WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Date: April 8, 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 25, 2025 Minutes

Motion: To approve March 25, 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

Items on the Agenda were taken out of order.

III. Superintendent's Report

1. Personnel Update -

Retirement- Pamela Ward - Paraprofessional at Park Ave Elementary School

New Hires - Adriana Stratton - Paraprofessional at Park Ave Elementary

Resignations - Arielle Gabor - ABA at Park Ave Elementary

Transfers - Mary DeCourcey has transferred to the High School

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 -

The Superintendent reported that MCAS testing is underway across the district. This year, the system has transitioned to a new platform, presenting a learning curve for principals as they navigate the changes.

The Superintendent reported that we will receive our ACCESS scores at the end of the month and are planning to analyze the data.

The Superintendent reported that Dr. Mackay has been working on the 2025-2026 SOA and submitted it on April 1, 2025. Additionally, the John and Abigail Adams Scholarships were announced.

Dr. Mackay gave an update on Saturday School, explaining that it is well staffed and that there might be an opportunity for Coach Bengston to provide general sports activities during the Saturday program. Dr. Mackay also provided an overview of the three-year Student Opportunity Act (SOA) plan, accompanied by a slideshow presentation.

3. Other updates-

Superintendent Pierengeli reported that on Thursday, March 27th, she and Mrs. Nieves attended the Superintendent Scholar Luncheon with Adams Phillips, in recognition of his receiving the Academic Excellence Award.

The Superintendent reported that on Friday, April 4th, Dr. Mackay held a family engagement meeting. Superintendent Pierengeli noted that she was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict, as she and Mrs. Kontoes were participating in a Fiscal Focus Group hosted by DESE regarding SOA and ESSER funding.

Superintendent Pierengeli reported that the first phase of the project is coming to an end quickly. Mrs. Kontoes will provide an update during her report.

Superintendent Pierengeli said she is very excited to participate in our community reading, which will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 8:45 a.m.

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

1- School Building Committee Update -

Mrs. Kontoes referred to the reference pictures in the packet and gave an overview of Phase 1. Mrs. Kontoes said the elevator passed inspection today, and the GC is hopeful to finish by the end of this week.

Mrs. Kontoes reported that the Superintendent is working on a virtual video to showcase the new renovation.

Member Sgariglia asked where the bleachers would be located. Mrs. Kontoes responded that they would be the same movable bleachers as before.

Mrs. Kontoes said that there will be a walk-through tomorrow for the staff.

2- Maintenance Update -

Track: Mrs. Kontoes gave a big shout-out to the DPW, led by Kenny Pizzetti, for helping maintain the long jump pit and providing sand.

3- Other Updates -

Mrs. Kontoes reported that there are no other updates for this meeting.

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

1- Basketball Team Recognition -

Ms. Peterson was pleased to announce that the Webster Middle School Team had an undefeated season, finishing 18-0. Ms. Peterson invited the students and their families to be recognized at the meeting. Ms. Peterson called it an amazing season and expressed how proud she is of them.

Chair Seddiki and the Superintendent congratulated all the players on a wonderful season. Coach Bengston also praised the team and thanked the parents for their support.

Ms. Peterson also thanked Coach Bengston for his dedication to the team.

Member Adamopoulos congratulated the team and said that he couldn’t wait to see them play in high school.

Mrs. Kontoes also congratulated Coach Bengston and the players on their amazing season.

Chair Seddiki also thanked Coach Bengston for his dedication to the team.

Superintendent Pierengeli thanked the parents for their continued support.

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

Upcoming Events and Updates:

- In School Egg Hunt April 11th
- Family Egg Hunt April 13th 9-11
- Saturday school April 12th
- May 30th is the Senior Overnight
- PLTW Interns Showcase will be May 2, students will presenting what they have learned throughout their internship

Recent Events and Updates:

- The Baseball team beat Leicester 12-0 on 04/02, Softball team beat Leicester 8-3
- Prom tickets have gone on sale! $75
- See Scholarship info on Mrs. Nieves newsletter
- The weekly newsletter discusses possible mentorships at Boston University for PLTW students, see Mrs. NIeves email for more information

V. Public Hearing FY 26 Budget 6:30PM

Motion: To enter into the Public Hearing for the FY26 Budget

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 Pierengeli and Mrs. Kontoes presented a PowerPoint on the FY26 Budget. There were no questions and no public attendance. The Superintendent added that if any members of the public have questions, they can call one of our offices, and we will respond to their inquiries.

The Superintendent said this presentation will be posted online.

Member Adamopoulos asked how some of these items are being funded, given that Massachusetts is losing federal money. Mrs. Kontoes explained that there is a list of towns not receiving these funds, and we were not on that list. Mrs. Kontoes also stated that the district receives Title I funds and other funding sources.

Chair Seddiki thanked everyone for their hard work in putting this all together and expressed appreciation for the town.

Motion: To close the Public Hearing and return to Open Meeting

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. Old Business

A. Monthly Report on Fundraising Applications

Bartlett High School -

- Varsity Softball & Baseball will provide a team page for a fundraising campaign to raise funds for the American Cancer Society
- Class of 2026- Tape a teacher on the wall
- Class of 2026 - Pie a teacher
- Class of 2026 - Selling snacks at baseball and softball games
- Class of 2027 - Selling chocolate bars after school hours

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

VII. Old Business

A. Discussion and Approval of 2025-2026 School Choice -

School Choice enrollment numbers form is included in the packet. The Superintendent gave a brief explanation of School Choice numbers.

Motion: To approve the 2025-2026 School Choice

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. SEPAC Update -

Mrs. Haire gave an update and said she was pleased to announce that they are forming a SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council). Mrs. Haire explained that SEPAC is a requirement under Special Education regulations, and every district is mandated to have a parent advisory council. Mrs. Haire reported that she has updated the website and posted a memorandum inviting any interested parties to come forward. Mrs. Haire added that there is now a parent involved, and the group is growing.

Member Sgariglia thanked Mrs. Haire for organizing the program. Member Sgariglia said that it is a great initiative to support parents of children with disabilities and to help them communicate with each other.

C . Approval of Disposal of Surplus Items -
a. Library books
b. IT equipment

Motion: To approve the surplus of miscellaneous library books and IT equipment

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

The Superintendent and each member thanked Member Blythe for her seven years of dedicated service to the committee, noting her wonderful support.

Chair Seddiki and the other members thanked Member Blythe for her years of service with the Committee and expressed how much she will be missed.

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

A. Signing of Warrant in the amount of $456,345.26

VII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:24 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 - 4/8/2025
- Superintendent Notes
- Minutes for 3/25/25
- Fundraising Applications
- Policies - Second Reading
- SEPAC Brochure
- Surplus Items
- Renovation Progress Presentation
- Budget Update
- Warrant Report

Upcoming Events / Dates:

March 14, 2025	**Full Day PD**	**No School**	**All students**
March 21, 2025	**PBIS Family Feud**	**BHS**	**Cafeteria 9am to 10am**
March 25, 2025	**Big Brother Big Sister**	**PAE**	**2:30 pm - 4:00 pm**
April 8, 2025	**Big Brother Big Sister**	**PAE**	**2:30 pm - 4:00 pm**
April 10, 2025	**Family Bowling**	**WMS**	**Mohegan Bowl**
April 13, 2025	**PBIS Community & Family Lunch and Egg Hunt**	**BHS**	**Cafeteria/ Bus Loop and Soccer Field 1pm - 3pm**
April 16, 2025	**Junior Class College Fair**	**BHS**	**Cafeteria**
April 17, 2025	**PBIS Egg Hunt**	**BHS**	**Cafeteria and Soccer Field 12:30pm - 2pm**
April 18, 2025	**No school**	**All schools**	
April 21- 25	**Spring Break**	**All schools**	
April 29, 2025	**Big Brother Big Sister**	**BHS**	**PAE 2:30 pm - 4 pm**