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

## AGENDA #7

The School Committee will hold virtually a special meeting:

on: Monday, March 1, 2021  
at: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
in: Virtually in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

### ACTION

- I. CALL TO ORDER  
INVOCATION - NONE  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/NATIONAL ANTHEM
- II. ROLL CALL  
  
Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo and Ms. Novick  
  
There was absent: Mayor Petty
- III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS - NONE
- IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE
- V. IMMEDIATE ACTION - NONE
- VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - NONE
- VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE
- VIII. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES - NONE
- IX. PERSONNEL - NONE

### X. GENERAL BUSINESS

qb #1-65 - Administration  
(February 22, 2021)

To discuss Group C, SLIFE and NCC Family School Reopening.

### X. ADJOURNMENT

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

**Discussed  
(See notes)**

N O T E S

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 5:33 p.m. in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Monday, March 1, 2021.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Mayor Petty

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #1-65

Superintendent Binienda provided an outline for the March 15th reopening of school for Group C, SLIFE and NCC. Students will be returning for in-person learning Monday through Thursday. Friday will continue to be a remote learning day. The Special Education Department sent letters to all families of Group C, SLIFE and NCC containing information on the reopening of schools. The Superintendent also incorporated questions that were solicited online from families and provided answers as shown below:

Question:

If my child in on an IEP or a 504 Plan, when do they return to school?

Answer:

IEP students will return on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 504 plan students will be returning on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Question:

If we chose the hybrid model, but would like to switch to remote, how do we do that?

Answer:

Contact the principal of the school.

Question:

If we chose remote, but would like to switch to hybrid, what do we do?

Answer:

There is currently a waiting list and if space becomes available, you will be contacted.

Question:

How will I know which group my child is in?

Answer:

For SLIFE and students with complex special needs, there will be no cohort. Letters will be sent home on March 5<sup>th</sup> which will contain the cohort information.

Question:

Is everyone going to be wearing a mask all day?

Answer:

Yes. Even on buses. There will be mask breaks. Every student should bring 2 masks to school each day.

Question:

What is the process for early drop-off?

Answer:

There will be no early drop-off, before or after school child care.

Question:

Will staff be vaccinated?

Answer:

WPS is not in control of staff being vaccinated.

Question:

Is the air quality safe?

Answer:

Upgrades were done to improve airflow by installing ionization units. Windows will not be open in school buildings, but the windows on the buses will be open 2-3" inches.

Question:

When will group C students receive their bus schedule?

Answer:

Next week.

Question:

Will there be transportation on the first week?

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

How will buses with SPED students deal with issues?

Answer:

A doctor's note is required for SPED students who need more space on the bus or may not be able to tolerate keeping a mask on. That note should be presented to the principal.

Question:

Will students in Group C need bus passes?

Answer:

No.

Question:

Will Worcester continue doing hybrid two days a week for the rest of the year?

Answer:

Although the Commissioner wants all K-Grade 5 to attend five days a week beginning on April 5<sup>th</sup>, WPS will continue as planned.

Question:

How will teachers be teaching hybrid and remote at the same time?

Answer:

Modules have been created for the teachers and they have been trained.

Question:

Will WTHS students go into school for shop weeks?

Answer:

Students will be doing two days of shop and two days of academics. Remote learning will count as shop.

Question:

Are the pre-kindergarten children included in this reopening plan?

Answer:

SPED preschool will be returning March 15<sup>th</sup> and all other preschool students on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Question:

How will the school day function?

Answer:

The schedules will be the same as they were during the year.

Question:

How many students per classroom?

Answer:

Ten to twelve.

Question:

Will there be state testing?

Answer:

There will be state testing and more information is expected within the next few weeks.

Question:

Will students be switching classes?

Answer:

Middle and high schools will be switching classes.

Question:

Are students going to be required to get vaccinated?

Answer:

No. There is currently no information that forces students to be vaccinated, but there may be more information posted later.

Question:

How will families be notified of any positive cases?

Answers:

WPS will notify families and close contacts.

Question:

What will happen if there is a surge of positive cases in a school?

Answer:

Superintendent Binienda will meet with Dr. Hirsch, City Manager Augustus, Mayor Petty and the School Committee to decide what will be done.

Superintendent Binienda stated that families should contact the principal of the school with any other questions.

Ms. McCullough asked if these questions and answers will be posted on the WPS website and Superintendent Binienda replied that they will be.

On a roll call of 6-1 (absent Ms. Novick), it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

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