

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Date: June 7, 2016

Time: 6:45 PM

Location: Park Avenue Elementary School Library

The meeting was called to order by

The following Committee Members were present:

- o Chairman Collins
- o Member Makara
- o Member Hurton
- o Member Chenevert
- o Member Gorski-Strong

The following Committee Members were absent:

The following Committee Members participated via Remote Participation

I. Call to Order: Move into Executive Session in Accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, S21(a) to consider strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to discuss nonunion personnel positions

Motion: To Move into Executive Session in Accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, S21(a) to consider strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to discuss non union personnel positions :

The motion was made by Member Makara

The motion was seconded by Member Hurton

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

Motion: To return to public session immediately following executive session

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Makara

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

II. Return to Public Session – Approval of May 26, 2016 Minutes:

Motion: To approve the May 26, 2016 Minutes

The motion was made by Member Makara

The motion was seconded by Member Hurton

The following roll call vote was taken:

4 members having voted in the affirmative
 members having voted in the negative
1 members having abstained (Member Gorski-Strong)

The motion: X passed
 Failed

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business' Report

- Park Avenue Elementary Building Project – working on final punch list, meeting tomorrow to discuss final items
- Administrative Renovation – Bay Path has finished for this year, will return at the start of school
- Massachusetts DEP has offered assistance for lead in drinking waters at public schools. A request has been submitted

B. Principal Report – Steven Knowlton, Bartlett High School

- AP exams finished on 5/12. There were 217 exams given to 217 students.
- Nichols Academy – 25 new members received their acceptance letters
- Last week finished the biology / STEM MCAS testing
- May 31st was Honors Night – 82 scholarships and awards were given out
- Tomorrow at 9:00AM is the Awards Ceremony
- Tomorrow at 6:00PM is the Senior Banquet
- Graduation is Friday, June 10th at 6:00PM
- First ever, Graduates on Parade was held. Graduating students went to PAE, WMS and BHS in the cap and gowns
- June 16th – finals start
- October 1st – NEAASC Report due

C. District Wide Reports / Correspondence

1. District Determined Measures (DDM) Update

Dr. Malkas stated that on May 26th the Senate eliminated District Determined Measures (DDMs) as a means of determining student impact ratings to the DESE. This amendment was not supported by the MTA or MASC. Beginning this year we were to report DDM's overall and individual standings. There were problems with the individual ratings due to reliable measures and valid data. This issue will still need to be resolved in the State Joint Committee for consideration. At a time when district are struggling financially, to require student impact ratings as a determining measure of performance is a burden on the district.

VII. Old Business

A. Discussion of Interviews and Appointment of Interim Superintendent

Chairman Collins reviewed the three applicants that were interviewed for the interim superintendent. Member Hurton spoke of the difficult decision. He spoke to several members of the District Leadership Team obtain their perspective. Looking at who can be the best leader and maintain continuity.

Member Hurton made a motion to offer the interim superintendent position to Mr. Avlas. The motion was not seconded, but conversation continued.

Member Makara spoke about our district and the progress made along with some struggles. For one year to continue with academic strength was his focus and would prefer someone with classroom experience. He stated that we were very fortunate to have Mr. Avlas as the Business Manager, if we pull him out of a position where he is such a benefit to the District, would be a loss.

Member Makara made a motion to offer the interim superintendent position to Mr. Lind. The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

Member Gorski-Strong stated that she felt the same as Member Makara. Looking for someone that can be supportive to teachers, students and staff.

Member Chenevert acknowledged this was an interesting exercise. His first instinct is that it makes more sense to have internal candidate as interim to avoid interruption. After hearing the other members he understands their thought process but feels Mr. Avlas' assistant business manager is qualified to step in, and he seconded Mr. Horton's motion to recommend Mr. Avlas as interim superintendent.

Member Collins thanked the committee for engaging in this challenging and fair process. Mr. Collins stated this was an Open Meeting and if any wished to speak they may; no one stood to speak. Seeing there are two competing motions he asked for a role call

Motion: To appoint Mr. Richard Lind as Interim Superintendent

The motion was made by Member Makara

The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

The following roll call vote was taken:

3 members having voted in the affirmative (Members Gorski-Strong, Makara and Chairman Collins)

2 members having voted in the negative (Members Hurton, Chenevert)

_ members having abstained

The motion: X passed
_____ Failed

Chairman Collins recessed the meeting to call Mr. Lind to offer his the position of interim superintendent.

B. Approval of MASC Superintendent Search Service Contract

Member Makara spoke to the value to using MASC for the superintendent search. Member Hurton said the formal search would begin in the Fall, at that time we would be looking for volunteers to be on the search committee

Motion: To approve the MASC Superintendent Search Service Contract

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

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

C. FY17 Budget Update

Mr. Avlas gave an update of the Town Meeting that was held last night and the passing of the FY17 budget. Additional positions; Out of District Placement and Early Childhood Coordinator, new Instructional Technology Personnel, speech assistant were included in the approved budget.

The State budget is not finalized, will have to keep an eye on that.

D. Town Meeting Articles Update

The Town Meeting supported articles during the Special and Regular Town Meeting. Funds have been approved for purchase of technology / hardware for students in grade 5-12. Along with funding a new Technology Systems Support staff personnel. The IT Department is ready to proceed. Deployment of the devices will most likely be in late Fall. There will be some new policies that will need to be approved.

Also, received approval to repair and repave Bartlett High School grounds and purchase signage throughout the campus.

E. Report on BHS trip to Spain, Susan Sabaj

Sophia Contos, Lindsay Makie and _____ (will get third name for minutes at your seat) _____ outlined their itinerary of their trip to Spain. The spots they visited were highlighted by each student. They thanked the Committee for the opportunity to go.

F. Report on BHS trip to France & England, Rachel Morandi

Katelyn Cunic spoke about the recent trip to France and England. She outlined the places they toured

VI New Business

A. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Custodial Union, Council 93

Dr. Malkas brought the Memorandum of Agreement of the Webster custodial Union for approval. This is a one year extension of the current contract with a 2% increase to the salary schedule for the 2017-2018 school year. The contract will expire on June 30, 2018.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement Custodial Union, Council 93 to extend from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Gorski-Strong

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 Bills, Payrolls and Vouchers: Committee reviewed and signed bills and vouchers.

A. **Approve transfer request from Bartlett High School Student Activity Savings to Checking Account**

Motion: Move to approve the \$17,872.46 transfer from Bartlett High School Student Activity savings to checking account

The motion was made by Member Makara

The motion was seconded by Member Chenevert

The following roll call vote was taken:

4 members having voted in the affirmative
 members having voted in the negative
1 members having abstained (Member Hurton)

The motion: X passed
 Failed

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM

The motion was made by Member Hurton

The motion was seconded by Member Makara

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,

Lori Glennon

Documents used during this meeting include:

- May 26, 2016 Minutes
- MASC Superintendent Search Contract
- MOA – Custodial Union, Council 93
- Bartlett High School Transfer request