

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Thursday, June 20, 2019

Date: June 20, 2019 Time: 6:30 PM Location: School Committee Conference Room
77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570

The meeting was called to order by: Chairman Hurton

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Napierata
- Member Seddiki
- Member Chenevert

The following Committee Members were absent:

- Member Blythe

I. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Hurton announced that this meeting is recorded both video and audio. He said he appreciated everyone's flexibility in changing the meeting date since we would not have a quorum for next Tuesday.

II. Enter into Executive Session: According to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 23 (a) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than professional competence of an individual and to reconvene in Open Session

Motion: To enter into Executive Session: According to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 23 (a) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than professional competence of an individual and to reconvene in Open Session

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Seddiki

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

III. Approval of June 11, 2019 Minutes

Motion: To Approve June 11, 2019 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Seddiki

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

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

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent Update/ District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. Year End Activities

*Had many year-end activities across the district – Step-Up days were very successful at all our schools.

*Attended Park Avenue Elementary Art Show – it was amazing.

*Working with Mapfre and HeadStart on a grant – thinking of ways to apply for a Mapfre grant for nutrition, health and educational programs – targeting K and Gr 1 and increasing family engagement

* Learning more about the Real Madrid Foundation through Mapfre - it's a soccer program for high risk children currently used in Lawrence

* School Community Liason, Ms. Nieves did a lot on 1:1 outreach, making personal connections and obtained some information that will help us to improve our communication and outreach to help strengthen that bridge.

* The Educators Council has met 3 times and are ending the year with a Brave Hearts game – Gina Nieves was recommended as the BHS Teacher and she was at first base for an inning

* Have been doing building walk thrus with Mrs. Pierangeli and building principals to review room changes.

2. Personnel Update

Have been screening Interim Bartlett High School Principal candidates. Met with 5, many are retired administrators looking for a one year assignment – one candidate would be interested in a permanent position.

Webster Middle School Transfers – Julie O'Connor from 7th/8th grade science to 7th grade science

Russell Holden from 7th grade science to 7th/8th grade science

George Newton from 7th/8th grade inclusion to 5th/6th grade resource

Donna Conover from 5th/6th grade inclusion to 6th grade inclusion special

Ronda Franek has requested a transfer from Gr 3 teacher to WMS Special Ed

New hire – Michael Scott has been hired as the new custodian at PAE

3. Other Updates

- Meeting Monday with Mr. Chris Roberts, Senator Fattman and Representative McKenna to discuss the college program – looking to have legislative support for this program
- This Saturday BHS Chorus will be singing the National Anthem at Indian Ranch
- Attorney General's Office has put out a new Violence Prevention and Mental Health Program – seeing if we can be a part of this
- Shout out to Becky Czernicki, Janice Daniels and the Bartlett Team for submitting the BHS Turnaround Plan, part of the plan included adjustments in the schedule. Today had a meeting with more conversations to be effective and efficient, part of that conversation was to see if there was a way to combine the 0.5 FTE Foreign Language teacher at both WMS and BHS, it doesn't appear to be hopeful

B. Business Manager Report

1. FY19 Budget Update and Closeout

Mrs. Pierangeli stated the final teachers' pay was run and there are remaining funds. Looking to get everything encumbered with outstanding invoices. Thanks for Sheryl Spink for doing a fantastic job in her role. We saw significant savings with utilities this year. There will be deficiencies in transportation, the Town is seeking assistance with – will report more at future meeting

2. FY20 Budget

We have opened the FY20 budget. We will be more proactive in making transfers as the year goes along.

3. Summer Meals Program

Ellen Nylén, Food Services Director was present. Ms. Nylén stated that with the support of Superintendent Goguen, Mrs. Pierangeli and Mrs. Daniels the summer program is expanding this year. Adding 3 community sites: "Hope for Hoops two nights a week, North Village two days a week, Library serving on Friday's. Will continue serving Head Start over the summer. Last year we served over 200 meals/ day with a slight profit. Program starts July 1st at BHS & WMS, all other programs start July 8th.

Member Chenevert thanked Ms. Nylén for taking care of our kids throughout the summer, he has seen surrounding schools scrambling to get programs in place. Mrs. Pierangeli thanked the summer staff and Ms. Nylén for their enthusiasm and hard work.

V. Old Business

A. Superintendent Evaluation

Chairman Hurton gave a summary of the process. At every meeting Dr. Goguen presents evidence of her goals. At the last meeting she shared the tools used by school committee members for the evaluation. He gave an outline of the rubric and the definition of the DESE standard rating. Chairman Hurton reviewed the final findings of each member's evaluation. Each goal and standard was read along with the ratings that the school committee gave to the superintendent. Three members gave Superintendent Goguen an overall rating of proficient, two gave her exemplary.

Member Chenevert thanked Superintendent Goguen for her outreach to community and partnerships that have been established.

Member Napierata appreciated how much information is shared at meetings especially professional development that occurs. She thanked her for moving the district forward. As a parent in this district we have finally seen test scores moving forward.

Member Seddiki commented on Superintendent Goguen's community outreach, strengthening the home/school connection, newsletter every week in two languages, the info shared is immense. In Webster, Kindess Matters has become our mantra.

Chairman Hurton reflected on the past two years when there was a search for a new superintendent, he was looking for someone that could come in to make change. Much has been accomplished. A plan was put in place and implemented due to Superintendent Goguen's efforts. He hopes we can continue to improve

Superintendent Goguen said it was an honor to be the superintendent here, we work hard, WE meaning everyone in the district. Shout out to the teachers and everyone that works here everyday. It's a heavy lift in a turnaround district, there have been some necessary changes. Looking to encourage collaboration, together we can move ahead.

B. Acceptance of donations for the Graduate Lock In Event

Dr. Goguen said this was a great first Graduate Lock-In Event. Special thanks to Donna Hurton and Gina Nieves for coordinating this even. A list of donations was read (included in packet)

Motion: To accept donations for Graduate Lock In Event as presented.

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Seddiki

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. Acceptance of McGraw-Hill StudySync Curriculum adoption

Dr. Goguen explained that part of plan over the past two years is to build stronger academic foundation. We piloted a K-5 reading program and this past year we piloted StudySync in grades 6 – 12. Mrs. Daniels said that per Section 4.1 of the WEA Contract we must have joint consultation among teachers and administrators with final approval by the School Committee for consideration of new curriculum. A survey was given to teachers and 90% were in favor of the new program.

Member Chenevert asked if there were any concerns from the survey. Mrs. Daniels said yes there were some concerns with the rigorous program, not any major negatives. This also mirrors the MCAS test.

Motion: To approve the McGraw StudySync Curriculum.

The motion was made by Member Napierata

The motion was seconded by Member Seddiki

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. Discussion regarding Webster Educator’s Associations concerns

Ms. Millett and Ms. Jeffers, co-presidents of the teachers union were present and read a statement outlining concerns. They said there was a survey of the members on their concerns of the school system. A list of concerns were presented; safety, communication, staff turnover, conflicts, professional development

Mrs. Pierangeli read a letter prepared from the District Leadership Team responding to the concerns and providing specific points of Dr. Goguen’s skilled leadership.

Member Napierata responded to the teacher union representatives – asking them to revisit the list and come back with a student first perspective. As a teacher herself, Mrs. Napierata said the focus should be on students, asked them to present what the teachers and staff in our schools can do to make the schools a better place for students, it’s not always about the teacher. She asked for them to bring solutions.

Mrs. Millet said it is about the kids, members feel they aren’t being heard.

Member Seddiki said this is a transitional period, the concerns brought aren't new, when change happens it can be difficult. She would like to suggest more collaboration and remember the goal is to educate the children.

VII . Review / Transfer / Signing of Bills, Payrolls and Vouchers: Committee reviewed and signed bills and vouchers.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM

The motion was made by Member Chenevert

The motion was seconded by Member Seddiki

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,

Lori Glennon

Documents included in the packet:

- June 11, 2019 Minutes
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Letter from the DLT Team regarding union concerns
- List of items donated for Graduate Lock In event