WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Date: January 28, 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 January 14, 2025 Minutes

Motion: To approve January 14, 2025 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

III. Superintendent's Report

1. Personnel Update

Retirement-	No retirements at this time
New Hires -	Kyrah Wilder - ABA at Bartlett High School Erica LaBarre - ABA at Park Ave Elementary Jack MacPherson - IA at Bartlett High School Kyle McCann - Custodian at Park Ave Elementary

Resignations - David Ciaschini ABA at Webster Middle School

Transfers - Scott Williams - Custodian transferring from Park Ave Elementary to Bartlett High School

Vacancies:

SCHOOL	POSITION
PAE	ABA (.4)
WMS	Grade 7 Math Teacher
WMS	1.0 ABA
WMS	Special Education Teacher
BHS	Instructional Assistants (3 positions available)
BHS	1.0 ABA
BHS	1.0 Special Education Teacher (Quest)
District	School Psychologist

2. Instructional Leadership Update-

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that Tuesday, January 21, was a full professional development day. The grids are included in the packet.

The Superintendent reported that on Friday, January 24, Associate Commissioner Charmie Curry visited the district and toured all three buildings. The Superintendent explained that they had productive discussions about our relationship with SSoS and their vision for supporting schools across the state. Ms. Curry was pleased with the system changes she has observed over the past couple of years.

The Superintendent noted that Benchmark and ACCESS testing have been ongoing this month.

3. Other updates-

The Superintendent reported that on Thursday, January 23, she attended the Massachusetts Superintendents' Mid-Winter Meeting. Attorney General Joy Campbell was present to introduce the new Social Media Toolkit, which is being made available to districts across the state. The toolkit is divided into three sections: 1. Policy, 2. Community Norms, and 3. Curriculum Guidelines. The Superintendent added that she will be sharing this with the Instructional Leadership Team.

The second part of the day focused on AI—embracing its potential and opportunities. Dr. Cynthia Breazeal from MIT presented on the ways AI could be used in education.

Superintendent Pierangeli stated that the SWCEC Board meeting was rescheduled for this Friday, but she was unable to attend due to a visit from the Associate Commissioner. She added that she was able to speak with Mr. Lundwall about the budget and future programming.

The Superintendent reported that on Wednesday, January 22, the WEA and the district bargaining team participated in IBB training, facilitated by Lois Mason.

Superintendent Pierangeli stated that the February camp Dr. Mackay reported on at our last meeting will only be held for Webster Middle School. The Superintendent explained that, unfortunately, they were unable to secure staff for the high school. Superintendent Pierangeli also reported that Saturday school has been very successful, and they may be able to increase attendance.

The Superintendent reported that, as you may have heard, the Title IX laws and regulations have changed, and the committee has recently updated all of its policies. The Superintendent added that they now have to revert to the 2020 laws, so the district will be working with the legal department to ensure the correct policies are in place.

The Superintendent reported that Dr. Patty Mackay and she will be attending a DESE ICE Webinar this coming Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. The Superintendent added that she will bring more information at the next meeting. Superintendent Pierangeli also emphasized that we are committed to providing a safe environment for our students. The Superintendent further noted that they will be attending additional webinars on this topic.

B. **Business Manager Report** - Mrs. Lisa Kontoes

1- School Building Committee Update -

- Mrs. Kontoes reported that there are no new updates since the last meeting.

2- Maintenance Update -

PAE:

Water Heater: The school had no hot water at the start of the day on Friday, January 24. The heater was serviced immediately and the issue (a condensation blockage) was resolved.

Elevator: The elevator continues to be temperamental and experienced another issue on Friday, January 24. The Elevator Repair company will be on site on Monday, January 27, 2025.

HVAC: Temperature could not be regulated in one classroom and it was discovered that an actuator needs to be replaced.

Water Pump: The backup pump drive needs to be serviced as it is not working properly. The repair is being scheduled.

WMS:

HVAC - Heat was impacted in the Guidance Office, Main Office and Nurse's Office on Friday, January 24. At the time of these notes, the unit was still being serviced.

3- Other Updates -

FY25 Mid-Year Budget Update: Reference YTD budget report in your packet. This report is at 56 percent. We are target to stay within budget.

C. Principal Report - Ms. Amy Puliafico, Principal at Park Ave Elementary-

A. Events -

Ms. Puliafico reported that, in January, the school liaison and guidance team hosted parent chats. These sessions combined Kindergarten with grades one and two, as well as grades three and four. Parents were invited to share any struggles they might be experiencing with their children.

Ms. Puliafico also reported that the Preschool team held a 'Donuts with a Special Adult' event, where students could invite a special adult to visit their classroom.

Additionally, Ms. Puliafico shared that the PTO hosted their winter literacy event in December.

Ms. Puliafico further reported that Book Bingo was held in January. This free event saw a great turnout, with a large number of parents in attendance.

B. Professional Development -

Ms. Puliafico reported that, in December, most classroom teachers attended professional development sessions presented by Coach Tara Gelineau.

Ms. Puliafico reported on professional development, mentioning that the Eureka training focused on intentional planning, is a key part of the instructional priority.

Ms. Puliafico also reported that unified arts teachers worked with consultants to support English language learners.

Additionally, Ms. Puliafico shared that instructional assistants worked with a consultant on fostering independence in students.

Ms. Puliafico thanked Jessica Ochocki for her hard work in providing additional professional development on best practices for reading with English language learners.

A. Big Brother and Big Sister-

Ms. Jessica Ochocki and Ms. Barbara Smalarz gave a brief presentation on the Big Brother Big Sister program. Ms. Ochocki explained how this has had a huge impact on the students. It benefits both the high school students, as they earn community service hours, and the Park Ave students, who are really enjoying their mentors.

Chair Seddiki thanked Ms. Ochocki and Ms. Smalarz for this wonderful program and expressed hope that it continues in the years to come.

Superintendent Pierangeli also thanked both Ms. Ochocki and Ms. Smalarz for their hard work and dedication to the Big Brother Big Sister program.

Ms. Puliafico thanked Ms. Ochocki and Ms. Smalarz for their efforts in organizing this program.

IV. Student Representative Update - Ms. Hope Cooper-

A. Grades for semester 1 have closed
B. Semester 2 has begun
C. Saturday school is coming to ensure students maintain passing grades
D. Student Council and National Honor Society continue to sell Krispy Kreme Donuts
E. Access Testing has continued
F. StudySync Benchmarks has begun
G. Bio MCAS boot camp continues

Upcoming Events and Updates:

A. IReady ELA has begin for students 9th - 12th grades
B. Senior Athletes have been given the opportunity to apply to the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Scholar via Essay, See further details on Ms. Nieves weekly newsletter
C. PBIS Valentines Dance is on February 14th, $20 tickets on sale 02/03 to 02/13
D. Senior Overnight date is scheduled for May 30, parents/guardians are able to sign up to be apart of the committee

Member Blythe asked where the Senior Overnight would be held. Student Representative Ms. Hope Cooper replied that it would be at the school.

V. Old Business

A. FY 26 Budget - Budget Update - Mrs. Kontoes reported that the information is included in the packet for your reference.

Superintendent Pierangeli asked if the committee had any recommendations for reduction percentages.

Chair Seddiki mentioned that in past years, they held budget workshops and found them to be informative.

Superintendent Pierangeli recalled doing workshops last year and expressed she would be happy to do the same this year.

Chair Seddiki expressed that she is very confident each of the buildings is already operating very lean and that we are providing high-quality education despite limited financial resources.

B. Approval of Capital Improvement Program- Mrs. Kontoes reported on the Capital Improvement Program. Information is included in the packet.

Chair Seddiki asked if the tennis courts had been redone recently. Mrs. Kontoes reported that the tennis courts were redone six years ago.

B. Approval of Capital Improvement Program

Motion: To approve the Capital Improvement Program as presented

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

V. New Business

A. Policy JKAA - Physical Restraint of Students - First Reading

Ms. Haire explained that the last Restraint Policy was updated in 2015, and a new version has been updated with some revised language.

Chair Seddiki asked if there were any major changes to the policy.

Ms. Haire explained that there are no major changes to the policy.

B. Acceptance of Donations:

SEL Materials and Toys from the Veterans, Inc in Worester to the Preschool at Park Ave Elementary.

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked them for their generous donations and continued support.

Motion: To approve the miscellaneous donations of SEL materials and toys to Park Ave Elementary

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

Superintendent thanked them for their generous donation to Park Ave Elementary.

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

A. Approval of transfer in the amount of $3,399.11 from Webster Middle School Student Activity Savings account to Checking Account

Motion: To approve transfer of $3,399.11 from Webster Middle school Student Activity Savings account 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. Approval of signing of warrant in the amount of $382,171.82

VII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:09 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:

- School Committee Agenda - 1/28/2025
- Superintendent Notes
- Minutes for 1/14/25
- Professional Development Grids

- Big Brother and Big Sister Presentation
- FY 26 Preliminary Budget Information
- Capital Improvement Plan Request
- JKAA - Physical Restraint of Students
- Cell Phones and Social Media in Schools
- Student Activity Transfer Request
- Warrant Report

Upcoming Events / Dates:

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**
February 14, 2025	**Valentine's Day Dance**	**BHS**	**BHS Cafeteria 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm**
February 17, 2025	**No School ; President's Day**	**All Schools**	
February 18, 2025 to February 21, 2025	**Winter Vacation ; No School**	**All Schools**	
February 26, 2025	**PBIS Community Bingo**	**BHS**	**BHS Cafeteria 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**