducting a survey to understand why some families are choosing to leave Webster Public Schools.

Chair Seddiki stated that the survey would be a very good starting point.

Chair Seddiki gave a shout-out for all the hiring that took place over the summer.

## Current Enrollment by Class

PreK	68
Kindergarten	146
Grade 1	127
Grade 2	156
Grade 3	146
Grade 4	143
Grade 5	143
Grade 6	141
Grade 7	138
Grade 8	156
Grade 9	122
Grade 10	111
Grade 11	88
Grade 12	97
18-22	5

### **Totals by school:**

**PAE 786**

**WMS 578**

**BHS 423**

**TOTAL 1787**

B. Business Manager Report - Mrs. Kontoes

### **1- Building Committee Update**

The following Activities are in progress:

- C Wing (general):  
Installation of Structural Steel
- **Basement:**  
Elevator shaft openings

Rough Plumbing  
Installation of ductwork

- **First Floor:**  
Rough electrical in gymnasium  
Excavation for underslab  
Fire protection installation
- **Second Floor:**  
Installing ductwork, temporary window openings and in-wall plumbing
- **Roof:**  
Replacing auditorium deck and installing auditorium roof
- **Site work:**  
Currently installing light pole bases and creating the fiber duct in the back fence
- **Technology:**  
Finalizing the RFP for the Technology integrator and technology needs

Mrs. Kontoes reported that there will be a School Building Committee meeting next week, where they will review and approve an RFP for a procurement technology integrator, as well as address the technology needs that must be up and running, particularly for Phase 1.

Mrs. Kontoes also reported that MASBA was here today and was very impressed with the progress of the project. Additionally, Mrs. Kontoes noted that George Street will be used for overflow parking for contractors due to the limited space on campus.

## 2- **Maintenance Update -**

Bartlett High School: Reported above with the Building Committee Update

Member Blythe asked if there had been any communication with the residents of George Street regarding the parking. Mrs. Kontoes explained that parking is across from the soccer field and that permission has been obtained from the town hall, so the residents are aware of the situation.

Member Millet inquired whether the project would be enclosed prior to the first snowstorm. Mrs. Kontoes confirmed that this is indeed the planned approach.

Webster Middle School: The HVAC and Window projects are still in progress and expected to be completed by the end of the month/early October.

**Park Ave Elementary:** Five leaks on the roof have been discovered. The roof is under warranty and a warranty claim has been submitted to Versico. Now waiting on Greenwood to address the leaks.

## 3- **Student Activities Audit**

Mrs. Kontoes reported on the following recommendations and findings from the Student Account Activity audit that was performed on FY23 for the Webster Middle School and Bartlett High School.

**Operations Manual:** It was determined that the manual is outdated. It was recommended that we update the manual to follow DESE's adoption of its latest Agreed Upon Procedures & Audit Guidelines for Student Activity Funds. It is also recommended that we include Travel Policy and Procedures in the updated manual. This policy will need to be approved by the School Committee and needs to specify the method/methods to pay travel expenses inclusive of travel authorization forms. The Business Office will work on updating the manual and will bring the revised manual to the Committee for review and approval. The plan is to start the revision process in the October/November timeframe.

**Weekly Deposits:** There was a finding that bank deposits are not timely. The recommendation is to deposit student activity receipts at least weekly. When we update the manual, we will include the expected frequency.

**Inactive Class & Activity Accounts:** Six old class accounts and many inactive accounts were identified at BHS. Building Principals are currently reviewing the accounts to identify which ones should be closed.

**Account Deficits:** One account had a deficit balance. All schools have been reminded that this is not permitted. And, if it should occur, a written plan needs to be submitted to the Principal and resolved as soon as possible.

**School Committee Approval:** It is advised that the School Committee approves each student activity annually (ideally at the start of the School Year). In addition, they recommended that the SC also establish a reasonable checking account maximum balance and incorporate it into the updated manual. This approval process has been done in the past but inconsistently. At the next meeting, Mrs. Kontoes will be presenting the full list of accounts to be approved or closed. A recommendation for reasonable checking account balances will be presented to the School Committee when the manual is updated. This will be conducted on an annual basis.

Mrs. Kontoes thanked all the principals and administrative assistants for their efforts in managing and tracking this process.

Member Sgariglia inquired whether there had been any recommendations to conduct the audit on a more regular basis, such as every two years. Mrs. Kontoes responded that the audit is already conducted every two years.

### **C. Principal Report - Ms. Heide Peterson**

#### **School Opening-**

Ms. Peterson reported that the school year has started successfully. Ms. Peterson also mentioned that they will be focusing on benchmark testing and IReady testing.

## **Upcoming Events-**

Open House will be held this Thursday from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Ms. Peterson reported that parents are invited to visit classrooms. Teachers will be working together to give 30 presentations. Ms. Peterson noted that the Open House schedule has been sent out via ClassDojo, allowing parents with multiple students to plan accordingly.

Additionally, Ms. Peterson announced that a motivational speaker, Jessy Green, will be visiting this Friday to speak to the 7th and 8th graders. Mr. Green is known for his encouragement, positive thinking, and advocacy for kindness and goal-setting.

Ms. Peterson reported that Picture Day is scheduled for next Thursday. Ms. Peterson also announced that the PBIS team will be hosting a family BBQ. Ms. Peterson encouraged families to come and enjoy the food, games, and activities. Due to restrictions on outdoor events after hours because of Triple E, the event will be held indoors. Ms. Peterson hopes that many families will attend and enjoy the fun.

Ms. Peterson announced that the 8th graders will be visiting Bay Path at the end of the month. Ms. Peterson also noted that they are coordinating with Bartlett High School for the 8th graders to visit before their trip to Bay Path.

Ms. Peterson reported that they are holding a fundraising calendar raffle. Students are selling calendars for \$20 each, giving participants a chance to win 31 prizes throughout October. These prizes have been generously donated by local businesses and individuals. Ms. Peterson thanked the community for their support and Ms. Decorsey for arranging the fundraiser.

## **Bryt Information-**

Ms. Peterson announced that the school will be participating in a new program called Bryt, run by the Brookline Center for Community Mental Health. She has observed this program operating in other school districts and noted that it is a Tier 3 intervention available to all students. The main focus of the program is to support the reintegration of students who have been absent from school for an extended period, providing a structured approach to help them transition back into the school environment.

Ms. Sgariglia asked if the schools would develop a matrix to identify which students are on track for the Bryt program and who might benefit from it. Ms. Peterson responded that significant work has been done with Bryt, including the creation of a manual that outlines the Journey program versus Bryt, with specific entrance and exit criteria and staff assignments for each program. She noted that, currently, one counselor is assigned to both programs, but efforts are underway to assign one counselor to each program separately.

## **Update of School Improvement Plans-**

Ms. Peterson reported that this is a three-year plan, starting in 2022 and ending in 2025. She will be working with the school council to review the plan. Ms. Peterson explained that the plan aligns with the district's priorities, focusing on engagement and differentiation to improve student outcomes.

The first priority goal is to maintain a safe and supportive environment, and efforts are ongoing in this area. An additional aspect of this goal is to increase parent involvement, which continues to be a focus. Ms. Peterson

also highlighted efforts to boost student participation in clubs, including the new Cheer and Connections Clubs starting this week. These clubs are student-driven and complement existing clubs.

Priority number two is to increase student achievement, which remains a high priority. Ms. Peterson detailed ongoing work with Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions to address learning gaps and focus on student-centered lessons.

For priority number three, which involves culturally responsive instructional practices, Ms. Peterson reported good progress. She noted the establishment of extracurricular activities that promote diversity and celebrate culture. Additionally, they meet monthly with the language acquisition team. Ms. Peterson mentioned the need to examine external teaching materials to ensure they are culturally responsive and align with state standards.

Ms. Peterson explained that the fourth priority is improving communication with families. She emphasized the importance of sharing student progress with parents and noted that planning monthly family events is part of this goal. Although Ms. Peterson acknowledged that monthly events might be overwhelming for some parents, efforts will continue in this area. Ms. Peterson also highlighted the strong partnership with Mapfre and the library. She mentioned that a new committee will be established to focus on planning future events.

Member Millet expressed appreciation for how Ms. Peterson explained her School Improvement Plans and provided excellent examples.

Member Sgariglia suggested that the PTO or the CPAC might assist with family engagement efforts or offer events. The Superintendent noted that there is currently no active PTO at the middle school, but efforts to address this are ongoing.

#### **IV. Student Representative Update**

The student representative Ms. Hope Cooper reported about the following:

Ms. Cooper explained that they have reviewed the handbook in homerooms and highlighted some key points. One change is the adjustment of the failing grade from 65 to 60, which provides students with a bit more leeway and the opportunity to work with their teachers to pass their classes. Ms. Cooper also discussed the lockout policy, which requires students who arrive late to report to a designated room until their parents are contacted. Repeated occurrences will result in additional consequences.

Additionally, Ms. Cooper addressed the change in administration with the students and introduced the new digital hallway passes, which she believes will more efficiently track students. Ms. Cooper also explained the updated cell phone policy, which now prohibits cell phones except during passing periods and lunch.

Ms. Cooper reported that IReady testing has begun and mentioned ongoing discussions about National Honor Society invitations. She noted that this is the final week for making changes to student schedules. Lastly, Ms. Cooper shared that internship packages have been distributed to students interested in participating, and Ms. Bigelow is diligently working to match students with internships in their areas of interest.

Member Millet inquired whether students have been affected by the renovation, either positively or negatively, and suggested conducting a survey. The Superintendent responded that there is a mechanism in place for immediate reporting of any issues that arise. Ms. Cooper added that no issues have been reported to date.



## **V. Old Business**

### Monthly Report on Fundraising

- High Five for a Coin Drive at Park Ave Elementary
- Park Ave PTO - Fall Book Fair, Coin Drive, Meadow Farms Catalog selling items & Fall Festival
- GridIron Club - Trivia Night at Bartlett High School
- Student Council - Applying Paper Feathers & Wear a Turkey Costume at Webster Middle School
- Bartlett Volleyball Program - Selling a variety of snacks at Webster Middle School

## **V. New Business**

### A. Approval of Unit B Request for Intent to Bargain

Superintendent Pierangeli explained that the document is included in the packet. The Superintendent noted that the School Committee has a representative present to handle negotiations.

### **Motion: To approve a request for Intent to Bargain for Unit B**

The motion was made by: Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by: Member Sgariglia

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

Member Millet was nominated to be the School Committee Representative for Unit B Bargaining.

### **Motion: To Nomination of School School Committee Representative:**

The motion was made by: Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by: Member Sgariglia

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 Warrants, Bills, Payroll and Vouchers**

### A. Approval of Warrant for the amount of \$481,575.12

### **Motion: To approve Warrant**

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. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:16 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,  
 Desiree A. Moniz

**Documents included in the packet:**

- August 20,2024 minutes
- Superintendent Notes
- District Benchmark Assessment Calendar
- Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
- Monthly Fundraising Flyers
- Warrant Report

**Upcoming Events / Dates:**

<b>September 10, 2024</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>School Committee Meeting</b>
<b>September 12, 2024</b>	<b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b>	<b>WMS</b>	<b>Open House</b>
<b>September 17, 2024</b>	<b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b>	<b>BHS</b>	<b>Open House</b>
<b>September 19, 2024</b>	<b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b>	<b>PAE</b>	<b>Open House</b>
<b>September 19, 2024</b>	<b>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b>	<b>WMS</b>	<b>PBIS Family BBQ</b>
<b>September 24, 2024</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>School Committee Meeting</b>

<b>October 8, 2024</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>School Committee Meeting</b>
<b>October 11, 2024</b>	<b>½ day</b>	<b>All Schools</b>	<b>½ Day of School</b>
<b>October 13, 2024</b>	<b>1:00 PM - 2:00 PM</b>	<b>WMS</b>	<b>Motivational Speaker</b>
<b>October 14, 2024</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>All Schools</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>October 19, 2024</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>WMS</b>	<b>WMS Chorus - Worc Rainers</b>
<b>October 22, 2024</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>School Committee Meeting</b>
<b>October 24, 2024</b>	<b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b>	<b>WMS</b>	<b>Masked Teacher</b>