

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

AGENDA #20

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, December 5, 2013
at: 6:00 p.m. – Executive Session
7:00 p.m. – Regular Session
in: Esther Howland South Chamber, City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR MEETING

INVOCATION - Reverend Dean N. Paleologos
St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty

There were absent: Miss Biancheria and Mr. O'Connell

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #3-17 - Clerk
(November 26, 2013)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, November 21, 2013.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

qb #3-261.1 - Administration/Administration
(November 25, 2013)

To recognize the Quinsigamond Land Task Force for its generosity to Vernon Hill School by donating \$25,000 to cover the cost of cafeteria tables for the school.

**Convened in Open
Session at 6:05 p.m.
See notes**

Approved

**Certificate
presented**

IMMEDIATE ACTION (continued)

ACTION

gb #3-267.2 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/Ms. Novick/Mr. O'Connell/
Mayor Petty
(November 25, 2013)

**Certificate
presented**

To recognize Worcester Technical High School as one of the 11 schools across the nation and the only Massachusetts school to receive the PRIME (Partnership Response in Manufacturing Education) Manufacturing award.

gb #3-279.1 - Administration/Ms. Colorio
(November 25, 2013)

**Certificates
presented**

To recognize Team BEMANY, comprised of students from Worcester Technical High School for its participation, in conjunction with WPI, in the solar decathlon competition in Datong, China.

gb #3-281.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/Ms. Novick/
Mayor Petty
(November 25, 2013)

Filed

To recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, the donation of \$100,000 by the Alden Trust to the Worcester Educational Development Foundation, to fund field trips for Worcester students to key cultural/educational institutions of Central Massachusetts, and the support of the Durham Bus Company to help to make these trips feasible.

gb #3-287.1 - Administration/Mr. Foley/Ms. Novick/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio/Mr. O'Connell/
Mayor Petty
(November 25, 2013)

**Certificate
presented**

To recognize Brian Allen for having received the Professional Eagle Award from the Association of School Business Officials International.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - NONE

ACTION

VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee on Finance and Operations met at 12:04 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

**Approved as stated
See notes**

IX. PERSONNEL

3-53 The Superintendent has ACCEPTED the RETIREMENT of the persons named below:

**Filed Personnel Items
3-53 and 3-54**

Donohue, Deborah, Elementary, Systemwide, effective November 21, 2013

Proctor, Paula Fitch, Principal, Elm Park, effective November 26, 2013

3-54 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the persons named below to the position of Teacher effective as noted below:

Kerr, Jennifer, Special Education, Systemwide, MA, Step 1, \$48,033 effective November 25, 2013. Licensed: Speech, Language and Hearing Disorders, All levels.

Konda, Silvana, Biology, Burncoat High, MA, Step 6, \$60,652 effective November 25, 2013. Licensed: Biology 8-12.

Krajewski, Cheryl, Special Education, Worcester East Middle, BA, Step 8, \$62,535 effective November 4, 2013. Licensed: Moderate Disabilities Prek-8.

McDermott, Jessica, Science, Forest Grove, MA+30, Step 8, \$71,071 effective November 13, 2013. Licensed: Biology 5-8.

X. GENERAL BUSINESSACTION

gb #3-289.1 - Administration/Ms. Colorio/Mr. O'Connell
(November 25, 2013)

See notes

To ask the Board of Education to delay implementation of the PARCC pilot test project until built-in student accommodations, such as a notepad tool, word precision software, American Sign Language and Braille adaptations, closed captioning, and general masking, can be fully developed and made available.

gb #3-290.1 - Administration/Ms. Colorio/Mr. O'Connell
(November 25, 2013)

See notes

To ask the Board of Education to implement a process for reimbursement of all direct and indirect costs (including test training and administration time expended by administrators and teachers) borne by school districts on account of their participation in the PARCC pilot testing project.

gb #3-295 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria
(November 14, 2013)

**Referred to the
Administration
See notes**

To invite members of the Model United Nations team of the Goddard Scholars Academy and of South High Community School to make a presentation to the School Committee as to the Model UN program and as to possible expansion of the program to other interested Worcester schools.

gb #3-296 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo
(November 15, 2013)

**Set the date of Thursday,
December 19, 2013
See notes**

To set a date to recognize Dr. Sheila Harrity upon her selection as recipient of the Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership by the United States Department of Education.

gb #3-297 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo
(November 15, 2013)

**Forward letters
See notes**

To forward congratulatory letters to the staff and students of Burncoat High School, Burncoat Middle School, and Worcester Arts Magnet School, and the Board of Directors of SOFA ("Support Our Fine Arts") on the exemplary success of "A Night at the Oscars".

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #3-298 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo
(November 15, 2013)

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

To support the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in any initiative it takes to restore instruction in cursive handwriting (penmanship) to the Common Core State Standards as applicable in Massachusetts.

gb #3-299 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria
(November 15, 2013)

**Referred to the
Administration, to the
Standing Committee on
Finance and Operations
and to the Budget**

To consider any options available to fund non-teaching assistant principal positions in schools which, by virtue of academic performance indicators or other challenging circumstances, have a demonstrated need for these positions.

gb #3-300 - Mr. O'Connell
(November 19, 2013)

**Filed
See notes**

To consider applying for funds to be made available from the U.S. Department of Labor through the proposed Youth Career - Connect program.

gb #3-301 - Mr. O'Connell
(November 22, 2013)

**Forward letter
See notes**

To forward a letter of appreciation to Bay State Savings Bank for its generous donation to the Worcester Educational Development Foundation, Inc. which will permit students in the Burncoat High School Fine Arts Dance Magnet Program to compete in the national dance championship "IGNITE! Spark the Moment", which takes place in the SMG Rhode Island Convention Center, in Providence, on January 3 through 5, 2014.

gb #3-302 - Mr. O'Connell
(November 25, 2013)

**Referred to the
Administration
See notes**

To invite and encourage students in grades 6 through 12 to participate in the Irish History Writing Contest, sponsored by Division 36 of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #3-303 - Mr. O'Connell
(November 25, 2013)

To recognize the "Worcester on the Move" program of South High Community School and Columbus Park Preparatory Academy.

gb #3-304 - Mr. O'Connell
(November 25, 2013)

To congratulate the Doherty Memorial High School football team on its victory over Waconah Regional High School in the Massachusetts Division 4 semi-finals, and to wish the team the best of luck in the Division 4 state championship game against Dennis Yarmouth Regional High School on December 7.

gb #3-305 - Miss Biancheria
(November 26, 2013)

Request that the Administration provide an updated report on the financial strategy to insure that the budget for each school is inclusive of the enrollment increases to date.

gb #3-306 - Miss Biancheria
(November 26, 2013)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the 504 Plans including the training of personnel and a list of the 504 coordinators at each school.

ACTION

**Set the date of Thursday,
December 19, 2013
See notes**

Approved

**Referred to the
Administration
See notes**

**Filed
See notes**

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #3-307 - Administration
(November 27, 2013)

To conduct the disciplinary hearings of three students and to do so in Executive Session to protect the statutory privacy rights of the students under Chapter 30, Section 21, paragraph 7 and Chapter 214, Section 1B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for the following groups if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares:

Teachers
Tradesmen
Plumbers and Steamfitters
Administrative Secretaries
Educational Secretaries
Bus Drivers/Bus Monitors
Cafeteria Workers
Instructional Assistants
Parent Liaisons
Occupational/Physical Therapy Assistants
Nurses

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares:

John Pepi

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

ACTION

Held from 6:06 p.m. to
7:05 p.m.

9:20 p.m.

N O T E S

It was moved to recess to Executive Session to:

- conduct the disciplinary hearings of three students and to do so in Executive Session to protect the statutory privacy rights of the students under Chapter 30, Section 21, paragraph 7 and Chapter 214, Section 1B of the Massachusetts General Laws.
- discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for the following groups if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares:

Teachers
Tradesmen
Plumbers and Steamfitters
Administrative Secretaries
Educational Secretaries
Bus Drivers/Bus Monitors
Cafeteria Workers
Instructional Assistants
Parent Liaisons
Occupational/Physical Therapy Assistants
Nurses

- discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares:

John Pepi

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent-Miss Biancheria and Mr. O'Connell), the School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:06 p.m. to 7:05 p.m.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:08 p.m.

Mr. O'Connell arrived at 6:12 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:15 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell and Mayor Petty

NOTES (continued)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations is hereto annexed as Annex A and was approved as stated.

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #3-289.1

Ms. Colorio voiced her concerns regarding the PARCC pilot testing.

Dr. Boone provided a summary of the additional backup that was provided in Annex B and Annex C of the backup for the item. She addressed the issue of American Sign Language.

Mayor Petty asked the Administration for the number of classes per school that will be taking this test.

Dr. Boone indicated that 33 schools would be part of the PARCC assessment and Dr. Perda indicated that the majority of these schools would be sampled for either the performance based assessment part of PARCC or the end-of-year assessment. The maximum number of classes of four will exist only in a few schools. The other schools will only test in 2 classrooms.

Mr. Monfredo stated that the students and staff can learn a great deal by field testing the PARCC pilot.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration inform the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that the Worcester Public Schools will not participate in the PARCC pilot.

No vote was taken at this point in the meeting.

Mr. Foley emphasized that the importance of participating in the PARCC testing in order to learn more about the test.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #3-289.1 (continued)

Miss Biancheria asked if students, with a parental request, can be allowed to opt out of the PARCC testing.

Dr. Boone indicated that there are no opt out forms for the PARCC pilot testing.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration inform the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that the Worcester Public Schools will not participate in the PARCC pilot.

On a roll call of 3-4 (yeas-Ms. Colorio, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell), the motion was defeated

It was moved and voice voted to suspend the Rules of the School Committee.

It was moved to reconsider the vote to inform the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that the Worcester Public Schools will not participate in the PARCC pilot.

On a roll call of 4-3 (nays - Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Mayor Petty), the motion to reconsider was approved.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration inform the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that the Worcester Public Schools will not participate in the PARCC pilot.

On a roll call of 3-4 (yeas-Ms. Colorio, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell), the motion was defeated.

It was moved to request that the Board of Education delay implementation of the PARCC Pilot Program.

On a roll call of 3-4 (yeas-Ms. Colorio, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell), the motion was defeated.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #3-290.1

Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Worcester Public Schools not participate in the pilot testing of PARCC unless the Board of Education reimburses the system for all direct and indirect costs associated with the testing.

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

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the State Auditor look into the unfunded mandate portion of the PARCC pilot testing.

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

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Education address the absence of built in student accessibility features and related accommodations as related to the PARCC test including but not limited to those set forth in the November 6th article with regard to the PARCC field test published in Education Week.

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

gb #3-295

Mr. David Crompton, a teacher in the system, provided an update on the Model United Nations program of the Goddard Scholars Academy and South High Community School and indicated an interest in expanding the program in the Worcester Public Schools.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #3-296

It was moved and voice voted to add Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty as co-sponsors of the item.

gb #3-297

It was moved and voice voted to add Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty as co-sponsors of the item.

It was moved and voice voted to forward congratulatory letters to the staff and teachers and to be shared with the students who participated in “A Night at the Oscars”.

gb #3-298

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request instruction in cursive handwriting be included in the discussion when the item is taken up at the Standing Committee level..

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Ms. Colorio requested that she be added to the item as a co-sponsor.

gb #3-300

Dr. Rodrigues stated that the Administration is applying for a U.S. Department of Labor grant.

Dr. Boone indicated that she would notify the School Committee if it receives the grant.

gb #3-301

It was moved and voice voted to add Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty as co-sponsors of the item.

gb #3-302

It was moved and voice voted to add Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty as co-sponsors of the item.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #3-303

It was moved and voice voted to add Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty as co-sponsors of the item.

gb #3-305

Mr. Allen indicated that the Administration will provide a full report at the December 19, 2013 School Committee meeting regarding the increased funding as a result of the closure of the Spirit of Knowledge Charter School.

gb #3-306

Miss Biancheria asked the Administration if all staff is being trained to detect the signs of diabetes in students.

Dr. Boone indicated that the system is working very closely on a pilot program with UMASS medical to address the issue of effective maintenance of diabetics in our schools.

Dr. Rodrigues stated that about three years ago the system started a program through UMASS Medical to assist families to better control diabetes not just in school but outside of the school environment.

Miss Biancheria asked if the training portion of IA's is included if a student is in the classroom that needs accommodations.

Dr. Rodrigues indicated that any student that has health issues has an individualized health plan.

Dr. Boone indicated that the training is ongoing. Annual training in the 504 process is provided for all team members.

O T H E R

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to approve a long-term suspension for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year to Woodward Day School for Student #13-14/05.

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

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to approve a long-term suspension for one year to Woodward Day School for Student #13-14/04.

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

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to approve a long-term suspension for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year for Student #13-14/06 and request that a team meeting be held to discuss his educational needs, appropriate placement and review his graduation plan which includes credit recovery opportunities.

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

Committee Members
John Foley, Chairman
Donna Colorio, Vice Chairman
Tracy O'Connell Novick

AGENDA #8
F/O
11-12-13
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A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Finance and Operations met at 12:04 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Ms. Colorio, Ms. Novick and Chairman Foley

Representing Administration were: Mr. Allen and Dr. Friel

Others in Attendance: S. Consalvo, R. Pezzella and R. Walton

gb #2-223 - Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Ms. Novick (July 16, 2012)

To review the status of the FY13 Budget and recommend appropriate account transfers as required.

FILE.

gb #2-251 - Ms. Novick/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (September 5, 2012)

Request that the Administration report on the possibility of completing back-to-school forms electronically.

Mr. Walton provided an update on completing forms electronically. He indicated that Paul Melo, Document Specialist, is responsible for the school system's conversion from paper to electronic documents. He contacted the Administration of Worcester East Middle, Burncoat Middle, Wawecus Road, McGrath Elementary, Roosevelt and Jacob Hiatt Magnet schools to request that they provide samples of the documents they send home to parents at the start of the school year. He then classified them into 2 different groups. Group 1 contains a list of documents that are individualized to each school. Group 2 contains documents which are the same in all the above-mentioned schools or could be made the same.

- The CORI Request Form cannot be filled out online because the person must provide identification.
- The Emergency Contact form could be placed online in the district's parent portal.
- In August 2013, the USDA released guidelines about the electronic collection of information for the Free and Reduced Lunch Form.

gb #2-251 (continued)

Ms. Novick requested that a standard procedure for the handling of the Free and Reduced Lunch Forms be implemented at all schools.

Ms. Novick was concerned that the form from the Nurse was not included in either Group 1 or Group 2.

FILE.

gb #3-118 - Mayor Petty (March 28, 2013)

Request that the Administration install security cameras on the rear of Jacob Hiatt Magnet School to provide additional security to the staff parking areas in light of recent thefts from staff vehicles.

Mr. Allen indicated that a security guard has been hired for Jacob Hiatt Magnet School. Using the increased money from the City, the Administration was able to provide additional exterior cameras to protect property.

Mr. Pezzella indicated that no incidents have occurred since the security measures were utilized at Jacob Hiatt Magnet School.

Mr. Foley requested that Mr. Pezzella provide a report in a Friday Letter in March 2014 relative to the status of cameras and buzz systems in each school.

FILE.

gb #3-199 - Ms. Novick/Mr. O'Connell (June 11, 2013)

Request City Manager provide a report on the short and long term benefits of contributing to an Other Post-Employment Benefits trust fund.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Joint Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Subcommittee on Education.

gb #3-265 - Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Ms. Novick (September 30, 2013)

To review the status of the FY14 Budget and recommend appropriate account transfers as required.

gb #3-265 (continued)

Ms. Consalvo provided a status report on the FY14 Budget.

Mr. Allen indicated that the Budget projects a \$400,000 deficit at the close of the first quarter. He indicated that the Spirit of Knowledge closure would result in additional funds which could mitigate some of this deficit. Mr. Walton and his staff are working closely with the State to make certain that students who transfer to the Worcester Public Schools align in the SIMS submittal to the State for both the current year adjustments to the Charter School tuition assessment as well as for the FY15 Budget.

There are a couple of items that have changed since we approved the Budget in the area of Special Education and nurse services. In addition, the Workers Compensation line item in the FY15 Budget needs to be scrutinized more in order to better align the expenses to the amount allocated in the budget.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an analysis of Workers Compensation cases for the past 3-5 years to determine:

- the rise in the Workers Compensation cases
- the groups with the highest number of cases
- the need for pre-employment physicals for custodial, plant and nutrition workers

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Ms. Novick requested that the Administration provide the realistic funding level for Workers Compensation for the next budget in the second quarter report.

Ms. Novick asked the Administration about the energy management company.

Mr. Allen indicated that the Administration will make a recommendation to the School Committee in the FY15 Budget to do in-house energy management.

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

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