

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, January 9, 2025**
at: 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-None

B. Call to Order

C. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem

D. Roll Call

M. Student Advisory Committee Items

E. Consent Agenda

i. Approval of Minutes

[To consider approval of the minutes from the Finance, Operations, and Governance meeting on December 16, 2024.](#)

[To consider approval of the minutes from the School Committee meeting on December 19, 2024.](#)

ii. Approval of Donations

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Dario Diesel to South High's Diesel Program.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$15,000 from the United Way of Central Massachusetts for the Spark Program.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$150 from Kathy Murray for the Gerald Creamer Center to purchase winter gear for students.

- iii. Notification of Personnel Records
[New Hires - Instructional](#)
[New Hires - Non-Instructional](#)
[Resignations and Retirements](#)
- iv. Initial filing of Recognition
(McCullough)
January 9, 2025
To send letters to the Worcester East Middle School basketball team on winning the championship and on an undefeated season.
- v. Notices of Interest to the District or to the Public

F. Item for Reconsideration

G. Held Items

ros 4-10 (Motion from Member Biancheria)
(September 5, 2024)

Response from Administration

Member Biancheria made a motion to complete a survey of pick up and drop off at Roosevelt School and other congested schools and request visibility of police to move traffic along.

Recommendation: Approve and File

ros 4-14 (Motion from Member Biancheria)
(November 14, 2024)

Response from Administration

Member Biancheria made a motion to receive a report of the hands-on learning taking place within this program by grade.

Recommendation: Approve and file

ros 4-14a (Motion from Member Biancheria)
(November 14, 2024)

Response from Administration

Member Biancheria made a motion to receive a report on the financial demographics of students in this program.

Recommendation: Approve and file

gb 4-97 (Biancheria)
(October 10, 2024)

Response from Administration

Request that the Administration survey all of our school sites for safety purposes while evaluating the number of crossing guards assigned to each school.

Recommendation: Approve and file

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. [Click to view Policy BEDH-Public Comment](#)

J. Public Petition

K. Report of the Superintendent

ros 5-1 Administration

(January 9, 2025)

[From Here, Anywhere...Together: Facilities: Planning, Prioritizing & Implementation](#)

Recommendation of Maker: Approve

L. Reports of the Standing Committees

FOG 12.16.2024

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.

A motion was made to file this item. On a roll call vote, Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 3-0. Vice Chair Biancheria, absent.

gb 3-259 (Kamara)

(November 29, 2023)

To develop a policy around culture and belonging for students, families, and educators.

A motion was made to file this item. On a roll call vote, Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 3-0. Vice Chair Biancheria, absent.

The following two items will be considered together: gb 4-69 and gb 3-256

gb 4-69 (Mailman)

(July 18, 2024)

To request information related to the new turf field for Doherty High School. In the response please indicate answers to the following questions: 1. Has the turf been bought yet? 2. Certainly cost was a factor in the field that was chosen. What are the differences in specifications based on cost? 3. What and when are the next turf fields replacements scheduled for WPS ? 4. The NFL is rejecting turf fields for safety reasons- are there alternatives? 5. As our city goal is to build green - do we have concerns about petrochemical fields? 6. Has the Mass Association of School Superintendents (MASS) weighed in on turf fields?

gb 3-256 O'Connell Novick
(November 28, 2023)

To end the addition of artificial turf fields on Worcester Public Schools property.

Mr. Allen informed the Committee that, in order to answer all of the questions posed in item gb 4-69, an Athletic Turf Field Committee has been formed. The Committee will be made up of facilities staff, environmental staff, and various representatives from our high schools. The Committee will look at all factors surrounding turf fields including maintenance, budget and health and safety.

A motion was made to file item gb 3-256. On a roll call vote, Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 3-0. Vice Chair Biancheria, absent.

A motion was made to hold item gb 4-69 for further updates. On a roll call vote, Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 3-0. Vice Chair Biancheria, absent.

gb 4-67 Administration
(July 18, 2024)

To approve a change in Policy EFD – School Nutrition Program Charge Policy to align with the approved student handbook and DESE requirements.

Item gb 4-67 was previously approved through the approval of the student handbook. As a formality, to close the loop on this item, a motion was made to file this item. On a roll call vote, Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 3-0. Vice Chair Biancheria, absent.

gb 4-90 (Administration)
(September 19, 2024)

To review the Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures Student Activity Fund testing for Fiscal Years ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

A motion was made to file this item. On a roll call vote, Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 3-0. Vice Chair Biancheria, absent.

N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items

[To consider acceptance of the DESE Multilingual Newcomer and Homeless Support Grant in the amount of \\$100,000.](#)

O. General Business

gb 4-94 (Binienda)
(October 10, 2024)

Response from Administration

To provide a list of schools and grade levels for the "pocket teachers" and to discuss funding for additional staff, if needed.

Recommendation: File

gb 5-1 Administration

(January 9, 2025)

To authorize an additional expenditure to continue legal services related to work visas for two existing employees up to \$14,495.00.

Recommendation of Maker: Approve and file

gb 5-2 (McCullough)

(January 9, 2025)

To review during budget monies that are set aside for equipment and uniforms for middle school sports.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to FOG

gb 5-3 (McCullough)

(January 9, 2025)

To explore expanding middle school sports, with high demand, into 7th and 8th grade teams in order to give more students the opportunity to participate.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to FOG

gb 5-4 (Mailman)

(January 9, 2025)

To receive a report outlining the plan for our graduating seniors that have not yet passed the MCAS. Please include how many students we need to assist with their competency determination and if our local graduation requirements take care of competency determinations.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration

gb 5-5 (Administration)

(January 9, 2025)

To make adjustments to the FY25 Budget to reflect an increase of \$7,647,436 resulting from the final state budget and an additional appropriation by the Worcester City Manager, as approved by the Worcester City Council from Free Cash Revenue, and adopt the final FY25 Budget in the amount of \$493,358,148.

Recommendation of Maker: Approve and File

gb 5-6 (Biancheria)

(January 9, 2025)

To provide a report that includes a description and process of the Safety Van visiting our schools, as well as the opt-out option.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration

P. AnnouncementsMeeting Dates:

School Committee Meetings:

- January 16, 2025 School Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m. Executive Session, 6:00 p.m. Open Session, Esther Howland Chamber, Worcester City Hall, 455 Main Street.
- January 23, 2025, 5:00 p.m., Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning, and Student Success, Room 410, Durkin Administration Building, 20 Irving Street.

- January 27, 2025, 5:00 p.m. Standing Committee on Finance, Operations, and Governance, Room 410, Durkin Administration Building, 20 Irving Street.

Q. Adjournment

Kristi Turgeon,
Clerk of the School Committee