

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

AGENDA #2

on: Thursday, January 21, 2021
at: 5:00 p.m. - Executive Session
6:00 p.m. - Regular Session
Virtually in: Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

- I. CALL TO ORDER
INVOCATION
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
NATIONAL ANTHEM

6:10 p.m.

- II. ROLL CALL

**Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty**

- III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #1-2 - Administration
(January 13, 2021)

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

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting on
Thursday, January 7, 2021.

- IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

- V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #1-11 - Administration
(January 13, 2021)

The item was filed

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

ACTION

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #1-2 -Administration
(January 12, 2021)

PANORAMA PLATFORM FOR SECONDARY STUDENT SUCCESS

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS -NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met virtually on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

IX. PERSONNEL

1-3 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Aide to the Physically Handicapped, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$17.04 (minimum) to \$21.00 (maximum) per hour, from Civil Service List #320-034, effective as follows:

Murphy, Robert 1/11/2021

1-4 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Word Processor, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$20.31 (minimum) to \$24.52 per hour (maximum) effective as shown:

Alejandro, Laura 11/30/2020

1-5 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RETIREMENTS of the persons named below:

Joyce, Rita, Special Education Chairperson, Durkin Administration, Eval Team Chairperson, effective January 4, 2021

Manning, Carol, Curriculum Liaison, Durkin Administration, Physical Education, effective January 5, 2021

Mink, Deborah, City View, Teacher Elementary, Primary, effective December 31, 2020

Prudente, Kathleen, City View, Teacher Elementary, Coach - Focused Instruct, effective December 31, 2020

Raney, Gail, Systemwide, Teacher, Special Education, Assistive Tech Spec, effective January 9, 2021

Reilly, Christine, Teacher, Worcester Technical High, Guidance, effective January 1, 2021

Tate, Veronica, Teacher, Worcester East Middle School, Science Secondary, effective January 4, 2021

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was accepted and filed (See notes)

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was approved as stated (See notes)

On a roll call of 7-0, Personnel items 1-3 - 1-5 were filed

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

ACTION

gb #0-295.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick/Mayor Petty
(January 5, 2021)

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

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on the site administrator's responsibilities relative to sports activities vis-a-vis COVID-19.

gb #1-12 - Ms. McCullough/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick/
Mayor Petty
(December 30, 2020)

**On a roll call of
7-0, the date was
set for Thursday,
February 4, 2021**

To set a date to recognize the following Worcester Public School nurses who are volunteering at the testing site:

- Kate Curtin
- Jessica Kazanovicz
- Susan Serrato
- Brenda Castle
- Allison Last
- Fanny Casillas
- Denise Khalili
- MaryPat Martella
- Lee Parent

gb #1-13 - Administration
(January 6, 2021)

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

To accept \$134,640.73 from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for Coronavirus Relief Fund (CvRF) for School Meal Programs.

gb #1-14 - Ms. McCullough/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick
(January 8, 2021)

**On a roll call of
7-0, the item was
referred to the
Administration**

Request that the Administration provide a report back by March on plans for senior recognitions, yearbooks, graduations and other pertinent events/items.

gb #1-15 - Administration
(January 8, 2021)

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

To approve the following donations:

- \$700 from a donor to Burncoat Preparatory School
- \$175 to the WTHS Electrical Program in memory of Ian MacNeil

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #1-16 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick
(January 11, 2021)

Request that the Administration consider expanding after school secondary clubs by partnering with two or more high schools via Zoom.

gb #1-17 - Administration
(January 11, 2021)

To approve the following prior fiscal year payments:

- \$1,507.55 to Scholastic Book Fair
- \$468.90 sick bank days to a teacher

gb #1-18 - Ms. Novick/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Mrs. Clancey
(January 13, 2021)

Request Administration and the Mayor, with requested assistance from the city administration, demand more timely, more transparent, and more useful information regarding internet outages and slowdowns from Spectrum.

gb #1-19 - Ms. Novick/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Mrs. Clancey
(January 13, 2021)

Request Administration update on current efforts to expand internet access in the City of Worcester.

gb #1-20 - Ms. Novick/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Mrs. Clancey
(January 13, 2021)

Request Administration clarify and prominently post in multiple languages the timeline and protocols for suspected and confirmed positive COVID-19 cases among staff and students.

gb #1-21 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey
(January 13, 2021)

Request Administration update on the current timeline for contact tracing in the city of Worcester.

ACTION

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Administration (See notes)

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

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Administration and the Mayor's office (See notes)

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Administration (See notes)

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was Referred to the Administration as amended (See notes)

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the City Manager to forward to the Department of Public Health

ACTION

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #1-22 - Administration
(January 13, 2021)

**Held from 5:05
p.m. to 6:05 p.m.**

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Coronavirus/COVID-19 Related Issues – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators); Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Instructional Assistants; Parent Liaisons; Tutors; and Therapy Assistants.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8221, Bargaining Regarding Reopening.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8368, Interactive Process and Requests for Workplace Accommodations.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Successor Contract Negotiations – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators).

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

7:40 p.m.

N O T E S

The School Committee convened in Open Session at 5:04 p.m.

There were present at the Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 5:05 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.

There were present at the Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty

Mayor Petty stated that the School Committee would recess into Executive Session to discuss the following items:

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Coronavirus/COVID-19 Related Issues – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators); Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Instructional Assistants; Parent Liaisons; Tutors; and Therapy Assistants.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8221, Bargaining Regarding Reopening.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8368, Interactive Process and Requests for Workplace Accommodations.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Successor Contract Negotiations – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators).

On a roll call of 7-0, the motion was approved.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:10 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros#1-2

Catherine Knowles, College and Career Readiness Liaison, presented an overview of the Panorama Platform. The intent is to create a plan for post-secondary success for high school students and to align it with the Strategic Plan. During the first two weeks of February, a survey will be conducted for students and teachers to measure equity and inclusion of all students in grades 7-12 in order to assess their progress during remote learning. Data collected through Panorama will be accessible to all staff and another survey will take place in May or June.

Mrs. Clancey asked if there were any plans to roll this platform out across the district or implement it in elementary schools to which Superintendent Binienda explained that the Barr Foundation funding is for secondary schools.

Ms. Novick requested to know whether or not the Panorama platform will interface well with the new Student Information System (SIS). Mrs. Knowles stated that the platform can be customized.

Mr. Monfredo inquired as to the cost of the program and Mrs. Knowles stated that it was \$96,000.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration consider the feasibility of implementing Panorama in Grade 6 in order to assist the teachers in Grade 7.

On a roll call of 7-0, the motion was approved.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 is hereto annexed as Annex A and was approved as stated.

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #1-16

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Administration provide a report by the end of the school year to include input from teachers.

gb #1-18

Mayor Petty stated that Councilor Wally heads a committee on broadband and internet issues within the City.

Superintendent Binienda announced that she has a contact person at Spectrum who will be available to provide information when outages occur.

gb #1-19

Superintendent Binienda stated that the district received a Verizon Innovation Grant in order to provide more hotspots to all students for up to four years and also provide training for staff.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the Superintendent provide, in a Report of the Superintendent, updates on internet access issues to include Grant opportunities, hotspot distribution and a breakdown of any key issues that students encountered accessing the internet over the last several months.

gb #1-20

Superintendent Binienda stated that each school is developing its own website in order to post COVID protocols and Mr. Pezzella and Dr. McGovern have created videos for staff.

Mr. Foley made the following amendment to the item:

Request that the Administration provide safety protocol signage in all school buildings

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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

Committee Members

Laura Clancey, Chairman
John Monfredo, Vice-chairman
Tracy O'Connell-Novick

AGENDA #1
G/EI
1-19-21

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A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met virtually at 4:32 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

There were present: Chairman Clancey, Vice-Chairman Monfredo and Ms. Novick

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

Others in attendance: D. Biancheria, M. McCullough, A. Bruno, M. Russo, B. Walton, P. Chamberlain, T Davis

gb #0-359 - Administration (November 12, 2020)

To consider approval to turn on the self-harm filter that is available with the current software that monitors those students' behaviors.

Anthony Bruno and Mark Russo, representing Lightspeed Systems, presented an overview of the safety check software feature which identifies potentially dangerous internet searching behavior by students. This software is Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliant and is activated when a student logs into their WPS account.

Ms. Novick pointed out that the case law on this has not been sorted out, particularly when it comes to Fourth Amendment rights of students. She asked at what point does the district have the right to search a WPS owned device or the student's own device? She stated that if the committee is to go forward with this, there will need to be a clear policy created. She suggested that if resources are going to be devoted to this, she would like to see the money go to hiring more school psychologists and adjustment counselors.

gb #0-359 (continued)

Superintendent Binienda stated that School Adjustment Counselors and nurses have been reaching out to students and that hotlines are available for students who are in crisis.

Chairman Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the item be referred to the City Solicitor for a legal opinion regarding the safety alert software to include the potential liability issues.

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

c&p #1-1 - Clerk (December 28, 2020)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of Burncoat High School's faculty and staff to donate accrued sick time to a colleague.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Instructional Assistant be granted the sick time from the faculty of Burncoat High School for the days through her next doctor's appointment with additional days per the doctor's advice.

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

On a roll call of 3-0, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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