

**WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

Date: January 13, 2026

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.

**II. Approval of December 9, 2025 Minutes**

Motion: To approve December 9, 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:

3 members having voted in the affirmative

\_ members having voted in the negative

1 members having abstained

The motion: X Passed

\_ Failed

**II. Superintendent's Report**

**1. Personnel Update -**

**Retirement:** No retirements at this time.

**New Hires:** Lorilei Czesnowski - Paraprofessional at BHS  
Dominic Palmerino - Custodian at BHS

**Resignations:** Rebekah Conley - Paraprofessional at PAE

**Transfers:** No transfers at this time.

**Vacancies:**

| SCHOOL | POSITION                           |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| PAE    | 3.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants |
| PAE    | 4.2 FTE - ABA                      |
| WMS    | 4.0 FTE - ABA                      |
| WMS    | 2.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants |
| BHS    | 4.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants |

## **2. Instructional Update-**

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that the first week back from the winter break was a busy one. On Monday, January 5, the district held a new Paraeducator/ABA orientation and training at the Central Office. Due to several recent hires made just prior to the break, six new staff members participated in the training. Superintendent Pierangeli noted that, to date, feedback from participants has been very positive.

Superintendent Pierangeli reminded the Committee that in November she had previously reported that West Middle School (WMS) and Bartlett High School (BHS) would be receiving site visits as part of the Center for School District Partnership (CSDP) monitoring process. During the first week back from break, WMS completed its visit, and Bartlett High School is scheduled for the week of February 23.

Superintendent Pierangeli explained that the CSDP progress monitoring process includes an analysis of existing data such as MCAS, VOCAL, ACCESS, and other indicators, along with an in-depth review of school-level data and practices gathered through one- to two-day site visits. These visits include school leader questionnaires, teacher surveys, focus groups, and classroom observations. Schools participating in CSDP progress monitoring will receive a detailed report that includes ratings and analysis across 11 indicators aligned with DESE's Coherence Guidebook, as well as source data from observations and surveys. Superintendent Pierangeli noted that historically, these reports have been valuable in helping schools identify priorities and areas of focus to ensure an excellent and equitable

education for all students. The Superintendent also noted that Ms. Peterson will discuss her most recent site visit in her upcoming report.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that on Thursday the district continued its District Instructional Leadership Team (DILT) walkthroughs. The Superintendent added that during the upcoming February DILT meeting, the team will analyze and discuss mid-year data as part of the district's ongoing data monitoring efforts.

Superintendent Pierangeli shared that during the upcoming week she will be attending two Board meetings on Thursday and Friday, in addition to participating in a DESE scheduling meeting at Holy Cross on Thursday.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that the Leadership Team continues its work on the district's Strategic Plan and anticipates completing it at the upcoming Full Leadership Team meeting scheduled for January 22, 2026.

Member Millet expressed appreciation to the students and staff of Park Avenue Elementary School for sending Christmas cards to residents of the local nursing home.

### **3. Other Updates-**

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that Bartlett High School has been notified that it will be recognized for its work with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program and has been invited to attend a recognition ceremony on March 26 in Worcester.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that on December 16 she attended the Adult Education Multicultural Night at Bartlett High School. The Superintendent commended Director Ava Landry for her efforts in organizing the event and noted that it was well attended, with families and students celebrating a variety of cultures.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that on December 18 she attended the Winter Performance by the district's Choral and Band groups. The Superintendent described the performance as "truly magical" and noted that feedback from parents and community members was overwhelmingly positive.

Member Millet shared that she and her son attended the Winter Performance and were very pleased with the completed auditorium, noting how beautiful it looked.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that she has begun work on the upcoming school year calendar and anticipates presenting it at either the next meeting or the first meeting in February.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that on Friday evening she attended the Winter Literacy Night at Park Avenue Elementary School. The Superintendent noted it was wonderful to see parents and students participating and expressed her appreciation to the PTO, volunteers, and staff who dedicated their time to make the event a success.

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

### **1- Bartlett High School Building Committee Update -**

- Phase 2 (Section B) substantial completion is formally confirmed to shift from February break to April break. It is uncertain if this will shift the completion date for October for Phase III. The schedule is being reviewed to determine the impact to Phase III. We expect to know the impact in January and will report at a future meeting.

Ms. Kontoes added that it is not yet known whether this will push out Phase 3, and that the team will be evaluating the schedule to determine whether work can be accelerated over the summer to keep the project on track for October.

- The School Building Committee took a tour of section B on Tuesday, January 6.

All Science chemicals have been reviewed and either put in storage or disposed of in preparation for the move.

Superintendent Pierangeli said it was exciting to see how different Section B looks and how well it is coming along, and that she looks forward to its completion.

### **2- Maintenance Updates-**

**PAE** - Experienced a power outage in the IT closets on Tuesday, January 6. The root cause is unknown but likely due to a power surge that caused an internal breaker for the whole room UPS that tripped (not in the electrical panel).

**WMS** - A valve on the water tank was replaced as it was leaking and another valve was ordered to address a leak for a shower in a science classroom

**District Office** - Compressors that were under warranty were replaced. It was discovered that the system had a leak which required refrigerant to be recovered and led to the discovery of sensors that required replacement. Additionally a new cassette was ordered for the Superintendent's office to address a system error that was impacting heat delivery.

### **2- Other Updates-**

#### **Chapter 70 Formula - Inflation Factor Rate**

The projected FY27 Foundation Budget inflation factor is calculated to be 2.76%. Note this is only the second release of the State and Local Implicit Price Deflator data due to a delay resulting from the government shutdown. The final data release is expected on January 22, 2026. DESE uses the final data release for their calculations. Note that historically there usually isn't much fluctuation in numbers between releases. The inflation factor for FY26 was 1.93%.

The Joint Ways & Means Committee hearing on FY27 consensus revenue held on December 16th resulted in a wide range of testimony from guarded projections on revenue increases to optimism. Both DOR (1.7-3.1% projections) and MA Taxpayer Foundation (2-3% projections)

strongly recommended caution with spending when developing the FY27 state budget. Ms. Kontoes added a link to MTF's testimony on FY27 revenue projections.

### **Federal Grant Updates**

On November 12, a “continuing resolution” was passed to reopen the federal government through January 30, 2026. However, most of school year 2026-2027 federal education funding levels have not been resolved and are still subject to negotiation (ESSA, IDEA, Perkins, etc.). If Congress cannot come to an agreement on FY27 funding levels by January 30th, they must either pass another “continuing resolution” or shut down the government yet again. It should be noted that the national school meals program was the one major area of federal education funding that did receive a new full-year appropriation, through September 30, 2026.

Early the following week, the U.S. Education Department (USED) informed state education leaders of its intent to transition the management of several major programs to other federal agencies. The announcement stated that the majority of programs currently managed by the federal Office of Elementary and Secondary Education will transition to the U.S. Department of Labor via an inter-agency agreement. These programs will include Title I-A, Title II-A, Title III-A, Title IV-A and B, and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, among others.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) programs will, for the moment, remain at USED, as will the Office for Civil Rights. USED officials noted that signed agreements with the Department of Labor and other agencies are only a first step and could not provide immediate details on the timing or specifics of the interagency transitions. These details will vary by program. The federal press release includes links to several federal fact sheets, including one on elementary and secondary education.

### **Governor’s Budget Overview**

The Massachusetts Tax Payers Foundation is hosting a virtual open house on January 30, 2026. This one-hour briefing will review notable spending and revenue trends. It will provide a concise and informative overview of Governor Healey’s FY27 Budget. If you are interested in attending, you can register via this [link](#).

### **Chapter 70 Local Contribution Study**

Included in your packet are two documents providing testimony/commentary as input to the Chapter 70 local contribution study from:

- 1) MASBO
- 2) Mass Budget & Policy Center (highly recommend reviewing the analysis/interactive map about the inflation glitch impact)

Chair Seddiki expressed hope that the project continues to progress well with no unexpected issues and stated that she looks forward to seeing the end result.

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

### **1- AIR Visits -**

Ms. Peterson provided an overview of AIR (American Institutes for Research). Ms. Peterson explained that AIR collects data and reports to DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) to gather feedback and information on efforts to improve student outcomes. The process consists of four components:

1. Principal questionnaire
2. Principal interview
3. Full-day site visit
4. In-person interviews with seven focus groups, including:
  - Two teacher groups (five members each)
  - Five students
  - Three special education teachers
  - English Learner (EL) teachers
  - Three members of the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT)

Member Sgariglia thanked Ms. Peterson and her staff for their efforts, acknowledging that this is a challenging task and expressing appreciation for their hard work.

Superintendent Pierangeli explained that the visit was completely hands-off from the central office, that the team worked directly with staff and students, and that she looks forward to their feedback.

Chair Seddiki thanked Ms. Peterson for her efforts during the visit and inquired about when the district would receive feedback. Dr. Mackay responded that it would take a couple of months.

## **IV. Student Representative Update**

Ms. Nieves presented on behalf of the Student Representative, who was not present at the meeting.

### **Positives:**

- Midway through the school year.

- School lunch changed to OVS to reduce food waste.

#### **Challenges:**

- Semester finals are approaching.

#### **Student Engagement / Events:**

- Recent: Fun Friday Trivia, DECA competition, weekly PBIS raffle.
- Upcoming: Spring Showcase auditions, Food Can Drive, StudySync and WIDA testing.

#### **Family Events:**

- Community Bingo Night: February 12.
- Community Egg Hunt and Breakfast: March 28.

#### **Sports:**

- Indoor track: Several students achieved first-place finishes and personal records.
- Upcoming basketball and track games against Oxford, Auburn, and South Lancaster.

#### **Senior Class Updates:**

- Scholarships posted for seniors to complete.

### **V. Old Business**

#### **A. Monthly Report on Fundraising Applications**

- Bartlett High School Football Team - selling snacks and water at boys home basketball games
- Webster Middle School Band / Chorus Papa Gino's Fundraiser on 1/20/26

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked the staff for their hard work in organizing the successful fundraisers.

### **VI. New Business**

#### **A. FY 27 Budget Update**

Superintendent Pierangeli and Ms. Kontoes presented a slideshow on the FY 27 Budget and explained that development began in October. The Superintendent asked the school committee for a recommendation on the budget, and reviewed the budget process and approval timeline, noting that the final budget requires town approval.

Chair Seddiki stated that the committee's questions were addressed and that she was very satisfied with the feedback received. Chair Seddiki also complimented the team on the quality of their budget presentation.

Chair Seddiki asked for ideas on negotiating the district's subscriptions and rates, along with small, creative budget-saving measures, to be brought to the next meeting.

The Superintendent said they have started working on different paths that will be presented in the next meeting.

- B. Policy DA - Fiscal Management Goals - First Reading
- C. Policy DB - Annual Budget - First Reading
- D. Policy DBC - Budget Deadlines and Schedules - First Reading
- E. Policy DGA - Authorized Signatures - First Reading
- F. Policy DJ - Purchasing - First Reading
- G. Policy DK - Payment Procedures - First Reading

Ms. Kontoes provided a high-level overview of updates to each of the policies.

- H. Policy JFA - CTE School Admissions - First Reading

The Superintendent explained that this is a brand-new policy and provided a brief overview, including what was removed and added.

- I. Removal of the following Policies- Policy DBH - Statement Assurances - First Reading
  - Policy DBI - Budget Operations & Control - First Reading
  - Policy DID - Annual Inventory - First Reading
  - Policy DJG - Vendor Relations - First Reading
  - Policy DKB - Payroll Deductions - First Reading
- J. Policy IHBH - Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy - Update and Approval

Superintendent Pierangeli provided a brief overview of the updated policy.

Motion: To approve Policy IHBH Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy 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

- K. Acceptance of Donations: Various school supplies from the Rosario family to the Webster Middle School

Motion: To accept the various school supplies donations 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

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked the Rosario family for their generous donation of school supplies.

#### **IX. Review / Transfer / signing of Warrants, Bills, Payroll and Vouchers**

- A. Approval of transfer request in the amount of \$6,221.71 from the Webster Middle School Activity Savings Account to Checking Account

Motion: To approve the transfer in the amount of \$6,221.71 from the Webster Middle School Activity Savings Account to Checking Account 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

- B. Signing of Warrants in the amount of \$425,560.99

#### **X. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:30 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 - 1/13/2026
- Superintendent Notes
- Minutes for 12/9/25
- FY 27 Budget Presentation
- Policies
- Donation
- Warrant Reports

**Upcoming Events / Dates:**

|                                                 |                                                         |                        |                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>January 14, 2026 to<br/>January 17, 2026</b> | <b>District Choir<br/>Rehearsals and<br/>Concert</b>    | <b>TBD</b>             | <b>BHS</b>            |
| <b>January 19, 2026</b>                         | <b>No School - All School</b>                           | <b>All Day</b>         |                       |
| <b>January 20, 2026</b>                         | <b>Full PD Day</b>                                      |                        |                       |
| <b>January 21, 2026</b>                         | <b>SEPAC</b>                                            | <b>6:30pm - 7:30pm</b> | <b>Central Office</b> |
| <b>January 27, 2026</b>                         | <b>BHS - Big Brother Big<br/>Sister</b>                 | <b>3:00pm - 4:00pm</b> | <b>PAE</b>            |
| <b>January 27, 2026</b>                         | <b>SC Meeting</b>                                       | <b>6:00pm</b>          | <b>Central Office</b> |
| <b>January 30, 2026</b>                         | <b>BHS - Senior<br/>Breakfast/Community<br/>Meeting</b> | <b>7:45am - 8:45am</b> | <b>Cafeteria</b>      |