

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Agenda #5

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, February 16, 2017.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

It was moved to recess to Executive Session:

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| 1. | <u>gb #7-69</u> - Administration
(February 8, 2017) | Executive
Session |
|----|--|----------------------|

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

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation of a worker's compensation case for a Cafeteria Helper, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation of a worker's compensation case for a Utility Crew Foreman, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

It was moved to recess to Executive Session.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:01 p.m. to 7:05 p.m.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:14 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:20 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Brian O'Toole of Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered and the National Anthem was played.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

2. aor #7-5 - Clerk Minutes/
approval of
(February 8, 2017)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, February 2, 2017.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

3. gb #7-30.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/
Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty/
Miss Biancheria
(February 6, 2017)

To recognize the Student Kindness Ambassadors of South High Community School, and the students and staff of South, Generation On and Hasbro Toys for working together through the Kindness Joy Maker Campaign and otherwise to donate, wrap, tag and distribute holiday season gifts to children of Abby's House Shelter and the Village Shelter.

Recognition/South High
Community School/
Student Kindness
Ambassadors

Mayor Petty and Superintendent Binienda presented Certificates of Recognition to the Student Kindness Ambassadors of South High Community School, and the students and staff of

South, Generation On and Hasbro Toys for working together through the Kindness Joy Maker Campaign and otherwise to donate, wrap, tag and distribute holiday season gifts to children of Abby's House Shelter and the Village Shelter.

Student
Representatives

4. gb #7-55 - Administration
(February 6, 2017)

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

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report of the
Superintendent/
Chronic
Absenteeism

5. ros #7-4 - Administration
(February 8, 2017)

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Ms. Colorio made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide monthly breakdowns of absences for seniors.

Request that the Superintendent develop a plan to really make the last 2 – 6 weeks of the school year a positive learning experience for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Request that the Administration provide a breakdown using the data in the report for seniors and indicate how many were classified as chronically absent and how many were in the exceptional student category.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration consider expanding the Task Force by adding representatives from the CPPAC, the Head Start Program and the Juvenile Court System.

Request that the Task Force address the statute that makes it a quasi criminal offense for parents not to have their children in school.

Request that the Administration provide any recommendations with regard to expanded outreach services or programs tailor made for the particular needs of these children for the FY18 Budget.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

6. The Joint Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education met at 5:40 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2017 in the Levi Lincoln Chamber at City Hall.

gb #7-31 - Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria (January 9, 2017)

Veterans Day Events

To explore ways in which the Worcester Public Schools can encourage greater levels of student and family participation and attendance at the Veterans Day events.

2-6-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Superintendent Binienda indicated that the transportation was an issue to get students downtown. She suggested that perhaps the Administration could invite the veterans to visit the schools.

In discussing the role of students in various veteran affairs' activities, the following items were discussed:

- problem of transportation
- a suggestion to have the veterans visit the schools
- coordination of all Legion Posts for programs
- coordination of a celebration at the World War II Monument in the Common behind City Hall which would involve elementary school students with red poppies on their outfits
- sale of poppies at the celebration
- coordination of a veterans' celebration at the Auditorium with a youth breakfast followed by the parade
- schedule for speakers, winners of poetry and other writing contests

2-16-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration work with the Veterans' groups to identify new opportunities for engaging the students and staff in the Veterans' Day events.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Budget/city's
contribution

gb #4-214 - Ms. Novick/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo (July 22, 2014)

To consider the city's contribution to the Worcester Public Schools for FY16 and years following.

2-6-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mr. Allen made a PowerPoint presentation on the Local Contribution Towards Required Spending - Fiscal 2017 Budget and Actual for 2013-2016.

2-16-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

gb #5-213 - Ms. Novick/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Ramirez/Miss Biancheria (August 12, 2015)

FY16 Capital Budget

To review the FY16 Capital Budget with regard to departmental allocations.

2-6-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mr. Allen made a PowerPoint presentation on the FY16 Capital Budget with regard to department allocations and responded to questions on it.

FILE.

2-16-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

gb #7-27 - Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Miss McCullough (January 5, 2017)

FY18 Budget

Request that the Administration make a presentation on the projected FY18 Budget to the Joint Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education.

2-6-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mr. Allen made a presentation on the projected FY18 Budget and responded to questions on it. He discussed the fact that the school resource needs are significant and urgent but exceed available revenues.

Councilor King asked the Administration if there is a point person, perhaps Mr. Sanders, identified on the cityside to work with the legislative delegation to help with the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

Councilor Lukes inquired as to the costs to provide for students that have resettled in Worcester.

Mr. Allen indicated that he could identify in the budget the costs of additional services for these students who have resettled in Worcester.

Mr. Foley made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide the breakdown of Federal Grant amounts in Title I, Title III and Special Education for this year and the two previous years.

Request that the State delegation and Governor start the process for the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

Request that a review be made of the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Law which requires that the State reimburse the City for homeless students' transportation. The request to the State would be to provide the transportation reimbursement for homeless students directly to the school department not the City.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

2-16-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Mr. Foley made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide the breakdown of Federal Grant amounts in Title I, Title III and Special Education for this year and the two previous years.

Request that the City Council support the fact that the State delegation and Governor start the process for the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

Request that a review be made of the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Law which requires that the

State reimburse the City for homeless students' transportation. The request to the State would be to provide the transportation reimbursement for homeless students directly to the school department not the City.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration interact with the City Department of Veteran Affairs and the Veterans' Council and find out well before Memorial Day so we have a list of all of the events that are taking place for our students to take home.

Request that the Administration provide a report in April as to the outreach it has made in order to maximize the participation of students and their families in the Veterans' activities that will surround Memorial Day in the community.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

7. The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

qb #2-139 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio (April 11, 2012)

Boston Debate
League

To consider development of a partnership with the Boston Debate League to support academic debate teams in high schools in Worcester.

2-24-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration, in conjunction with interested members of the staff, develop a

specific proposal for participation of all secondary schools in public speaking related activities including, but not limited to, debate teams, Model Congress, Model UN and Mock Trial and to report back to the Standing Committee in April 2017.

Request that, in the future, the Administration provide backup for the items so the Committee can be prepared prior to the meeting.

Request that the Administration quantify particular costs that are involved in the proposal and any recommendations with regard to cost including transportation.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

2-16-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Tenacity Summer
Tennis and
Reading Program

gb #5-14 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Ramirez/Miss Biancheria (January 7, 2015)

To invite a representative of Tenacity to meet with the Worcester Public Schools, to consider cooperative opportunities to expand the Tenacity Summer Tennis and Reading Program for the benefit of the students of the Worcester Public Schools.

2-24-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

HOLD for a meeting of the Standing Committee in April 2017.

2-16-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

gb #5-244 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Ramirez/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty (September 10, 2015)

Advanced Placement
Examinations/review
scores

To review the scores achieved by Worcester students in the Spring 2015 administration of the Advanced Placement examinations, in all courses and at all levels.

2-24-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the item be held for further discussion in April 2017 and request that the Administration present a plan for implementation of AP Capstone for the 2018 fiscal year and beyond and include a discussion with regard to the cost impact for the next year.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

2-16-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

gb #6-128 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough (March 21, 2016)

Advanced Academy/
consider implementing

Request that the Administration consider implementing an advanced academy, based on the Goddard Academy model, at Burncoat Middle School for grade 7 students in either the 2016-17 or 2017-18 academic year which can be expanded to grade 8.

2-24-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee approve the implementation of a new academy based on the Goddard Academy model at Burncoat Middle School for grade 7 for the 2017-18 academic year.

On a voice vote, motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to request that the Administration provide at the next meeting of the Standing Committee background information, copies of course selection sheets, if available, and information including, but not limited to, staffing and budget impacts to consider prior to the FY18 Budget.

2-16-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Citywide Girls Ice
Hockey
Team/consider
establishing

gb #6-334 - Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (September 26, 2016)

Request that the Administration consider the feasibility of establishing a citywide girls' ice hockey team.

2-24-17 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mr. Monfredo, Miss McCullough and Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a report at the next Standing Committee meeting as to the costs of establishing a cooperative initiative with other girls' ice hockey programs.

Request that the Administration report as to further developments and progress made with regard to a cooperative girls' ice hockey team in August or September.

Request that the Administration provide information as to students' interest in participating in a girls' ice hockey team and seek assistance from physical education teachers to help with recruitment efforts.

Request that the Administration provide a report in September 2017 with regard to progress made regarding interest in establishing a girl's ice hockey program.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

2-16-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

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 approve the item.

2-16-17 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

PERSONNEL

- 8. It was moved and voice voted to file Personnel Item 7-10.

- 7-10 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the persons named below effective as shown:

Teachers/appointments

Morse, Jessica, Teacher, Chandler Magnet, Special Education, BA+15, Step 1, \$47,360 effective January 30, 2017. Waiver: Moderate Disabilities PreK-8.

Nowicki, Stephanie, Teacher, Systemwide, Special Education, MA, Step 1, \$50,978 (prorated .4FTE) effective January 30, 2017. Licensed: Speech, Language, Hearing Disorders: All Levels.

Odongo, Paul, Teacher, Burncoat High, Special Education, MA+30, Step 8, \$75,428 effective January 25, 2017. Licensed: Severe Disabilities – All Levels.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Crew Equipment

9. gb #6-153.8 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell
(January 30, 2017)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a list of crew equipment that would be appropriate for the team to request over the course of the next year with a view to using that list as a means of seeking funds whether it be from the Worcester Foundation or through other opportunities to specifically get what it needs.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the backup be forwarded to the Crew Booster Club, coaches and interested community supporters of Crew.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

10. gb #6-192.2 - Administration/Miss McCullough/
Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria
(February 8, 2017) Space Monkey Challenge

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 accept the report and file the item.

11. gb #7-56 - Administration Recognition/
set date
(January 30, 2017)

To set a date to recognize Saul Ramos, a paraprofessional, who was named the 2016 MTA Education Support Professional of the Year.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, March 2, 2017.

12. gb #7-57 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/
Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty Recognition/2017
Valentine Contest winners
(February 6, 2017)

To congratulate the students whose entries have won awards and recognition in the 2017 Valentine contest of the Worcester Historical Museum.

Historic

Grade 3	Eimy Gabrielle Yoshida Araujo	McGrath Elementary School
Grade 4	Kaylee Corrado	Lincoln Street School
Grade 5	Cindy Xhija	Chandler Magnet Elementary
Grade 6	Isabella Lussier	Lake View School

Contemporary

Grade 3	Hennys De La Cruz	Chandler Elementary School
Grade 4	Isaac Silva	McGrath Elementary School
Grade 5	Nadia Frempong	Lake View School
Grade 6	Natalie Woodward	Belmont Street Community School

Verse

Grade 3	Hope Loizeaux	Worcester Arts Magnet School
Grade 4	Jarielis Reyes	Columbus Park Preparatory Academy
Grade 5	Alex Cabrera	Goddard School of Science and Technology
Grade 6	Adalise Rivera	Columbus Park Preparatory Academy

Masters

Grade 5	Contemporary	Riley Driscoll	Worcester Arts Magnet School
Grade 5	Contemporary	Matthew Molle	Worcester Arts Magnet School
Grade 6	Contemporary	Lauren Popinchalk	Worcester Arts Magnet School
Grade 6	Verse	Carlitos Molina	Worcester Arts Magnet School

Honorable Mention

Grade 5	Contemporary	Annabelle Corrao	Worcester Arts Magnet School
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It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

- 13. gb #7-58 - Administration
(February 6, 2017)

Grant/Patterson
Partnership
Grant/Chandler
Elementary Community
School/\$3,000

To accept the Patterson Partnership Grant in the amount of \$3,000 for Chandler Elementary Community 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, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,
Mayor Petty 7

Against the motion: 0
7

The motion carried.

- 14. gb #7-59 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/
Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough
(February 6, 2017)

PEAK Program/
consider reestablishment
of

To reestablish the PEAK ("Providing Enrichment for Able Kids") Program in the Worcester Public Schools.

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

- 15. gb #7-60 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/
Ms. McCullough
(February 7, 2017)

Wrestling Teams/
feasibility of establishing

Request that the Administration study the feasibility of establishing competitive wrestling teams in the Worcester Public Schools.

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

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that when the item is discussed at the Standing Committee level, that a representative from the Wrestling Team at Worcester Technical High School and Andy Meier be invited to the meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Burncoat High School/
Unified Track and Field Team

- 16. gb #7-61 - Administration
(February 7, 2017)

To consider approval of a Unified Track and Field Team at Burncoat High School, sponsored and supported by the Special Olympics of Massachusetts for the Spring 2017 season.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

School Choice/set date for public hearing

- 17. gb #7-62 - Administration
(February 7, 2017)

To set a date in April for a public hearing on school choice.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, April 27, 2017.

Grant/UNUM Strong Schools
Grant/\$21,000

- 18. gb #7-63 - Administration
(February 7, 2017)

To accept the UNUM Strong Schools Grant in the amount of \$21,000.

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, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,
Mayor Petty

Against the motion:

7
0
7

The motion carried.

- 19. gb #7-64 - Administration
(February 7, 2017)

Grant/CTE Partnership
Implementation Grant/
\$122,500

To accept the CTE Partnership Implementation
Grant in the amount of \$122,500.

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, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,
Mayor Petty 7

Against the motion: $\frac{0}{7}$

The motion carried.

- 20. gb #7-65 - Administration
(February 7, 2017)

Donation/McGraw Hill
Education/\$7,500

To accept a donation in the amount of \$7,500.00
from McGraw Hill Education that will allow Susan
Farrell, Rose Dawkins and Dr. Mary Meade-
Montaque, to attend the 2017 Patrick Suppes
Personalized Learning Forum at Stanford University
and Google Inc. Headquarters.

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, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,
Mayor Petty 7

Against the motion: $\frac{0}{7}$

The motion carried.

Safety/summary of changes

21. gb #7-66 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/
Miss McCullough
(February 8, 2017)

Request that the Administration present a summary of the changes resulting from the principals' meeting regarding safety.

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

K1 Program

22. gb #7-67 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough
(February 8, 2017)

Request that the Administration consider implementing a K1 program for students needing additional help, due to readiness issues.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration for a report back in April 2017.

Recognition/Kevin Cox, Jr. and Katie Trippi

23. gb #7-68 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mayor Petty
(February 8, 2017)

Request that the Administration forward congratulatory letters to Kevin Cox, Jr., a Physics teacher at Burncoat High School, and his sister Katie Trippi, a teacher at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School, who appeared on the television game show "The Wall" and were very successful contestants.

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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