

**WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

Date: March 10, 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:

Chair Seddiki stated as a reminder this meeting is being taped both audio and video and will be put on the district website.

I. Approval of February 24, 2026 Minutes

Motion: To approve February 24, 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

1. Personnel Update -

Retirement:	Lisa Daab - School Year Special Ed Administrative Assistant at District Office
New Hires:	No new hires at this time.
Resignations:	Nicole Suarez-Bracket - Family Liaison at Park Ave Elementary
Transfers:	No transfers at this time.

Vacancies:

SCHOOL	POSITION
PAE	2.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants
PAE	4.4 FTE - ABA
WMS	4.0 FTE - ABA
WMS	5.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants
BHS	2.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants
PAE	1.0 FTE Family Liaison
District	SY Special Education Administrative Assistant

2. Instructional Update-

The Superintendent reported that on Monday, SSoS partners visited the district and attended a 6th-grade CPT meeting. Superintendent Pirangeli gave a shout-out to the 6th-grade team, noting that the feedback received was something she was eager to share. The Superintendent stated that the CPT observed at Webster Middle School was exceptional. The Superintendent commended the work and support of the 6th-grade ELA/SS team and highly recommended observing a CPT.

The Superintendent stated that this is the work the district has been striving to strengthen. Superintendent Pierangeli noted that this thoughtful planning will lead to improved outcomes for students and expressed hope to see continued progress across other grade levels in the district.

The Superintendent expressed sincere appreciation to Ms. Peterson for her hard work and dedication to the students.

Chair Seddiki gave special recognition to the Grade 6 team, noting that the feedback was very positive. Chair Seddiki added that while there is a great deal of strong work happening across the district, it is especially rewarding to see the state recognize their efforts.

The Superintendent reported that she and Dr. Mackay attended a webinar hosted by the Commissioner of Education. The webinar provided an update on a new statewide initiative aimed at supporting schools performing below the 25th percentile. Superintendent Pierangeli noted that many schools across Massachusetts have shown stagnant growth and have not closed achievement gaps in recent years.

Dr. Mackay explained that, regarding the Improvement Plan, DESE is working to align the district with districts and to provide a dedicated DESE contact to support the district. Dr. Mackay noted that DESE is

focusing on ensuring each district receives the specific information it needs. Additionally, DESE is working to streamline processes so the district can focus more effectively on its priority work.

The Superintendent reported that at the previous meeting she discussed the Rethinking Discipline initiative and that the district had received notification of meeting the requirements for Indicators 4A and 4B. The Superintendent stated that the district has since received additional notification identifying a significant discrepancy in the disciplinary removal of Hispanic or Latino students with disabilities. Superintendent Pierangeli noted that there are currently 190 students in this subgroup, and that 7 students have been removed for more than 10 days, resulting in a district rate of 0.037, which exceeds the state rate of 0.006.

Dr. Mackay stated that the district received a \$75,000 grant for Rethinking Discipline and is working to ensure the funds are spent entirely on initiatives aligned with that effort. Dr. Mackay noted that the ultimate goal is to reduce exclusionary disciplinary practices.

Dr. Mackay reported that the district's discipline practices have been improving and that, as a team, they are working to reduce exclusionary practices.

3. Other Updates-

The Superintendent said that the weather has been crazy across the district and many of these decisions prove to be challenging. Superintendent Pierangeli said that we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel and spring is right around the corner. The Superintendent was recently asked by a student and parent about how these decisions are made. A brief overview follows.

The Superintendent explained that when a major storm, such as a blizzard, is forecast, it is generally easier to make the decision to cancel school. However, when weather conditions are uncertain—such as a prediction of a few inches of snow or possible ice—the Superintendent begins early in the morning by consulting with the highway department to assess road conditions. Superintendent Pierangeli also evaluates the safety of sidewalks and parking lots and contacts Ms. Kontoes to determine whether custodial staff have sufficient time to prepare the school grounds.

The Superintendent noted that the town prioritizes clearing main roads first, with school grounds addressed afterward. Superintendent Pierangeli stated that all available information is carefully considered before making a decision, including the safety of students who walk to school. After reaching a final decision, the Superintendent communicates with families through a One Call message and posts the information on the school website and Facebook. The Superintendent emphasized that student and staff safety is always her top priority.

The Superintendent reported that she was pleased to attend the Big Brothers Big Sisters celebration breakfast at BHS on Thursday morning. Superintendent Pierangeli noted that it was enjoyable to have representatives from the organization, as well as a member of Cornerstone Bank, in attendance.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that she will be attending board meetings on Thursday and Friday of the upcoming week and will provide an update at the next school committee meeting.

B. Business Manager Report, Mrs. Lisa Kontoes -

1- Bartlett High School Building Committee Update-

Bartlett High School Building Committee Update -

Ms. Kontoes provided a brief update on the school building project. She reported that the move-in is scheduled for five weeks from now. The team is currently working on an inventory list, as well as a surplus list and disposal plan. Ms. Kontoes noted that the last school committee meeting at the Central Office will be on April 10th, and the location of future meetings has not yet been determined. Potential options include the Bartlett High School media room or the Park Avenue Library.

Ms. Kontoes also shared that, in five weeks, two sections of the building will be connected.

Chair Seddiki commented that everything looks great and that significant progress has been made.

Other Updates:

State Special Education Transportation Study

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) issued a [press release](#) on 2/25/26 regarding the Special Education Transportation. Information is included in the packet.

Summary:

Special-education transportation costs are rising because of several interconnected factors—student placement patterns, market constraints, procurement practices, regulatory requirements, and the state's reimbursement timing—combine to drive up per-student costs and limit district control.

Purpose & Approach:

- Scope: Legislatively mandated review of how districts procure and deliver special-education transportation, including feasibility of regionalization.
- Methods: Stakeholder interviews, a statewide district survey, contract and document reviews, DESE administrative data (FY19–FY24), Mass Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) flow data, and prior reports.

Key Findings:

- IEP placements are the primary cost driver. Out-of-district and specialized placements often require **long, individualized routes** that substantially increase per-student transportation costs.
- Labor market pressures raise unit costs. A **shortage of qualified drivers** increases wages, overtime, and vendor pass-throughs.
- **Limited vendor competition** reduces downward price pressure. Many solicitations attract few bidders, increasing reliance on incumbent providers.
- **Procurement and contract design add cost premiums**. Short bid windows, unclear specifications, and onerous insurance/bonding push vendors to price in higher risk.
- State funding timing creates **cash-flow strain**. The current reimbursement model requires districts to front costs and wait for next-year reimbursement, complicating budgeting and potentially weakening same-year cost controls.
- **Data and coordination gaps hide savings opportunities**. No central repository for routes, bids, and costs makes it hard to identify shared routes or high-cost outliers for collaboration.

FY27 Municipal and School Aid Hearing

The Joint Committee on Ways and Means has begun FY27 budget hearings; an invite-only session on municipal and school aid will be held in Lawrence on March 23, where the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) will testify on municipal priorities.

Here are MMA's top priorities (which align with MASBO, as do many other state associations and organizations):

- Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) — Increase UGGA beyond the governor's 2.5% to preserve municipal staffing and basic services amid rising labor and operating costs.
- Chapter 70 (K–12 education) — Fully fund Chapter 70 and keep a higher per-pupil minimum so districts receive predictable, equitable school aid.
- Special Education Circuit Breaker — Fund the circuit breaker at projected need so towns aren't forced to absorb skyrocketing special-education costs.
- Charter School Mitigation — Increase mitigation payments to offset charter tuition pressure on district budgets.
- Rural School Aid — Move toward the commission-recommended funding level (higher than the proposed \$20M) to stabilize small and rural districts.
- School Transportation — Fully reimburse regional and out-of-district transportation to prevent local budget shortfalls.
- PILOT for State Land — Raise PILOT to reflect true impacts of state-owned property on municipal services and revenue.
- Oppose RMV collection changes — Preserve municipal tools that allow flagging delinquent accounts for license/registration nonrenewal to protect local revenue collection.

Chair Seddiki thanked Ms. Kontoes for providing updates.

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

1- Testing -

- March 2-3 - Seal of Biliteracy Test
- March 18 - PSAT 10 Testing
- March 24-25 - ELA MCAS Testing

2- Lion's Speech Contest -

Student Francois Longdaye Yambete was present and provided an overview of the contest.

Mr. Longdaye explained that he chose to participate not only to compete, but also to challenge himself and see how far he could go. The competition required participants to write a passage on what past America can teach future America. Mr. Longdaye placed third in the region and read his speech to the Committee.

Chair Seddiki congratulated him on the competition and thanked Mr. Longdaye for sharing a part of himself through his speech.

Member Sgariglia also congratulated Mr. Longdaye, stating that he has been an inspiration to her and expressing confidence that he will continue to positively influence others.

3- NEASC Visit-

Ms. Nieves reported that in December 2025, a six-member team from NEASC, The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, visited Bartlett for two days to evaluate the school's alignment with accreditation standards. The team reviewed self-reflection materials, met with various stakeholders, and observed classes. The school met standards in most areas but did not meet the Student Learning standard (2.2a), primarily related to curriculum consistency and alignment.

Key priorities include strengthening integration of core values into school practices, developing consistent and comprehensive written curriculum across all courses, improving transitions from middle to high school, and expanding equitable opportunities across programs.

The report will be submitted to the Commission on Public Schools, with an accreditation decision expected by late March or early April. The district will continue refining its plan—particularly around curriculum alignment—and will provide updates at a future School Committee meeting. The next NEASC visit is scheduled for December 2028.

4- CSDP-

Ms. Nieves reported that on February 26, 2026, a team visited and met with focus groups, and on February 27, the team conducted classroom observations. Ms. Nieves noted that the district is currently awaiting the final report.

IV. Student Representative Update

POSITIVES:

- Had a long break
- No fights/arguments
- Ice around the school is cleared, no people have slipped

CHALLENGES:

- Cold weather

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT/EVENTs OPPORTUNITIES :

- March 4 - Costa Rica Family Information Night
- March 5 - Big Brother Big Sister - Cornerstone in Your Corner Award Recognition
- March 5-7 - Student Council Conference at the Cape
- Tonight - Video Game Night
- Thursday - Pi Day Event in the Gym (Here's your chance to show off your math smarts and pie your favorite teacher!!)
- Thursday-Saturday - DECA States Competition in Boston
- March 27 - PBIS Egg Hunt

FAMILY EVENTS:

- Saturday - March Madness 3:3 Tournament
- March 24 - Astronomy Night for Planet Parade

March 28 - Community Egg Hunt and Breakfast

SPORTS:

- Winter Sports just ended, spring signups have just begun

SENIOR CLASS UPDATES:

- More Scholarships have been added

- Cake Rolls and Butter Braids Fundraiser has ended

Chair Seddiki, Superintendent Pierangeli, and Ms. Nieves noted that Ms. Stewicki was very proud of the students attending the conference.

V. Old Business

A. Monthly Report on Fundraising Applications

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked everyone for their hard work on the fundraisers.

B. FY 27 - Budget Update

Superintendent Pierangeli provided a brief budget update. The Superintendent explained that during a recent call with the commissioner, she learned that Title I funding is based on census data, which shows a decline in Massachusetts. As a result, the district could see a 15–17% reduction in Title I funds, equating to approximately \$129,000 in the FY27 budget. Superintendent Pierangeli noted that the team will be reevaluating Title I allocations, considering possible shifts and reorganization, and is still awaiting information on the impact to Title II, III, and IV grants.

The Superintendent said she plans to schedule a Tri-Board meeting on March 23, 2026, and asked the committee to confirm their availability. Superintendent Pierangeli also mentioned her intention to organize a Budget Workshop with the committee, similar to the one held last year.

VI. New Business

A. Policy JFA - CTE School Admissions - Update, Final Reading and Approval

Superintendent Pierangeli explained that this policy was previously approved and submitted to DESE for review. After receiving their feedback, the district is now updating the policy accordingly.

Motion: To approve the update and approval of Policy JFA - CTE School Admissions 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. Approval of Program of Studies SY 2026-2027

Ms. Nieves provided an overview of the Program of Studies, noting that there were few changes overall, except for updates to courses that were examined more closely to identify high-interest options for students. Ms. Nieves thanked Ms. Shanahan for her extensive efforts in making detailed revisions and then reviewed all the changes with the committee.

Chair Seddiki expressed that she is very impressed with all the changes and appreciates the team's effort in determining what is best for the students, noting that the updates are very exciting.

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked Ms. Nieves and her team for their efforts, noting that the work will continue to ensure students have access to courses that align with their interests.

Motion: To approve the Bartlett High School Program of Studies for School Year 2026-2027

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. Approval of Class of 2028 Domestic Trip to Puerto Rico

Ms. Beaudette, one of the senior class advisors, presented the domestic trip to Puerto Rico for the Class of 2028. She explained that students were given five location options, and after working with EFF Tours' to determine the best fit, Puerto Rico was selected for the student population. Ms. Beaudette provided an overview of the trip, including the cost and the five-day schedule with planned activities.

Member Koleros asked how many students are needed for the trip to proceed. Ms. Beaudette explained that a minimum of 10 students is required to meet EFF Tours' requirements and expressed confidence that significantly more than 10 students will participate.

Chair Seddiki said this trip will be an amazing opportunity, thanked Ms. Beaudette for creating experiences for the students, expressed appreciation for her work, and wished her happy travels.

Motion: To approve the Class of 2028 Domestic Trip to Puerto Rico 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

VIII. Enter into Executive Session: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and/or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (Discussion and Approval of Superintendent's Contract)

Motion: To Enter into Executive Session: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and/or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (Discussion and Approval of Superintendent's Contract)

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

Enter back into Public Session

IX. Approval of Superintendent's Contract

Motion: To approve the five-year contract for Superintendent Pierangeli as discussed

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

Member Millet expressed deep appreciation for Superintendent Pierangeli, noting her decades of service to Webster Public Schools. Member Millet personally thanked the Superintendent for her dedication and perseverance to our students, staff, and the community. Member Millet and the rest of the committee also expressed their gratitude and thanked Superintendent Pierangeli for her years of hard work.

Chair Seddiki thanked the Superintendent for her dedication to the district, families, staff, and especially the students. Chair Seddiki noted that having a Superintendent focused on what is best for students over many years provides stability, which greatly benefits morale and student outcomes.

The Superintendent thanked the committee for their support and expressed looking forward to the next five years.

VII. Review / Transfer / signing of Warrants, Bills, Payroll

A. Approval of FY 26 Budget Transfer Request

Motion: To approve the FY 26 Budget Transfer Request

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 Warrant in the amount of \$ 640,811.62

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:26 P.M.

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 - 3/10/2026
- Superintendent Notes
- Fundraising Applications
- Minutes for 2/10/26
- FY 27 Budget Update
- Policies
- BHS Program of Studies
- Warrant Reports

Upcoming Events / Dates:

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 am	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