

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 16, 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-sung by Lauren Church, Doherty Memorial High School**

**D. Roll Call**

**M. Student Advisory Committee Items**

sa 5-1 (Student Advisory Council)  
(January 16, 2025)

To foster a more inclusive Worcester public school community, as it is crucial to ensure that all schools are equitably represented in academic recognitions, which includes actively promoting awareness of available opportunities and academic excellence awards across all institutions. Furthermore, staff members should be encouraged to keep students well-informed about these opportunities, ensuring that all students, regardless of their school, have the resources and support necessary to pursue academic achievements and recognition.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration**

sa 5-2 (Student Advisory Council)  
(January 16, 2025)

To review content restrictions within the district as certain educational videos are being restricted under the school Wi-Fi, one example being, in African-American Studies classes, teachers have assigned videos that would be beneficial to the curriculum, but students are unable to access them due to restrictions. Furthermore,

teachers have reviewed these videos at home and determined there's no valid reason for them to be blocked, meaning this issue hinders learning and prevents access to appropriate educational materials.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration**

sa 5-3 (Student Advisory Council)

(January 16, 2025)

To ensure all students have access to halal food options at lunch as it is essential for promoting inclusivity and meeting the dietary needs of Muslim students. The proposal would suggest partnering with certified halal vendors or training cafeteria staff to prepare halal meals, clearly labeling these options on menus, and conducting a survey to assess demand, which would help create a more equitable school environment by ensuring all students feel respected and included, regardless of their dietary or religious requirements.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration**

**E. Consent Agenda**

- i. Approval of Minutes
- ii. Approval of Donations
- iii. Notification of Personnel Records
- iv. Initial filing of Recognition
- 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. [Click to view Policy BEDH-Public Comment](#)

**J. Public Petition**

**K. Report of the Superintendent**

ros 5-2 Administration

(January 16, 2025)

From Here, Anywhere...Together: Dual Language Program Status Update

**Recommendation of Maker: Approve**

**L. Reports of the Standing Committees**

**N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items**

[To consider approval of 6 prior year payments in the amount of \\$12,439.22.](#)

**O. General Business**

gb 5-7 McCullough

(January 16, 2025)

With the passing of the bill that would allow individual school districts to install camera systems on the exterior of school buses, please provide a report that includes the district's next steps, including the costs associated with additional equipment (stop arm cameras) and a potential timeline for implementation.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to FOG**

gb 5-8 (Clerk)

(January 16, 2025)

[To review and amend Policy BB as needed.](#)

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to FOG**

**P. Announcements**

Meeting Dates:

School Committee Meetings:

- 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.
- February 6, 2025, 5:00 p.m., Esther Howland Chamber, Worcester City Hall, 355 Main Street.

**Q. Adjournment**

Kristi Turgeon,  
Clerk of the School Committee



**WORCESTER**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brian Allen  
Deputy Superintendent  
Finance & Operations

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Dr. John E. Durkin  
Administration Building  
20 Irving Street  
Worcester, MA 01609-2493

**Date:** 1/3/25

**Item Description:** To consider approval of the following 6 prior year payments

**Recommendation:** Approve

**Rationale:**

Vendor	Reason	Amount
Kabs4Kids	Invoices received in FY25 for services provided in May & June 2024	\$3,150.00
Lipin/Dietz Associates	FY23 invoice received from vendor	\$2,078.96
Unifirst	Invoices (2) just received	\$308.72
WPS Staff	Reimbursement of license and physical fees	\$205.00
Angie's Transportation	Balance of cost owed for student transportation	\$6,600.00
Connecticut Business Systems	February 2024 invoice just received	\$96.54
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,439.22</b>

**File: BB - SCHOOL COMMITTEE LEGAL STATUS**

1. The School Committee is the governing board of the city's public school system. Although it functions as a duly elected Committee of city government, the School Committee has, unlike other city boards, autonomous and absolute authority within limitations established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to carry out the educational policies of the state and guide the educational process. According to the Worcester City Charter, the Committee shall consist of the Mayor, who shall chair the committee, ~~and six members elected at large~~ **and eight (8) members. All members are, by municipal charter, elected during odd year November municipal elections for a two-year term beginning each even-numbered January. Two members shall be elected at large citywide; six shall be elected from geographic districts as designated by the municipal chart.**

School committee members tenure shall ~~be elected for terms of two years each, beginning~~ on the first secular day of January in the year following their election and shall serve until their successors are qualified.

Established by law

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [41:1](#) and [71:37](#) specifically, but powers and duties of School Committees are established throughout the General Laws of Massachusetts Relating to School Committees

Worcester City Charter, Article 4, Section 4-1(a + b.)

CROSS REFS.: [AA](#), School District Legal Status

[BBA](#), School Committee Powers and Duties