

**WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, May 26, 2026**

Date: May 26, 2026

Time: 6:03 PM

Location: Bartlett High School
Media Center
52 Lake Parkway
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 May 12, 2026 Minutes

Motion: To approve May 12, 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

1 members having abstained

The motion: X Passed

_ Failed

III. Superintendent's Report

1. Personnel Update -

Retirement: No retirements at this time.

New Hires: Melissa Vazquez - Paraprofessional at Park Ave Elementary

Resignations: Sierra Yuras - Speech Assistant at PAE/WMS

Mr. Keith Goodier, Assistant Principal at Park Ave Elementary

Transfers: No transfers at this time.

Vacancies:

SCHOOL	POSITION
PAE	2.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants
PAE	6.4 FTE - ABA
PAE	1.0 FTE Assistant Principal
PAE/WMS	1.0 FTE Speech Assistant
WMS	4.0 FTE - ABA
WMS	4.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants
BHS	2.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants
BHS	1.0 FTE - Special Ed Teacher
BHS	1.0 FTE - Custodian

2. Instructional Update-

BHS MACWIL Level 1 Graduation

The Superintendent reported that students in Bartlett High School's Advanced Manufacturing program were recently recognized at the MACWIC Level 1 Graduation Ceremony for successfully earning their MACWIC Level 1 certification through MassMEP (Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership). The ceremony took place on Friday, May 15, 2026, in the Bartlett High School Auditorium.

Superintendent Pierangeli stated that the MACWIC Level 1 credential validates foundational manufacturing skills, including shop math, blueprint reading, precision measurement, safety, and quality inspection. The certification also functions as a Machine Operator Pre-Apprentice credential and helps prepare students for careers in advanced manufacturing and skilled trades.

During the ceremony, Matt Berard, Associate Director of Workforce Development for MASSMEP, presented the students with their MACWIC Level 1 certificates of attainment and Level 1 Challenge Coins.

The Superintendent stated that the event celebrated the hard work and dedication of the students as they achieved this important industry-recognized milestone. Families, school administrators, and community members came together to recognize the students' accomplishments and their future career readiness.

The Superintendent congratulated Michael Pagan, who graduated from the Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development (BVHUB) START Manufacturing Program on Monday, May 18, sponsored by the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MassMEP).

Superintendent Pierangeli stated that the START Manufacturing Pathway Program is designed to prepare graduating high school seniors either to continue their education in manufacturing fields or to enter immediate employment opportunities within the industry. The program combines technical training, career readiness instruction, skill development, and real-world work experience, effectively bridging the gap between local manufacturers seeking skilled entry-level employees and students interested in manufacturing careers. As more graduates enter the workforce directly after high school, the program ensures that students are equipped with practical knowledge, hands-on experience, and industry exposure necessary to succeed in today's advanced manufacturing sector, helping them build financially stable and rewarding futures.

During the graduation ceremony, students received their Certificates of Attainment from BVHUB instructor Artie Young. Superintendent Pierangeli said that Matt Berard from MassMEP presented the students with surprise gifts to support their transition into the manufacturing workforce. Graduates received a toolbox containing precision measurement tools used throughout the course, including a dial caliper, micrometer, and machinist ruler. Additionally, students received a brand-new Chromebook and a \$1,000 gift card to help jump-start their careers.

The Superintendent reported that During the program, Michael completed an internship at Jeffco in Webster and was offered a position with the company. Michael has chosen, at this time, to pursue an opportunity with Electric Boat in Rhode Island as he begins his career pathway in the manufacturing industry.

Seal of Biliteracy:

Dr. Mackay reported that we are pleased to announce that this year, eight students have been awarded the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy. This year is particularly special, as one student received the Seal in two languages, and for the first time since Webster began awarding the Seal, three students earned DISTINCTION. The students are:

Giovanna Lopes Torres (Portuguese with DISTINCTION-native language, and Spanish, learned in school)

Ivy Bucasas (Tagalog, with DISTINCTION-native language)

Tais Tapia Martinez (Spanish, with DISTINCTION) earned via high performance on AP Test, native language)

Katherine Nascimento (Portuguese, native language)

Gabriel Souza Maciel (Portuguese, native language)

Jirlein Vazquez Cintron (Spanish, native language)

Erik Piwowarczyk (Polish, heritage language)

Dr. Mackay stated that these students (and their families) have worked hard to maintain their native languages and continue their language studies while at Webster. The Seal of Biliteracy will provide them with advantages in the workforce, potential college credits, and, hopefully, foster continued pride in being multilingual.

The Superintendent and Dr. Mackay congratulated all the students.

The Superintendent reported that the final walkthrough for the school year took place on May 14, 2026. Superintendent Pierangeli said that they are currently finalizing our messaging to staff.

Early College Designation:

The Superintendent said that on Friday, Ms. Shanahan attended a webinar for the Early College designation committee, during which our application in partnership with Worcester State University was voted on. I am excited and thrilled to announce that we received the necessary approval vote for the designation. With this achievement, Ms. Shanahan will work with Worcester State to build our program to officially start this fall, transitioning out of the pilot phase.

Superintendent Pierangeli added that there are currently 37 rising juniors and 32 rising seniors interested in the Early College program for next year. Ms. Shanahan will be holding an information night on June 10 for students and parents. During this event, our partner, Worcester State University, will present on the programs offered, college courses, expectations, and available services.

The Chair said that this is a great opportunity and thanked Worcester State for their collaboration with our students.

3. 3rd Quarter SWCEC Report-

The Superintendent reported that a copy of the third-quarter report is included in your packet for the committee's review.

4. Other Updates-

The Superintendent reported that she was excited to attend the Junior and Senior prom on May 16, 2026, as a chaperone. Superintendent Pierangeli said that it was a great time for all; the students were amazing, and the theme was masquerade.

The Superintendent reported that the CMC Art Show from 5-6 Wednesday & Board Meeting May 21, 2026.

The Superintendent reported that she attended the Webster Middle School play on Thursday. The students did an outstanding job taking the audience on a journey to Neverland. Appreciation was expressed to the staff and volunteers who helped make the production possible, including Ms. Byrnes, Ms. Foster, and all those who contributed to the event's success.

The Superintendent noted that the play provided a wonderful opportunity for students to participate, collaborate, and showcase their talents.

B. Business Manager, Lisa Kontoes -

Bartlett High School Building Committee Update-

1- Bartlett High School Building Project Update-

Key focus areas:

- Receipt of new furniture over the summer
 - Hardscape work on the campus planned for the summer
 - Addressing punch list items as they surface; most notably is balancing HVAC system, balance and fine-tuning AV equipment and the wifi network.
- Work over the summer, wifi , etc

2- Other Updates-

Green Communities Grant: Previously reported that Webster was awarded a Green Community Grant in March. Planning is underway for the scheduling of this project which we are targeting to be completed before the start of the next school year.

LED lights will be installed at Park Ave Elementary.

MASBO 60th Annual Institute: Ms. Kontoes said she attended the MASBO 60th Annual Institute last week. This is a statewide gathering designed to support the professional growth of school business managers and to provide dedicated time for networking and consultation with colleagues across Massachusetts. It featured keynote speakers including Commissioner Pedro Martinez and Inspector General Jeffrey Shapiro, along with 40 sessions across 10 learning blocks. I attended sessions on budget restructuring/reporting, SOA advocacy, health insurance cost trends, retirement systems, student activity accounts, nutrition programs, financial reporting, and AI in school operations.

The most valuable component was the networking, especially connecting with business managers from nearby districts. These conversations provided real-time benchmarking, shared problem-solving, and practical insights. The institute continues to be a high-impact professional development opportunity that strengthens our financial leadership and keeps us aligned with statewide best practices.

Mrs. Konotes reported that the conference included several presentations and guest speakers. Topics focused on problem-solving, high-impact financial leadership, and professional development.

FY26 Budget Update:

Mrs. Kontoes provided an update on the FY26 budget. Mrs. Kontoes reported that the district is approximately 80% through its spending and noted that a significant payment is expected at the end of the fiscal year.

Mrs. Kontoes stated that the district is currently projecting a deficit of approximately \$322,000. This projection was not unexpected, as it had been discussed previously with the Committee. To address the deficit, the district plans to utilize Xtraordinary Relief and Circuit Breaker funds.

Mrs. Kontoes reported that the projected use of these funds is lower than originally anticipated. While the district had expected to use nearly \$890,000, the current projection is approximately \$656,000. As a result, a larger balance will remain available in the account for the next fiscal year.

Chair Seddiki noted that tuition and contracted service costs were higher than anticipated, primarily due to Special Education expenditures.

Superintendent Pierangeli stated that the Extraordinary Circuit Breaker funds have provided significant support to the district.

C. Principal Report - Ms. Amy Poliafico, Principal at Park Ave Elementary

1- MCAS and Other Assessments Update -

Ms. Puliafico was pleased to report that Park Avenue Elementary School achieved 100% participation in MCAS testing.

Ms. Puliafico reported that students are currently completing i-Ready assessments in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Ms. Puliafico stated that the assessment data will be used to inform instructional planning for the upcoming school year.

2- Gladys E. Kelly Library Partnership-

Ms. Puliafico reported that the partnership with the library continues to grow. Ms. Puliafico also shared information about the various events and activities in which Park Avenue Elementary School participated throughout the year in collaboration with the library.

3- Recent Events-

Ms. Puliafico provided an update on current events and activities, including the following:

- Kindergarten and Grade 2 concert
- Ecotarium visit
- Library visit
- Me and Someone Special dance
- Girls on the Run 5K
- Fire department presentation
- Grade 2 field trip to Buffumville Dam
- Kindergarten visit to the library to view the Whale Mobile
- Grade 4 field trip to hike Mount Wachusett
- Harlem Tricksters event at Park Avenue Elementary School

4- Upcoming Events-

Ms. Puliafico reviewed upcoming events, including the following:

- May 29 – Grade 3 walking field trip to the library
- May 29 – Kindergarten field trip to Southwick's Zoo
- June 2 – Grade 1 and 2 Field Day
- June 3 – Grade 3 and 4 Field Day
- June 4 – Graduates on Parade
- June 4 – Kindergarten Field Day
- June 5 – Grade 2 field trip to Davis Farmland
- June 12 – Grade 1 field trip to Davis Farmland
- June 13 – Grade 4 Concert and Recognition Ceremony
- June 16 – Grade 4 Step-Up Day to the Middle School
- June 22 – Step-Up Day for Park Avenue grades
- June 22 – Library Summer Reading Kickoff

Member Sgariglia noted that the collaboration between Park Ave Elementary and the library is a valuable opportunity.

Superintendent Pierangeli stated that the library is consistently looking for additional opportunities to collaborate with the schools.

IV. Student Representative Update

New Student Representative - Dhyey Patel - For the SY 2026-2027

Positives-

- Senior Graduation
- End of Year

Challenges-

- Final Exams

Testing-

- Finals StudySync Benchmark Testing Window -May 18 - May 29 - All ELA Courses that use the Study Sync Curriculum
- Final CPM Benchmark Testing Window - May 18 - May 29 - All Math courses that use the CPM Curriculum
- Senior Final Exams -
 - May 22 - Periods, 3,4 & 5 - A Day Classes
 - May 26 - Periods, 3,4 & 5 - B Day Classes
 - May 27 - Periods, 1 & 2 - A Day Classes
 - May 28 - Periods, 1 & 2 B Day Classes

Student Engagement/Events and Opportunities-

- May 26 - Student Council Ice Cream Party
- May 29 - Schoolwide Awards Assembly
- May 2 - International Thespian Society Induction

Sports-

- Had senior night for tennis
- Baseball team won their senior night with a mercy against David Proudy

Senior Class Updates -

- May 29 - Senior Barbecue
- May 29/30 - Senior Overnight
- May 30 - Senior Sunrise
- June 1 - Senior Field Trip to Brownstone Adventure Park
- June 2-5 - Graduation Rehearsals
- **June 2** - Senior Awards Night/Cap and Gown Distribution
- June 4 - Graduates on Parade
- June 5 - Graduation at Indian Ranch

Member Sgariglia congratulated Mr. Piowarczyk on his graduation and wished all graduating seniors the best of luck in the coming years.

Chair Seddiki thanked Student Representative Mr. Piowarczyk for his contributions, noting that he has done a commendable job, and extended best wishes for his future endeavors.

Ms. Nieves expressed appreciation to Mr. Piowarczyk for his service and contributions and announced the appointment of Mr. Patel as the new student representative for the 2026–2027 school year.

Mr. Patel thanked the Committee for the opportunity and stated that he is looking forward to serving next year.

Member Millet welcomed the new student representative and noted that it is always encouraging to hear about positive and exciting happenings at the high school. Member Millet also encouraged the student representative to bring forward any concerns to the Committee as needed.

Mr. Patel reported that there have been challenges with parking, particularly during student drop-off and pick-up. Mr. Patel noted that he has experienced delays due to parents parking in student parking areas during drop-off and pick-up times.

Chair Seddiki explained that, due to the renovation project, parking is currently limited and advised parents to be mindful of this during drop-off and pick-up times.

Mrs. Kontoes stated that signage has been placed around the campus to inform the community and explained that addressing the issue will require adherence to established protocols.

V. Old Business

A. Special Education Program and Staffing Update -

Ms. Haire provided an update on the ABA classrooms at Park Avenue Elementary School. Ms. Haire reported that for several years the school has maintained three ABA classrooms serving students on the autism spectrum. Two of the classrooms serve students with higher needs, and the third classroom also serves similar student populations but is preparing for transition to a different classroom model.

Ms. Haire noted that each classroom is intended to serve no more than 12 students; however, there are currently 36 students enrolled across the program. Ms. Haire expressed concerns regarding planning for the upcoming school year, including how the program will be structured and how student needs will be appropriately met.

Ms. Haire stated that these figures are being shared as current data and that planning for the next school year will continue.

Ms. Puliafico stated that work is underway to reallocate staff to create space and staffing for this position.

Superintendent Pierangeli stated that this is not an easy task, noting that bringing forward a request for an additional position is not currently feasible due to limited available space for an additional classroom. Superintendent Pierangeli explained that current staffing levels and building space are being reviewed to determine how staff can be reassigned and structures adjusted. Superintendent Pierangeli added that the District's approach is to evaluate staffing and program structure before requesting any additional positions from the Committee.

Member Koleros asked what the student-to-staff ratio was. Ms. Haire responded that it is 2:1.

B. Superintendent Evaluation -

Chair Seddiki expressed appreciation for the Superintendent's efforts and contributions to the District and reviewed components of the evaluation.

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked the Committee for its support and stated that the work is a team effort. The Superintendent also expressed appreciation to her team for their ongoing support.

Member Koleros thanked the Superintendent for being highly visible and engaged with students and families throughout the District and the community.

Chair Seddiki welcomed the Superintendent to another successful year.

VI. New Business

A. Presentation of Strategic Plan

The Superintendent reviewed the Strategic Plan, which will run through 2028. The Superintendent explained that the plan was developed with input from students, parents, professionals, and staff.

Superintendent Pierangeli said that the purpose of the Strategic Plan is to strengthen collaborative partnerships among families, schools, and the community to enhance engagement and improve student outcomes.

Members had some questions, and the Superintendent and the team answered all of them accordingly.

B. Approval of New Science Curriculum for Webster Middle School

Ms. Debbie Rivera presented a slideshow on the new science curriculum, Amplify Science, for grades 5–8.

Ms. Rivera reviewed the major components of the new curriculum and requested the committee's approval.

Motion: To approve the New Science Curriculum for the Webster Middle School

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

- A. Approval of Transfer Request in the amount of \$6,490.26 from the Webster Middle School Student Activity Savings Account to Checking Account

Motion: To approve the transfer request in the amount of \$6,490.26 from the Webster Middle School Student Activity Savings Account to Checking Account

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. Signing of Warrant in the amount of \$ 523,121.62

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:33 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 - 5/26/2026
- Minutes for 5/12/26
- Superintendent Notes
- Strategic Plan
- New Science Curriculum for WMS
- Transfer Request
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Warrant Reports

Upcoming Events / Dates:

May 26, 2026	School Committee Meeting	6:00 pm	Central Office
May 29, 2026	Senior Barbecue	TBD	
May 29, 2026	Senior Overnight	10:00 pm - 5:00 am	BHS
June 2, 2026	Senior Awards Night	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Auditorium
June 4, 2026	BHS Grad Parade	10:45 am - 12:00 pm	
June 5, 2026	BHS Graduation	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Indian Ranch
June 9, 2026	SC Meeting	6:00 pm	
June 19, 2026	Juneteeth / No School	All Schools	
June 23, 2026	Last Day of School / Half Day	All Schools	