WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Date: February 11, 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 Sgariglia

The following Committee Members were absent:

- Member Bythe

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 28, 2025 Minutes

Motion: To approve January 28, 2025 as presented
The motion was made by: Member Millet
The motion was seconded by: Member Sgariglia
The following roll call vote was taken:
4 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 -	Ryan Osborn - Special Education Teacher at Webster Middle School Madison Voutas - Instructional Assistant at Bartlett High School
Resignations -	No resignations at this time.
Transfers -	No transfers at this time.

Vacancies:

SCHOOL	POSITION
PAE	ABA (.4)
WMS	1.0 ABA
BHS	Instructional Assistants (2 positions available)
BHS	1.0 ABA
BHS	1.0 Special Education Teacher (Quest)
District	School Psychologist

2. Instructional Leadership Update -

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that this past Wednesday, as part of monitoring our Instructional Priority, the District Instructional Leadership Team participated in our Mid-Year Progress Monitoring. The Superintendent concluded by stating that she will update the committee on the process and outcomes of the meeting.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that on Friday, February 6th, the district held a half-day professional development session. The Superintendent explained that a copy of the professional development grids is included in the packet for reference. The Superintendent added that the district continues to strive to offer meaningful professional development that fosters growth in practices and aligns with our instructional priority.

3. Other updates -

The Superintendent explained that she and Ms. Kontoes have been extremely busy with meetings (FFE, Technology, Signage) as they prepare for the April move. Superintendent Pierangeli added that there are many moving pieces as they work to coordinate the Phase 1 move over April Break.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that on Friday, January 31st, a Family Engagement meeting was held at the Central Office. Dr. Mackay provided a brief update on the meeting, noting that an administrator or staff member from each building has been assigned as the contact person to communicate with local papers and raise the profile of Webster. Additionally, one of the meeting's goals was to increase collaboration with the Webster Library and potentially North Village to host family engagement meetings and after-school activities. Dr. Mackay reported that the final topic of the meeting focused on how to support students and families who might be impacted by immigration changes. Dr. Mackay explained that the district's message is consistent with the commissioner's message, which emphasizes how we protect student information, maintain building access protocols, and ensure the safety of our community.

The Superintendent reported that on Thursday, February 13th, she will be attending the legislative brunch hosted by the Worcester County Superintendents Association. Superintendent Pierangeli added that this is a valuable opportunity to meet with and share concerns with local legislators.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that on Friday, February 14th, she will be attending a SWCEC board meeting in Oxford and will provide any updates at our next meeting.

Superintendent Pierangeli provided an update on the PowerSchool data breach. The Superintendent explained that the district continues to monitor the situation and is following advice from legal counsel provided through the insurance carrier, which specializes in cybersecurity. The Superintendent added that there is a link on the district website with a phone number for anyone seeking additional information. Superintendent Pierangeli encouraged people to check the website regularly for updates.

Member Millet asked if the 7th grade math teacher position has been filled. The Superintendent explained that the teacher who took over the position was already teaching it and has agreed to continue in the role.

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

1- School Building Committee Update -

3-Week Look Ahead-

Kitchen: Install ceiling grid, epoxy floor, deliver/install kitchen equipment, install lights and make final connections to kitchen equipment.

Auditorium: Sheetrock/tape wall, install ductwork/hangers. Install fire protection, install catwalk, install chair lift, complete above ceiling electrical roughing and install rails.

Basement: Tile trainer's room, install lights, epoxy floors, install ceiling grid, install plumbing fixtures, install bathroom partitions and install hallway flooring

First Floor: Sheetrocking/taping cafeteria dining, installing ceiling grids, installing tile in bathrooms, sheetrocking/tape bathroom ceilings and painting bathroom walls & ceilings.

Second Floor: Install lights, ceiling grids in hallways, install tile in bathrooms, paint bathroom walls/ceilings, install flooring in classrooms, install ceiling tiles, install white boards and install doors/hardware.

Logistics: Working on finalizing the keying schedule, sign names, move planning and communications. The door for the new Main Office (former Nurse's office) will be installed during February break and work is underway to ensure that the intercom system works in Sections A & C following the transition. Also, finalizing the construction area for Phase II

Chair Seddicki said that Phase 2 will begin in April and asked what Phase 2 consists of. Mrs. Kontoes responded that Phase 2 involves the B section. Chair Seddicki then asked what the end goal of the project is. Mrs. Kontoes responded that the projected end date is between 2026 and 2027.

2- Maintenance Update -

BHS: There was a significant leak in Section A on the second floor that has been addressed.

3- Other Updates -

- Two audits are in progress:
    - FY24 End-of-Year DESE Report
    - Single-Audit - This is a financial and compliance audit of a municipality's use of federal funds. The audit is required for municipalities that spend at least $500,000 in federal awards in a fiscal year.

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

A. Saturday School-

Ms. Nieves said that Saturday School enrollment has increased and shared the numbers from Week 1 to Week 5. Ms. Nieves explained that they have started inviting students who lost points due to lack of attendance. Ms. Nieves also noted a significant increase in enrollment. Additionally, she mentioned that seniors who need to meet graduation requirements have been given the opportunity to use this time during Saturday School. Ms. Nieves expressed that she is very happy with the results of the program.

B. Scheduling -

Ms. Nieves was happy to announce that they are ahead of schedule. The departments have edited parts of the handbooks, including course information, for review. Ms. Nieves hopes to present the course sections of the program of studies at the next meeting.

C. Testing-

Ms. Nieves reported that they are currently in the testing phase. The NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) will take place on February 13, with two sessions designed to measure the academic performance of the nation's students in grades 4, 8, and 12. The ELA and Math MCAS retests will be held on March 6 and 7, as well as March 11 and 12.

D. Events-

- February 14 - Valentine’s Day Dance
- February 14 - Sports and Entertainment Conference
- February 26 - Community Bingo Night
- February 27 - March 1 - DECA State Competition
- March 5th to March 7 - MASC Student Council Conference in Cape Cod
- March 5 - MCAS Informational Night
- March 18 -19 - QCC Decision Days
- March 21 - PBIS Family Feud during the school day

Chair Seddicki said that there are a lot of exciting activities happening, which seem very engaging for the students.

IV. Student Representative Update - Ms. Gina Nieves reported-

A. BHS ELA IReady in their home rooms
B. Saturday School was held this past Saturday February 8, 2025
C. Efforts to create a School Council are underway
D. Seniors have been doing a Valentine's fundraiser, selling stuffed animals, boxes of chocolates and rubber ducks
E. National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Scholar/Essay Application is still open for students eligible
F. Local scholarships for Seniors can be found on the Weekly Newsletter by Mrs. Nieves

Upcoming Events and Updates:

A. BHS Boys Basketball Senior Night will be held on February 12, 2025
B. Saturday School will be held on March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 for the next month
C. February break kicks off next month, National Honor Society is finalising their events as well as the themes for every Friday of March

V. Old Business

A. Monthly Fundraising Update - All fundraisers are included in the packet

B. Policy JKAA - Physical Restraint of Students - Second Reading

C. FY 26 - Budget Update - Mrs. Kontoes updated the committee on a 6% Budget. Presentation is included in the packet.

Member Sgariglia asked whether the 0.5 ELA Teacher position is essential. Dr. Mackay responded that eliminating this position has prompted a broader review of how staff are utilized across the district and that they will continue assessing staffing numbers through the end of the year.

Member Millet expressed concern about eliminating the World Language Teacher position, noting that while it has been included in the budget for some time, it has been removed each year. Member Millet strongly recommends that the district revisit this position and keep it in the budget. Superintendent Pierangeli explained that the district has limited options for budget cuts and is exploring creative ways to maximize staff utilization. However, this particular decision was a way to reduce a position without impacting a current employee.

Chair Seddiki added that she would love to see a World Language Teacher at Webster Middle School. Chair Seddiki emphasized that the budget is something for everyone to review and collaborate on to find creative ways to make cuts.

Member Adamopolis asked whether Circuit Breaker funding is carried over from year to year. The Superintendent responded that while the district typically aims to carry over funds for a year, they knew that wouldn't be possible this time, resulting in a reduction. The Superintendent added that this decision will decrease the carryover for FY27.

Member Adamopolis mentioned discussions at the federal level about freezing grants and asked if anything in the district's budget might be affected. The Superintendent responded that yes, the district receives Title I federal grants and Special Education federal grants, which support academic interventionists, Dr. Mackay, paraprofessionals, and various contracted positions.

Member Sgariglia noted that while she would love to see the World Language position remain in the budget, she suggested exploring the possibility of an online class for students interested in the subject if a full-time position is not available in the school.

Mrs. Kontoes shared figures on transportation costs and noted that they continue to rise. The Superintendent added that the district actively seeks for grants and additional funding to support the schools.

V. New Business

A. Discussion and Approval of 1% cap of Webster Student Enrollment in Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools (CMVS): The Superintendent reported that last year the school committee voted to cap the enrollment to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools (CMVS) at 1%. By setting this cap, it did not restrict the enrollment of students currently enrolled in the program, but from future enrollments. By law we are not required to take another vote, but the Department of Education encourages the school committee to revisit this vote annually. My recommendation would be to continue to cap the percentage at 1%.

   Chair Seddiki asked how many students is that 1%. The Superintendent said it's a total of 19 students.

   Motion: To approve the 1% cap of Webster Student Enrollment in Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools

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

B. Review and Approval of 2025-2026 School Calendar - In your packet the FY 25/26 school calendar is recommended for your approval.

The Superintendent presented two calendars for the school committee to review and approve.

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Motion: To approve the School Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year

The motion was made by: Member Millet
The motion was seconded by: Member Sgariglia
The following roll call vote was taken:
4 members having voted in the affirmative

_ members having voted in the negative
_ members having abstained
The motion X Passed
_ Failed

Chair Seddiki stated that the content of the calendar has been approved, even though the format might change.

C. Approval of overnight field trip - BHS - Superintendent Pierangeli reported that the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) State Competition in Boston, MA: DECA will be taking their annual trip into Boston. Per our School Committee Policy, all overnight trips need to be approved by the school committee.

Mr. Jenness explained that the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) is a major competition where students compete in various business categories to prepare for careers in the field.

Motion: To approve a Bartlett High School overnight trip to Boston

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

D. Approval of the acceptance of miscellaneous donations from the Roslin Company in CT. Please see your packet for reference.

Motion: To approve the miscellaneous donations from the Roslin Company in CT

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

Chair Seddiki thanked the Roslin Company for their generous donations.

E. Approval of Behavioral Coach at Park Ave Elementary - Recently we had a retirement of an Academic Interventionist at Park Ave which was funded from the Title I grant. The new behavior position would be budget net neutral as this is an allowable cost under the Title One Grant.

Motion: To approve the New Behavior Coach position at Park Ave Elementary

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

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that there was a recent retirement at Park Ave Elementary for an academic interventionist funded by the Title I grant. The Superintendent explained that Ms. Puliafico, the principal at Park Ave Elementary, is requesting a behavior coach to assist staff with classroom management. The Superintendent hopes this position will provide stability and support for the staff. Superintendent Pierangeli confirmed that the request and job description is included in the packet. Superintendent Pierangeli emphasized that it is a grant-funded position.

Member Millet said that this provides great support for the teachers, but what about supporting the students? Dr. Mackay explained that this brings us back to the importance of the SEB Academy's participation, as what we still lack is a clear articulation of our multi-tiered system of support for student behaviors. Dr. Mackay added that we hope our participation in the SEB Academy will help us in many aspects, and that we are currently working on building a structure to support both students and teachers.

Member Sgariglia asked how many administrators are at Park Ave Elementary and who addresses issues when there's a situation with a student. Dr. Mackay responded that they have a principal, two assistant principals, one dean, four guidance counselors, and one BCBA and that all of them are involved when situations and behavior issues arise.

Member Millet added that there's another important piece we're missing: a psychologist at the school. Having a psychologist would be very beneficial in supporting both the teachers and the students.

Member Sgariglia asked if the district has ever attended job fairs at colleges to help recruit new hires. The Superintendent responded that yes, they have attended job fairs, and that she herself has handed out business cards at some colleges.

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

A. Approval of signing of warrant in the amount of $654,216.16

VII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm

The motion was made by: Member Millet
The motion was seconded by: Member Sgariglia
The following roll call vote was taken:
4 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 - 2/11/2025
- Superintendent Notes
- Minutes for 1/28/25
- Professional Development Grids
- Fundraising applications
- FY 26 Budget Update
- Commonwealth of MA Virtual School Enrollment Restrictions
- JKAA - Physical Restraint of Students
- Calendar for the 2025-26 School Year
- List of donation items
- Behavior Coach/Interventionist Job Description
- Field Trip Request
- Warrant Report

Upcoming Events / Dates:

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**
March 4, 2025	**Building Committee**	**District**	**Conference Room**
March 5, 2025	**Leadership Academy Field Trip**	**BHS**	**Nichols College 9:30 am to 1:30 pm**
March 7, 2025	**Career Day**	**WMS**	**Webster Middle School**
March 14, 2025	**Full Day PD**	**No School**	**All students**
March 21, 2025	**PBIS Family Feud**	**BHS**	**Cafeteria 9am to 10am**