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Committee Members

Tracy Novick, Chair
Jermoh Kamara, Vice-Chair
Susan Mailman

Administrative Representative

Brian Allen

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

AGENDA #4

The Standing Committee on FINANCE AND OPERATIONS will hold a virtual and/or in-person meeting:

on: April 26, 2023
at: 5:30 p.m.
in: Room 410, Durkin Administration Building

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb 2-241.10 - Novick
(August 23, 2022)

To consider monthly updates on the implementation of district-operated transportation during the 2022-23 school year.

gb 2-239.6 - Administration
(August 15, 2022)

To review the status of the FY23 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

gb 3-34.1 - McCullough
(January 5, 2023)

To explore streaming options for athletics and other activities and either develop an in-house process or send out to bid for districtwide options to be put in place as soon as possible.

gb 3-22.1 - McCullough
(December 20, 2022)

To explore the feasibility of increasing the day-by-day substitute rate for licensed/retired educators.

gb 3-48.1 - McCullough

(January 16, 2023)

To consider exploring the hiring of athletic trainers for high school athletics.

c&p 2-12/24 - Public Petition

(January 5, 2023)

Three students from Forest Grove Middle School spoke on Healthy Vending Machines.

SA 3-1 - Student Advisory Committee

(March 16, 2023)

To consider the approval of additional middle school sports programs throughout the district.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

STANDING COMMITTEE: **FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, April 24, 2023

ITEM: gb 2-241.10

To consider monthly updates on the implementation of district-operated transportation during the 2022-23 school year.

PRIOR ACTION:

9-1-22 - On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations.

9-8-22 - STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Mr. Allen presented the September Student Transportation update which included:

- 74 Full-Size Bus Drivers (full size): 17 WPS buses
- 95 Mid-Size Bus Drivers and 12 new buses
- 109 Bus Monitors 42 leased
- 35 Drivers in Training

Additionally, 32 new buses were awaiting registration and inspections. The number of drivers currently in training are projected to bring the Transportation Department to full budgeted strength. He stated that the district began this school year using the new Versatrans My Stop app and that a few technical issues occurred in particular, double trips do not show on the app, and some adjustments were made.

If there are any questions regarding accessing the app, caregivers can call the Transportation Department at (508) 799-3241.

Mr. Allen also stated that any School Committee policy change including changing start times or changing walk zones for the 2023-24 school year impacting the number of buses needed would have to be voted on as soon as possible in order to place orders for additional buses for next year.

There are 13 buses coming off of lease at the end of this school year, and Mr. Allen provided information of various alternative fuels for those buses that have been explored by the administration; a decision on that would also be needed as soon as possible. Administration recommends that the district plan to use propane for this set of buses, and pilot an electric bus.

The district plans on implementing a transportation registration portal for secondary students to pre-register in order to allow for better load management and planning for 2023-24.

He thanked the whole transportation team including drivers and liaisons for their work during the first two weeks of the school year.

(continued on Page 2)

BACK UP:

Annex A (2 Pages) Transportation Monthly Update April 2023

PRIOR ACTION (continued)

- 9-8-22 - Member Mailman asked if there was any data available from other districts that currently use electric buses. Mr. Allen stated that he and Mr. Hennessey have been attending transportation conferences pertaining to the use of alternative fuel, but due to the fact that electric buses are three times the cost of a regular school bus, and that there are concerns about such buses' with the cold climate, with hills, as well as with the infrastructure needed for their support, the district would prefer to use propane as the alternative fuel choice at this time, piloting an electric bus. Mr. Hennessey provided the following advantages of using propane in the buses rather than gasoline:
- price per gallon is significantly less
 - maintenance is significantly lower
 - no engine warmup needed for heating
 - less oil changes needed
 - no hazardous waste
- Chair Novick asked if there are plans to provide My Stop access for private and parochial school families and Mr. Freeman stated that it is possible, but will take further data sharing.
- Member Mailman asked for more information on the out-of-school providers and Mr. Allen stated that the Administration met with them again in August and provided the current practice which is if a bus is heading in a certain direction and if there is capacity to take on the students. The process has not changed, but it's the number of buses heading in that direction that has changed. Once there are more buses and drivers, there will be greater flexibility. Mr. Hennessey stated that the district started with the same locations that it ended with last year. Mr. Freeman stated that there were other providers such as Ride Rite that were providing transportation but they are also experiencing capacity issues.
- Chair Novick stated that the Student Handbook clearly states that the transportation provided is from a student's home to school and school back home. She questioned if the Committee should consider clarifying the language. She also asked if a parent inquired about out of school transportation, they should call the Transportation Department for information. Mr. Allen suggested they could call the provider.
- On a roll call of 3-0, gb 9-355, gb 1-101, gb 2-44, gb2-109 and gb 2-205 were filed and gb 2-241 will be the current transportation item and will be held for the next meeting.
- 9-15 22 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.

PRIOR ACTION (continued)

10-12-22 - Mr. Allen presented the monthly transportation update with the staffing plans for the next school year as of October 5, 2022.

	Full Size Bus Drive r	Mid Size Bus Drive r	Bus Monitor s
Total Employees (or in Process)	73	97	110
Current Routes	<u>74</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>89</u>
Difference between Planned Routes	-1	8	21
Total Planned Routes	<u>101</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>
Difference between Planned Routes	-28	2	15
Budgeted Positions	<u>118</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>112</u>
Difference between Budgeted Positions	-45	-15	-2

Drivers in Training

	1
Permitted Drivers	5
Trainees working on Permits	<u>1</u>
	<u>4</u>
	2
	9

In addition, there are 40 additional people in the evening training program.

School Bus Vehicle Procurement

Current Vehicle Fleet	Full-Size Bus	Mid Size Bus
WPS Buses	16	63
New Buses	48	0
Leased Buses	<u>49</u>	44
Total Vehicles as of 8/31/22	113	107

Mr. Allen provided an update on electric school buses and stated that there have been a number of meetings over the last month. He was under the assumption that the district was not eligible for some of the federal EPA funding under the infrastructure for some vehicles. He believes that even though the district does not have diesel engines that some of the older combustion gas engines may qualify to be exchanged for electric school buses. If that is the case, it is the district's intention that the next round of funding window will open this month and it will work on an application up to 15 electric school buses to add to the fleet. **(Continued on Page 4)**

PRIOR ACTION (continued)

- 10-12-22 - The School Committee last week authorized the district to lease 13 buses for next year, but it is thinking about buying out those leases and keeping them and pursue the electric bus option instead. He will be providing an update at the next meeting on the status of the application. He stated that the WPS is a high priority district for funding consideration but there's a lot to consider including a new infrastructure that would need to be installed.
- Member Kamara asked for an update on athletic transportation and Mr. Allen stated that in the past, the WEDF provided funds for field trips using AA Transportation and this year, with the district owning its own buses, there has been a \$40,000 savings.
- Mr. Freeman stated that there has been some compatibility issues with the MyStop app due to drivers using tablets and incurring a break in the GPS connection. IT technicians are working on trying to fix the problem.
- On a roll call of 3-0 the item was held.
- 10-20-22 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.
- 11-17-22 - **gb 2-241 - Novick (August 23, 2022)**

Mr. Allen provided an update on the implementation of the district operated transportation. There has been an increase of 5 full-sized bus drivers, 3 mid-sized bus drivers, with more in the pipeline. With regard to vehicles, Mr. Allen stated that the transition of bringing in the new buses, getting them registered and inspected, and sending the leased buses back is ongoing; the district is up 22 buses from last month. The hope is to have all 100 new full-sized buses on property next month. There is no change in mid-sized buses. The landlord has received all necessary permits for construction of the fueling station on Pullman Street; the plan is for that to be operational next year.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Kamara, Mr. Allen stated that for the fall season, bus transportation was being provided to athletics only after 4 pm. Winter season is generally night events; it is expected that for the spring season, the increase in drivers and vehicles will allow for athletic transportation at the end of the school day.

In response to a question from Member Mailman, Mr. Allen stated that administration shares some of the concerns shared during public comment, and that there is ongoing work with schools regarding student behaviors on school buses. He further stated that questions regarding response times can be addressed during the upcoming joint labor-management meeting.

Mr. Allen stated that at this time, the administration has decided not to pursue the lease of propane vehicles due to the length of time it is taking for vehicles to arrive. The intent is to purchase the 13 buses

coming off of lease; the district also will pursue the upcoming federal grant for 15 electric buses.

Mr. Allen stated that there will be an update on phasing in the new drivers at the December meeting; there is a planned schedule being constructed. Mr. Allen stated that the administration may be asking the School Committee to add training staff further to address the ability to move trainees through the pipeline.

2-13-23 On a roll call of 3-0, the item was held.

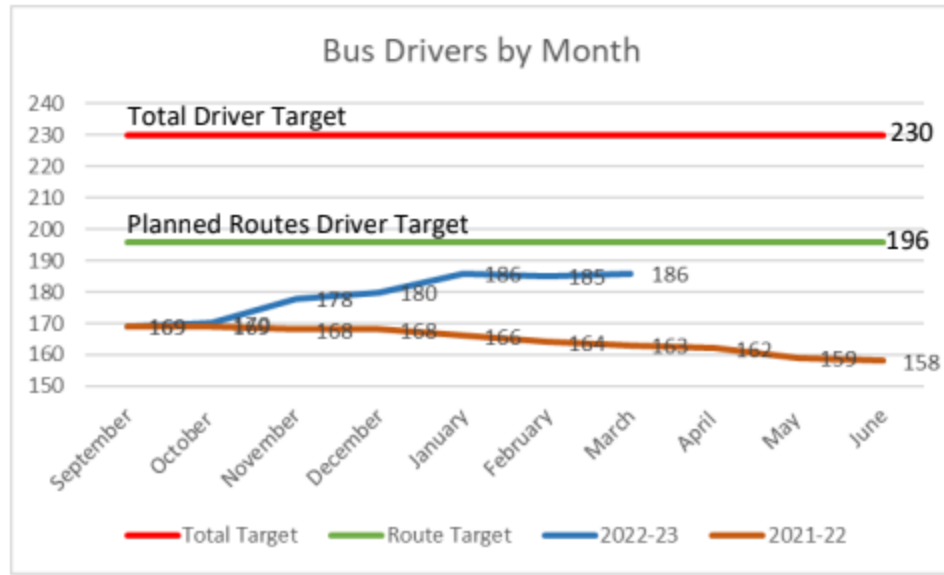
Mr. Allen presented an update. He highlighted that we hired 7 new drivers, had 8 drivers retire/resign, and for the first time in two years there are two after school buses for athletics. He mentioned that all the full sized buses are now owned and operated by WPS. Mid-sized and wheelchair vehicles are not available due to supply chain issues, but Mr. Allen is putting out a new bid for alternative layouts on 7D vehicles as those may be available sooner.

3-20-23 On voice vote, the motion to hold was approved.

Mr. Allen agreed with the public comment and stated that the Administration is trying to hire as quickly as possible. There are also 37 individuals in the process getting their CDL licenses and becoming drivers. Fuel station should be up and running by the next monthly report. RFID readers are being installed currently to ensure only the correct vehicles are fueled. The 7D vehicles are still delayed due to supply chain issues.

Member Mailman requested information on driver and monitor loss. Mr. Allen stated that the information provided shows the net change, confirming there is some attrition, and that approximately 50% of the people in the program do not complete it. Ideally, the department would have hired to plan for absences, however staffing levels have not been met. There are 19 job offers out for bus monitors.

Chair O'Connell Novick highlighted missing information on transportation increases in the budget presentation at the previous meeting and wanted to know if there was any comment on that. Mr. Allen stated that in using our transportation we are able to provide transportation without a significant increase like other districts.



On a roll call of 3-0, the motion to hold the item was approved.

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION MONTHLY UPDATE
 April 2023

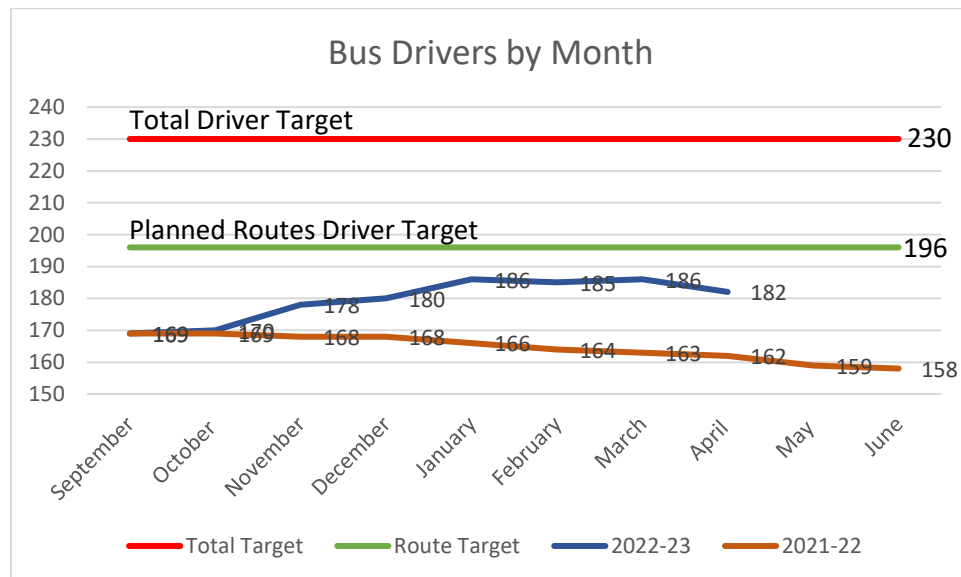
Bus Driver Hiring and Recruitment

As of April 12, 2023, the staffing levels are as follows:

	Full Size Bus Driver	Mid Size Bus Driver	Bus Monitors
Total Employees (or in Process)	80	102	100
Current Routes	<u>81</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>89</u>
Difference between Planned Routes	-1	13	11
Total Planned Routes	<u>101</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>
Difference between Planned Routes	-21	7	5
Budgeted Positions	<u>118</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>112</u>
Difference between Budgeted Positions	-38	-10	12

Drivers in Training

Permitted Drivers	17
Trainees working on Permits	<u>11</u>
	37



School Bus Vehicle Procurement

Current Vehicle Fleet	Full-Size Bus	Mid Size Bus
WPS Buses	16	53
New Buses	100	0
Leased Buses	<u>0</u>	<u>45</u>
Total Vehicles as of 11/28/22	116	98

Next Steps & Open Items:

- **Athletic Trips:** As the Transportation Department plans for the Spring athletic season, for the first time in two years, **seven** buses are now available for 2:30 pm after-school athletic transportation. The plan is to continue to increase staffing, reduce double trips of buses, and provide up to eleven athletic buses for afternoon events.
- **Double Trips:** At the start of the school year, the district operated 47 double-trip routes to schools. As of April 12, 2023, there are now 20 double-trip routes.
- **Fueling Station:** The fueling station at Pullman Street is fully operational. The fueling station will be available to fuel all WPS gasoline vehicles, including Facilities, Nutrition, and school vehicles.
- **7D Vans:** The District has issued a contract for the purchase of twenty-nine 7D transit-style vans, with delivery by December 31, 2023. The Administration will issue a bid for additional minivans (up to another 31) over the next several months based on vehicle availability.
- **Field Trips:** The district has conducted almost 400 field trips since the start of the school year, not including athletic transportation.

STANDING COMMITTEE: **FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, April 24, 2023

ITEM: Administration (August 15, 2022)

To review the status of the FY23 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

PRIOR ACTION:

9-11-22 - Member Novick asked what the final state budget is regarding offsetting the reduction due to ESSER funds, if necessary. Mr. Allen stated that procedurally, a City Manager has to recommend appropriate free cash to the City Council and until that is approved, the funding isn't secure. The Administration is informing the School Committee that if the City Council were not to cover the free cash, it would use ESSER funds this year. It would not be making any reductions in programs or services.

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was filed.

It was moved to suspend the rules to reconsider the vote to file the item.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to suspend the rules to reconsider the vote to file the item.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations.

10-12-22 - STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

In discussing the FY23 Budget Status Report, Mr. Allen stated that school year staff, teachers and instructional professionals have received only two payrolls through the end of September. The projections were based on a lot of assumptions and it is important to identify trends through the next quarter and make the necessary adjustments.

Miscellaneous Educational OM 500136-92000 showed a -\$779,358 deficit due to the cost accounting of putting the bus vehicle insurance in the proper account. The district had budgeted for the vehicle insurance for all the buses within the transportation account but in consultation with DESE regarding where those really should be reported, vehicle insurance is actually a net school spending eligible expense and it should be placed in this account. **(Continued**

on Page 2)

BACKUP:

Annex A (2 pages) Third Quarter Budget Status Report

Annex B (1 pages) Budget Account Summary

PRIOR ACTION (continued)

10-12-22 - Transportation 540103-92000 showed a -\$589,226 deficit due to the cost of buses incurred while waiting for WPS vehicles to arrive and for the price of fuel. None of these vehicles are diesel, which is not what the district has traditionally run and all of the newer vehicles are fueling outside of the city's contracted rates leading to a higher expense than what was budgeted. The city will be going out for bids for fuel for the next calendar year and those rates are expected to be significantly higher than the rate that the city was able to lock in a year ago.

Administration Salaries 500-91110 had some vacancies within that account but it's also a reflection on the new positions that the School Committee approved. Superintendent Monárrez was asked to look at the overall administrative structure. This would not be a typical time, because it is usually done through the Budget process. However, this is something she has recommended and there are a couple of more positions that will be brought before the School Committee at its next meeting.

Regarding the implementation of the Student Opportunity Act, he suggested revisiting it and updating what progress has been made. He suggested that presentations be made to the School Committee, the state delegations and the public. Operations and Maintenance was about 15 million dollars under what the Foundation Budget says should be spent. Professional Development spent only half and Instructional Supplies and Materials was about 7 million dollars under spending.

Mr. Allen stated that the district has the lowest spending on Administrative positions compared to the peer community and the second lowest spending on Instructional Leadership. Chair O'Connell Novick made the following motion:

Request that the following transfers be approved:

Amount	From Account	Account Title	To Account	Account Title
\$500,000	500-91119	Custodial Salaries	500146-92000	Building Utilities
\$400,000	500-91123	Maintenance Service Salaries	500146-92000	Building Utilities
\$500,000	540-91117	Transportation Salaries	540103-92000	Transportation
\$500,000	540-91117	Transportation Salaries	540-97201	Transportation Overtime Salaries
\$650,000	500123-96000	Health Insurance	500136-92000	Miscellaneous Educational OM

On a roll call of 3-0, the motion was approved.

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was held.

10-20-22 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

On a roll call of 7-0, the transfers were approved and the action of the Standing Committee was approved as stated.

2-13-23

To review the status of the FY23 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

ITEM: gb 2-239.5

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Ms. Consalvo provided an update highlighting the impacted budget accounts and introduced the transfers (in the table below) recommended by the Administration. Mr. Allen emphasized that the biggest unmet need and highest priority is the McKinney Vento transportation. Member Mailman requested a foundation level review for the next meeting.

Amount	From Account	Account Title	To Account	Account Title
\$500,000	500123-96000	Custodial Salaries	500146-92000	Building Utilities
\$500,000	540-91117	Transportation Salaries	500-97203	Custodial Overtime Salaries

On a roll call of 3-0, the two requested transfers were approved. On a voice vote, the motion to hold the item was approved.

**WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FY23 BUDGET
THIRD QUARTER BUDGET STATUS REPORT**

The status of all Salary and Ordinary Maintenance accounts as of March 31, 2023, are shown in Annex B. Presented for each account is the amount budgeted for the current fiscal year, the amount expended or committed as of March 31st, and the projected balance at the closing on June 30, 2023. Salary and Ordinary Maintenance Account totals are:

<u>Budget Title</u>	<u>Budget Amount</u>	<u>Expended or Encumbered 03/31/23</u>	<u>Projected Balance 06/30/23</u>
Salaries	\$281,398,569	\$180,515,684	\$1,032,434
Ordinary Maintenance	<u>\$136,403,583</u>	<u>\$111,190,185</u>	<u>-\$1,081,474</u>
Total General Fund	\$417,802,152	\$291,705,870	-\$49,040

The following accounts have budget changes based on current operating conditions for the school year:

Accounts with Budget Impacts:

Teacher Substitute Salaries 500-91114 (-\$1,196,254): This account reflects an increase in coverage for schools that includes building substitutes, daily substitutes, and long-term substitutes for authorized leaves of absence. The district had previously reinstated the use of daily substitutes. This account includes estimated projections through the end of the year.

Miscellaneous Educational OM 500136-92000 (-\$1,064,983): This line item includes technology purchases that will expand the districts' storage and server capacity. Additional purchases will also include the consolidation of the various district ticketing systems such as the IT help desk, facilities work order requests, and building rental permits. This will allow for decentralized access, more efficiency, and robust reporting. This line item also includes the anticipated purchase of instructional technology items for schools including, document cameras, projectors carts, chrome book carts, and student headphones. These purchases will allow for distribution to schools before the start of the new school year.

Unemployment Compensation 500137-92000 (-\$233,652): The projected deficit in this account reflects an increase in district unemployment claims from the FY23 budget, however, is an anticipated decrease from the second quarter based on current claims. This account includes estimated projections through the end of the year.

Overtime Accounts 500; 540-97200 (-\$956,509): The projected combined deficit in the district's transportation, and custodial are largely due to vacant positions and ensuring the coverage of transportation routes, and cleanliness of buildings. The non-instructional overtime usage is primarily for the ongoing support of staff with the new student information system.

Accounts with Projected Balances to Offset Deficit Accounts:

Transportation Salaries 540-91117 (\$1,845,667): This account reflects vacant positions through the end of the school year and includes estimated projections as new drivers and monitors are continued to be onboarded. This line also includes the projected amount for the end-of-the-school-year contractual payments.

Maintenance Salaries Account 500-91120 (\$753,583): The projected balance in this account continues to include the vacancies of the Shop Foreman, several HVAC, and trades positions. The projection includes the cost of replacement positions through the end of June, however, while these positions remain vacant, necessary district maintenance has been provided by vendor services as needed.

School Nurse Salaries Account 500-91133 (\$663,808): The projected balance in this account represents vacant school-based nursing and clinical care coordination positions through the end of the school year. This account includes estimated projections through the end of the year.

Tuition 500132-92000 (\$368,545): This line item supports the placement of students in more restrictive settings (state-approved special education day and residential programs) when a special education team determines that this is the most appropriate placement to meet educational needs. This line included funds for approximately 100 students, however, the district has experienced a decline in students participating in out-of-district programming due to continually increased capacity with in-district programming.

Based on the Third Quarter Budget Status Report, the Administration recommends the following transfers:

Amount	From Account	Account Title	To Account	Account Title
\$500,000	500-91120	Maintenance Service Salaries	500152-92000	Facilities Ordinary Maintenance
\$1,000,000	540-91117	Transportation Salaries	500136-92000	Miscellaneous Educational OM

**WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2022-2023 BUDGET ACCOUNT SUMMARY
THIRD QUARTER REPORT**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Transfer</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expended or Encumbered</u>	<u>Balance</u>
500-91110	Administration Salaries	\$16,173,280		\$16,173,280	\$12,169,445	-\$622,801
500-91111	Teacher Salaries	\$203,401,816		\$203,401,816	\$119,553,624	\$719,100
500-91112	School Committee Salaries	\$101,880		\$101,880	\$76,410	\$0
500-91114	Teacher Substitutes Salaries	\$1,894,737		\$1,894,737	\$3,493,651	-\$1,196,254
500-91115	Instructional Assistants Salaries	\$12,031,054		\$12,031,054	\$10,752,832	-\$1,346,174
500-91116	Coach Salaries	\$776,243		\$776,243	\$478,259	\$75,150
540-91117	Transportation Salaries	\$14,700,483	-\$1,500,000	\$13,200,483	\$8,567,753	\$1,845,667
500-91118	Supplemental Program Salaries	\$1,239,530		\$1,239,530	\$1,454,441	\$58,952
500-91119	Custodial Salaries	\$8,051,779	-\$500,000	\$7,551,779	\$5,277,465	\$489,093
500-91120	Maintenance Service Salaries	\$2,194,745		\$2,194,745	\$1,069,142	\$753,583
500-91121	Administrative Clerical Salaries	\$3,937,942		\$3,937,942	\$2,908,334	\$78,867
500-91122	School Clerical Salaries	\$2,629,038		\$2,629,038	\$1,620,707	\$218,612
500-91123	Non Instructional Salaries	\$3,736,366	-\$400,000	\$3,336,366	\$3,156,347	-\$169,695
540-91124	Crossing Guard Salaries	\$472,626		\$472,626	\$318,593	\$23,295
500-91133	School Nurse Salaries	\$6,901,216		\$6,901,216	\$3,754,802	\$663,808
500-91134	Educational Support Salaries	\$2,048,487		\$2,048,487	\$2,762,663	\$11,296
540-97201	Transportation Overtime Salaries	\$907,348	\$500,000	\$1,407,348	\$1,289,766	-\$450,247
500-97203	Custodial Overtime Salaries	\$1,300,000	\$500,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,533,507	-\$352,576
500-97204	Maintenance Overtime Salaries	\$100,000		\$100,000	\$30,818	\$56,444
500-97205	Support Overtime Salaries	<u>\$200,000</u>		<u>\$200,000</u>	<u>\$247,124</u>	<u>-\$153,686</u>
	Salary Total	\$282,798,569	-\$1,400,000	\$281,398,569	\$180,515,684	\$702,434
500101-96000	Retirement	\$21,595,715		\$21,595,715	\$22,366,506	\$37,305
540103-92000	Transportation	\$5,938,697	\$500,000	\$6,438,697	\$5,690,051	\$422,991
500122-92000	Athletic Ordinary Maintenance	\$476,346		\$476,346	\$301,460	\$0
500123-96000	Health Insurance	\$57,513,385	-\$1,150,000	\$56,363,385	\$36,273,726	\$276,724
500129-96000	Workers Compensation	\$2,238,447		\$2,238,447	\$1,452,846	\$25,291
500130-92000	Personal Services	\$1,919,679		\$1,919,679	\$2,662,580	-\$89,459
500132-92000	Tuition	\$20,622,330		\$20,622,330	\$18,638,143	\$368,545
500-92204	Instructional Materials	\$3,666,774		\$3,666,774	\$2,343,907	-\$120,000
500136-92000	Miscellaneous Educational OM	\$5,876,124	\$650,000	\$6,526,124	\$7,588,016	-\$1,264,983
500137-96000	Unemployment Compensation	\$371,247		\$371,247	\$424,322	-\$233,652
500146-92000	Building Utilities	\$7,163,652	\$1,400,000	\$8,563,652	\$6,505,806	-\$126,529
500152-92000	Facilities Ordinary Maintenance	<u>\$7,621,187</u>		<u>\$7,621,187</u>	<u>\$6,942,823</u>	<u>-\$47,707</u>
	Non Salary Total	\$135,003,583	\$1,400,000	\$136,403,583	\$111,190,185	-\$751,474
	Total General Fund Budget	\$417,802,152	\$0	\$417,802,152	\$291,705,870	-\$49,040

STANDING COMMITTEE: **FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, April 24, 2023

ITEM: McCullough (January 5, 2023)

To explore streaming options for athletics and other activities and either develop an in-house process or send out to bid for districtwide options to be put in place as soon as possible.

PRIOR ACTION:

1-19-23 Referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations

BACKUP:

Annex A (2 pages) contains the response from Administration

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION:

The Worcester Public Schools is part of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and sports programs are governed by the MIAA. The MIAA in turn is part of the National Federation of State High School Associations’ (NFHS).

The MIAA has an exclusive relationship with NFHS’s streaming service. Through this arrangement, playoff MIAA games cannot be streamed on any other platform than NFHS. In addition, the MIAA requires all member districts to use the MIAA ArbiterGames to schedule games which coaches, transportation departments, officials and parents rely on for the sole source of game times. NFHS is the only streaming vendor that integrates with the MIAA ArbiterGames scheduling system.

If the district were to write an RFP, two of the requirements of the RFP would be the ability to stream all games at specific sites, including playoff games. In addition, integrating with the MIAA ArbiterGames scheduling system is necessary because WPS is required to use that system for all game scheduling and automated live streaming systems need to access the district’s scheduling software to turn on at the appropriate time.

The administration recommends proceeding with National Federation of State High School Associations’ (NFHS) solution as it is a sole source vendor for the following reasons.

- NFHS is the only approved vendor that allows streaming of MIAA playoff games
- NFHS is the only vendor that integrates with the MIAA ArbiterGames scheduling system which controls the automated recording of the games

In addition, the district recommends NFHS because the overwhelming majority of MA school districts use it for their streaming, which means college coaches and recruiters will be looking for athletes on NFHS. In addition, an in-house solution is impractical with the manpower it would require.¹

For these reasons, this project does not need to be bid as the ability to stream all regular season and playoff games would be a requirement of the bid and only one vendor meets that requirement. The City of Worcester’s purchasing agent has concurred that this is sole source and does not need to be bid.

The following are options of the agreement:

	Option 1: District pays an annual site license fee	Option 2: Families pay the subscription	Option 3: District pays the subscriptions for families and maintains who has which log in and for how long
A. Subscription cost for district	\$0	\$0	District buys and distributes reduced-cost subscriptions to families. Uncertain cost. \$36 per family per season times...2,000 families \$72,000? Enabling

¹ Estimating 700 hours of games coverage over 5 high schools and multiple sports (men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball, football, track, etc), this would require the installation of at least two remote cameras at each location at an initial cost of \$12,000 per venue. Since all 5 schools could theoretically have a game at the same time, WEATV would need six new staff members (one extra for coverage). At \$40K per year, that would be \$240,000 per year.

			and disabling accounts and keeping track of logins would be very labor intensive
B. Subscription cost for families	\$0	\$12/month or \$80 per year. Gives access to all MIAA games across the state	\$0
C. Annual costs to district	\$4,000/yr site license x 8 locations = \$32,000/yr	\$0	
D. District revenue	\$0 for subscriptions, potential to generate revenue through ads	10% of subscriptions, potential to generate revenue through ads	Potential to generate revenue through ads

The district recommends Option C and will fund the license cost from the Channel 11 budget. There are no additional upfront costs to the district.

ITEM: gb 3-22.1

STANDING COMMITTEE: **FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, April 24, 2023

ITEM: McCullough (December 20, 2022)

To explore the feasibility of increasing the day-by-day substitute rate for licensed/retired educators.

PRIOR ACTION:

1-19-23 Referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION:
REFER TO THE FY24 BUDGET

ITEM: gb 3-48.1

STANDING COMMITTEE: **FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, April 24, 2023

ITEM: McCullough (January 16, 2023)

To consider exploring the hiring of athletic trainers for high school athletics.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION:
REFER TO THE FY24 BUDGET

ITEM: c&p 2-12/24

STANDING COMMITTEE: **FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, April 24, 2023

ITEM: Public Petition (January 5, 2023)

Three students from Forest Grove Middle School spoke on Healthy Vending Machines.

PRIOR ACTION:

1-5-23 Item was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance & Operations

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 page) contains a response from Administration

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION:

Public Petition Response

Three students from Forest Grove Middle School spoke on Healthy Vending Machines. On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to Standing Committee Finance and Operations.

Per DESE website regarding Breakfast After the Bell:

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/nprograms/sbp/breakfast-after-the-bell.html>

In August of 2020, An Act Regarding Breakfast After the Bell was signed into law for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (C. 133 of the Acts of 2020). The bill contains language directing high-need public schools to offer school breakfast after the instructional day has begun. Specifically, the language states that "All public schools required to serve breakfast under subsection (b) and where not less than 60 per cent of the students at the school are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program, as determined by the department, shall offer all students a school breakfast after the beginning of the instructional day."

In accordance with the act described above, all public schools in Worcester are required to offer school breakfast to students at no cost after the instructional day has begun. School breakfast offerings must include the following five servings: two grains* (one grain and one protein), two fruits, and a milk. This breaks down to one serving of whole grain, a second serving of whole grain or protein snack, one cup of fruit (4 oz. of 100% juice and a fruit), and 8 oz. of milk.

Students can take all five menu items offered at school breakfast. If they are not taking all five items, they cannot take less than three items and one must include 4 oz. of 100% juice or fresh fruit. Since the foundation of the school meal program requires whole grains, lean protein, fresh fruit, 100% juice, and milk that is accessible throughout the morning to all students at no cost, a healthy vending machine is not necessary to access "snacks" throughout the school day.

ITEM: SA 3-1.1

STANDING COMMITTEE: **FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, April 24, 2023

ITEM: Student Advisory Committee (March 16, 2023)

To consider the approval of additional middle school sports programs throughout the district.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION:
REFER TO THE FY24 BUDGET