

**WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, September 22, 2026**

Date: September 22, 2026

Time: 6:00 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 Adamopoulos
- Member Millet
- Member Koleros

The following Committee Members were absent:

Miranda Sgariglia

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 the September 8, 2026 Minutes

Motion: To approve September 8, 2026 minutes as presented

The motion was made by: Member Millet

The motion was seconded by: Member Koleros

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: No retirements at this time.

New Hires: Timothy Cruz Brown - Art Teacher at Bartlett High School

Resignations: No resignations at this time.

Transfers: No transfers at this time.

Vacancies:

SCHOOL	POSITION
PAE	7.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants
PAE	3 FTE - ABA
WMS	4.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants
BHS	2.0 FTE - Instructional Assistants
BHS	1.0 FTE - Administrative Assistant

The Superintendent reported that, as the Committee can see, the district continues to have vacancies for ABA professionals and paraprofessionals across the district. The Superintendent explained that the district is exploring the use of contracted staff from outside agencies to help fill these vacancies and ensure that the district remains in compliance.

Member Millett asked whether the staffing agencies had identified any reasons for the ongoing vacancies. Superintendent Pierangeli explained that she had not been involved in the initial discussions but would be meeting with the agencies within the next couple of weeks.

2. Instructional Update -

Assistant Superintendent Patty Mackay gave an update on the Seal of Biliteracy and 21st Century Exemplar Grant.

Dr. Mackay reported that the 21st Century Exemplar Grant has been approved and the district has been awarded in the amount of 181, 475.00.

Dr. Macakay explained that, following the COVID-19 pandemic, the district did not have a 21st Century program. Dr. Mackay stated that the district has been working toward reestablishing the program and has received the 21st Century Grant for the current cycle, which is considered exemplary. Dr. Mackay explained that an exemplary designation indicates that the district has established practices and instructional methods that adhere to the requirements of the 21st Century program and meet its expectations.

Dr. Mackay explained that, over the summer, the district spent significant time developing the curriculum. Dr. Mackay noted that the district made a concerted effort to listen to teachers and identify the support they needed. Teachers were also provided with dedicated time to plan their instructional units for the remainder of the school year.

Dr. Mackay reported that one of the changes this year is the increased emphasis on upfront planning. The school year has been divided into trimesters, allowing teachers to commit to one trimester or all three trimesters. Dr. Mackay explained that this structure will provide teachers with greater flexibility and a better ability to manage their time.

Dr. Mackay reviewed the planned activities and curriculum for each grade level from kindergarten through fourth grade.

Dr. Mackay stated that this is a valuable opportunity for many of the district's families. Dr. Mackay added that the feedback received has been very positive and noted that families have expressed their appreciation for the after-school program.

Dr. Mackay thanked Ms. Taylor for her work being the coordinator of this program and everyone involved.

Dr. Mackay reported on the Seal of Biliteracy program. Dr. Mackay explained that, in accordance with DESE requirements, the district must inform families of students in grades Pre-K through 12 that the district participates in the Seal of Biliteracy program.

Dr. Mackay reported that a letter will be sent to the elementary and middle school, with a separate letter being sent to the high school.

Dr. Mackay reported that DESE has updated its regulations and that the district will be updating its guidelines accordingly.

Member Koleros expressed her gratitude to Dr. Mackay for bringing these programs to the district.

Superintendent Pierangeli thanked Dr. Mackay for her time and effort in writing the grant and for helping make these opportunities available to the students.

The Superintendent reported that she is currently holding monthly meetings with the WEA union for the remainder of the school year and is also working to schedule meetings with the Paraprofessional union.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported on the progress and improvements made with Safety-Care training. She explained that the Special Education Department has worked diligently to develop a team of Safety-Care trainers within the district. The district now has certified trainers at each school who are providing Safety-Care training to staff at their respective schools.

The Superintendent reported that Bartlett High School held its Open House on September 17, 2026.

Superintendent Pierangeli was pleased to report that the event was well attended and thanked the parents and guardians for their continued support.

3. Other Updates-

The Superintendent reported that she attended the SWCEC meeting on Friday, September 11, 2026. Superintendent Pierangeli stated that concerns were raised regarding enrollment and tuition. The Superintendent reported that current enrollment is 105 students, while the budget was developed based on an enrollment of 120 students.

Superintendent Pierangeli reported that she will be attending the Books and Blooms event at the Webster Public Library on Wednesday, September 23, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Superintendent reported that the Town's Strategic Plan Committee will be holding a meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2026, and that the Superintendent will be attending the meeting.

B. Director of Finance and Operations - Mrs. Lisa Kontoes

MSBA Project Funding Agreement Amendment

Mrs. Kontoes reported that currently they are in the process of submitting an amendment to the District's MSBA Project Funding Agreement to incorporate additional district funding to address bid overages. The total amount to be added is \$1,660,235, which reflects three supplemental appropriation sources:

- ESSER Grant – \$425,000
- FY23 surplus – \$678,071.94
- Remaining PAE Building Project – \$557,163.28

These three sources have been combined and incorporated into the revised project budget through the MSBA amendment process. Once approved, the updated agreement will formally reflect the district's contribution and ensure the project remains fully funded. This has been work-in-progress since June 2024.

2- Maintenance Updates:

PAE Climate Control System Performance Over the past several weeks, we have continued addressing the performance issues within the building's climate control system. Mechanical repairs to the rooftop units were completed in late August and again last week, including replacement of worn wheel components and a compressor. These repairs were necessary to stabilize the equipment before making any further adjustments to the system's controls.

With the mechanical work now finished, we are allowing the system to run under normal conditions for a full week so we can observe how it performs. This stabilization period will help us confirm that the equipment is functioning properly and will give us clearer data on how the system responds during regular school operations.

Next week, our software control specialist is scheduled to return to complete the second phase of remediation. This work will focus on the building management system software, including reviewing and adjusting damper settings and other control parameters that regulate airflow

and temperature. These updates are expected to improve consistency across classrooms and reduce the fluctuations experienced late last school year.

We will continue monitoring conditions closely and will provide another update once the software adjustments are complete and the system has had time to operate under the revised settings.

3- Other Updates-

1. FY26 Year-end Update

Budget line transfers have been completed. Please see the final report in your package.

2. Electricity & Gas Bid

Competitive Energy Services (through French River Education Center) supports the District by managing the competitive bidding process for electricity and natural gas. They act as a neutral advisor, monitoring market conditions including storage levels, futures pricing, liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply, and regional demand to determine the best time to lock in rates. Based on current market trends, we completed a new bid cycle and secured electricity pricing for one year (.14305/kWh) and natural gas (\$4.643/Dth)..

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

1- School Opening -

Ms. Peterson reported that the start of the school year has been very smooth thus far.

Ms. Peterson reported that attendance has remained consistent across all grade levels, with an overall attendance rate of 95 percent.

Ms. Peterson reported that an Open House was held a couple of weeks ago, preceded by a family barbecue from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Open House followed from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Around 155 people attended the event at Webster Middle School.

2- Upcoming Events -

Ms. Peterson reported that Bay Path has begun conducting health screenings at Webster Middle School, including hearing and vision screenings. The screenings will continue throughout the month based on grade level.

Ms. Peterson reported that author Dennis Wise, who presented to students last year on the topic of bullying prevention, returned this year to present to the fifth-grade students.

Ms. Peterson reported that the guidance counselors are currently planning a cyber safety assembly, which is scheduled to take place in early November. Ms. Peterson added that the counselors are also working with the District Attorney's Office to develop a parent component for the program.

Ms. Peterson reported that a fire drill has been completed and that the Middle School and Bartlett High School is scheduled to conduct a full evacuation drill next week.

Ms. Peterson reported that Mawla's Kids will be visiting the school on October 9, 2026. Ms. Peterson described the organization as a valuable community resource that provides games, activities, food, and clothing for children of all age groups.

Ms. Peterson reported that the school is working with the American Heart Association to plan future events.

Ms. Peterson reported that the annual Safety Quest program for fifth-grade students, in conjunction with MAPFRE, is also being planned.

Member Koleros thanked Ms. Peterson for consistently keeping attendance at the forefront. Member Koleros also emphasized the importance of students attending school regularly and noted that sharing attendance numbers with students is a great way to highlight the importance of attendance.

Dr. Mackay reported that the district purchases the Second Step curriculum each year, which is a DESE-approved curriculum. This year, the district introduced a digital version of the curriculum, which has been purchased for all three schools. Dr. Mackay noted that the digital curriculum provides another opportunity to educate students about cybersecurity.

3- Scheduling and data information -

Ms. Peterson provided an update on scheduling and student data. Ms. Peterson explained that last year, a team of administrators and teachers met several times to review this information as part of the DESE Redesigned Cohort. The team examined the middle school schedule with a focus on ensuring that the needs of all students are being met, particularly students receiving multiple services, such as Special Education and English Language Learner services. The team also reviewed how to ensure that these students receive the appropriate amount of instructional time in each area. Ms. Peterson provided additional details regarding the work completed and the outcomes of the review.

Chair Seddiki suggested that Ms. Peterson begin showcasing the various opportunities available at the high school to eighth-grade students, as they will soon be making an important decision regarding their high school plans. Chair Seddiki added that the high school has many opportunities to offer students and that providing this information early in the school year would be beneficial.

Ms. Peterson responded that they are already working on this initiative.

The Superintendent stated that she is particularly proud of the support and collaboration among the schools. Superintendent Pierangeli noted that the schools have been working closely together to ensure that efforts are aligned and focused on what is best for students.

III- Student Representatives Updates- Mr. Dhyey Patel

1. Positives:

- Continues to be less distractions in class from no phone use!
- More students are engaging in class and doing work

2. Challenges:

- Not enough available space/time for the use of restroom
- Students complaining about classroom temperature

3. Student Engagement/Events Opportunities :

- All clubs have officially started this week. To be eligible to participate in any of the clubs the students must be academically eligible, but also make sure that you arrive at school on time EVERY day.
- The Student Council and DECA had an afterschool meeting last week, for new and previous year members to get dates and information. On Thursday September 17, 2026, the Student Council had their meeting.
- Last week students completed their IReady for ELA and Math. For students that missed their IReady exam, they had or will have Opportunities to make it up:
 - Friday, September 18, 2026
 - Monday, September 21, 2026
 - Tuesday, September 22, 2026

4. Family Events:

- The open house was held on Thursday September 17, 2026 at 6:00pm..
- Family are able to meet : Teachers, counselors and administration
- Get Important Class Information
- Visit the College Fair
- Get Important Senior Class information
- Pay Class Dues
- Order Bartlett High School clothing
- Meet the Family Liaison, Mrs. Margarita Nieves

5. Sports:

- Bartlett Varsity Volleyball came out with their First Season Win in 3 years with a 3-2 victory over Worcester North. The Indians were led by Junior - Setter Mia Sepulveda who led her team with 6 aces, 7 digs, 1 kill, and 6 assists - Middle Blocker, Senior Carmen Ruiz came up big with 5 aces, 12 kills, and 3 digs as outside hitter Sophomore - Jordan Reeves put up 7 aces, 3 kills, 15 digs, and 2 assists.
- Congratulations to the Girls Varsity Soccer team who came out with a big win in their season opener on 9-9-26 against Worcester Tech - Amira Seddiki and Adryanna Soto both contributed goals in their 11-0 victory.

- Again on September 16, The varsity boys soccer started off their season strong with a 6-0 win against Southbridge.
- Monday 9-21-26 - Boys Varsity Soccer team hosts David Prouty - 3:30pm.
- The golf team hosts Leicester - 3:00 pm at Harrisville GC.
- Tuesday 9-22-26 - High School Cross Country teams Host Bay Path - 3:30 pm at Webster Memorial Beach. The golf team travels to Heritage GC to take on Oxford 3:00 pm
- Wednesday 9-2-26: Girls Varsity Soccer team travels to AMSA. 3:30 pm.
- The volleyball team hosts Abbey Kelley - JV 3:30 pm and Varsity 4:45pm.
- Thursday 9-24-26 Girls Varsity Soccer team hosts Quaboag at 6:00 pm.
- The golf team travels to Hillcrest GC to take on Leicester at 3:00 pm.
- Friday 9-25/26 - Varsity Football team hosts Abbey Kelley - 6:00 pm at Webster Memorial Athletic Field. Admission: Adults \$7.00 Students \$5.00 Boys Varsity Soccer team travels to Parker Charter. 4:00 pm

6. Senior Class Updates:

- Senior breakfast will be held on September 25, 2026 and elect their presidents.
- The Chair thanked the Student Representative for the updates and acknowledged their efforts, stating that they play an important role in representing the high school.
- The Chair expressed appreciation for their continued work and support.

The Committee expressed concerns regarding the bathroom doors specifically, they can only be opened from the outside with a key in the event of an emergency involving a student. Superintendent Pierangeli explained that all bathrooms and classrooms are secured and locked as part of the district's safety measures.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

- A. Approval of 0.5 Innovative Pathway Teacher and 0.5 Innovative Career Pathway Coordinator at Bartlett High School

The Superintendent explained that this is an existing position; however, the district did not previously have a formal job description for the position.

Chair Seddiki asked whether any changes had been made. The Superintendent explained that no changes had been made and that the document simply outlines the responsibilities and duties the individual has been performing.

Motion: To approve the job description for 0.5 Innovative Pathway Teacher and 0.5 Innovative Career Pathway Coordinator as presented

The motion was made by: Member Millet

The motion was seconded by: Member Adamopoulos

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. Policy ACL - Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement (Protect-Act) - First Reading

C. Policy CHD - Administration in Policy Absence - First Reading

D. Policy DBJ - Budget Transfer Authority - First Reading

E. Policy GBEA - Staff Ethics / Conflict of Interest - First Reading

F. Policy GBEBE - Online Fundraising and Solicitations - Crowdfunding - First Reading

G. Acceptance of Donations:

1- Donation in the amount of \$590.00 in memory of Paul Wilga, to be used by the Athletics Department at Bartlett High School

2- Soccer equipment from Nowak Plumbing to Webster Middle School

3- Variety of School Supplies from the Rose Room to Webster Middle School

Motion: To accept the numerous donations as presented

The motion was made by: Member Millet

The motion was seconded by: Member Koleros

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

Chair Seddiki and Superintendent Pierangeli expressed their gratitude for the generous donations and continued support to our students.

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

A. Approval of Transfer Request in the amount of \$8,438.91 from the Webster Middle School Student Activity Savings Account to Checking Account

Motion: To approve the transfer request in the amount of \$8,438.91 from the Webster Middle School Student Activity Savings account to checking account presented

The motion was made by: Member Millet

The motion was seconded by: Member Koleros

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 Transfer Request

Ms. Kontoes explained that this is a transfer in the amount of \$1,350.00 from the Athletics Officiating account to the Bartlett High School Online Learning account.

Motion: To approve the transfer of \$1,350.00 from the Athletics Officiating account to the Bartlett High School Online Learning account

The motion was made by: Member Adamopoulos

The motion was seconded by: Member Koleros

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. Signing of Warrant in the amount of \$710,534.54

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:49 P.M.

The motion was made by: Member Millet

The motion was seconded by: Member Koleros

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 - 9/22/2026
- Minutes for 9/22/2026
- Policies
- Superintendent Notes
- Donations
- Warrant Reports