

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

AGENDA #13

on: Thursday, July 18, 2019
at: 4:00 p.m. – Regular Session
6:00 p.m. - Executive Session
in: Esther Howland South Chamber, City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER

**Convened in Open
Session at 4:05 p.m.**

INVOCATION – Pastor Lou Soiles
The Journey Community Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

**Mr. Comparetto, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O’Connell and Mayor Petty**

There were absent: Miss Biancheria and Mr. Foley

Miss Biancheria arrived at 4:16 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #9-14 - Clerk
(July 3, 2019)

Approved

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting
of Thursday, June 20, 2019.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION - NONE

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ACTION

ROS #9-9.1 - Administration/Administration
(July 2, 2019)

Refer to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports (See notes)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a detailed report on the number of homeless students currently enrolled in the Worcester Public Schools and include the number of students who are doubled up, in foster care or living in shelters.

ROS #9-11 -Administration
(July 12, 2019)

Filed Self Evaluation. Approved the Goals on a roll call of 5-0-2(absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley). (See notes)

SELF EVALUATION, GOALS AND BENCHMARKS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR 2019-20.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS -NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met on Monday, July 1, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

Approved as amended (See notes)

IX. PERSONNEL - NONE

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #8-153.5 - Administration/Administration
(June 27, 2019)

Accepted the report and held the item for next quarterly report (See notes)

Response of the Administration to the request that the Superintendent, district and school leadership monitor and implement the Strategic Plan and provide a report quarterly to the School Committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #9-195.3 - Administration/Administration
(June 27, 2019)

**Accepted and filed
the responses to the
motions**

Response of the Administration to the following motions from the FY20 Budget:

500132-92000 Special Education Tuition

Request that the Administration provide a report on the number of special education students and indicate:

- their placement and
- the per diem costs associated with residential placement

Mr. O'Connell

500122-92000 Athletics Ordinary Maintenance

Request that the Administration provide a composite list of funding obtained through grants, from the Worcester Educational Development Foundation, the District Attorney's office and Recreation Worcester.

Miss Biancheria

gb #9-225 - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty
(June 14, 2019)

**Set the date of
Thursday,
September 5, 2019**

To set a date to recognize Jacob Hiatt Middle School teacher Ann Ruchala for being recognized as the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) community person of the year.

gb #9-226 - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell
(June 14, 2019)

**Referred to the
Administration**

To review pick up and drop off policies for all schools to ensure student safety and smooth traffic flow.

gb #9-227 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. O'Connell
(June 26, 2019)

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

Request that the Administration provide an update on when cursive writing is taught in the district and include any changes forthcoming in the future.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #9-228 - Administration
(June 26, 2019)

**Filed
(See notes)**

To consider review of the following Innovation Schools Annual Evaluations:

Chandler Magnet School
Claremont Academy
Goddard Scholars Academy at Sullivan Middle School
Goddard School of Science and Technology
Woodland Academy
Academy of Science, Technology and Health at Worcester East Middle School
Worcester Technical High School and
University Park Campus School

gb #9-229 - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(July 1, 2019)

**Referred to the
Administration**

Request that the Administration consider implementation of a pilot program in Worcester, modeled on that implemented by the Las Vegas City Council, to allow parking tickets to be paid with donations of school supplies for the benefit of the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #9-230 - Administration
(July 2, 2019)

**On a roll call of
5-0-2 (absent Mr.
Comparetto and Mr.
Foley), the item was
approved**

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$5,575.00 to an SEI Endorsement Course Instructor for services rendered.

gb #9-231 - Administration
(July 2, 2019)

**On a roll call of
5-0-2 (absent Mr.
Comparetto and Mr.
Foley), the item was
approved**

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$153.15 to the Director of Nursing for travel (mileage) in FY19.

gb #9-232 - Administration
(July 2, 2019)

**On a roll call of
5-0-2 (absent Mr.
Comparetto and Mr.
Foley), the contract
was approved**

To extend the proposed contract of Attorney Paige L. Tobin from Murphy, Lamere and Murphy for three years.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #9-233 - Administration
(July 2, 2019)

To extend the proposed contract of Attorney Sean P. Sweeney for three years.

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley), the contract was approved

gb #9-234 - Administration
(July 8, 2019)

To consider approval of the Chapter 74 Programming for the new Doherty Memorial High School.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mr. Foley), the item was approved (See notes)

gb #9-235 - Administration
(July 9, 2019)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$284.15 for in-state travel reimbursement for a teacher.

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley), the item was approved

gb #9-236 - Administration
(July 9, 2019)

To consider approval of the following donations:

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley), the item was approved

- \$688.43 from Lifetouch to Woodland Academy
- \$47.30 from Box Tops for Education to Woodland Academy
- \$136.14 from CEC Entertainment Inc./Chuck E. Cheese to Woodland Academy
- \$481.29 from Lifetouch to Tatnuck Magnet School
- \$750.00 from Verizon Foundation to Tatnuck Magnet School
- \$250.00 from Furniture Trust Organization, Inc. to St. Casimir's Alternative School for 2nd place in the Eco Carpentry Challenge (Small School Shop).
- \$50.00 from a donor to the South High Community School Food Pantry in memory of Maureen Mohammed
- \$300.00 from Sunbelt Rentals Inc. to the South High Community School Diesel Program
- \$500.00 from New England Dairy Food Council to South High Community School
- \$43.50 from Box Tops for Education to Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School
- \$1,275.00 from various donors to the Patricia Falcone Memorial Scholarship
- \$500.00 from Project Bread Summer Eats for the purchase of 3-4 picnic tables for Worcester Public School's sponsored mobile summer meal service on the front lawn area of Curtis Apartments, 32 Great Brook Valley Avenue

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #9-237 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(July 10, 2019)

**Referred to the
Administration**

Request that the Administration coordinate with officials of the City of Worcester, and appropriate utilities, to discover and repair, leaks in gas lines in the vicinity of schools.

gb #9-238 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(July 10, 2019)

**Referred to the
Standing Committee
on Teaching,
Learning and
Student Supports
(See notes)**

Request that the Administration offer training in "domestic skills" and personal financial management to Worcester students and interested citizens through Night Life and after-school and summer programs.

gb #9-239 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(July 10, 2019)

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

Request that the Administration review "Creating the Will: A Community Roadmap to Achieving Educational Excellence for Latino Students in Worcester," and to consider both progress made, and topics which require further attention, since issuance of the report in July 2011.

gb #9-240 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(July 10, 2019)

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

Request that the Administration interact with the Harvard Teacher Fellows Program, and Teach for America, as to placement of prospective teachers in the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #9-241 - Administration
(July 10, 2019)

**On a roll call of
5-0-2 (absent Mr.
Comparetto and Mr.
Foley), the item was
approved**

To accept the Career and Technical Education Partnership Planning Grant in the amount of \$7,500.00.

gb #9-242 - Administration
(July 10, 2019)

**On a roll call of
5-0-2 (absent Mr.
Comparetto and Mr.
Foley), the item was
approved
(See notes)**

To accept a donation of various instruments from the Berklee College of Music in the total estimated value of \$13,500.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #9-243 - (Administration)
(July 10, 2019)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct collective bargaining regarding Grievance #18/19-17.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct collective bargaining regarding Grievance #18/19-19.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for a Worker's Compensation for a teacher, 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 6:20 p.m.
until 7:45 p.m.**

N O T E S

The School Committee convened in Open Session at 4:05 p.m.

There were present at the Call to Order:

Mr. Comparetto, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O’Connell and Mayor Petty

There were absent: Miss Biancheria and Mr. Foley

Miss Biancheria arrived at 4:16 p.m.

It was moved voice voted to suspend the rules to take the following items out of order:

-gb#9-234

-gb#8-153.5

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #9-234

Katie Crockett, President of Lamoureux, Pagano Associates Architects provided a description of the District’s vision for its education delivery methodology for Chapter 74 Programming. Superintendent Binienda, Kyle Brenner, Principal of Worcester Technical High School and Sally Maloney, Principal of Doherty Memorial High School responded to questions relative to the proposed Chapter 74 programming.

Mr. O’Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration review the Construction Craft Laborer Chapter 74 programs at Medford Vocational High School, Roger L. Putnam Vocational-Technical Academy and B.M.C. Durfee High School.

Request that the Administration publicize August 19th as the date for the Design Committee meeting for the new Doherty Memorial High School in order for the community to be aware of it.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #9-234 (continued)

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a report on college and union collaborations and the Articulation Agreements.

Request that the Administration provide updates on the Perkins funding, when available.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee approve the Chapter 74 Programming for the new Doherty Memorial High School.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mr. Foley) the item was approved.

The new programs are as follows:

- Programming and Web Development
- Marketing Management and Finance
- Construction Craft Laborer

The current Engineering and Technology Academy at Doherty will be expanded and an Advanced Academy will be added.

gb #8-153.5

Superintendent Binienda presented the first of the quarterly reports on the Strategic Plan with updates, benchmarks and evidence. She provided links to the evidence that can be accessed online on the Worcester Public Schools' website.

Miss McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the link from the WPS website to access the Middle School Flyer.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #8-153.5 (continued)

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration highlight one goal per meeting from the Strategic Plan for discussion..

Request that the Administration provide a report on which programs are successful under Cultural Innovations.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mr. O’Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide an update on the reading and math benchmarks and include the scores and successes when the data is available.

Request that the Administration provide an update when the mobile app for families is launched and operative.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mr. Comparetto left at 5:50 p.m.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Strategic Plan is a five-year plan and that the data provided was based on only ten months.

Mayor Petty stated that the Strategic Plan is a fluid plan that continues to be worked on and stressed the need for community involvement. He also stated that he would be appointing a committee to oversee the Plan.

It was moved and voice voted to accept the report and hold the item for the next quarterly report.

NOTES (continued)

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

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct collective bargaining regarding Grievance #18/19-17.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct collective bargaining regarding Grievance #18/19-19.

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

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley) the motion was approved.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:16 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:50 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #9-11

It was moved and voice voted to file the Superintendent's Self Evaluation, as contained in Annex A of the backup for the item.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee approve the Goals and Benchmarks for the Superintendent for 2019-20.

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley) the motion was approved.

ros #9-9.1

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration refer to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports, the response from the Highlights regarding a detailed report on the number of homeless students and provide the updated numbers to the state in order to get credit for those students.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

NOTES (continued)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues is hereto annexed as Annex A and was approved as amended.

gb #9-39

It was moved to amend page 45, under Riding School Buses, number 3, bullet 4 as follows:

Remain at least **ten (10)** feet from the bus when it stops to pick up and move toward the bus only when the door opens.

On a voice vote, the amended motion was approved.

Mr. Monfredo moved to amend Miss Biancheria's motion to read as follows:

Request that the Administration provide a report indicating the process for monitoring the adherence of **the (10)** feet rule.

On a voice vote, the amended motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the 2019-20 Student Handbook as amended.

It was moved to suspend the rules to reconsider the vote to approve the 2019-20 Student Handbook.

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley), the motion was approved.

It was moved reconsider the vote on the 2019-20 Student Handbook.

On a roll call of 0-5-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley), the motion to reconsider was defeated.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #9-227

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report, prior to the start of the 2019-20 school year, on what is being proposed for the teaching of cursive writing.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #9-228

Superintendent Binienda stated that Worcester East Middle School has discontinued participation in the Innovation Schools Annual Evaluation due to the fact that the school will become a Gifted Academy within the next few years.

gb #9-238

Superintendent Binienda stated that she would provide a report on the number of students who have elected to take the new financial class which will be offered at all of the high schools.

gb #9-242

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration forward a letter of appreciation to the Berklee College of Music for its donation of musical instruments to the Worcester Public Schools.

Request that the Administration provide in a Friday letter, a list of the schools who will receive the donated instruments.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

OTHER ACTION

It was moved and voice voted to suspend the rules to allow Mayor Petty to present Gwendolyn Lynch with a high school diploma from the former Commerce High School. Mayor Petty presented the diploma to Gwendolyn.

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to deny Grievance #18/19-17.

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley) the motion was approved.

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to deny Grievance #18/19-19.

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley) the motion was approved.

Mayor Petty announced that the School Committee meeting that was scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 2019 has been changed to Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Esther Howland South Chamber.

Committee Members
John F. Monfredo, Chairman
Dianna Biancheria, Vice-chairman
John Foley

AGENDA #3
G/EI
7-1-19
Page 1

A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met at 5:37 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 2019 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Mr. Foley and Chairman Monfredo

There was absent: Miss Biancheria

Miss Biancheria arrived at 5:42 p.m.

Representing Administration: Dr. Friel, Superintendent Binienda, Dr. O'Neil

Others in attendance: Mr. O'Connell

It was moved and voice voted to consider items gb #9-39, gb #8-174, gb #9-62 and gb #9-71 together.

gb #9-39 - Administration (January 25, 2019)

To consider approval of the 2019-20 Student Handbook of the Worcester Public Schools.

Minor amendments were made to the proposed changes by individual vote, as reflected on pages 1 and 2 of the Action Sheet.

- Page 6, bullet 8 - replace the word **ay** with **may**
- Page 12, second paragraph - replace **student's** with **student's**
- Page 13, (Nondiscrimination) capitalize the word **manager**. Add the word **members** after the word staff in the last paragraph
- Page 13 (In-School Suspension) reverse the words **consistently** and **adhere**
- Page 13 (Due Process) change the MGL reference to read 37 H1/2 throughout the document
- Page 13, (Parent/Guardian Meeting) put a space between the words **If** and **the** in line 4.
- Page 13, (Notice for any Out of School Suspension) remove the period between set and forth in entry Line 1
- Page 13, (Principal Hearing), remove random periods in entry Line a, and delete the word **public** in Line d

gb #9-39 (continued)

- Page 13, (Superintendent's Appeal Hearing) replace the letter **I** with then number **1** in Line g and put a space between the words **If** and **the**
- Page 13, (Section III) replace the word **their** with **his/her** in entry Line 2
- Page 13, (Educational Services and Academic Progress), remove the space between the dash in system-wide.
- Page 14, (Sexual Harassment) replace the word **we** with **the Worcester Public Schools** in line 3
- Page 16, (Child Abuse) remove the letter **s** from the word **requires**
- Page 34, (Bullying) replace the word **that** with **which** in paragraph 2
- Page 55, (Student Absence Notification Program) replace the word **they** with **he/she** in paragraph 2, line 2
- Page 55 (Dropout Prevention) insert the word **that** before the word **the** in line 8 and replace **and** with **but** in Line 9
- Page 62 (Class Rank Grade Point Average) change the word **third** to **second** in line 3
- Page 63 (Seal of Biliteracy) in paragraph 2, replace the word **our** with **its**, the words **we are** with the **Worcester Public Schools**, replace **recognizing** with **recognizes**, **honoring** with **honors** and **encourage** with **encourages**. In paragraph 4, change the spelling of **Biliteracy** with **Biliteracy**
- Page 65 (ELPAC) Line 7, replace the word **are** with **is**

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a Report of the Superintendent on Title IX requirements and training.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report indicating the process for monitoring the adherence of the eight feet rule.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #9-39 (continued)

Mr. O'Connell made the following suggestions:

- that the following language be added to the Home School change:
"The Worcester Public Schools shall do whatever is feasible to expedite the approval process."
- that the word Committee be changed to Council in the title of English Learner Parent Advisory Committee.

gb #8-174 - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo (May 15, 2018)

Request that the Administration review the overall Dress Code Policy and update it, if appropriate.

The following changes were proposed for the Dress Code Policy on page 6:

No droopy pants or clothing that reveals undergarments; the length of shorts and skirts must **measure to at least mid-thigh length**

Students may wear hooded sweatshirts or shirts but may not wear the hoods up or covering their heads or faces in the building or on school property

No ear buds or headphones may be worn or used except with permission of school personnel

On a voice vote, the proposed changes were approved.

FILE

gb #9-62 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough (February 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration consider changes to the Student Handbook regarding headwear.

gb #9-62 (continued)

The following change was proposed for the Dress Code Policy on page 6:

No hats, bandanas, scarves or headwear that cover full head **unless for religious or medical reasons**

On a voice vote, the proposed change was approved.

FILE

gb #9-71 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough (February 19, 2019)

Request that the Administration seek input by April 2, 2019 from secondary principals regarding changes to the cell phone policy.

The following change was proposed under the section Student Lockers on page 12 by deleting the words "**cell phones**" from paragraph 3 which will then read as follows:

Students must store all book bags, gym bags and outerwear (coats and jackets) in their lockers during the school day.

On a voice vote, the proposed change was approved.

FILE

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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