

**WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, September 24, 2024**

Date: September 24, 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 Adamopoulos

The following Committee Members were absent:

- Member Sgariglia

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 September 10, 2024 Minutes

Motion: To approve September 10, 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

Chair Seddiki stated that items on the agenda have been rearranged.

1. Personnel Update: Superintendent Pierangeli

Retirements -

Carol Daly

Patricia Konieczny

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked both Carol Daly and Patricia Konieczny for their years of service at Webster Public Schools. The Superintendent provided a brief work history for each of them. Member Millet also shared some memories of working with Carol Daly. Additionally, the Superintendent highlighted some of Patricia Konieczny's work history. Ms. Haire reminisced about the good times working with Patricia Konieczny and expressed her gratitude for her many years of dedication.

Dr. Mackay shared stories about Patty Konieczny from their years of working together. Principal Puliafico thanked Patricia Konieczny for her hard work and dedication to the students.

Chair Seddiki expressed her gratitude for both Patricia Konieczny's and Carol Daly's years of service.

New Hires -

Park Ave Elementary:

Maria Endriga - 0.4 Paraprofessional

Claudia Martines - ABA

Judy Stien - Paraprofessional

Webster Middle School:

No new hires at this time

Bartlett High School:

No new hires at this time

Resignations -

No resignations at this time.

Transfers -

No Transfers at this time.

Vacant positions:

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

2. Instructional Leadership Update

The Superintendent explained that they recently received the Tier Focus Monitoring (TFM) Report and will be meeting as a team to review it, with plans to share the findings in the upcoming meeting. In addition to the TFM Report, the Superintendent shared that the district also participated in a pilot program with the Center for School and District Partnership (CSDP) for Progress Monitoring. This involved a survey/questionnaire conducted this past spring by our school leaders and district leadership, which was then evaluated by CSDP and presented in a report format for our review. We will also be unpacking this report, which should help us reflect on our practices and gauge whether we are aligned in our instructional approaches and the use of data to inform those practices.

3. Family Engagement

Superintendent Pierangeli explained that they are continuing to focus on family engagement this year and are working to strengthen home-to-school relationships. Dr. Patty Mackay will provide an update.

Dr. Mackay reported that their first family engagement meeting will be this coming Friday, September 27, 2024. A discussion will take place to see which members will be participating and review of staff and community surveys that were done recently.

Dr. Mackay stated that North Village is very interested in partnering with us to provide more homework help and hopes to get this started soon.

She explained that a staff survey was sent out, and they received 63 responses. Dr. Mackay shared one of the responses suggesting the creation of a video for parents who prefer watching to reading. Additionally, a family survey was sent out, yielding 81 responses. Dr. Mackay noted that the survey was distributed in three languages: English, Spanish, and Portuguese. She also shared some of the questions included in the survey.

Dr. Mackay provided the number of responses received from each school.

Dr. Mackay also noted that the ESSER grant will be ending this Monday, and they have purchased materials to be used for workshops. Dr. Mackay explained that the hope is to teach families how to utilize these tools at home.

Dr. Mackay stated that the district team attended the first meeting for Social Emotional Learning (SEL). The district team consists of Dr. Mackay, an administrator from each building, counselors from each building, and teachers from each building, including a special educator and an ELL teacher. Dr. Mackay added that she is really looking forward to this partnership and hopes it increases attention on behavioral, social-emotional, and mental health aspects.

Superintendent Pierangeli added that the district has already seen an increase in family engagement in each of the buildings and hopes this continues throughout the year.

4. Other updates

The Superintendent reported Thursday September 12th, she attended the Central Mass Collaborative (CMC) meeting in Worcester. The current Financial Director Beverly Teft is retiring after the first of the year. The Superintendent was asked to participate in interviews for a new Director of Finance. Four interviews were

scheduled and put a name forward as a possible Interim Director. Susan Farrell will be meeting to conduct a second interview and make the final decision.

Also in collaborative news, on Friday, September 20th, the Superintendent attended the SWCEC meeting in Oxford. Like many other districts, they have struggled to hire staff, especially paraprofessionals. Enrollment at the collaborative has been stable and is starting at a consistent level, similar to past years. Webster currently has 13 students enrolled in the SWCEC Collaborative. The agenda was included in the packet.

Superintendent Pierangeli said the building renovation has been keeping us very busy. Ms. Kontoes will give an update on the project during her report.

Superintendent Pirengeli reported that as they kick off the year, we also are submitting all of our entitlement grants etc. Last year DESE implemented a new grant system for application and processing of grants which has been a learning experience for us. Patty and Lisa have done a great job working within the new system. Dr. Mackay will give us a quick status of the grants for FY 25.

Dr. Mackay reported that they are waiting for final approval and shared that there is a new grants system that is a bit different; furthermore it has eliminated a lot of extra paperwork.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that the full district Leadership team will be meeting on September 26, 2024 and will be attending a more in depth Title IX training to make sure we are in compliance with the new laws.

The Superintendent shared how in the first few weeks she had the opportunity to be at many sporting events and events around the school. The Superintendent is so happy to see the support we have received from our parents in the community and just want to say thank you for their support.

Superintendent Pierangeli ended her report with the Amos Bartlett Portrait. Recently Superintendent Pierangeli was contacted about a portrait that had been hanging in Bartlett for many years. The Superintendent was unaware of the history of the portrait and wanted to share the information with the school committee. Ms. Sarah McInnis stated that in 1931 her great-grandfather Bartlett donated the oil-on-canvas portrait of Amos, painted by Edmund C Tarbell in 1901, to the high school. This painting hung in the Webster school buildings since 1931, but it went missing for about 12 years after a renovation in 1979. It was noticed missing in 1991 and an article was published into T&G about the mystery. It was found and there was a ceremony to re-hang it at Bartlett High School in May of 1991. Three articles were added to the packet.

B. Business Manager Report - Ms. Kontoes

1- Building Committee Update

The **Technology Request for Proposal** (RFP) was approved by the School Building Committee on 9/17 and has been advertised in 5 locations as required by MGL. A pre-bid conference will be held on September 27 at 2:30. Bids are due on October 18 by noontime.

October Town Meeting Warrant: There are two articles on the warrant tied to the BHS Renovation project.

- **Article 3** is sponsored by Superintendent Pierangeli and required by National Grid to support the infrastructure work needed to supply power to the building.

Information was included in the packet.

- **Article 4** is sponsored by the Town Administrator to appropriate the remaining surplus balance (\$62,921.40) from the Feasibility Study to the Construction Phase of the project. The warrant has been approved by the Selectman and the School Building Committee is in support of it.

Support of the two Articles that are being presented at the annual town meeting on October 21, 2024

Motion: To Support of the two Articles that are being presented at the annual Town Meeting

The motion was made by: Member Blythe
 The motion was seconded by: Member Millett
 The following roll call vote was taken: Millet
 5 members having voted in the affirmative
 _ members having voted in the negative
 _ members having abstained
 The motion: X Passed
 _ Failed

- **Project Schedule Milestones:** Sharing key upcoming activities & milestones:

Activity	Estimated Completion
Roof Insulation & Membrane	Late November
Rough HVAC& Electrical on the roof	Early January
Basement framing, ductwork, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, fire, communication	Late November
1st Floor framing, ductwork, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, fire insulation, drywall, communication	Early December
2nd Floor framing, ductwork, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, fire insulation, drywall, communication	Early December

Ms. Kontoes mentioned that most of the windows will be installed, but if not, they will be protected with a shield for the winter months.

2- Maintenance Update -

Ms. Kontoes thanked Kenny Pizzetti and the DPW team who have been doing tree trimming around Bartlett and WMS campus to address overgrowth over walkways, buildings and parking spots. This trimming is expected to continue into October so the Parking Lot by the tennis courts can be completed on a half school day.

3- Student Activities Accounts : Review and Approval

Mrs. Kontoes stated all Materials were shared in the School Committee packet.

III. Review and Approval of School Year 2024-2025 Student Activity Accounts

A. Approval of School Year 2024-2025 Student Activity Accounts

Motion: To Approved the closure of Student Activity Accounts and Transfer Balances

The motion was made by: Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by: Member Blythe

The following roll call vote was taken: Millet

5 members having voted in the affirmative

_ members having voted in the negative

_ members having abstained

The motion: X Passed

_ Failed

4- Update on Special Education Transportation

An additional in-district SPED bus has been added to support the IEP needs of students who have moved into the district. This is an increase from 2 to 3 buses for Park Avenue.

Chair Seddiki asked for the reason for the increase in buses. Ms. Kontoes explained that these are small buses and they have hit capacity. Ms. Kontoes added that the buses can accommodate 15 to 17 students, depending on whether there is a monitor or nurse on board.

C. Principal Report - Ms. Amy Puliafico

School Opening-

Ms. Puliafico shared that the school opening has been successful, starting with a strong focus on relationships, routines, and PBIS. She reported that they held off on instruction for 11 days to support the students by reteaching daily expectations and routines. Ms. Puliafico also noted that they have an enrollment of 771 students.

What's New to Park Ave Elementary -

Ms. Puliafico shared that interactive smart boards have been installed in classrooms and student spaces, just before students returned to school. She discussed the new math program called Eureka Math Square and noted that professional development was provided to teachers in May and this past August, with additional training scheduled throughout the school year.

Information was provided to families during the open house in both written and presentation formats. Ms. Puliafico also explained the reading assessment program called DIBELS, which is conducted three times a

year for all students. This year, they will be using online DIBELS, which collects data, analyzes it, and provides suggestions for small group instruction to better meet student needs.

Ms. Puliafico reported that partitions have been installed and completed. With this work finished, three additional spaces were added to the library, as well as a new classroom space that will allow the music teacher to return to a dedicated music classroom. One of the spaces in the library will be dedicated to ELL services, while the other two will be dedicated to Student Services.

Upcoming Events -

Ms. Puliafico said that on September 18, 2024, they had Mapfre volunteers come as part of their week of giving. The volunteers were able to interact with students during recess, and Ms. Puliafico also mentioned that they helped organize the library by putting books away.

Ms. Puliafico reported that the Open House was held just last week and was very successful, with 45 percent of families in attendance. Ms. Puliafico added that outside groups participated in the Open House, including the PTO, Farm to School Program, Town Library, Girl Scouts, and MTA.

Ms. Puliafico noted that the Real Madrid Basketball program is currently running until the middle of November, with 40 students enrolled and at capacity. Transportation is offered as part of the grant.

Additionally, Ms. Puliafico reported that Girls on the Run is up and running, and she also noted that a gardening club will be introduced this year.

Lastly, Ms. Puliafico mentioned that some PTO events have been taking place, including the book fair during Back to School Night and the Fall Festival, which will be held on November 16, 2024.

Update of School Improvement Plans-

Ms. Puliafico reported that the School Improvement Plan follows last year's plan and shared some highlights. The first goal is on Safe and Support Environment which is continuing the work with PBIS and Trauma Sensitive practices especially with the addition of Social Emotional Behavioral academy.

Ms. Puliafico added that grade-level work expectations have been established for all students. This is already in place with the new math program, and they are utilizing the current structure of DIBELS testing to monitor reading growth, while also continuing to use the IReady program.

Ms. Puliafico reported that the focus is on providing equitable learning opportunities and strengthening Tier 1 instruction. The goal is to provide high-quality instruction and ensure that students have as much access as possible to the general education classroom.

Ms. Puliafico added that there is a focus on increasing meaningful family engagement. Ms. Puliafico stated that she has a couple of goals to work on. One is to open channels for families to share their experiences, express their needs, and plan parent workshops. Ms. Puliafico noted that she has made it accessible for families to provide feedback on her newsletters. In one of the newsletters, feedback was received from families regarding the Open House, and she hopes to continue growing these channels.

Chair Seddiki asked if any insights from that survey have been processed. Ms. Puliafico stated that they are still unpacking the information and explained some of the feedback, which included requests for a scavenger hunt and an increase in language translation.

IV. Student Representative Update

The Student Representative, Hope Cooper, reported on the following updates:

- The Math iReady assessments have been completed by students in grades 9 through 12.
- Invitations for the BHS Unified Sports Team have been sent out.
- GPAs are still being updated.
- Bartlett High School picture day took place on September 17, 2024, with retakes scheduled for November 1, 2024.
- Studysync benchmarks were conducted on September 18.
- Make-up assessments are being organized.
- The theme for Homecoming has been announced as "Club/Neon," with the event scheduled for October 12, 2024.
- Homecoming tickets will be sold during lunch for \$20, and Homecoming T-shirts will be available for \$10.
- Fundraising opportunities are being considered for the upcoming school year through Student Council (StuCo), National Honor Society (NHS), and Student Government.
- The National Honor Society Trading Post is being cleaned and organized, with plans to open in the upcoming weeks.
- At the end of October, there will be a PBIS Trunk or Treat event welcoming all students and their families.

Member Blyth asked if the game schedule for the unified sports event has been posted. The Student Representative replied that the schedule is available and will be shared with the committee.

Member Blyth also asked if the Trading Post is in need of donations. The Student Representative explained that they are still working on taking inventory; however, donations are always accepted.

V. Old Business

No Old Business at this time

VI. New Business

A. MTA - MCAS Discussion and Possible Vote of Support

Mr. Roy is seeking the school committee's support for eliminating the MCAS as a graduation requirement in the upcoming ballot. Mr. Roy noted that if this law passes, it will take effect starting this April.

Member Adomopolis asked if this had been previously brought to the School Committee's attention. Mr. Ben explained that there was a law they were trying to pass related to two items on a ballot question, and that was the first piece. He is now asking about the second piece, which involves the elimination of passing the MCAS as a graduation requirement. Member Adomopolis noted that he fully supports the elimination of MCAS as a

graduation requirement. Mr. Roy reiterated that this proposal won't eliminate the MCAS itself, but only the requirement of passing it for graduation.

Member Seddiki asked if eliminating this as a graduation requirement would mean all other accountability requirements of the MCAS would stay in place. Mr. Roy reported that yes, that would be the case.

Member Millet shared that she has been involved with MCAS since its inception and that it was developed to be a diagnostic tool. She noted that it's all about how it is presented to the students. The purpose is to identify where students need help and to inform teachers on how to support each student.

Motion: To Support the Elimination of the MCAS as a Graduation Requirement on Question 2

The motion was made by: Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by: Member Adomopolis

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. Policy ACA - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex, - First Reading
We are updating the policy as law changed August 1, 2024
- C. Policy ACAB -Sexual and Sex-Based Harassment and Retaliation - First Reading
We are updating the policy as law changed August 1, 2024
- D. Policy ACA-R - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex under Title IX Including
Sex-Based Harassment - First Reading
New policy that needs to be added
- E. Policy ACGA - Civil Rights Grievance Procedure - First Reading
New policy that needs to be added
- F. Policy ACGB - Sexual Discrimination Grievance Procedure - First Reading
New policy that needs to be added

Superintendent shared some comments on each policy.

- G. Appoint Interim Director of Student Support Services

As you know, our Student Services Director Ms. Kathleen Baris will be retiring on October 31st after 12 years of service to the Webster Public Schools. I would like to appoint Mrs. Shari Haire as the Interim Director of Student Support Services until June 30, 2024. Ms. Haire has been an employee of the Webster Public School since August 20, 2018. Ms. Haire served in the role as Team Chair for OOD, preschool and WMS until July 1, 2023 when she became the Assistant Director of Student Support Services & Equity. Before that Ms. Haire was a Special Education teacher for 12 years. Ms. Haire is licensed as a Special Education Director, has her Masters in Educational Leadership and is more than qualified to fill the role. The plan is that after the first of the year we will conduct a formal process to name a permanent Director. I would request that school committee approve my recommendation to Appoint Ms. Shari Haire.

Motion: To Approved Ms. Shari Haire as Interim Director of Student Support Services

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

H. Acceptance of Donations-25 Backpacks from the Greek Orthodox Church to the Webster Middle School

Superintendent thanked The Greek Orthodox Church and Ms. Faith Veronis and Father Luke for their generous donation.

Motion: To Acceptance of Donations from the Greek Orthodox Church for 25 Backpacks

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

I. Approval of Central Mass Collaborative Capital Reserve Fund

Presented by Sussan Farrell:

The Central Massachusetts Collaborative is seeking the approval of our member districts to create a capital reserve fund that will support costs associated with the acquisition, maintenance, and improvement of fixed assets. This fund, if approved, will be a multi-year financial plan for the evaluation, prioritization and funding of Collaborative projects that are necessary to protect and enhance educational and administrative programs. Once established, deposits into the capital reserve are proposed and approved through the budget process.

Motion: To approve Central Mass Collaborative to create a Capital reserve fund that will support costs associated with the acquisition, maintenance, and improvement of fixed assets

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. Review / Transfer / signing of Warrants, Bills, Payroll and Vouchers

A. Review of Warrant for the amount of \$1,322,920.57

VII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:30 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:

- September 10,2024 minutes
- Superintendent Notes
- District Benchmark Assessment Calendar
- Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures
- Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Board of Agenda
- Student Activity Accounts 2024-2025 School Year Review and Approval Sheet
- Park Ave Elementary Improvement Plan
- Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex Policy
- Sexual & Sex-Based Harassment and Retaliation Policy
- Nondiscrimination of the Basis of Sex under Title IX Policy
- Civil Rights Grievance Procedure Policy
- Title IX Sexual Discrimination Grievance Procedure Policy
- Central Massachusetts Capital Improvement Plan
- Warrant Report

Upcoming Events / Dates:

October 8, 2024	6:00 PM	District	School Committee Meeting
October 11, 2024	½ day	All Schools	½ Day of School

October 13, 2024	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	WMS	Motivational Speaker
October 14, 2024	Holiday	All Schools	Closed
October 19, 2024	TBD	WMS	WMS Chorus - Worc Rainers
October 22, 2024	6:00 PM	District	School Committee Meeting
October 24, 2024	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	WMS	Masked Teacher