

**WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, September 9, 2025**

Date: September 9, 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
- Member Koleros

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.

Items on the agenda were taken out of order.

II. Approval of August 19, 2025 Minutes
Approval of August 25, 2025 Minutes

Motion: To approve August 19, 2025 minutes as presented

The motion was made by: Member Millet

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

Motion: To approve August 25, 2025 minutes as presented

The motion was made by: Member Millet

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

III. Superintendent's Report

1. Personnel Update -

Retirement: No retirements at this time.

New Hires:

Mary Seraichick - ELL Teacher at Webster Middle
Angelica Gomes-Liddell - School Adjustment Counselor at Webster Middle
Leah Mattioli - School Counselor at Webster Middle
Katie Kobel - Special Education Teacher at Webster Middle
Melissa Flinton - PARA at Park Ave Elementary
Kyle Kreidler - Physical Education Teacher at Park Ave
Antonia Rodriguez - World Language (Spanish) Teacher at Bartlett

Resignations:

Loubna Elmawla - PARA at Webster Middle
Phil Legier - PARA at Webster Middle
Brian Fedorczuk - PARA at Webster Middle
Adriana Stratton - PARA at Park Ave
Katelyn Halley - ABA at Park Ave
Aisha Aviles - ABA at Park Ave
Tessa Stacy - Pres School Teacher at PAE
Kate Ludwing - PARA at Bartlett High

Transfers: No transfers at this time.

Vacancies:

SCHOOL	POSITION
PAE	ABA (1.4 position)
PAE	Instructional Assistant (2 positions)
PAE	Special Education Teacher (1)
PAE	ABA (3.0 positions)
WMS	2.0 ABA

WMS	Instructional Assistants (5 positions)
BHS	Instructional Assistants (1 position)
BHS	1.0 ABA
BHS	Special Ed Teacher

Member Millet inquired whether exit interviews are conducted. Superintendent Pierangeli confirmed that exit interviews are part of the district's process.

2. Instructional Update -

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that the district had a successful opening day and expressed appreciation for everyone's efforts in ensuring a smooth start to the school year. The first week focused on building relationships with students, reviewing expectations, and addressing any necessary scheduling adjustments.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that the District Instructional Leadership Team (DILT) held its first meeting of the school year. The Superintendent noted that while work continued over the summer, the district is now moving into the rollout and implementation phase of its instructional priority. Adjustments have been made to the walkthrough structure: DILT will now conduct one walkthrough per month, Central Office will conduct a second, and building principals will conduct a third within their own schools. The walkthroughs will be used to gather data, review findings as a team, and provide feedback. A walkthrough tool and the accompanying message to staff have been shared, with the goal of maintaining transparency and providing meaningful support to staff.

Superintendent Pierangeli shared that the district is pleased to be starting the year in collaboration with SEPAC. Ms. Shaire provided an overview and updates on upcoming initiatives.

The Superintendent reported that strategic planning work is ongoing, with two meetings scheduled for September 18 and 25 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM in the Central Office.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that the district has been notified that one school, Webster Middle School, has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Eighth-grade students will be tested in mathematics and reading between January 26 and March 20, 2026.

Member Sgariglia asked whether the school was randomly selected or if the district had to apply, and whether results would be shared. Ms. Peterson responded that selection is not based on an application process. Ms. Peterson added that the district will not receive individual results and that not all students will be tested.

3. Other updates-

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that the district is working with MAPFRE to coordinate another visit to Webster by Her Royal Highness Elena, along with the new Fundación MAPFRE head, Elvira. The visit is tentatively scheduled for September 30, 2025.

Dr. Mackay provided an update on upcoming federal grants. Dr. Mackay explained that although the district received slightly more funding in some grants, overall funding is down by \$18,709 compared to previous years. Additionally, funding for the Special Education Department is down by nearly \$37,000 compared to the previous year.

Superintendent Pierangeli noted that the reduction in grant funding represents a significant change and will impact the district. The Superintendent added that efforts will continue to ensure funding is distributed to each school as effectively as possible.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that enrollment numbers are currently being monitored and an update will be provided at the next School Committee meeting.

Superintendent Pierangeli announced that the *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* group has an upcoming meeting scheduled for September 10 at 9:30 AM. The meeting will be held in the community room at Oxford High School and is open to grandparents from both Webster and Oxford.

B. Business Manager Report, Mrs. Lisa Kontoes -

2- Building Maintenance Updates-

1- Bartlett High School Building Committee-

Phase II (Section B): The team is still in the rough construction phase focusing on framing, sheathing & weather barriers, rough plumbing, rough electrical, rough HVAC, staircase framing, window & door installation, roofing underlayment, fire blocking & draft stopping. The team remains on schedule. The OPM is working with the GC to ensure that enough time is built in to accommodate commissioning.

Auditorium:

In follow-up to my report on 8/19, here is a status on the Auditorium:

- Lift: The issue with the lift door not opening has been resolved.
- AV Equipment: It was commissioned and there were some additional findings that have been subsequently resolved. We are awaiting validation of the fixes by the Design and Commission teams.
- Water Damage: The third party, Fuss & O'Neil (FO), requested that additional walls be opened for inspection. FO was on site on 9/4 & 9/5 to conduct a thorough inspection. We expect to have a recommendation and remediation plan the week of 9/8/25. The roof transition from a temporary to permanent roofing between C & A sections is being finalized with the installation of a parapet which will play a key role in sealing and integrating the building envelope because it will act as a structure and waterproofing

anchor. On the bright side, following the last rain storm, we did not observe evidence of any leaks.

3- Other Updates-

Food Service:

Summer Eats:

- Served 4,352 total lunches to enrolled summer activity/school students and community members in July and August.
- Served 2,466 breakfast to enrolled only students.

This was a successful summer and we did have increased participation and attendance at the community library site.

BHS & WMS:

- Working towards more offerings and choices in the cafeteria with an emphasis on self service. The goal is to shift from students taking a pre-built tray and allowing students to build their own tray of what they want to select from the required components for a complete lunch.

This practice allows more variety and choices for students, reduces food waste, and can empower students in making choices.

Farm to School :

The Food Service Department and the Farm to School team are excited to share that the program has been extending at Bartlett High School. Bartlett now has two raised garden beds by the modular classrooms with multiple classrooms participating in indoor growing including use of hydroponics systems.

All 3 schools now have growing Farm to School and School Garden efforts for the students and school community. For SY 25-26, the main goals are to:

1. Raise awareness of Farm to School across the District
2. Incorporate more F2S into classrooms and curriculum
3. Host farm to school/wellness related events.

Kitchen Maintenance:

Park Ave Cafeteria Kitchen has seen an increase in repair needs on aging equipment. We had to service the kettle, a steamer unit, and garbage disposal over the summer to be ready for the start of the school year. The garbage disposal continues to be temperamental. When malfunction is experienced, the team shifts to composting back of house organic materials that can then be used as fertilizer for the school gardens. Equipment is being monitored and if future repairs are needed, cost analysis will be done to determine if it is more cost effective to replace the equipment instead.

Member Sgariglia expressed that she is very impressed with the Summer Eats Program and commended the food service team for their outstanding work.

Chair Seddiki expressed appreciation to Ms. Kontoes for her excellent work on the Bartlett High School renovation project.

Superintendent Pierangeli commended the Food Service Department for their creativity and dedication, highlighting their willingness to take on additional work to ensure students have access to a greater variety of food options.

Member Millet expressed her gratitude to the Food Service Department and noted that she has witnessed firsthand how phenomenal the meals at the library have been.

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

1- School Opening -

Ms. Peterson reported that it has been a great start to the school year, adding that in her own career, this has been the best start to a school year so far.

Ms. Peterson stated that, for the most part, there were no issues with scheduling and that everything ran smoothly.

Ms. Peterson noted that attendance has been excellent so far, with the best day in the past eight showing only 15 students absent.

Ms. Peterson reported that an Open House will be held this coming Thursday, and PBIS will be providing a BBQ for students and their families.

2- Reading Initiative -

Ms. Peterson provided a presentation and explanation of the *Reading Offers Awesome Rewards* initiative. Ms. Peterson explained that the program is being implemented in the Middle School to support academic success, emphasizing that reading is the foundation of all learning. Ms. Peterson noted that when students struggle with reading, it can limit their ability to succeed in other areas. Ms. Peterson also reviewed a list of the many benefits of reading, highlighting its positive impact on overall student development.

Chair Seddiki said she was really impressed with this Reading initiative and reiterated the importance of reading.

Ms. Peterson shared that since February, a very active group of students has been helping to reshelve and organize the library, and they have done wonderful work.

Chair Seddiki expressed that she is very impressed with the group of students assisting in the library.

Member Koleros added that this is a great reading initiative that will encourage more student involvement.

Chair Seddiki welcomed Aiden Cruz, the new student representative for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mr. Aiden Cruz expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the student representative for this school year.

IV. Student Representative Update

Start of School Year 25-26:

Positives:

- Sign ups for clubs have already begun (reinstated both medical careers club and mock trial)
- Many seniors are being placed in internships both in and out of school
- Many students taking AP courses have been given a study class that is directed by an AP teacher

Challenges:

- Some students have incomplete schedules due to credit numbers already being reached and not many elective opportunities that they have not already taken
- Change in phone policy

Student Engagement Opportunities:

- Join clubs and sports teams
- Run for Class Advisor Positions - voting is on September 18
- Big Brother Big Sister - interest applications were sent out to us (a program to pair high school students with younger students at both the middle school and the elementary school)
- Nichols' Leadership Academy - presentation to 9th graders

Student Events:

- Community meetings by grade level were held to go over school expectations
- Family Feud - September 19
- Junior class meeting/Class ring presentation - September 25
- Princess of Spain visit - September 30th (a special visit to our 18-22 year old program along with a service project with a group of our high school students)
- Nichol's Leadership Academy field trip, grades 10-12 - September 17th

Family Events:

- Chemical Health Night for all athletes was held last night
- Honors Banquet for all students that made honor roll all 4 quarters last year - September 25

Testing:

- Benchmark testing in both Math and English are happening now

Sports Updates:

- Golf, Cross Country and Girl' Soccer games have already begun
- Volleyball, Boys Soccer and Football have their first games this Friday!

Senior Class Update:

- Senior Breakfast/Class Meeting/Class Ring Presentation - September 26

V. Old Business

Monthly Report on Fundraising Applications:

- Bartlett High School -
BHS Grid Iron - Annual Gold Card

VI. New Business

Superintendent Pierangeli explained that during the FY26 budget planning process, a significant need for nursing support for students across the district has become evident. The Superintendent noted that one of the families originally accounted for in the budget has since chosen to hire their own private nurse, making that particular position available. However, there remains a need for an LPN-level nurse to serve as a nurse assistant for another student. Currently, the district has a 0.5 FTE nurse assistant position vacant. The Superintendent proposed reallocating that unused 0.5 FTE to create a full-time (1.0 FTE) nursing position to better meet student needs. Superintendent Pierangeli emphasized that the district is facing unprecedented levels of need unlike anything seen before.

Ms. Haire reported that, at this time, there are two students in the district who require ventilators, and there has been an increase in the number of feeding tubes, both of which are contributing to the growing demand for nursing support.

Chair Seddiki asked whether the proposed change to the nursing position would be beneficial for the budget. Superintendent Pierangeli confirmed that the adjustment would result in cost savings for the district.

A. Reduction of .5 vacant Nurse position - increase of .5 Nurse Assistant

Motion: To approve a reduction of .5 vacant Nurse position and increase of .5 Nurse Assistant

The motion was made by: Member Millet

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

B. Request for 1.0 FTE ABA and 4.0 FTE Instructional Assistants at Park Ave Elementary

Ms. Haire explained that there has been a significant number of new student enrollments with IEPs.

Ms. Haire reported that the number of incoming students with IEPs has exceeded 43, marking a record high for the district.

Superintendent Pierangeli explained which area of the school budget will be used to fund this position.

Member Sgariglia asked whether all 43 students enrolled in August. Ms. Haire clarified that these students enrolled over the course of the summer.

Motion: To approve the request for 1.0 FTE ABA and 4.0 FTE Instructional Assistants 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:

5 members having voted in the affirmative

_ members having voted in the negative

_ members having abstained

The motion: X Passed

_ Failed

B. Approval of Out-of-State Senior Field Trip to Brownstone Adventure Sports Park in Portland, Ct

Ms. Michele Bigelow and Ms. Samantha Beaudette submitted a flyer and provided a brief overview of the proposed field trip to Brownstone Adventure Sports Park.

Superintendent Pierangeli noted that Brownstone Adventure Sports Park is a popular destination and added that Principal Nieves supports the proposed senior trip.

Member Sgariglia commented that she has visited the park and described it as an excellent destination.

Chair Seddiki inquired whether parents typically pay for the field trip or if fundraising is used.

Ms. Beaudette responded that they are confident the necessary funds will be raised through fundraising efforts.

Motion: To approve the Out-of-State Senior Field Trip to Brownstone Adventure Sports Park in Portland, CT

The motion was made by: Member Millet

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

C. Policy JH - Student Attendance - This item was skipped.

D. Acceptance of Donations -

\$5,000.00 for the Fall Sport Programs from the Fels Family Foundation

80 - School Backpacks from the Greek Orthodox Church to PAE and WMS

80 \$15 Gift Dollar Tree gift cards from the Greek Orthodox Church to PAE and WMS

Motion: To approve the Acceptance of Donations from the Fels Family Foundation and the Greek Orthodox Church

The motion was made by: Member Millet

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

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked both the Fels Foundation and the Greek Orthodox Church for their generous donations. Chair Seddiki also expressed her gratitude to all who contributed.

E. Approval of Surplus Items - Instructional devices and National Geographic Student Edition Books from the Webster Middle School

Motion: To approval of Surplus Items

The motion was made by: Member Millet

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

VII. Enter into Executive Session: According to M.G.L. chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) to discuss strategy for negotiations with union personnel (Administrative Assistant Contract)

Motion: To enter into Executive Session: According to M.G.L chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) to discuss strategy for negotiations with union personnel (Administrative Assistants Contract)

The motion was made by: Member Millet

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

Enter back into Public Session at 7:40 pm.

Member Adamopoulos explained the changes to the Administrative Assistant contract.

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked everyone for their work and support throughout the negotiations and recommended approving this memorandum.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of agreement between the Webster Committee and Administrative Assistants

The motion was made by: Member Millet

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

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

A. Signing of Warrant

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:03 P.M.

The motion was made by: Member Millet

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 submitted,
Desiree A. Moniz

Documents included in the packet:

- School Committee Agenda - 9/9/2025
- Superintendent Notes
- Minutes for 8/19/25
- Fundraising application
- Senior Filed Trip Request
- Surplus
- WMS Presentation
- Donations
- SEPAC Flyer
- Warrant Report

Upcoming Events / Dates:

August 7, 2025	BHS Summer Graduation	11 am - 12 pm	Cafeteria
August 14, 2025	BHS Freshman BBQ	5 pm - 7 pm	Cafeteria
August 19, 2025	Grade 5 & New Student Open House	12 pm - 2pm	WMS
August 20, 2025	New Teacher Orientation	8:30 am to 3 pm	District Office
August 20, 2025	Summer Send Off	5 pm - 7 pm	Webster Lake
August 20, 21, & 22 2025	New Teacher and Other Staff Orientation	8:00 am- 2pm	District Office
August, 25, 2025	District Opening Day		

August 26, 2025	PD Day		
August 27, 2025	PD Day		
August 28, 2025	First Day of School		
September 1, 2025	Labor Day	No School	
September 9, 2025	First Day of Kindergarten and Pre-School		
September 9, 2025	Nichols Leadership Academy 9th Grade Presentation	1pm - 2 pm	Auditorium
September 11, 2025	Webster Middle School Open House	6 pm - 8 pm	
September 17, 2025	Nichols Leadership Academy 10 - 12 grades Field Trip	9:30 am - 1 pm	Nichols College
September 17, 2025	BHS Open House / College Fair	6pm - 8pm	
September 17, 2025	PAE PTO Book Fair	TBD	PAE