

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

AGENDA #1

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, January 5, 2017  
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

INVOCATION – Pastor Brent Newberry  
First Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

**Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. O’Connell and Mayor Petty**

**There were absent: Miss Biancheria and Mr. Monfredo**

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #7-1 - Clerk  
(December 28, 2016)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, December 15, 2016.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

**Convened in Open Session at 6:10 p.m. See notes**

**Approved**

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #7-1 - Administration  
(December 28, 2016)

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

ACTION

**Filed**

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #7-1 - Administration  
(December 28, 2016)

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE APPLICATION CELEBRATION (MCAC)  
DAY

**Accepted and filed**

VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

IX. PERSONNEL

7-01 The Superintendent has ACKNOWLEDGED the RESIGNATION of the persons named below effective as shown:

Comeau, Karen, Teacher, Special Education, Systemwide, effective December 23, 2016.

Johnson, Alisha, Teacher, Special Education, Burncoat High, effective 12/16/16.

**Filed Personnel  
Items 7-1 and 7-2**

7-02 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the persons named below effective as shown:

Porth, Christine, Teacher, Early Childhood, Worcester Technical, VL6, Step 5, \$67,027 effective December 19, 2016. License: Early Childhood 9-14.

Torra, Alda, English as a Second Language, Woodland, BA+15, Step 2, \$49,819 effective December 13, 2016. License: English as a Second Language 5-12.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

ACTION

gb #6-153.6 - Administration/Miss Biancheria  
(December 21, 2016)

**Referred back to  
the Administration  
See notes**

Response of the Administration to the request to study the feasibility of providing the Civil Service Exam for Custodians so they can become permanent employees and gain benefits and promotions.

gb #6-231.2 - Administration/Mr. Foley  
(December 22, 2016)

**Accepted and filed  
gb #6-231.2 and  
gb #6-237**

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a comparison between legal costs for the Worcester Public Schools versus other communities of comparable size as either a percentage of the budget or as a raw number.

gb #6-272.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/  
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/Miss McCullough/  
Miss Biancheria  
(December 21, 2016)

**Accepted and filed  
See notes**

Response of the Administration to the request to consider submitting an application to participate in the Massachusetts School Building Authority Public School Information Technology Loan Program.

gb #6-359.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(December 22, 2016)

**Referred back to  
the Administration  
See notes**

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on the window replacements that took place during the Summer and Fall of 2016.

gb #6-410.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/  
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio  
(December 21, 2016)

**Accepted and filed**

Response of the Administration to the request to provide the following information regarding the evaluations of principals:

- a description of the prior evaluation process indicating who was responsible for its execution and
- a description of a current evaluation process indicating who is responsible for its execution and include any changes that have been developed

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #7-2 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough  
(December 16, 2016)

**Referred to the  
Standing  
Committee on  
Teaching,  
Learning and  
Student Supports**

To review the 2016 Successor Settlement Agreement between the United States of America and the Worcester Public Schools, and to determine the financial costs of implementing it in full, for use in preparation of the fiscal year 2018 Budget.

gb #7-3 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough  
(December 16, 2016)

**Referred to the  
Standing  
Committee on  
Finance and  
Operations**

To review the 2016 Successor Settlement Agreement between the United States of America and the Worcester Public Schools, and to determine the programmatic requirements of implementing it in full.

gb #7-4 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/  
Miss McCullough  
(December 16, 2016)

**Referred to the  
Standing  
Committee on  
Teaching,  
Learning and  
Student Supports**

To urge the individual Worcester public schools, and departments, to review and expand their websites, as a means of (1) increasing the information available through them, (2) showcasing student work and achievements, (3) sharing detailed curricular and programmatic information, and (4) assisting prospective students and parents in making informed decisions as to selection of an appropriate school.

gb #7-5 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/  
Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty  
(December 16, 2016)

**Set the date of  
Thursday, January  
19, 2017**

To set a date to recognize the Unum Group for initiating its Unum Strong Schools grant program in the Worcester Public Schools, as "financial support for effective and innovative initiatives that engage students and improve their learning and achievement levels."

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #7-6 - Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/  
Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty  
(December 16, 2016)

To forward letters of recognition to the following recipients of 2016 grants from the Unum Strong Schools grant program in the Worcester Public Schools:

Chandler Magnet	Kelly Magowan and faculty	\$1,000
May Street School	Marisa Mitchell, Tammy Lapierre, Katelynne Watson	\$1,500
Flagg Street School	Pamela Brezniak Colleen Murray	\$500 \$500
Francis McGrath Elementary School	Patty Barnard, Karen Davis, Sue Feraco	\$1,500
Nelson Place School	Katherine Olney, Donna Cataldo, Donna Greenleaf, Nicole Moisan	\$1,500
Thorndyke Road School	Erin McMahon, Brenda Dubrey	\$1,000
Grafton Street School	Kathi Fontaine	\$500
Rice Square School	Kathleen Salter, Kerry Soltys Julianne Cardin	\$1,500
Rice Square School	Mary Rister, Sharon McRae Shelly Delongchamp	\$1,500
Rice Square School	Jennifer Brunelle, Catrina Amechi Brenda O'Brien	\$1,500
Union Hill School	Kimberly McLaughlin, Cristina Giovanangelo, Tara Dexter	\$1,500
Union Hill School	Kristen Vartanian, Jillian McGrath Elizabeth Burnes	\$1,000
Union Hill School	Valerie Velasquez	\$500
Union Hill School	Beth Stark, Anita Cody, Rosemary Ford	\$1,500
City View School	Jennifer Lavin, Patricia Brank, Anne Clark	\$1,500
Chandler Elementary School	Debra Engstrand, Sandy Hall, Lynn Meszaro, Marie Powers	\$1,500

gb #7-7 - Administration  
(December 16, 2016)

To approve a decrease in the mileage reimbursement rate from \$0.54 per mile to \$0.535 per mile, effective January 1, 2017, for all represented and non-represented personnel in accordance with the 2017 standard mileage rate established by the Internal Revenue Service.

ACTION

**Forward letters**

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

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #7-8 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/  
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty  
(December 19, 2016)

**Set the date of  
Thursday,  
February 2, 2017**

To set a date to recognize the Burncoat High School Quadrivium on their performance with Superstar Kenny Rogers at Mohegan Sun and at the Massachusetts House of Representatives as the guests of Representative James O'Day and Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo.

gb #7-9 - Administration  
(December 20, 2016)

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

To accept a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Patience Agyepong & Family to Tatnuck Magnet School.

gb #7-10 - Administration  
(December 20, 2016)

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

To accept a donation in the amount of \$210.00 from Worcester Superior Court Clerk's Office & Probation Department in memory of Ronald F. Corey for the Arts Programs in the Worcester Public School.

gb #7-11 - Administration  
(December 20, 2016)

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

To accept a donation in the amount of \$300.00 from the Shrewsbury Street Area Merchants Association to Belmont Street Community School.

gb #7-12 - Administration  
(December 20, 2016)

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

To accept a donation in the amount of \$3,000.00 from Scholastic Reading Club to Forest Grove Middle School.

gb #7-13 - Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/  
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty  
(December 21, 2016)

**Forward letter**

To forward a letter of appreciation to the Flagg Streeters, an after-school group of students who volunteer their time and energy to bring entertainment, assistance and goodwill to the Worcester community.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #7-14 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/  
Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty  
(December 21, 2016)

**Forward letters**

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to Johnetta Smith, South High Community School's Band Director and Angela Poirier, Chorus Director for the outstanding Holiday Musical performance and request that a five minute portion of their performance be shown at the next School Committee Meeting.

gb #7-15 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/  
Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty  
(December 22, 2016)

**Forward letters**

Request that the Administration forward letters of appreciation to Deborah Cole, Burncoat High School's Band Director; Dani Rimoni, String Orchestra Director and David Twiss, Chorus Director in appreciation of the excellent Winter Musical Concert.

gb #7-16 - Administration  
(December 28, 2016)

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

To accept a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Wayne and Sharon Griffin to Tatnuck Magnet School.

gb #7-17 - Administration  
(December 28, 2016)

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

To accept a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Ryder System, Inc. for South High Community School's Diesel Tech Program.

gb #7-18 - Administration  
(December 28, 2016)

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

To accept a donation in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the Commonwealth of MA District Attorney's Office (Mid District) to support a Freshman Basketball Program at Claremont Academy.

gb #7-19 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/  
Miss McCullough  
(December 28, 2016)

**Referred to the  
Administration  
See notes**

Request that the Administration consider raising the amount paid to day-by-day substitutes from \$70.00 to \$85.00 or more in the 2017-18 school year.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #7-20 - Administration  
(December 28, 2016)

Finding that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the School Committee, the committee votes to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation and strategy for collective bargaining for a denial of access.

c&p #6-9

To consider a communication from a citizen relative to a request that the School Committee drop its Court Appeal and allow for testing for PCBs at Burncoat High and Doherty Memorial High schools.

gb #6-332

Request that the Administration drop the appeal and allow PCB testing at Burncoat High School and Doherty Memorial High School this school year and do what is necessary to correct the problem.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Teachers and Unit B, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To consider an International Union of Public Employees (I.U.P.E.) Grievance Complaint – HVAC Technician

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

ACTION

**Held from 6:11  
p.m. to 7:43 p.m.**

**8:50 p.m.**



N O T E S

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

Finding that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the School Committee, the committee votes to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation and strategy for collective bargaining for a denial of access.

c&p #6-9

To consider a communication from a citizen relative to a request that the School Committee drop its Court Appeal and allow for testing for PCBs at Burncoat High and Doherty Memorial High schools.

gb #6-332

Request that the Administration drop the appeal and allow PCB testing at Burncoat High School and Doherty Memorial High School this school year and do what is necessary to correct the problem.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Teachers and Unit B, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To consider an International Union of Public Employees (I.U.P.E.) Grievance Complaint – HVAC Technician

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent-Miss Biancheria, Mr. Monfredo), the motion was approved.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:11 p.m. to 7:43 p.m.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Mr. Monfredo arrived at 6:22 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:45 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell and Mayor Petty.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #6-153.6

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the actions taken to address the provisional status of custodians who no longer take Civil Service Exams.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the Administration explain how custodians attain permanent status.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the Administration has developed a hybrid system which provides some protection that is contract based and other which is within the scope of the Civil Service statute even though the exam is no longer given. He further suggested that the funding for the Civil Service Exam be discussed with the Legislative Delegation.

Mayor Petty suggested that Ms. Boulais coordinate her response with the City Administration.

gb #6-272.1

Mayor Petty asked the Administration if the dark fibers that were installed were placed in the city streets or just on school property.

Mr. Allen indicated that he would provide a map in a Friday Letter.

gb #6-359.1

Miss Biancheria requested a report regarding window replacements and other repairs completed within the schools during the past year.

Mayor Petty requested that the Administration provide a complete report at either the January 19, 2017 or February 2, 2017 meeting on all completed projects and future ones and also indicate the way in which the system will handle the PCBs at both Burncoat and Doherty Memorial High schools.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #7-19

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide in March 2017, in advance of the FY18 Budget, a report containing a proposed salary adjustment for the day-by-day substitute teachers.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

O T H E R

It was moved and voice voted to suspend rules to allow Roger Nugent to read a document, that was processed and developed by the faculty of Quinsigamond School, relative to a vote of no confidence in their principal.