

Worcester School Committee
Public Hearing on Innovation School Plans
City Hall - Esther Howland Chamber
on
April 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Background

The Worcester School Committee received five Innovation Plans at its meeting on April 7, 2011. Submissions were received from 1) Chandler Magnet School, Goddard Scholars Academy, Goddard School of Science and Technology, University Park Campus School, and Woodland Academy. After receiving an innovation plan, the school committee is required to hold a public hearing. **The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain public testimony or comment.**

In May, the School Committee will vote to authorize the Innovation School for a period of up to 5 years. Approval of the majority of the school committee, as fully constituted, is required to authorize an Innovation School.

If school committee approval is not obtained, an innovation plan committee may revise the innovation plan and, in the case of a conversion, submit the revised plan to the teachers in the school that is proposed for conversion for a vote, and then continue with the process leading to a School Committee vote of approval.

Procedure

1. An alert was sent to those who may be affected by the proposed Innovation Plans for the purpose of informing them of its nature and to allow them enough time to prepare for and attend the public hearing.
 - On April 4, 2011, a legal notice was posted for the Public Hearing in the local newspaper.
 - On April 7, 2011, the Public Hearing was announced at the School Committee Meeting.
 - On April 13, 2011, each applicant was alerted to the date and time of the Public Hearing.
 - On, April 22, 2011, a notice for the Public hearing was posted on the District's website and distributed to the Teachers' Union leadership.

2. Two forms of public testimony or comment will be accepted by the Worcester School Committee at the Public Hearing on April 28, 2011.
 - Written statements, documents, and exhibits may be presented and will be accepted and admitted as numbered exhibits during the public hearing. Written statements, documents, and exhibits may be submitted to the Clerk of the School Committee, Dr. Helen Friel, 20 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01609 prior to or at the Public Hearing.

 - Speakers may present testimony or comment. Each individual must register with the Clerk of the School Committee. Registration will occur from 6:30 – 7:00 pm on April 28, 2011, preceding the Public Hearing.
 - Each speaker will have allotted time to be determined by the Mayor for comment. All speakers must give their name and address.
 - A speaker should specify which innovation plan he/she wishes to comment about and avoid comments of a personal nature;
 - Speakers should avoid repetitive comments;
 - In the case of speakers who are part of groups or organizations, a representative should speak on behalf of the organization or group;
 - Unruly behavior, such as booing or hissing or harassing remarks, is prohibited.