WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Date: March 25, 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 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 March 11, 2025 Minutes

Motion: To approve March 11, 2025 as presented
The motion was made by: Member Sgariglia
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- Elizabeth Baldygay - Paraprofessional at Webster Middle School
Deborah Puishys - Reading Specialist at Park Ave Elementary

Superintendent Pierangeli expressed gratitude to both retirees for their unwavering dedication to our students and community.

Dr. Mackay extended her thanks to Ms. Puishys for her dedicated service to our students.

Member Millet thanked both retirees for their hard work and dedication to our students.

New Hires - Aisha Aviles - ABA at Park Ave Elementary

Resignations - John Dowd - ABA at Webster Middle School

Transfers - No transfers at this time.

Vacancies:

SCHOOL	**POSITION**
PAE	ABA (.4 and 1 position available)
PAE	Instructional Assistant (1 position)
WMS	1.0 ABA
BHS	Instructional Assistants (2 positions available)
BHS	1.0 ABA
District	School Psychologist

2. Instructional Update -

Superintendent Pierengeli reported that the district leadership team continues to meet on our instructional priority and will keep meeting until they have a solid IP that will guide us through the next school year.

Superintendent Pierengeli said that on March 11th, the Superintendent was able to attend some PLTW class showcases at Webster Middle School. The Superintendent added that it is always great to hear students excited about their learning, talking about how they approached their projects, and sharing what they learned from them. The Superintendent said that students were challenged to come up with solutions to problems designed by Ms. Berti.

The Superintendent reported that on March 14th, the district held a full Professional Development Day, and in the packet, there is a copy of the grids for the professional development. Superintendent Pierengeli explained that this PD is aligned with instructional priorities and also helps teachers meet requirements for their licensure. The Superintendent added that, as you know, the district collects feedback from our teachers regarding professional development, which helps guide decisions about what we may do differently in the future.

3. Other updates-

Superintendent Pierengeli reported that on Thursday, March 13th, Ms. Kontoes, the Superintendent, along with the Principals and Head Custodians from Park Ave Elementary and Webster Middle School, participated in the MSBA Virtual Assessment that the Superintendent had reported on at the last school committee meeting. The Superintendent noted that the session included an interview about the facilities, as well as a tour of the buildings. The Superintendent added that this is part of the MSBA's process to assess the needs of school buildings across the state.

The Superintendent stated that she attended the CMC board meeting on March 13th. Superintendent Pierangeli also mentioned that the collaborative is working on its budget for FY 26 and that the tuition rates are very competitive. Additionally, they are anticipating a possible 3.5% increase in tuition for member districts.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that on Friday, March 21, she attended the SWCEC meeting, where they are also working through their budget process. They are in the process of negotiating their contracts, so there is much more to work through for their budget.

Superintendent Pierangeli said that, back in the fall, they presented Adam Phillips with the Certificate of Academic Excellence. As part of that award, Adam will be attending the Superintendent Scholar event this Thursday with Ms. Nieves and the Superintendent. The Superintendent offered special congratulations again to Adam and added that she looks forward to celebrating with him.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that negotiations are actively progressing. The Superintendent also mentioned that there are a couple of meetings scheduled with the paraprofessionals, and teacher negotiations are ongoing.

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

1- School Building Committee Update -

There are 4 weeks remaining until the Project begins the transition from Phase I to Phase II. The 'sprint' to completion is underway focusing on the following areas:

- Completing remaining installations and finish work in section C
- Scheduling remaining site work which has been dependent on ground conditions
- Work plan for required Affidavits for Substantial Completion inclusive of safety punch lists and all required reports needed for issuing design affidavits
- Livening utilities,startup and testing.
- Equipment start-up, testing and balancing:
    - Kitchen
    - Fire Protection
    - Plumbing
    - Mechanical
    - Electrical/Security
- Technology configuration, pre-installation and fiber cutover
- Training

- Move planning/Logistics/Communications

2- Maintenance Update -

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

3- Other Updates -

FY25 Single Audit: The Town of Webster/District has received the draft Audit Report (included in your packet). The Audit outcome was positive with one internal control deficiency/finding. Overall, the expenditures are being fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole. There was one internal control deficiency/finding related to SPED Salary Cost principles which requires that time and effort certifications are maintained for all grant funded employees. An action plan has been created and implemented (included in your packet).

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

1 - Attendance -

Ms. Nieves reported that the attendance rate has increased by 1.6% since last year, chronic absenteeism has decreased by 12.2%, and while the number of tardies has gone up, it has decreased by 0.6% compared to last year.

2 - Course Selection-

Ms. Nieves reported that they have been working hard on the schedule. Ms. Nieves added that they visited all the elementary schools and Webster Middle School to present the course selection.
Ms. Nieves also mentioned that they had meetings with all grade levels, and both rising seniors and rising juniors have met individually. They are currently meeting with guidance counselors, and Ms. Nieves noted that the course selection process will conclude on April 11, 2025.

3 - Testing -

Ms. Nieves reported that MCAS grade testing started today, and they will finish the ELA portion tomorrow, with makeups scheduled for next week. Mock Advanced Placement testing has begun, and the actual Advanced Placement testing will start on May 5th.

4 - Events -

- Mar 20 - Awarding of Diplomas to students that earned Competency Determination
- Apr 10 - MEFA Financial Aid Night
- Apr 11 - In School PBIS Egg Hunt
- April 13 - Community PBIS Egg Hunt
- April 16 - Junior Class College Fair
- April 29 - Healthy Youth Summit in Boston
- April 30 - MA State Police Think Fast Program (Prom Focus)

IV. Student Representative Update - Ms. Hope Cooper reported-

Upcoming Events and Updates:

- Seal of Biliteracy test was held last week, 03/03 and 03/04
- Student Council went on their annual MASC field trip to Cape Cod
- Selected DECA members attended the competition in Boston
- Senior Overnight details have been sent out in Mrs. Nieves' weekly letter

Recent Events and Updates:

- Saturday School this Saturday, 3/8/25
- Two more students needed for the School Council
- The Poetry Contest for Spanish-speaking students is still open. See Mrs. Nieves' weekly letter for details
- Varsity Softball is holding a T-shirt fundraiser. Shirts say "It's Indians Game Day!"
- MCA's Information Night will be April 13th, 9-11 AM for the community. More details on the in-school Egg Hunt coming soon
- PBIS Egg Hunt will be April 13th, 9-11 AM for the community. More details on the in-school Egg Hunt coming soon

Member Blythe asked what kind of donations they are looking for. Ms. Nieves explained that they are seeking food items to help them get through the night.

V. Old Business

A. FY26 Budget Review and Approval - presentation of a 3.65% Budget

A presentation is included in the packet. Superintendent Pierangeli and Mrs. Kontoes gave an overview of the budget.

Chair Seddicki mentioned that this is a very challenging year, not just for us in Webster, but throughout the state. Chair Seddicki also thanked everyone for their hard work on this budget.

Superintendent Pierengeli hopes that this will be the last of the cuts, but she can't guarantee it. The Superintendent added that we are trying to be as creative as possible, and hopefully, we can move forward with this budget.

Member Blythe thanked everyone for working so hard on this budget. Member Blythe added that it's a very tight budget, and she appreciates that all the extracurricular activities for our students have been preserved.

Superintendent Pierengeli noted that the Public Hearing has been advertised and is scheduled for April 8, 2025.

Motion: To approve the updated FY26 Budget as presented

The motion was made by: Member Blythe
The motion was seconded by: Member Millet
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

VI. New Business

A. Policy AC- Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation - First Reading
B. Policy ACAB - Sexual Harassment /Title IX Policy - First Reading
C. Policy ACAB-R - Grievance Procedure for Complaints of Sexual Harassment under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - First Reading
D. Policy AC-R - Civil Rights Grievance Procedure - First Reading
E. Policy JLCC-B Head Lice - First Reading
F. Policy JLCD- Administering Medicine to Students - First Reading
G. Policy EBB - First Aid

H. Review and Approval of an Amendment of the District's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

Superintendent Pierengeli reported that a copy of the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan is included in your packet. The Superintendent explained that the plan is reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The Superintendent also shared that in June of 2024, the district received a PRS (Problem Resolution System) complaint, which was found to be unsubstantiated. However, PRS noted an omission in our district policy, and corrective action was taken. The Superintendent stated that new language has been added to the policy, and the website has been updated.

Member Sgariglia asked to update the date of the policy to today, March 25, 2025

Motion: To approve the Amendment of the District's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan as presented

The motion was made by: Member Blythe
The motion was seconded by: Member Millet
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

I. Acceptance of donations for The Girls on the Run at Park Ave Elementary
a. $850.00 dollars from Century Tool Company
b. $170.00 from Laura Hackett

Motion: To approve the donations as presented

The motion was made by: Member Blythe
The motion was seconded by: Member Millet
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 Pierengeli expressed gratitude for their generous donations.

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

A. Approval of transfer request in the amount of $5,512.44 from Webster Middle School Activity Savings Account to checking account

Motion: To approve the transfer request in the amount of $5,512.44 to checking account

The motion was made by: Member Blythe
The motion was seconded by: Member Millet
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. Signing of Warrant in the amount of $306,514.19

VII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:49 pm

The motion was made by: Member Blythe
The motion was seconded by: Member Millet
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 - 3/25/2025
- Superintendent Notes
- Minutes for 3/11/25
- Public Announcement
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan
- Transfer Request from the Middle School

- Policies
- FY 2026 Budget
- Professional Development Grids
- Donations
- New Competency Determination Guidelines
- 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**