

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Thursday, February 2, 2017
Agenda #4

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 6:06 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, February 2, 2017.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Miss McCullough

It was moved to recess to Executive Session:

- | | | |
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| 1. | <u>gb #7-54</u> - Administration (January 251, 2017) | Executive Session |
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Finding that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the School Committee, the committee votes to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation and strategy for collective bargaining for a denial of access.

c&p #6-9

To consider a communication from a citizen relative to a request that the School Committee drop its Court Appeal and allow for testing for PCBs at Burncoat High and Doherty Memorial High schools.

Communication and
Petition/PCBs/
Burncoat High and
Doherty Memorial High
schools

gb #6-332

Request that the Administration drop the appeal and allow PCB testing at Burncoat High School and Doherty Memorial High School this school year and do what is necessary to correct the problem.

PCBs/
Burncoat High and
Doherty Memorial High
schools

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Teachers and Unit B, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To consider an International Union of Public Employees (I.U.P.E.) Grievance Complaint – HVAC Technician

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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|---|---|
| For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty | 6 |
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|---------------------|---|
| Against the motion: | 0 |
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|-------------------------|---------------|
| Absent: Miss McCullough | $\frac{1}{7}$ |
|-------------------------|---------------|

The motion carried.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:07 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:10 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Paul Frechette of Our Lady of Perpeual Help Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered and the National Anthem was sung by the Burncoat High School Quadrivium.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Miss McCullough

- 2. gb #7-8.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty
(January 23, 2017) Recognition/
Burncoat High School
Quadrivium

To recognize the Burncoat High School Quadrivium on its performance with Superstar Kenny Rogers at Mohegan Sun and at the Massachusetts House of Representatives as the guests of Representative James O'Day and Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo.

Mayor Petty and Superintendent Binienda presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Burncoat High School Quadrivium.

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

- 3. aor #7-3 - Clerk Minutes/
approval of
(January 25, 2017)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, January 19, 2017.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, January 19, 2017.

- 4. aor #7-4 - Clerk Minutes/
approval of
(January 25, 2017)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Friday, January 20, 2017.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Friday, January 20, 2017.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONRecognition/
Unum Group

5. gb #7-5.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/
Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/
Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough/
Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty
(January 23, 2017)

To recognize the Unum Group for initiating its Unum Strong Schools grant program in the Worcester Public Schools, as "financial support for effective and innovative initiatives that engage students and improve their learning and achievement levels."

Mayor Petty and Superintendent Binienda presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Unum Group for initiating its Unum Strong Schools grant program in the Worcester Public Schools, as "financial support for effective and innovative initiatives that engage students and improve their learning and achievement levels."

Student
Representatives/
input

6. gb #7-38 - Administration
(January 23, 2017)

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

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENTReport of the
Superintendent/
FY18 Preliminary
Budget Estimate

7. ros #7-3 - Administration
(January 25, 2017)

FY18 PRELIMINARY BUDGET ESTIMATE

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the School Committee forward a letter to the local delegation, the Governor and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to request full funding for the Charter School reimbursement and the Special Education Circuit Breaker.

Request that the School Committee forward a letter to the local delegation, the Governor and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees in support of Senator Chang Diaz's bill to move forward with the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

Request that the School Committee forward a letter to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees requesting that other members across the State support "An Act Modernizing the Foundation Budget for the 21st Century."

Request that the School Committee forward a letter to the local delegation to support Senator Jehlen's bill on School Choice.

Request that the Administration ask the City Council to support the above-mentioned School Choice bill.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the letter that Mr. Monfredo wants sent out include the following requests that the State:

- reinstate the full day Kindergarten Grant
- address the funding for Advanced Placement students
- increase Charter School reimbursement and the Circuit Breaker to appropriate levels under or independent of the Foundation Budget

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that safety issues be subsumed under the Foundation funding as a separate category.

Request that the Administration provide a list of the schools with classes that have more than 26 students.

Request that the Administration separate Grant, Foundation and City funding in future reports.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report in a Friday Letter to include the technology costs for the 2016 and 2017 Budgets.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

8. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Student Achievements met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2017 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

gb #2-325 - Ms. Novick/Miss Biancheria
(November 29, 2012)

To review school accountability plans.

1-30-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a report as to approaches that it wishes to take in terms of the sharing of ideas among schools to maximize student academic performance and include any recommendations as to policy or budget implications.

School
Accountability Plans

Request that the Administration provide recommendations, in a Friday Letter regarding programmatic changes designed to assist the schools to achieve optimal performance by their students on Advanced Placement tests.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

2-2-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.

ros #6-8.1 - Administration/Administration (October 11, 2016)

UPDATE ON THE 2016 RESULTS FROM STATE TESTING AND DESE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

1-30-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday Letter, its recommendations, which would be discussed in Executive Session, with regard to collective bargaining topics designed specifically to assist schools in developing autonomy and also designate resources and different approaches to academic success that would enable the schools to maximize an overall achievement level.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

FILE.

2-2-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.

gb #6-236.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo (August 10, 2016)

Report of the Superintendent/
Update on the 2016 Results from State Testing and DESE Accountability Measures

Job Description/
position to oversee Durham Transportation

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a copy of the job description of the new position created as a compliance position to oversee Durham Transportation and also include:

- a list of the present positions in the Worcester Public Schools' Transportation Department
- a copy of the Durham Transportation contract and
- a payment schedule to Durham Transportation

1-30-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration ask the Director of Transportation to provide a list of bussing problems from individuals that have no camera recordings to substantiate what happened on the busses.

Request that the Administration provide data on the number of incidents on busses with faulty camera recordings and indicate how many repairs were actually made to date.

Request that the School Committee receive information as to the number of times that the Worcester Public Schools has withheld payment to Durham Transportation for the 2016-17 school year and indicate the amount that the Administration has paid to date for transportation.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

2-2-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.

PERSONNEL

9. It was moved and voice voted to file Personnel Items 7-7 – 7-9.
- 7-07 The Superintendent has ACKNOWLEDGED the RETIREMENT of the persons named below effective as shown: Retirements
- Collins, Larry, Department Head, Vocational, Worcester Technical, effective January 22, 2017.
- Dowell, Christine, School Adjustment Counselor, City View effective January 22, 2017.
- 7-08 The Superintendent has ACKNOWLEDGED the RESIGNATION of the person named below effective as shown: Resignation
- Howard-Donlin, Grace, Director, Systemwide, effective January 20, 2017.
- 7-09 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the persons named below effective as shown: Appointments
- Gingras, Brianne, School Adjustment Counselor, City View, MA, Step 6, \$64,371 effective January 17, 2017. Licensed: School Social Worker/School Adjustment Counselor all levels.
- Jancura, Mary Rose, Teacher, Elementary, Flagg Street, BA, Step 1, \$45,064 effective January 17, 2017. Licensed: Elementary 1-6.
- GENERAL BUSINESS
10. gb #6-153.7 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell (January 24, 2017) Charter School Tuition Assessment
- Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report regarding Charter School Tuition Assessment and then refer it to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations for further discussion.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations.

Space Monkey Challenge

11. gb #6-192.1 - Administration/Miss McCullough/
Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria
(January 25, 2017)

Response of the Administration to the request to inform students and staff about the dangers of participating in the "Space Monkey Challenge" in order to educate and protect children from the consequences of this game.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item.

FY17 Budget

12. gb #6-252.1 - Administration/Mayor Petty/
Mr. O'Connell
gb #6-253.2 (January 25, 2017)

Response of the Administration to the following motions to:

-provide a report as to recommendations to deal with the \$2.25 million deficit in the FY17 Budget

-request that the City Council and the City Manager consider providing funds to the Worcester Public Schools sufficient to maintain the 63 Kindergarten Instructional Assistants lost to the school system by virtue of the Quality Kindergarten Grant deletion and changes in Title I which is a total of \$736,360 and request that the Administration provide a report as to additional steps with regard to:

- a. the need to find funds within the confines of the school system's budget or elsewhere to maintain these positions and
- b. to take any actions advisable to provide supplemental services for students to minimize the impact from the loss of these positions.

-include any resources the Administration has been able to garner for the Instructional Assistants

It was moved and voice voted to suspend rules to take up the following item with gb #6-252.1 and gb #6-253.2:

gb #7-50 - Administration
(January 24, 2017)

To consider a budget increase in the amount of \$70,000 to partially fund Kindergarten Instructional Assistant positions as included in the final City Budget.

FY17 Budget/
increase to partially
fund Kindergarten
Instructional Assistant
positions

It was moved to approve an increase in Account 500-91115 Instructional Assistants in the amount of \$70,000.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,
Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss McCullough $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

It was moved to approve the final FY17 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$322,965,803.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,
Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss McCullough $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

It was moved and voice voted to file gb #6-252.1, gb #6-253.2 and gb #7-50.

AVID Program and After School Programs/
expand the number of mentors

13. gb #6-394.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss McCullough/Ms. Colorio/
Mr. O'Connell
(January 25, 2017)

Response of the Administration to the request to interact with the local colleges and universities in an effort to expand the number of mentors for the AVID program and after school programs.

It was moved and voice voted to accept and file the item.

2015-16 Incident Reports

14. gb #7-39 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio
(January 12, 2017)

Request that the Administration provide the Incident Reports for 2015-16.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the Incident Reports for 2015-16 and provide incident reports monthly in a Friday Letter.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Recognition/
Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Poetry Contest winners

15. gb #7-40 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/
Ms. Colorio/Mayor Petty
(January 12, 2017)

To forward letters to the following Worcester public school students who have won awards in the annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Poetry Contest:

Claremont Academy

Chantelle N. Chapman, grade 12

Doherty High School

Jayda Cesar, grade 9

Mariah Acquaye, grade 12

Burncoat High School

Steven Thomas Rivera, grade 12

North High School

Adanna Duanys, grade 9

Tracy Frimpong, grade 9

Gabriella Medeiros, grade 9

Brian Le, grade 11

Daniel Mbusa, grade 11

Millicent Oppong, grade 11

South High Community School

Meshia Brooks, grade 10

Worcester Technical High School

Hussain Bhatti, grade 9

Goddard Scholars/Sullivan Middle School

Lily Engquist, grade 8

Clarise Liu, grade 8

Abigail McDermott, grade 8

Boa Han Ngo, grade 8

Samuel Posner, grade 8

Forest Grove Middle School

Annalisa Allan, grade 8

Sullivan Middle School

Kiana Alliance, grade 7

Isabella Archambault, grade 7

Drusilla Wilson, grade 7

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

Recognition/
Reverend Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr. art
contest winners

16. gb #7-41 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Foley/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Ms. Colorio/Mayor Petty
(January 16, 2017)

Request that the Administration forward letters of
congratulations to the following art winners in the
Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. annual
contest:

Art group winners grade 4:

Flagg Street School - teachers -
Ms. Aspen and Mr. Cunha
Izzy Caprioli
Malak Laallami and
Gabrielle Mora

Grafton Street School grade 5 - teachers -
Ms. Bernhard and Ms. Toon
Leia Hernandez and
Nichole Hejia Lopez

Art winners:

Worcester Arts Magnet School
Troy Munroe - teachers -
Mrs. Walden and Mrs. Mahoney
Ava Kelly - teachers -
Mr. Walden and Mrs. Desimone

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

2017 Arbor Day
Poster Contest

17. gb #7-42 -Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio
(January 20, 2017)

To encourage the fifth grades of the Worcester
Public Schools to participate in the 2017 Arbor Day
Poster Contest sponsored by the Department of
Conservation and Recreation, the U.S. Forest
Service, and the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and
Foresters' Association, with the guidance and
assistance of the Worcester Tree Initiative.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

18. gb #7-43 -Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio
(January 22, 2017) Summer Activities

Request that the Administration include in its summer package not only a students' reading list but also a list of ideas for parents/ students regarding math activities for the summer months and include online sites for the students.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide in May the Summer School plans and ways in which mathematics and reading can be improved.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss Biancheria suggested that the Administration provide the reading lists and suggested activities for the summer months.

19. gb #7-44 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio
(January 23, 2017) Dual Enrollment
Program

Request that the Administration provide an update on the Dual Enrollment Program and indicate any plans for expansion.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration for an update in March.

20. gb #7-45 - Administration
(January 24, 2017) Statements of Interest

To authorize the Administration to submit Statements of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the following Accelerated Repair Projects for 2017:

- Elm Park Community School Window Replacements
- Lincoln Street School Window, Roof and Boiler Replacements
- Rice Square School Window Replacement
- Thorndyke Road School Window Replacement

It was moved to approve the Statements of Interest to be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the following Accelerated Repair Projects for 2017:

- Elm Park Community School Window Replacements
- Lincoln Street School Window, Roof and Boiler Replacements
- Rice Square School Window Replacement
- Thorndyke Road School Window Replacement

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,
Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss McCullough $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

It was moved to suspend the Rules of the School Committee.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,
Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss McCullough $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

It was moved to reconsider the motion to approve the Statements of Interest to be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the following Accelerated Repair Projects for 2017:

- Elm Park Community School Window Replacements
- Lincoln Street School Window, Roof and Boiler Replacements
- Rice Square School Window Replacement
- Thorndyke Road School Window Replacement

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: 0

Against the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,
Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Absent: Miss McCullough $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion to reconsider was defeated.

21. gb #7-46 - Administration
(January 24, 2017)

Donation/Box Tops for
Education/\$292.20

To accept a donation in the amount of \$292.20 from Box Tops for Education to Woodland Academy.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,
Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss McCullough $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

Donation/Lifetouch/
\$1,212.49

22. gb #7-47 -Administration
(January 24, 2017)

To accept a donation in the amount of \$1,212.49 from Lifetouch to Woodland Academy.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,
Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss McCullough $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

Donation/Shaw's We
Love Our Schools/
\$400.00

23. gb #7-48 -Administration
(January 24, 2017)

To accept a donation in the amount of \$400 from Shaw's We Love Our Schools! to Forest Grove Middle School.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,
Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss McCullough $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

24. gb #7-49 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio
(January 24, 2017)

Request that the Administration work with the Worcester Chamber of Commerce to create a video that would promote the Worcester Public Schools and share it with the local real estate brokers.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration for an update in March.

25. gb #7-51 - Administration
(January 25, 2017)

New Courses/approval
of

To consider approval of the following new courses for the 2017 - 18 school year:

High School

- Accounting 1
- AP Seminar
- Document Processing

Middle School

- Chorus
- Dance Ensemble
- Dance for Fitness
- String Orchestra

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

26. gb #7-52 - Administration
(January 25, 2017)

2017-18 Policies
Handbook

To consider approval of the 2017-18 Policies Handbook of the Worcester Public Schools.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

Advanced Placement
Exam/funding

27. gb #7-53 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio
(January 25, 2017)

Request that the Administration invite a representative from each of the colleges and universities in Worcester to discuss with the Superintendent and School Committee representatives possible ways for them to support programs such as the funding necessary to administer the Advanced Placement Exam.

It was moved to refer the item to the Administration.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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