

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

The School Committee will hold an in-person meeting with a virtual option*:

on: **Thursday, November 14, 2024**

at: 5:00 p.m. Executive Session; 5:30 p.m. Open Session

in: Esther Howland Chamber, City Hall

Virtual:

<https://worcesterschools.zoom.us/j/82746440670?pwd=dmp4TnIxYThBdnhkZWQ1bm1hMjFFZz09>

Also accessible by telephone, to dial in call: +1 301-715-8592 or +1 305-224-1968

**This meeting/hearing of the Worcester School Committee will be held in-person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and /or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person vs. virtual attendance accordingly.*

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. General Business Items taken in Executive Session

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Teamsters Local Union 170 for and on behalf of the Worcester Public School Transportation Mechanics.

B. Call to Order

C. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem

D. Roll Call

M. Student Advisory Committee Items

sa 4-9 (Student Advisory Committee)

(November 14, 2024)

To implement a required form that students must fill out every weekend regarding their lunch plans for the following week, which would give cafeteria staff a closer estimate of how many students plan to grab school lunch, in order to prevent schools from running out of school lunches, as some have in the last few weeks due to the quality improvement.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration

E. Consent Agenda

i. Approval of Minutes

To consider approval of the minutes from the Finance, Operations, and Governance Standing Committee meeting on October 21, 2024.

To consider approval of the minutes from the School Committee meeting on

[October 24, 2024.](#)

[To consider approval of the minutes from the Teaching, Learning, and Student Success Standing Committee meeting on October 28, 2024.](#)

ii. Approval of Donations

[To consider approval of a good donation \(estimated value \\$50,000\) of various office furniture and kitchen equipment from Bay State Savings Bank to the Worcester Public Schools.](#)

To accept a donation of Thanksgiving baskets (estimated value \$2,000) from the Hibernian Cultural Foundation to support families at Claremont Academy.

To consider approval of a \$5,500 gift card from David Clark Company for Coats for Kids.

To consider approval of a \$50 donation from Colleen Kelley for the Worcester Arts Magnet School Special Chorus.

To consider approval of a \$100 donation from Alex Owusu Prempeh for the Worcester Arts Magnet School Special Chorus.

iii. Notification of Personnel Records

[New Hires-Instructional Positions](#)

[New Hires-Non-Instructional Positions](#)

[Resignations/Retirements/Non-Renewals](#)

iv. Initial filing of Recognition

Johnson

(November 14, 2024)

To send a letter of recognition to the students at South High, Doherty Memorial High, and University Park Campus School, along with their educators, for their accomplishment on the Advanced Placement Tests.

McCullough

(November 14, 2024)

To recognize Burncoat Media Arts students Nadia Lubowicki, Lilianna Gonzalez, Kelley Graves, Stevie Hughes, and Aidan Spofford along with teacher Katelyn Stone. The students participated in the MassDOT Safe Streets Video Contest. Students from across Massachusetts created videos inspired by the theme "Empathy At The Intersection." The video was selected as a top 3 finalist and the students were awarded 1st Place at the MassDot Conference in Boston.

McCullough

(November 14, 2024)

To send letters of congratulations to first place winners and coaches of the Inter-High Cross Country Championships: 1st Place Team -South High Girls; Girls individual 1st Place Winner -Chase Sullivan- Burncoat; 1st Place Team -

Burncoat High Boys; Boys individual 1st Place Winner -Alfonso Huaman - Worcester Tech.

Binienda

(November 14, 2024)

To recognize two former WPS staff: Carmen Melendez, former Director of Multilingual Education and Director of Guidance, and Hope Oliveras, former Multilingual Coach and Teacher for receiving the Multistate Association for Bilingual Education Northeast (MABE) Lifetime Service Awards "to honor their who influenced the Dual Language Bilingual Landscape."

- v. Notices of Interest to the District or to the Public

F. Item for Reconsideration

G. Held Items

H. Recognitions

- I. Public Comment**-Any member of the public may address the Committee regarding any item before them for two (2) minutes. Those speaking will state their name, their residence, and the item on which they wish to speak for the record. Those speaking may do so in person or via remote participation. Those wishing to address the Committee in a language other than English are asked to notify the Clerk of the Committee in advance, so the Committee may be provided with an interpreter. Members of the Committee may not respond to the comments of the public at the meeting. [Policy BEDH-Public Comment](#)

J. Public Petition

c & p 4-13 (Frederick Rushton)

(November 14, 2024)

To request the School Committee work with the Superintendent in developing a plan to integrate the fastest growing sport in America, pickleball, into after school programming. Pickleball is a lifetime sport that can be played by boys and girls of all athletic abilities. Many surrounding communities already have incorporated pickleball into their school systems and our children deserve the same. As part of the plan, I would request establishing a minimum of two pickleball courts at or next to the four middle schools. Additionally, I request that the Committee and School District prepare for the eventuality that the MIAA will be establishing it as a high school sport, which is being talked about in the next two years.

Recommendation: Refer to FOG

K. Report of the Superintendent

ros 4-14 Administration

(November 14, 2024)

[From Here, Anywhere... Together: Unlocking Literacy Success: Insights on Amplify's Core Knowledge Language Arts Program - Rachel H. Monárrez, PhD](#)

Recommendation of Maker: Approve

L. Reports of the Standing Committees

1. Finance, Operations, and Governance (October 21, 2024)

gb 2-92.14 – Clancey/McCullough/Johnson/Kamara/Mailman
(March 8, 2022)

Response from Administration

Request that the Administration provide quarterly reports regarding building maintenance to include timeframes on when work will begin and be concluded.
Motion by Vice Chair Biancheria for detailed cost report on mold remediation from summer, 2024.

A motion to approve and file this report, while holding the item for quarterly reports was made. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

gb 2-294 Clancey
(November 4, 2022)

To review current policy regarding service and support animals in school and make any necessary changes.

gb 4-38 Biancheria
(March 21, 2024)

To request administration provide a report in reference to funding and necessary arrangements to provide therapy dogs at school sites.

Member McCullough made a motion to approve and file item gb 2-294. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

Member Biancheria made a motion to hold item gb 4-38 until Mr. Allen's report on therapy dog costs is received. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

gb 3-50 Clancey
(January 20, 2023)

Student Handbook (see pages 4-5 for Voluntary Controlled Transfer Policy info) To review and update, if necessary, to the Voluntary Controlled Transfer Policy.

Chairperson McCullough made a motion to file this item. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

c&p 3-12 (Addo Bamfo, Waiganjo, Mireku, Koranteng, Acquaye, Ashcraft, Antwi)
(November 7, 2023)

Response from Administration

To request approval and funds to refurbish and reopen a student bathroom at Burncoat Middle School to reduce the amount of loss of time on learning.

Chairperson McCullough made a motion to file this item with Member Roy's report request to be completed in the What's Happening newsletter in the coming weeks. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

sa 3-3 (Bitar)

(November 29, 2023)

Response from Administration

To provide proper funding and resources to organizations/clubs held after school that offer opportunities to students and allow them to become more involved in their school community. Additionally, to promote and urge students and staff to become active participants in said organizations/clubs.

A motion to file this item with the understanding that Member Johnson's report will be submitted to FOG on November 18, 2024. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

c&p 4-6 Maria Camerano

(May 16, 2024)

Response from Administration

A request to consider adding bleachers to the North High School softball field.

[Click here to view the prior action sheet for this item.](#)

Mr. Allen informed the Committee that the WPS Facilities Department is getting quotes for bleachers and will have these quotes in time for the spring 2025 softball season.

A motion to file this item with an update forthcoming in the next quarterly report was made. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

gb 4-77 Administration

(August 15, 2024)

Response from Administration

To consider revisions to the FY25 Building Rental Rates.

[Click to view the prior action sheet for this item.](#)

A motion was made to approve the proposed rental rates and file this item. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

gb 4-78 Administration
(August 15, 2024)

Response from Administration

To approve the second meal breakfast, lunch, snack, and adult meal prices for the 2024-25 school year.

[Click to view the prior action sheet for this item.](#)

A motion was made to approve this item and file it, with an update on the progress of the payment portal project to be given in a quarterly financial report. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

2. Teaching Learning and Student Success (October 28, 2024)

Response from Administration

gb 3-89.3
(March 8, 2023)

To consider a review of the Chapter 74 programs in the comprehensive high schools including enroll Proposed Changes to Worcester Chapter 74 & WTHS Admissions processes, criteria, and acceptance.

gb 4-39B Mailman
(April 25, 024)

To provide data on all application programs and schools, as information is known. For example, for middle, secondary, and 6th grade programs provide sending school data - for applications; for "lottery/accepted" students; and actual enrollment for Sept 2024 class; for elementary programs/ schools provide zip code data - for applications; for "lottery/accepted" students and actual enrollment for Sept 2024 class; For some programs, please include zip code or sending school data and low income, English language and special Ed accepted students Sept 2024, 2023 and 2022.

A motion was made to file gb 3-89.3. On a roll call vote: Vice Chair Alvarez, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Chairperson Guardiola, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

Member Binienda made to hold item gb 4-39B in order to get further data at the next meeting. On a roll call vote: Vice Chair Alvarez, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Chairperson Guardiola, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items

[To consider approval of the BRYT Seed Funding in Massachusetts Public Schools 2024-26 grant in the amount of \\$289,350.](#)

[To consider approval of the DESE Early College Support Grant in the amount of](#)

[\\$500,000.](#)

[To consider approval of 8 prior year payments in the amount of \\$31,284.12.](#)

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$2,966.98 for purposes of step placement.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$2,966.98 for purposes of step placement.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$2,974.12 for purposes of step placement.

O. General Business

gb 4-104 (Guardiola)

(October 24, 2024)

Response from Administration

Request administration to provide a list of names and total number of bargaining units within Worcester Public Schools and the number of current existing labor contracts.

Recommendation: File

gb 4-106 (McCullough)

(November 14, 2024)

To review updates to any MASC policies in order to update School Committee policies.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to FOG

gb 4-107 (Johnson)

(November 14, 2024)

To address the issue of vaping within schools. Establish a clear and unified approach to vaping prevention and discipline with the support of the Superintendent and the School Committee, to protect student health and uphold the integrity of the school environment.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration

gb 4-108 (Binienda)

(November 14, 2024)

To provide a detailed plan to improve teaching and learning in the 14 schools selected by DESE as needing intervention /improvement.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration

gb 4-109 (Roy)

(November 14, 2024)

Request Administration to consider a proposal prepared by students at Sullivan Middle School (Civics Action Projects class) to provide after school bus transportation for students who wish to participate in after school tutoring and activities who have no other means of transportation.

[Sullivan Middle School student letter supporting item gb 4-109.](#)

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to FOG

gb 4-110 (Roy)

(November 14, 2024)

To request administration to give information on the alternative drug and intervention program(s) provided to our students (grades 7 -12) in lieu of the Turn It Around Drug Program that was reduced due to budget cuts by the administration.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration

P. Announcements

Meeting Dates:

School Committee Meetings:

- November 18, 2024, 5:00 p.m. Standing Committee on Finance, Operations, and Governance, Room 410, Durkin Administration Building, 20 Irving Street.
- November 19, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning, and Student Success, Room 410, Durkin Administration Building, 20 Irving Street.
- November 21, 2024 School Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m. Executive Session, 6:00 p.m. Open Session, Esther Howland Chamber, Worcester City Hall, 455 Main Street.

Q. Adjournment

Kristi Turgeon,
Clerk of the School Committee