WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Date: January 14, 2025 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
- Member Blythe
- 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 December 10, 2024 Minutes

Motion: To approve December 10, 2024 as presented
The motion was made by: Member Millet
The motion was seconded by: Member Adamopoulos
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 Pierangeli announced new hires, transfers and resignations. The Superintendent will continue to keep the list of updated positions.

A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Personnel Update

Retirement - Michael Majewski - Custodian at Bartlett High School

Superintendent Pierangeli expressed gratitude to Mr. Majewski for his years of dedicated service and shared fond memories of his time at Webster Public Schools.

Ms. Gina Nieves thanked Mr. Majewski for his years of service.

New Hires - John Bsoumai - PLTW/STEM at Bartlett High School
Hannah Hutchinson - Instructional Assistant at Park Ave Elementary
Kimberly Diaz Santiago - ABA at Webster Middle School

Resignations - Jane Walsh - ABA at Park Ave Elementary
Samantha Lemay - ABA at Park Ave Elementary
Joanna Maldonado - Instructional Assistant at Webster Middle School

Transfers - No transfers at this time

Vacancies -

SCHOOL	**POSITION**
PAE	ABA (.4)
WMS	Grade 7 Math Teacher
WMS	Special Education Teacher
BHS	Paraprofessionals (4 positions available)
BHS	1.0 ABA
BHS	1.0 ABA Quest Position
District	School Psychologist
District	1 Custodian

2. Instructional Leadership Update-

a. MCAS Update-

The Superintendent reported that, on December 18th, the Commissioner of Education held a webinar to provide an update on the requirements for school districts following the vote to end MCAS as a graduation requirement. The Superintendent mentioned that the packet includes an FAQ from the webinar. Additionally, the Superintendent explained that, as outlined in the new law, a student who has not yet earned a Competency Determination (CD) must demonstrate mastery of a common core of skills,competencies, and knowledge by satisfactorily completing coursework certified by the student's district as meeting the skills, competencies, and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks. This certification pertains to the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests administered in 2023.

DESE recommends all districts serving high school students should develop a process that is:

- Aligned with the new language of the statute in a way that allows districts to demonstrate students have met the new requirements
- Approved by the governing board of the district (e.g., school committee, board of trustees, etc.) • Shared with all students, families/guardians, and district stakeholders
- Publicly available in multiple languages

The Superintendent said that they will be working on this and will hope to have it in front of the school committee very soon as it impacts this graduating class.

b. Walkthroughs-

Superintendent Pierangeli reported being very busy since returning from the break. The team resumed walkthroughs on January 7th, picking up right where they left off. Trend information continues to be shared with staff, including updates from the walkthroughs. As a District Instructional Leadership Team, efforts remain focused on finding ways to support staff in implementing changes that drive improvements in student learning.

c. Saturday School and February and April Vacation Camps-

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that Saturday School began on January 4th, with students from Webster Middle and Bartlett High invited to participate. Initial letters were sent to families over the break, and invitations have since been expanded.

Dr. Mackay said that Saturday school has been relatively successful and gave an update on the program to the committee. Dr. Mackay added that the district has received additional funding for transportation, which is currently being arranged.

Dr. Mackay reported that the district is still working to fill teaching positions for the February and April Break camps. These camps will differ from those run in the past, as the grant funding them specifies that they are not for coursework makeup but for content-based learning experiences. The Superintendent noted that a flyer shared with staff is included in your packet.

d. Mid Year Assessments-

Curriculum Director Debbie Rivera provided an update and overview of the presentation.

Winter SY 24-25	PAE K-4	DIBELS	January 2-22nd	January 23-24th	Grades K-4
	PAE & WMS	i-Ready ELA	January 13-15th	January 16-17th	All Students
	PAE & WMS	i-Ready Math	January 22-24th	January 27-28th	All Students
	BHS	i-Ready Math	January 6-7th	January 8-10th	All Students
	BHS	i-Ready ELA	January 27-28th	January 29-31st	All Students
	BHS	StudySync Benchmark 3	January 9-10th	January 13-15th	BHS S1 Students only
	BHS	StudySync Benchmark 1	January 22-24th	January 27-28th	BHS S2 Students only
	WMS & BHS	StudySync Benchmark 2	January 22-24th	January 27-28th	Full year BHS students and WMS students

e. Upcoming PD Days-

The Superintendent reported that January 21st will be a full Professional Development day for staff, meaning there will be no school for students. The Superintendent added that the grids are nearly complete and will be shared with the committee at the next school committee meeting.

f. Associate Commissioner Visit-

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that Associate Commissioner Charmie Curry's visit has been rescheduled to January 24th. Dr. Curry will be visiting our schools.

3. Management and Operations-

The Superintendent noted that December and January have been very busy with budget preparations. As you know, we will be presenting our budget later in this meeting.

The Superintendent reported that she and Ms. Kontoes have been extremely busy with the building project. Progress is moving quickly, as you will see in Ms. Kontoes' report on the project.

4. Other Updates-

Superintendent Pierangeli stated that preparations for the FY 26 School Calendar have begun. The Superintendent has shared it with the leadership team, and it will be discussed in an upcoming meeting.

The Superintendent reported that on Monday, February 13th, she will be attending the Worcester County Superintendent Association's legislative meeting in West Boylston. Superintendent added that this meeting provides a valuable opportunity to share concerns and learn about initiatives being undertaken across our communities.

The Superintendent reported that she has a CMC Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 15th.

The Superintendent shared that she continues to meet with her mentor and has a meeting scheduled for this week. The Superintendent finds these meetings very beneficial, providing valuable opportunities to discuss ideas and receive feedback based on her experiences.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that, during the last School Committee meeting, Ms. Millet requested updates on attendance percentages. The Superintendent shared a clip from Open Architect and noted that the packet includes a snapshot of quickly accessible data to help guide outreach efforts.

The Superintendent explained that, as we enter negotiation season, the District, the WEA Union, and the Instructional Assistant negotiating teams will participate in joint training on Interest-Based Bargaining (IBB). The training will take place in the School Committee Room on January 22 from 4 to 8 p.m.

B. Business Manager Report - Mrs. Kontoes

1. Building Committee Update -

- Switchgear equipment to support power has been received which is a significant milestone.
- Windows are being installed; started with pre-existing openings followed by new openings. The installation is 75% complete
- Testing of 10% of the windows has begun on the windows that were installed with pre-existing openings.
- All framing is completed which is another significant milestone
- Anticipate installing kitchen equipment the first week in February
- Basement – Priming the hallways, tiling the bathrooms and locker rooms, installing lights, epoxy floors, plumbing fixtures and ceiling grid
- First Floor - installing fire protection, sheet rocking and painting cafeteria, completing in-wall roughs in class rooms and painting gymnasium
- Second Floor - installing lights, ceiling grids in hallways, installing tile in bathrooms, flooring in classrooms
- Auditorium - Framing walls, completing in-wall electrical roughing and plumbing. Installing ductwork/hangers, fire protections and cat walk
- Site work - Installing light pole bases
- Odors in Section B - reference email in your packet
- Potential Change Orders (PCO)/Change Orders: The following is a summary of change orders to date
- There have been a total of 10 change orders to date for a total of $1,229,348; 2 of the change orders were credit change orders totaling $41,393.04
- To date, there have been 156 PCO; of which
- 37 were voided
- 132 were incorporated into the 10 change orders
- 25 are currently being reviewed

The PCOs/COs are predominately for Phase I but there are also changes for Phase II & III. Mrs. Kontoes will provide a specific breakdown in a future meeting as Mrs. Kontoes is awaiting the breakdown from the OPM. The volume of PCOs/COs is considered on par with renovation projects.

Superintendent Pierengeli emphasized that while the project may appear to be divided into equal parts—sections A, B, and C—the majority of the work is actually being done in phase one.

Chair Seddicki inquired whether these changes were part of the original plan or merely unforeseen adjustments introduced at the last minute. Mrs. Kontoes responded that a few of the changes were owner-requested modifications.

2. Maintenance Update -

Bartlett High School:

- Water heater has been temperamental. Mrs. Kontoes stated that we started classes without hot water until mid-morning for two days last week. On both occasions, the issue resolved itself. The heater was serviced and it was discovered that the air switch was faulty. It was jumped and is now running properly. The air switch will be replaced; we are waiting on the quote and then subsequently the part.

Webster Middle School:

- Gas Leak - During break an odor was detected. The fire department and National Grid were contacted and came on site. A small leak was detected and was patched in less than 2 hours of detection.
- Building Alarm: We received notifications that there were communication issues. There was an error in communication with the American Alarm panel and the communication line that needed to be cleared.
- LED Lighting Upgrade Project **-** Phases II & III was originally planned to start in late January. However, the vendor had availability in December and started last month and is about 90% completed. 85% of this project is being funded by National Grid incentives & rebates, solar credits; the remaining 15% is being funded through on-bill repayment for 5 years at a monthly cost of $635 which will be offset by anticipated savings from converting to LED lighting.

Park Ave Elementary:

- The elevator got stuck on Monday, January 6 prior to the start of school with a staff member inside. We called for service immediately and the staff member was released. The Elevator Company thought they resolved this problem, however, approximately an hour later, another staff member got stuck. Therefore, we had to call the Elevator Company back to release the staff member and fully resolve the issue.

Other Updates-

PowerSchool CyberSecurity Incident:

- The district was notified by PowerSchool on January 7 of a Cybersecurity Incident that occurred on December 28 which prompted them to immediately engage their cybersecurity response protocols.
- Their investigation determined that an unauthorized party gained access to certain PowerSchool Student Information System (“SIS”) customer data using a compromised credential.
- The unauthorized access point was isolated to the PowerSource Portal which only permits access to the SIS database. No other PowerSchool products were affected.
- Technology staff attended a webinar hosted by PowerSchool on Wednesday afternoon where the PowerSchool executives verbally communicated similar information as the written communications. They committed to provide communications materials from their legal team to be used in communicating with our families and staff.
- The communication was not provided on Thursday as anticipated. The District became aware that the incident was being reported on the news and that some Massachusetts districts had already sent their own communications. As a result, the Superintendent moved forward with notifying staff and families.
- Late on Thursday night, we received the communication templates which included content about the type of data impacted and references to provide credit monitoring or identity protection services if applicable but with no timeframes about next steps.

- The District has engaged legal counsel to aid in response protocols and communications.
- The Federal Department of Education in collaboration with the Consortium for School Networking hosted a webinar on Friday night to discuss the impact and how to address the implications. We had hoped to attend but the webinar was already at capacity when we received the notification.

Chair Seddiki added that PowerSchool is a large organization serving many schools across the country, so this issue is not unique to Webster. Mrs. Kontoes replied that while PowerSchool has a significant reach, servicing approximately 200 schools in Massachusetts, the impact has been felt across every state.

Member Blythe asked how the data will be delivered. Mrs. Kontoes responded that the information should be sent through a secure method.

C- Principal Report - Ms. Heidi Peterson, Principal at Webster Middle School

1. **Events -**

   Ms. Peterson reported that they have started with the English IReady and they will be starting with Math next week.

   Ms. Peterson noted that ACCESS testing has commenced.

   Ms. Peterson reported that last Wednesday, they hosted a motivational speaker, Anthony Valentine, who works with pre-teens. Sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students participated in the event. Ms. Peterson added that she received overwhelmingly positive feedback from both students and staff.

   Ms. Peterson announced that the annual Semi-Formal for 7th and 8th graders will be held on January 31, 2025.

   Ms. Peterson mentioned that on March 7th, 2025, they will be hosting a career day for 8th graders.

2. **Data Update -**

   Ms. Peterson reported that the year attendance continues to be better than last year. Last year the percentage of attendance was 91% and currently this years attendance is 93.6%.

   Ms. Peterson also reported that chronic absenteeism last year was 33.3% and currently this year is 20% which is a significant drop.

   Ms. Peterson reported a 14% decrease in tardies compared to last year.

   Ms. Peterson reported on discipline data, noting that there were 1,149 minor incidents last year, while there have been 855 so far this year. She also reported on referrals, which are sent to administration for handling. Last year, there were 918 referrals, and this year, the number has decreased to 561.

   Ms. Peterson reported that nurse visits are down by 567 compared to last year. Ms. Peterson added that this is a significant improvement, as it shows students are more focused on being in the

classroom rather than going to the nurse to avoid class. Ms. Peterson further noted that while there is certainly improvement, the overall numbers are looking great. Ms. Peterson also emphasized that the hard work being done by the staff is clearly paying off.

Member Sgariglia asked Ms. Peterson if there is a mentorship program in place at Webster Middle School, or even a student-to-student program for high-risk students, such as a positive buddy system. Ms. Peterson replied that while they don't have this in place at the moment, it's definitely a great idea to explore.

3. PLTW - Rookie of the Year ~ Kate Berti

Ms. Peterson reported that Ms. Kate Berti has been recognized as Project Lead the Way Rookie of the Year. Ms. Peterson added that Kate Berti has worked incredibly hard, and she appreciates all of her dedication and effort.

Ms. Berti shared a small presentation to the School Committee.

Chair Seddiki stated that she participates in the classroom and has witnessed firsthand how students engage with these high-quality materials, noting the excitement visible on their faces.

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked Ms. Berti for her hard work and dedication to the students.

IV- Student Representative - Ms. Hope Cooper

Ms. Cooper shared some comments about PLTW, emphasizing how beneficial the program has been, describing it as an outstanding experience.

Recent Events and Updates:

Updates:

- Holiday Break is over
- Math I Ready Testing for BHS
- Varsity Boys Basketball has a record of 2-4
- DECA Districts were held at Nichols College on 01/9/25
- StudySync benchmarks started on 01/09/25
- Winter Sports Pictures 01/10/2025
- PBIS Raffle Drawing 01/10/25
- PBIS Rewards and activities include a 4 week raffle, items from the school store, all with Barlett Bucks
- Students will also be able to provide feedback regarding PBIS during the TFI Walkthrough

Upcoming:

- Grades close 01/17/25
- This means BHS Semester Finals and Midterms
- Science MCAS Bootcamp is back
- No school on 01/21/25 for PD

- February Winter Break - 2/18/25 - 2/21/25

V. Old Business

A.Monthly Fundraising Updates:

Student Council at WMS - Selling Carnations on Valentine's Day

Senior Class - Selling Butter Braids

18 to 22 Class - Selling Cocoa Bombs

Class of 2025- Junior and Senior Prom Selling Tickets

VI. New Business

A. FY 26 Department Budget Presentation-

A presentation has been included in the packet. Superintendent Pierangeli, Ms. Kontoes, Dr. Mackay, Ms. Rivera and all three principals provided an overview of the budget presentation.

Member Blythe expressed that the presentation was very informative and that she appreciated how it was presented.

Chair Seddiki stated that she feels confident the budget reflects the district's needs, with no more than what is truly necessary. Chair Seddiki also complimented the team on the quality of their budget presentation.

B. Custodians Request for Intent to Bargain

Motion: To enter into bargaining with the Custodians and to nominate a representative from the School Committee

The motion was made by: Member Adamopoulos
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 Blythe has been nominated to be the School Committee Representative for the Custodians Bargaining.

C. WEA Request for Intent to Bargain

Motion: To enter into bargaining with the WEA and to nominate a representative from the School Committee

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 Adamopoulos has been nominated to be the School Committee Representative for the WEA Bargaining.

Acceptance of Donations:

- Miscellaneous office supply items from Mary Jarominski to the Webster Middle School
- Walmart gift cards from the staff at Bartlett High School to 8 different families
- CrossFit Clean Slate donated gifts to the Bartlett High School
- $500 from the Dowd Family to PBIS at Webster Middle School
- Miscellaneous Christmas gifts from Nowak Plumbing and Plumbing Company
- Miscellaneous Christmas gifts from Mapfre Insurance

Superintendent Pierangeli expressed gratitude for all the generous donations.

Motion: To Accept the Miscellaneous Donations as presented

The motion was made by: Member Blythe
The motion was seconded by: Member Adamopoulos
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 transfer in the amount of $25,992.30 from Bartlett High School Student Activity savings to checking account.

Motion: To approve transfer of $25,992.30 from Bartlett High School Student Activity savings to checking account

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. Signing of Warrant in the amount of $412,218.86

VII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM

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

Respectfully,
Desiree A. Moniz

Documents included in the packet:

- School Committee Agenda, 1/14/25
- December 10, 2025 Minutes
- Memorandum
- District Benchmark Assessment Calendar
- Power School Letter
- FY 2026 Preliminary Budget Presentation
- Monthly Fundraising Applications
- Custodians Request for Intent to Bargain
- WEA Request for Intent to Bargain
- Bartlett High School Student Activity Transfer
- Warrant

Upcoming Event / Dates:

January 7, 2025	**Building Committee**	**District**	**SC Room 6:00 pm**
January 17, 2025	**End of Quarter 2**	**WMS**	
January 20, 2025	**No school; Martin Luther King Jr Day**	**All Schools**	
January 21, 2025	**Full PD Day ; No School for Students**	**All Schools**	
January 24, 2025	**Mexicali Fundraising Night ~ PTO**	**PAE ~ PTO**	
January 28, 2025	**School Committee**	**District**	**SC Room 6:00 pm**
January 29, 2025	**Nichols Leadership Academy Field Trip**	**BHS**	**Nichols College**
February 4, 2025	**Building Committee**	**District**	**SC Room 6:00 pm**
February 7, 2025	**Half a day of School / PD Day**	**All Schools**	
February 8, 2025	**PTO Winter Carnival**	**PAE**	**Park Ave Elementary 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**