

**WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

Date: January 27, 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

Items were taken out of order.

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 January 13, 2026 Minutes

Motion: To approve January 13, 2026 Minutes 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

II. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent thanked the town, the community, custodians, and all those involved in snow removal for maintaining the school grounds, including the Highway Department. The Superintendent also reminded community members to clear sidewalks of snow and to assist elderly neighbors when possible.

1. Personnel Update -

Retirement: No retirements at this time.

New Hires: Eric Vazquez - Paraprofessional at PAE
Demyana Tekla - ABA at PAE

Resignations: Jesse Brousseau - ABA at Park Ave Elementary

Transfers: No transfers at this time.

Vacancies:

SCHOOL	POSITION
PAE	2.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants
PAE	5.4 FTE - ABA
WMS	4.0 FTE - ABA
WMS	5.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants
BHS	2.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants

2. Management and Operations-

The Superintendent reviewed the school calendar and explained that, because Labor Day falls late this year, the school opening is delayed. The WEA contract states that school may not begin more than one week prior to Labor Day, and the proposed calendar meets all contractual requirements. Superintendent Pierangeli reported that she shared the calendar with the WEA presidents and inquired whether there was interest in starting three days earlier, with staff professional development beginning on August 26 and students beginning on August 31. The Superintendent is awaiting feedback from the union and noted that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would be required.

The Superintendent reported that on Thursday the District welcomed Associate Commissioner Charmie Curry. Dr. Mackay and the Superintendent provided feedback on the support the District receives from the state. The Superintendent noted that the state is currently undergoing a restructuring under the new Commissioner, Pedro Martinez, and that more information on state support is expected in the coming weeks.

3. Other Updates-

Dr. Mackay provided an update on ACCESS testing and reported that most schools are currently approximately halfway through completion. The testing window closes on February 27, 2026, providing the District with an additional week to complete make-up testing and to reduce the testing burden on students during finals.

Dr. Mackay reported that the District received approval at the end of December for the Rethinking Discipline Grant in the amount of \$75,000. In addition, the District received the Safe and Supported Schools Grant in the amount of \$10,000. Dr. Mackay also reported that the Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) was approved in the amount of \$40,000.

Dr. Mackay reported that the District will continue to look for additional ways to support staff, students, administrators and families through these grants.

Dr. Mackay reported that a mid-year review of grants will be conducted soon to determine what revisions may be needed for Title I, Title II, Title III, and portions of Title IV. One reason for this review is the unprecedented number of maternity leaves and other vacancies, which required some Title I Academic Interventionists to be reassigned to cover classroom positions in order to maintain consistency for students.

Dr. Mackay explained that grant funds will be used to develop a new class to address specific student literacy needs.

Dr. Mackay stated that Tear Focus Monitoring (TFM) is planned for the next school year in the Special Education, Title I, and ELL departments.

The Superintendent stated that the CMC and SWCEC agendas were included in the packet for reference.

The Superintendent reported that the packet also included a copy of the professional developments conducted on January 20, 2026.

Superintendent Pierangeli presented an update to the policies on the website and thanked Mrs. Herica Alvarez for her work.

Member Koleros thanked the Superintendent for her work updating the policies, noting that it was a significant undertaking and commending the results.

B. Business Manager Report, Mrs. Lisa Kontoes -

1- Bartlett High School Building Committee Update -

Mrs. Kontoes reported that Brait has provided substantial revised completion dates (see below) The project team is planning to review the impacts of the revised schedule with us including how it affects

the overall move timeline and the upcoming school year. This review will also address any impacts to the modular classrooms and their required duration of use.

New Substantial Completion Timeline:

- Phase 1: Complete
- Phase 2: April 15, 2026 (Moved from February)
- Phase 3: November 2026 (Moved from October)
- Phase 4: June 30, 2027 (Remains the same)

Chair Seddiki stated that it was good news that the contractors would be absorbing the cost of the modules and that the final day would remain the same.

2- Other Updates-

FY27 Governor Budget Update:

The Preliminary Chapter 70 projections are not yet available from DESE. However, MASBO shared the following information:

Minimum Per Pupil Aid: \$75

Rural Aid: \$20 million

Circuit Breaker: Fully funded

Regional Transportation: Significant increase at \$154.3 million, which must place it in the 90-95% reimbursement range.

~ Governor Healey's budget proposal fully funds the final year of the Student Opportunity Act with \$7.6 billion in Chapter 70 aid. This represents a \$242 million increase over fiscal 2026 and would guarantee a minimum per-pupil aid of \$75 for all school districts, according to Healey's office.

~ Rural School Aid, a program that helps rural school districts address fixed costs, would receive \$20 million under Healey's proposal, up from the \$8 million allocated in fiscal 2026.

~ Governor Healey is also requesting an additional \$154.3 million to reimburse school districts for a portion of transportation costs.

~ Additionally, Governor Healey is proposing full funding for the Special Education Circuit Breaker, at \$802.7 million. That would allow for the full phase-in of reimbursements for the costs of transporting out-of-district special education students, her office said.

Transportation:

Transportation from Webster Middle School and Park Avenue to the Boys & Girls Club in Dudley for members is now available as a result of the Fels Foundation. Transportation to the club starts today until the end of the school year. This is expected to continue in the following school year. A great big thank you to Jerry & Marilyn Fels for their extreme generosity and to Ian Nugent at the club for the collaboration.

The Superintendent explained that if the project end date in November falls after Thanksgiving, the timeline could be extended into December. Superintendent Pierangeli noted that the district will need to wait and see how the project progresses.

Mrs. Kontoes expressed appreciation to the Fels Foundation, noting their strong support of students. Mrs. Kontoes mentioned that, due to a long waiting list, this opportunity may allow more students to attend the Boys and Girls Club.

Chair Seddiki expressed appreciation to the Fels Foundation for their support of our students.

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

Mrs. Gina Nieves stated that, due to the weather, she was unable to present the Big Brother and Big Sister award. The event has been postponed, and Mrs. Nieves will report on it at her next scheduled school committee meeting.

Mrs. Nieves explained that she had hoped to have the NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) draft report available from their visit, but it is still being prepared. Mrs. Nieves intends to present it at her next scheduled school committee meeting.

Mrs. Nieves reported that the CSDP (Center for School and District Partnership) visit is scheduled for the week following February vacation.

Mrs. Nieves reported that the following Family Engagement Nights are upcoming:

- February 12 – Bingo Night
- February 26 – Papa Gino's Fundraiser - Senior Class

Mrs. Nieves reported on the following Student Events and Opportunities:

- Jan 17 - District Choir Auditions/Concert - Student Luis Shevchuk was recognized.
- Jan 24 - Acapella Festival
- Jan 27 - Quinsig College Decision Day
- Jan 30 - Senior Breakfast

Chair Seddiki inquired about juniors transitioning to seniors during the school year. Mrs. Nieves explained that some juniors who earn enough credits by the end of Semester 1 may be eligible to officially become a senior at the start of semester 2. Some of these students may be able to graduate in June of that year, depending on their individual credit status. There are also some seniors that have enough credits to be able to receive their diploma at the end of semester 1, depending on their independent credit status. However, these students could hold off on getting their actual diploma at this time, and instead decide to walk at the June graduation date and receive their diploma at that time with the rest of their graduating class.

IV. Student Representative Update

Positives – End of Quarter 2:

Student Engagement: Fun Friday Trivia won by Amira Seddiki; weekly PBIS raffle ongoing.

Student Recognition: MACWIC Level 1 Certification recipients recognized; Luis Shevchuk selected for Massachusetts Music Educators Association Central District Senior Festival Concert.

Sports Highlights:

- Lawrence Smith and Tyler Whiting selected to MHSFCA All-State Football Divisional All-Star Team; Jasean Atkins received Honorable Mention.
- Track and basketball teams competed with several personal bests and record-setting performances (Eryk Piwowarczyk set indoor high jump record).

Coming Up:

- Spring Showcase open auditions
- WIDA Access testing
- Parent presentation: “Keeping Kids Safe and Secure Online”

Family Events:

- Community Bingo Night – Feb 12, 6–8 p.m.
- Community Egg Hunt & Breakfast – Mar 28, 8–10 a.m.
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program

Senior Class Update:

- Scholarships posted for seniors to fill out for college

V. Old Business

A. FY 27 Budget Update -

Superintendent Pierangeli explained that there are no new updates at this time, as they are awaiting information expected from the Governor tomorrow.

Chair Seddiki asked if there had been an update on the timeline for Chapter 70. Mrs. Konotes responded that the updates are usually provided on schedule.

- B. Policy DA - Fiscal Management Goals - Second and Final Reading
- C. Policy DB - Annual Budget - Second and Final Reading
- D. Policy DBC - Budget Deadlines and Schedules - Second and Final Reading
- E. Policy DGA - Authorized Signatures - Second and Final Reading
- F. Policy DJ - Purchasing - Second and Final Reading
- G. Policy DK - Payment Procedures - Second and Final Reading
- H. Policy JFA - CTE School Admissions - Second and Final Reading

- I. Removal of the following Policies- Policy DBH - Second and Final Reading
Policy DBI - Second and Final Reading
Policy DID - Second and Final Reading
Policy DJG - Second and Final Reading
Policy DKB - Second and Final Reading

Chair Seddiki read each policy individually and invited the committee to raise any questions at this time. No questions were raised.

Chair Seddiki thanked Superintendent Pierangeli for her work on updating the policies.

Motion: To approve the adoption of updated policies and the removal of five policies

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

VI. New Business

A. FY 25 CMC - Financial Audit

The Superintendent reported that a copy of the audited financial report was included in the packet for reference. The Superintendent noted that the Collaborative is performing well and meeting all requirements.

B. Approval of FY27 Capital Improvement Plan

Mrs. Kontoes reported that a copy of the Capital Improvement Plan was included in the packet. Mrs. Kontoes explained that this plan is reviewed annually, along with other town departments' evaluations of capital needs over multiple years. Mrs. Kontoes noted that three equipment items have been included in this year's plan.

Chair Seddiki stated that she understands these items have been on the list for some time and that the district has not had the funding to acquire them. Chair Seddiki noted that while everything is being well maintained, the items are clearly needed.

Motion: To approve the FY 27 Capital Improvement Plan 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

C. FY27 Chapter 70 Funding Formula Overview -

This section was skipped over.

D. Approval of Out-of-state Field Trip for the Webster Middle School 7-8 grade Band and Chorus to Six Flags New England and Nearby School for Performance

The Superintendent explained that the exact date of the field trip is not confirmed until closer to the event. The Superintendent noted that the field trip has been previously placed in Connecticut, and that all out-of-state field trips require school committee approval. The district is being proactive in case an out-of-state placement occurs.

Motion: To approve the potential Out of State Field Trip

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 Ms. Pacheco for bringing this item to the committee's attention in advance.

E. Approval of two Additional Courses for the Second Semester at Bartlett High School

Ms. Nieves presented two potential new courses:

- **RefReps:** A practical, performance-focused course designed to build consistency, confidence, and decision-making skills through structured repetition and real-world scenarios. The course emphasizes applied learning, situational awareness, and accuracy under pressure. Through guided drills, geared towards referee skills, scenario-based exercises, and feedback-driven practice, participants develop strong fundamentals and refined advanced techniques. By the end of the course, participants will be able to apply core principles in real-time situations, make confident decisions under pressure, improve

performance through structured practice, and demonstrate readiness for live application or certification standards.

- **Literacy Skills:** This course, returning from the 2024–2025 handbook, provides students with reading and writing strategies to support success across all content areas. Instruction is tailored to individual student needs, emphasizing direct, explicit teaching and targeted strategies. Students may enroll by teacher recommendation based on diagnostic and classroom data.

Member Koleros asked whether passing the course was dependent on passing the state exam or if the course could be taken as an added opportunity. Mrs. Nieves explained that students must pass the state exam to become a referee; however, students will still receive course credit even if they do not pass the exam.

Chair Seddiki noted that regarding the RefReps, the course also helps address the shortage of referees.

Member Sgariglia asked whether having students referee school games would present a conflict. Mrs. Nieves explained that the focus would be on officiating younger students' games.

Member Millet stated that this is a valuable opportunity for students to learn about sports.

Motion: To approve two Additional Courses for the Second Semester at Bartlett High School

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

F. Approval of and International Student Travel Opportunity at Bartlett High School

Ms. Jolene Zuk de Romero and Ms. Samantha Beaudette presented a proposed student trip to Costa Rica during April vacation 2028, requiring two years of planning. Information on the trip was included in the packet. Ms. Zuk de Romero noted that this is the first trip in many years and that students will not miss any classroom time. The trip, coordinated by EF Tours, includes round-trip airfare, six nights of hotel accommodations, all meals, a global travel protection plan, insurance, and 24/7 emergency support. Ms. Zuk de Romero also outlined the trip schedule, tours, and activities, which will be led by a licensed tour guide. Ms. Zuk de Romero explained that EF Tours offers an automatic monthly payment plan and online fundraising to help offset costs. Students will have a two-year window to pay for the trip. The estimated cost is \$3,779 per student (approximately \$137 per month) and \$4,019 per adult (approximately \$161 per month). The trip requires a 6:1 student-to-chaperone ratio, with one chaperone traveling at no cost for every six students. Ms. Zuk de Romero stated that the trip to Costa Rica will provide students with international travel opportunities and reintroduce such experiences to Bartlett High School.

Ms. Zuk de Romero also presented a proposed yearly domestic trip for seniors, beginning with the class of 2028, and explained that a separate proposal will be submitted in the future.

Member Sgariglia asked which grades will be available to attend the trip to Costa Rica. Ms. Zuk de Romero said 9th through 12th grade students.

Chair Seddiki asked if the last international trip was well attended. Ms. Beaudette responded that 11 students participated.

Member Koleros stated that this is an exciting opportunity for students and thanked Ms. Zuk de Romero and Ms. Beaudette for their work.

The committee thanked Ms. Zuk de Romero and Ms. Beaudette for presenting this opportunity to students and for providing detailed planning information.

The Superintendent thanked Ms. Zuk de Romero and Ms. Beaudette for planning this opportunity for the students.

Motion: To approve International Student Travel Opportunity at Bartlett High School

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

G. Acceptance of Donations:

~ Donation from Mapfre Insurance of assorted toys and food items

~ Donation of 42 pairs of sneakers from the 365 Foundation

~ Donation of a variety of toys from the Nowalk Plumbing Company

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked MAPFRE Insurance, the 365 Foundation, and Nowalk Plumbing for their generous donations to the schools.

The Superintendent explained that the 365 Foundation focuses on donating sneakers and that this support will continue throughout the year. Chair Seddiki asked how families in need of sneakers could access the program. The Superintendent responded that families should reach out to their school counselor, principal or the Superintendent.

Chair Seddiki thanked MAPFRE Insurance , the 365 Foundation, and Nowalk Plumbing for their very generous donations to our students.

Motion: To accept the donations the various 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

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

A. Approval of FY 26 Budget Transfer Request

Mrs. Kontoes explained that the Curriculum Department is requesting a transfer of funds, as additional funding is needed to support paraprofessional training.

Motion: To approve the FY 26 Budget Transfer Request in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the textbook line to the professional development line

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 \$ 561,035.38

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:20 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 - 1/27/2026
- Superintendent Notes
- Minutes for 1/13/26
- FY 27 Budget Presentation
- Policies
- Donations
- Warrant Reports

Upcoming Events / Dates:

January 27, 2026	BHS - Big Brother Big Sister	3:00pm - 4:00pm	PAE
January 27, 2026	SC Meeting	6:00pm	Central Office
January 30, 2026	BHS - Senior Breakfast/Community Meeting	7:45am - 8:45am	Cafeteria
February 3, 2026	Big Brother Big Sister	3:00pm - 4:00pm	PAE
February 6, 2026	Half day of PD		
February 7, 2026	Winter Carnival	11:00am - 2:00pm	PAE
February 10, 2026	ELPAC Meeting	TBD	
February 12, 2026	PBIS Bingo Night	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Cafeteria
February 17, 2026 to February 21, 2026	Winter Break	All Schools	
February 24, 2026	Big Brother Big Sister	3:00pm - 4:00pm	PAE
February 25, 2026	SEPAC	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	
March 3, 2026	Big Brother Big Sister	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	PAE
March 4, 2026	MASC Student Council Conference	All Day	Hyannis, MA

March 5, 2026	MASC Student Council Conference	All Day	Hyannis, MA
March 6, 2026	MASC Student Council Conference	All Day	Hyannis, MA
March 10, 2026	School Committee Meeting	6:00 pm	Central Office
March 12, 2026	BHS Pi Day Event	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Cafeteria
March 12, 2026	BHS PBIS Dodgeball Tournament	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Gym
March 12, 2026 - March 14 - 2026	BHS DECA States Competition	All Day	Boston Convention Center
March 13, 2026	Full PD Day	All Day	
March 17, 2026	BHS Big Brother Big Sister	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	PAE
March 21, 2026	PAE PTO Cookies and Canvas	10:00 am - 11:30 pm	PAE
March 24, 2026	SC Meeting	6:00 pm	Central Office
March 25, 2026	SEPAC - OT and Sensory	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	
March 27, 2026	BHS - PBIS Egg Hunt / Breakfast	8:00 am - 10:00 am	Cafeteria/Sports Fields
March 31, 2026	Big Brother & Big Sister	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	PAE