

CLERK OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
20 IRVING STREET  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01609

AGENDA #8

on: Thursday, February 27, 2020  
at: 6:00 p.m. – Executive Session  
7:00 p.m. – Regular Session  
in: Esther Howland South Chamber, City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER

**Convened in Open  
Session at 7:00 p.m.**

INVOCATION – Pastor Tom Sparling  
The Journey Community Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM – Worcester Arts Magnet School Chorus

II. ROLL CALL

**Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty**

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #0-6 - Clerk  
(February 19, 2020)

**Approved**

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting  
of Thursday, February 6, 2020.

aor #0-7 - Clerk  
(February 19, 2020)

**Approved**

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting  
of Monday, February 10, 2020.

aor #0-8 - Clerk  
(February 19, 2020)

**Approved**

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting  
of Thursday, February 13, 2020.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION – NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

ACTION

gb #0-22.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Mayor Petty  
(January 27, 2020)

**Certificate  
presented**

To recognize Worcester Arts Magnet School for being one of seventy-three schools in the country to be named as a National Elementary and Secondary Act’s Distinguished School based on performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years by DESE.

gb #0-40.1 - Administration/Ms. McCullough/Miss Biancheria/  
Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick/Mayor Petty  
(February 6, 2020)

**Certificate  
presented**

To recognize William Foley, Principal, staff members and the police liaison at Burncoat High School who saved the life of a fellow staff member.

gb #0-63 - Administration  
(February 11, 2020)

**Filed**

To consider input from the School Committee’s student representatives.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #0-3 - Administration  
(February 19, 2020)

**Accepted and filed  
(See notes)**

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

c&p #0-7 - Clerk  
(February 12, 2020)

**Filed  
(See notes)**

To consider a communication from Dante Comparetto relative to voicing community concerns about the prospect of the school district creating its own sex education curriculum rather than choosing an existing evidence based curriculum.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS (continued)

c&p #0-8 - Clerk  
(February 19, 2020)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of Doherty Memorial High School’s faculty and staff to donate accrued sick time to a colleague who is experiencing significant health challenges.

c&p #0-9 - Clerk  
(February 19, 2020)

To consider a communication from a citizen relative to the removal of dangerous materials in facilities.

ACTION

**Referred to the  
Standing Committee  
on Governance and  
Employee Issues  
(See notes)**

**Withdrawn**

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

IX. PERSONNEL - NONE

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

ACTION

gb #0-18.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria  
(February 12, 2020)

**Accepted and filed**

Response of the Administration to the request to consider placing shades at the Burncoat Middle and Burncoat High schools' classrooms this school year due to the fact that the sun's rays may impact learning.

gb #0-19.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough  
(February 12, 2020)

**Accepted and filed**

Response of the Administration to the request to encourage the schools to incorporate studies in black history during February's "Black History Month."

gb #0-64 - Administration  
(February 6, 2020)

**Set the date of  
Thursday, April 16,  
2020**

To set a date in April for a public hearing on School Choice.

gb #0-65 - Administration  
(February 6, 2020)

**On a roll call of  
6-0-1 (absent Mrs.  
Clancey), the item  
was approved**

To approve a prior fiscal year payment to Learnwell dba EI US. LLC 2 in the amount of \$540.00 for services rendered previously.

gb #0-66 - Administration  
(February 6, 2020)

**On a roll call of  
6-0-1 (absent Mrs.  
Clancey), the item  
was approved**

To accept the Financial Literacy Planning and Implementation Grant in the amount of \$13, 000.

gb #0-67 - Administration  
(February 6, 2020)

**On a roll call of  
6-0-1 (absent Mrs.  
Clancey), the item  
was approved**

To accept the STARS Residencies FY20 Clark Street Community School Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

gb #0-68 - Administration  
(February 6, 2020)

**On a roll call of  
6-0-1 (absent Mrs.  
Clancey), the item  
was approved**

To accept the STARS Residencies FY20 Columbus Park Preparatory Academy Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #0-69 - Ms. McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick/Mayor Petty  
(February 7, 2020)

**Forward letters  
(See notes)**

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the following winners of 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Valentine Contest presented by Worcester Historical Museum for grades 3, 4,5 and 6.

**HISTORIC** (any design in the style of valentines made in Worcester from the late 1840s to 1942)

Grade 3 Keira Emmons	Worcester Arts Magnet School
Grade 4 Delyan Aguirre	Chandler Magnet School
Grade 5 Sophia Gomes	McGrath Elementary School
Grade 6 Angelise Moore	Lake View School

**CONTEMPORARY** (an original valentine, possibly featuring a favorite book, story or character)

Grade 3 Ramsey Openshaw	Worcester Arts Magnet School
Grade 4 Wilson Hernandez Jacinto	Woodland Academy
Grade 5 Zineily Skerrett	Lincoln Street School
Grade 6 Osiris Del Cid Amezquita	McGrath Elementary School

**VERSE** (an original verse by today's valentine maker)

Grade 3 Andrea Martinez Ramirez	Woodland Academy
Grade 4 Jayven Alvarado Melendez	Chandler Elementary School
Grade 6 Riwan Sadam	Clark Street School

gb #0-70 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Ms. McCullough  
(February 7, 2020)

**Filed**

Request that the Administration have all Elementary and Middle Schools participate in the NEA's Read Across America Day during the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup> and reach out to the community partners and parents and include them in a "literacy celebration."

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #0-71 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick/Mayor Petty  
(February 7, 2020)

**Forward letters**

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the following students for being selected by the Central Massachusetts Music Educators Association central district to participate in their concerts:

**Burncoat High School**

Alexandra Economou, Tuba and All State Recommendation  
Liam Gates, Violin and All State Recommendation  
Kim Nguyen, Viola  
Sienna Leone, Violin

**Doherty Memorial High School**

Lilyann MacDormand, Soprano  
Matthew Davis, Tenor  
Tamwa Guithere, Bass

**South High Community School**

Heather Bachand, Soprano and All State Recommendation  
Marlon Oyerevide, Clarinet and All State Recommendation  
Kate Popinchalk, Bassoon

**Sullivan Middle School**

Alicia Liu, Clarinet  
Eli Black, Bass Clarinet

**Burncoat Middle School**

Mauro Depasquale, Trumpet	Abigail Jones, Violin
James Morse, Violin	William Ryan, Violin
Thimjos Richards, Cello	Elyjah Abernathy, Baritone
Jack King, Baritone	Daniel Parke, Baritone
Carlos Rivera, Baritone	Jada Bordes, Alto
Jayden Bordes, Alto	Sweeta Ghimiray, Alto
Hilda Kamanu, Alto	Nevaeh Agyeman Duah, Soprano
Elizabeth Garcia, Soprano	Alex Hill, Soprano
Victoria Rich, Soprano	Maya Valle, Soprano

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #0-72 - Administration  
(February 10, 2020)

**On a roll call of 7-0,  
the item was  
approved**

To consider approval of the following donations:

- \$125 to Lake View Elementary School from fundraising efforts in collaboration with Thebe Enterprises, LLC
- \$700 to Woodland Academy from Scholarship America
- \$100 to Woodland Academy from the University of Wisconsin Madison
- \$100 to the Library Fund at Quinsigamond Elementary School from Spear Management Group in memory of Peter Petrella, Jr., the recently passed father in law of an employee
- \$5,000 to the Belmont Street Community School's reading curriculum from The Journey Community Church

gb #0-73 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Ms. McCullough  
(February 10, 2020)

**Referred to  
Negotiations  
(See notes)**

Request that the Administration review the policy on long term substitutes.

gb #0-74 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(February 11, 2020)

**Filed  
(See notes)**

Request that the Administration provide an update from the School Safety Task Force relative to traffic congestion at Roosevelt School on Grafton Street at the arrival and dismissal times.

gb #0-75 - Ms. Novick/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(February 12, 2020)

**Referred to the  
delegation  
(See notes)**

Request the delegation include in the FY21 state budget language that would direct the municipal treasurer to deposit charter reimbursement funds in a separate account for school committee expenditure without further appropriation.

gb #0-76 - Ms. Novick/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(February 12, 2020)

**Approved  
(See notes)**

To offer testimony before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means hearing on education funding on March 6 advocating for a 14.3% implementation of the low income rate towards the FY27 target (adjusted for year 1 inflation).

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #0-77 - Ms. Novick/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(February 14, 2020)

**Referred to the  
Administration for a  
Report of the  
Superintendent  
(See notes)**

To discuss the 2019 4 and 5- year graduation and dropout rates as released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on February 13, 2020.

gb #0-78 - Administration  
(February 14, 2020)

**On a roll call of 7-0,  
the item was  
approved**

To approve prior fiscal year payments in the total amount of \$425.88 for salary adjustments to two employees.

gb #0-79 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/  
Mayor Petty  
(February 18, 2020)

**Forward letters  
(See notes)**

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the North High JROTC, Chief Pastrana and Ricky Bland Warrant Officer for their highly successful Area Manager's Inspection last month by the Navy.

gb #0-80 - Administration  
(February 18, 2020)

**Forward letters**

To forward letters of recognition to the following schools for having received the Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge Award:

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Participation Percentage</u>
Belmont Street Community School	90.56%
Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School	90.22%
Chandler at the Y	97.55%
Chandler Magnet School	82.68%
Clark Street Community School	88.46%
Elm Park Community School	85.12%
Grafton Street School	85.05%
Francis J McGrath Elementary School	88.95%
Union Hill School	96.76%
Woodland Academy	80.14%



XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #0-81 - Administration  
(February 19, 2020)

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker’s Compensation- Instructional Assistant, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker’s Compensation- School Nurse, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker’s Compensation- School Secretary, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Helen A. Friel, Ed.D.  
Clerk of the School Committee

ACTION

**Held from 6:03 to  
6:40 p.m.**

**8:50 p.m.**

N O T E S

It was moved to recess to Executive Session to discuss the following items:

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker’s Compensation- Instructional Assistant, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker’s Compensation- School Nurse, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker’s Compensation- School Secretary, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

There were present at the Call to Order:

Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty

There was absent: Miss Biancheria

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:15 p.m. to 6:40 p.m.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:20 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #0-3

A PowerPoint presentation was provided by principals, staff members and students representing Worcester Technical High School, Jacob Hiatt Magnet School and Doherty Memorial High School on Project Lead the Way, a non-profit organization providing a project based approach to biomedical, computer science and engineering.

Kyle Brenner, Principal of Worcester Technical High School, spoke to the school’s focus on cybersecurity.

Jyoti Datta, Principal of Jacob Hiatt Magnet School introduced STEM teachers Madeline Carelton and Roger Clapp to speak relative to the elementary school’s approach to PLTW.

NOTES (continued)

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Sally Maloney, Principal of Doherty Memorial High School focused on the school's Engineering and Technology Academy and introduced Assistant Principal John Staley and teacher Annette Cochran along with Sokol Hoxha, Fatimah Daffaie and Kwaku Nyarko, students who spoke about their involvement in ETA.

Miss Biancheria inquired as to the possibility of expanding PLTW into other quadrants or at least incorporate some of the best practices and hands on projects in the North and South quadrants. Superintendent Binienda stated that the Doherty quadrant is the model and that starting next year, Forest Grove Middle School will be participating.

Ms. Novick questioned what happens to the PLTW money when the grant funding runs out. Superintendent Binienda explained that the membership fee is \$700 per elementary school and \$3,000 every year for high schools. The membership fees are paid by the school district and the teacher training and necessary supplies are paid by the One8 Foundation.

Ms. Novick also asked for an explanation on how the college credits work.

Mr. Staley explained that students in the Engineering program are able to purchase their college credits for a far reduced fee and bank the credits received from grades 9-12.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the number of Project Lead the Way students who attend college with the names of the colleges they attend.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mrs. Clancey asked if there is any data reflecting a change in MCAS scores for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who are involved in PLTW. Ms. Maloney said she believed that the preparation the students receive through PLTW would certainly reflect positively on their scores.

Ms. McCullough commented that she was happy to see that the program included assessment and student feedback.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

c&p #0-7

Dante Comparetto spoke to the need for community input and transparency from the Administration when it comes to a comprehensive sexual health curriculum.

NOTES (continued)

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS (continued)

c&p #0-8

Phillip Spellane spoke on behalf of the staff and faculty of Doherty Memorial High School who would like to be allowed to offer their accrued sick time to a fellow employee who is dealing with health issues.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues and provide the Action Sheet from that meeting at the March 26, 2020 School Committee meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-69

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration also forward a letter of appreciation to William Wallace, Executive Director of the Worcester Historical Museum.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #0-73

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Administration update the policy regarding long-term substitute teachers. He said that they need to come to work 45 consecutive days without an absence before they qualify for long-term substitute teacher pay. If they miss a day, the counter goes back to Day 1. Ms. Boulais stated that the policy is negotiated as part of the Unit A collective bargaining agreement with the teachers union.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the results of the Unit A collective bargaining that will be taking place in the Spring.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #0-74

Miss Biancheria spoke to the problems facing small businesses located near Roosevelt School. Mayor Petty stated that he and the City Manager are aware of the issues but that it would be costly. Superintendent Binienda said that the Principal Williamson has come up with a pilot plan in conjunction with parents that may alleviate some of the traffic congestion.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday letter, any updates on the Roosevelt School traffic problems once contracts are signed.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-74 (cont.)

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #0-75

Ms. Novick stated once a municipality has set a tax rate, they can no longer forward any additional funds to the schools unless they have a particular account number. Without the designation of the separate account, and given the fact that the city had already set the tax rate, the money is sitting in the city's general fund.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the administration ask the state legislative delegation for a change in the FY21 budget language in order to deposit charter school reimbursement from the state to a separate account for School Committee expenditure.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report by the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting compiled by Mr. Allen and Mr. Zidelis on how this would work and the right language that the Administration wants to propose to the delegation.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #0-76

Ms. Novick stated and the School Committee approved that she offer testimony at the Joint Ways and Means Committee hearing on March 6, 2020 to discuss education funding.

gb #0-77

Superintendent Binienda proposed that the response to this item be provided in a Report of the Superintendent.

gb #0-79

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration invite the members of the North High School JROTC to perform the National Anthem at the March 26, 2020 School Committee meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

O T H E R

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to approve a Worker's Compensation Settlement in the amount of \$48,500 for an Instructional Assistant.

On a roll call of 7-0, the Worker's Compensation Settlement was approved.

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to approve a Worker's Compensation Settlement in the amount of \$35,000 for a School Nurse.

On a roll call of 7-0, the Worker's Compensation Settlement was approved.

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to approve a Worker's Compensation Settlement in the amount of \$25,000 for a School Secretary.

On a roll call of 7-0, the Worker's Compensation Settlement was approved.