

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

AGENDA #13A

SUPPLEMENTAL

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, May 18, 2017  
at: 6:00 p.m. – Executive Session  
7:00 p.m. – Regular Session  
in: Council Chamber, City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

- I. CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR MEETING  
INVOCATION  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/NATIONAL ANTHEM
- II. ROLL CALL
- 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

gb #7-201 - Mr. O'Connell  
(May 8, 2017)

To implement the new Chinese Language and Culture Advanced Placement course in the Worcester public secondary schools as soon as a sufficient number of students have completed all prerequisites required to enable them to take the course.

gb #7-202 - Mr. O'Connell  
(May 9, 2017)

To submit the resolution approved by the School Committee at its May 4th meeting to "petition the 190<sup>th</sup> General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to implement without further delay in full the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission," to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, for consideration at its 2017 Delegate Assembly.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

"The Worcester Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/Educational Institution and does not discriminate regardless of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness. The Worcester Public Schools provides equal access to employment and the full range of general, occupational and vocational education programs. For more information relating to Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action contact the Human Resource Manager, 20 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01609. 508-799-3020.

**Whereas**, Part II, c. 5, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth (1780) states that "it shall be the duty of legislatures and magistrates, in all future periods of this Commonwealth, to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences...public schools and grammar schools in the towns." And

**Whereas**, the Constitution was drafted by John Adams, a former Worcester schoolteacher, who in 1776 wrote in his *Thoughts on Government* that "[l]aws for the liberal education of youth ... are so extremely wise and useful, that, to a humane and generous mind, no expense for this purpose would be thought extravagant." 4 *Works of John Adams* 194 (C.F. Adams ed. 1851) at 199. 415 Mass. at 583-584. And

**Whereas**, *McDuffy v. Secretary of the Executive Office of Education et al*, 415 Mass. 545 (1993) ruled that "the Commonwealth has a duty to provide an education for all its children, rich and poor, in every city and town of the Commonwealth at the public school level, and that this duty is designed not only to serve the interests of the children, but, more fundamentally, to prepare them to participate as free citizens of a free State to meet the needs and interests of a republican government, namely the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." 415 Mass. at 606. And

**Whereas**, in *Hancock v. Commissioner of Education*, 443 Mass. 428 (2005), Chief Justice Marshall emphasized that "I do not suggest that the goals of education reform adopted since *McDuffy* have been fully achieved. Clearly they have not. Nothing I say today would insulate the Commonwealth from a successful challenge under the education clause in different circumstances." 443 Mass. at 435. And

**Whereas**, the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center report *Cutting Class: Underfunding the Foundation Budget's Core Education Program* (2011) found "the real value of the original foundation budget has eroded significantly over time, due in large part to rapid cost growth for health care and special education. Since the foundation budget's original design did not foresee this rapid cost growth, spending reductions have been forced in other key areas, especially *Regular Education Teachers*." At Page 4. And

**Whereas**, the Foundation Budget Review Commission, in its Final Report (2015), stated that "22 years after the advent of education reform, the challenge we have not yet achieved desired results on is to deliver quality consistently to all geographies and all demographic groups across our state," Report, Page 4.

**Now Therefore**

We, the School Committee of the City of Worcester, petition the 190<sup>th</sup> General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to implement without further delay in full the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.