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

Date: December 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 Adamopoulos
- Member Sgariglia

The following Committee Members were absent:

## 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 November 12, 2024 Minutes

**Motion: To Approve November 12, 2024 as presented**

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

### 1. Personnel Update: Superintendent Pierangeli

**Retirements** - Nancy Guiney, Guidance Counselor at Bartlett High School

**New Hires** - Leah Dufault - ABA at Park Ave Elementary
Elaine Bean - Paraprofessional at Park Ave Elementary
Samantha Lemay - ABA at Park Ave Elementary

**Resignations -** No resignations at this time.

**Transfers -** No transfers at this time.
**Vacant positions:**

| SCHOOL | POSITION |
|---|---|
| PAE | ABA - .4 |
| WMS | Grade 7 Math Teacher |
| WMS | Special Education Teacher |
| BHS | 1.0 ABA |
| BHS | Paraprofessionals (4 positions available) |
| District | School Psychologist |

**2. Instructional Leadership Update-**

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that, since the last school committee meeting, we have conducted multiple walkthroughs and District Instructional Leadership Team (DILT) meetings. The walkthroughs focus on identifying trends across the district. Following the second walkthrough, the Superintendent provided staff with feedback on those trends and outlined an area for focus. This feedback has been included in the packet for reference.

The Curriculum Director, Ms. Deb Rivera, reported on the instructional work being undertaken by the District Instructional Leadership Team. Ms. Rivera also presented a slideshow, which has been included in the packet.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that the district will be reinstating Saturday school for students who need additional support. At Bartlett High School (BHS), students will have an opportunity to recover grade reductions incurred due to attendance issues during the quarter. Dr. Mackay gave an overview of Saturday School.

Dr. Mackay also reported on the acceleration of academic camps scheduled for vacation weeks. The district has been awarded $34,000 to support these camps, which will take place during the February and April vacation periods for students from both Webster Middle School and Bartlett High School. These camps are designed for students who require extensive reteaching in a specific subject area.

Chair Seddiki inquired whether middle school and high school students would be placed together or in separate classrooms during the academic camps held at Webster Middle School. Dr. Mackay clarified that the students will be separated.

Member Sgariglia inquired whether both Saturday school and academic camps would be optional or mandatory for students. Dr. Mackay responded that they will engage in conversations with parents to explain how these programs can enhance their child's academic performance and the specific benefits for students.

Member Sgariglia also asked whether transportation would be provided for these camps and Saturday school. Superintendent Pierangeli explained that there is currently no funding available for transportation.

Chair Seddiki thanked Dr. Mackay for providing this information.

Superintendent Pierangeli also provided an update on the Principal Search process. The search committee conducted interviews during the week of November 25th. The committee consisted of two teachers from Bartlett High School, the Dean of Students from Bartlett High School, an ABA from Webster Middle School, two parent representatives (one of whom had to withdraw due to an emergency), and a member of the central office staff. A total of 16 applications were received and reviewed, and four candidates were selected for interviews. One candidate withdrew, leaving three interviews to proceed.

The committee recommended moving forward with one candidate, our Interim Principal, Ms. Gina Nieves. On Thursday, December 12th, from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m., staff will have an opportunity to meet with Ms. Nieves and provide feedback for the Superintendent's review.

The Superintendent thanked the Principal Search Committee for their time and participation in the process.

**3. Family Engagement**

The Superintendent highlighted the many great initiatives happening across the district. In November, parent conferences were held at Park Avenue Elementary School and Webster Middle School (WMS). The Superintendent gave special recognition to the Innovative Pathways students who attended the Webster Middle School conferences to showcase the exciting work they are doing at the high school and to help promote the pathways program.

Additionally, the Park Avenue girls participating in the "Girls on the Run" program completed their 5K on November 24th. The Webster Middle School celebrated their National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) induction ceremony on December 3, 2024.

Dr. Mackay provided an update on family engagement, mentioning that a new addition at Bartlett High School is the Second Step Curriculum. At Webster Middle School, the Bryt program has been implemented.

Dr. Mackay also reported that one of the requirements for the Title One Grant is to hold a family session, where families will receive information about Title One and learn how they can become more involved in their children's education, along with other relevant details. The first meeting will be held virtually, and the second will be in person.

Dr. Mackay mentioned that Ms. Rivera, Ms. Haire, and she attended the Title One conference for administrators last week.

**4. CMC Audit** -

On Thursday, November 14, 2024, the Superintendent attended a collaborative meeting in Worcester. During the meeting, the team reviewed the audit with the Board, Financial Director Ms. Bev Teft, Director Susan Farrell, and the Collaborative's auditor. Superintendent Pierangeli added that the audit was very positive and that the collaborative is in a strong financial position.

**5. Other Updates -**

Superintendent Pierangeli announced that union negotiations are coming up. Superintendent will be letting the committee know when the negotiations will take place.

The Superintendent announced that Lois Mason, who has facilitated Interest-Based Bargaining in the past, has agreed to provide training for Webster, as we have many new members. Superintendent Pierangeli mentioned that she hopes to schedule this training in early January.

Superintendent Pierangeli also announced that budget meetings are ongoing as we continue to address programming needs within the district and added that there will be a presentation at the next scheduled School Committee meeting.

The Superintendent gave a shout-out to Kate Berti, who was recognized at the STEM Conference with the PLTW Rookie of the Year Bright Light Teaching Award.

The Superintendent also congratulated Dr. Patty Mackay, who recently attended the CACE conference, where she was nominated for and received the Sage Award. The Sage Award is given to individuals who exemplify outstanding work in the area of Title I.

Member Sgariglia asked who wrote the article and whether articles like this could be published, possibly in the Webster Times or Yankee Shopper. Ms. Nieves responded that they have already started working on this.

**B. Business Manager Report - Ms. Kontoes**

**1- Building Committee Update -**

Ms. Kontoes announced that phase one has been completed. She mentioned that the windows arrived on December 4th, and installation began this week.

Ms. Kontoes also stated that a planning board is currently working on how the move will take place during April vacation, noting that the move will occur in four phases.

Ms. Kontoes presented a slideshow featuring updated pictures of the project.

Member Millet inquired whether updates on the project could be published in the newspaper for the community to see.

Superintendent Pierangeli mentioned that she created flyers with QR codes, allowing families to scan them and access pictures and information of all project updates.

Chair Seddiki agreed that promoting updated pictures of the project for the community is an excellent idea.

**2- Maintenance Update -**

Ms. Kontoes reported that there are no updates at this time.

**C. Principal Report - Ms. Gina Nieves, Interim Principal at Bartlett High School-**

A. Attendance -

Ms. Nieves reported that the daily attendance percentage has been 90% or higher, averaging between 91-92%. Ms. Nieves mentioned that each week, she sends out a newsletter with all the updates. Starting at the beginning of the year, Ms. Nieves will include the daily attendance percentages in both the newsletter and on Class Dojo. Ms. Nieves added that these newsletters are also posted on the school website.

Ms. Nieves reported that class tardies are now handled differently, allowing for more time in the classroom to help students be successful. Additionally, common planning time has been implemented.

B. Journey Program-

Ms. Nieves reported that this program is led by the new School Adjustment Counselor. The goal of the program is to analyze data to focus on the students currently accessing it—understanding why and when they are using it, how much time is spent out of class, and how to minimize this.

Additionally, the program will identify who will have access to the Tier 2 interventions and outline the specific interventions that will be implemented to assist those students. Ms. Nieves also discussed how the Tier 1 program will be utilized moving forward.

C. Common Planning Times for Teachers-

Ms. Nieves reported that they have secured planning times for teachers.

D. Innovation Pathways-

Ms. Nieves reported that brochures have been distributed to all schools and the central office, and are also posted on the website.

Ms. Nieves said students representing all pathways attended Webster Middle School Parent's Night.

E. PBIS-

Ms. Nieves reported that quarterly community meetings will begin to celebrate individual accomplishments, such as Student of the Month, perfect attendance, honor roll, and more. Additionally, grade-level behavioral trends will be addressed.

F. Winter Sports-

Ms. Nieves reported that winter tryouts have concluded, Chemical Health Night was held last night, and practices have begun. The first basketball game will be held on December 12th at home, against Quaboag (St. Joseph's).

G. Upcoming Events-

- Dec 11 - 6-7:30pm - MEFA Financial Aid Night
- Dec 14 - 9- 11:00 am - Breakfast with Santa and the Grinch (PBIS)
- Dec 16 - Honor Bowl (NHS students) at Uxbridge High School (SWCL schools)

● Dec 18 - 7-8pm - Winter Choral and Instrumental Concert
● Dec 17/20 - School day caroling by the choir to WMS and area nursing home

## IV. Student Representative Update - Hope Cooper

**Recent Events and Updates:**

- The DECA Mock Competition was held on November 21 at Nichols College.
- The Thanksgiving Pep Rally took place on November 27.
- Bartlett's Chicken Bowl game against Southbridge resulted in a 23-0 win for Bartlett.
- The Senior Class Fundraiser for Butter Braids and other baked goods concluded on December 3.
- Nichols Leadership had their second field trip to Nichols College for the school year.
- Half Day on December 6, 2024.
- The 2025 Junior/Senior Prom theme was announced: Once Upon a Time. The event will be held at Pleasant Valley Country Club.

**Upcoming Events and Updates:**

- NJHS Induction Ceremony for the 2024-2025 inductees.
- Final Exams for Semester 1 courses.
- Quarter Two Grades will close on January 17.
- Toy for Tots Fundraiser and Sock Drive organized by the Student Council.
- NHS Hats and Mittens Fundraiser.
- Winter Sports Tryouts and seasons have begun.
- The First Home Basketball Game for Bartlett High School will be on December 12, 2024.

## V. Old Business

A. Monthly Fundraising Updates:

- PBIS at BHS:
  - Brunch with Santa and the Grinch
  - Valentine's Day Snowball Dance
- Student Council at BHS:
  - Collection of food pantry items to donate to Dudley Food Share.
- Yearbook Staff at BHS:
  - Holiday Hallways Games, Bake Sale, and Crafts

## VI. New Business

**A. Student Activity Account Name Change**

Ms. Kontoes stated that Bartlett High School is requesting to rename an existing account that has been mislabeled. The request is to change from the Life Skills 18 -22 Program.

**Motion: To Approve the Student Activity Account Name Change**

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 Donations:**

- 10 live Christmas trees donated to families at BHS by Noak Plumbing.
- Assortment of toys, games, and sports equipment donated to PAE and WMS.
- 25 turkeys donated to WMS from the Greek Church for Thanksgiving baskets.
- $1,000 for Unified Basketball from Special Olympics.
- $500 for Unified Basketball from Special Olympics.

The Superintendent thanked the community for their continued support of our students and their families.

**Motion: To Accept the miscellaneous Donations**

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 Warrant for 1.0 FTE: Bryt Academic Coordinator**

Interim Director Ms. Shari Haire explained the Bryt Program and its implementation at Webster Public Schools. In your packet, we are requesting a 1.0 Bryt Academic Coordinator position specifically for the Webster Middle School, which is fully grant-funded for this fiscal year. For the next year, the program is asking the district to fund 25% of the position, which will be included in the FY 26 budget.

Member Sgariglia asked if any of these students are currently receiving IEPs. Ms. Haire explained that this program is not specific to special education students, but rather to general education students.

Chair Seddiki said it is great that we can provide a soft landing for students who are reentering the school.

**Motion: To Approve the request for a 1.0 FTE Bryt Academic Coordinator**

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**. Signing of Warrant in the amount of $ 374,492.76

## VII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:34 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:**

- October 08,2024 Minutes
- Superintendent Notes
- Communication for walkthrough trends
- CMC Letter & Financial Statements
- PD Grids
- BHS Renovation Project Phase 1 Update
- Fundraising Applications
- Student Activity Name Change
- Donation from Special Olympics
- Mid-Year Reflections and Action Steps
- Memorandum
- Warrant Report

**Upcoming Events / Dates:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **December 3, 2024** | **WMS NJHS induction** | **WMS Gym** | **6:00 PM** |
| **December 6, 2024** | **Half Day all Schools** | **All Schools** | |
| **December 9, 2024** | **Sports Chemical Health Night** | **BHS** | **6:00 pm - 7:00 pm** |
| **December 14, 2024** | **PBIS Community Brunch with Santa or Grinch** | **BHS** | **9:00 am - 11:00 am** |
| **December 17, 2024** | **Special Education Basic Rights night** | **District** | **SC Room 6:00 pm** |
| **December 18, 2024** | **Winter Concert** | **WMS & BHS** | **6:00 pm - 7:00 pm<br>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm** |
| **December 23 to December 31, 2024** | **Holiday Break** | **All Schools** | |
| **January 1, 2024** | **No School ~ New Year's Day** | **All Schools** | |
| **January 7, 2024** | **Building Committee** | **District** | **SC Room 6:00 pm** |