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:

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

There was absent: Miss Biancheria

It was moved to recess to Executive Session:

1. gb #7-82 - Administration
   (February 23, 2017)

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&sp #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.

   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.
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

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss Biancheria 1

The motion carried.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:01 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:15 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:07 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Robert H. Jackson from the First Congregational Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered and the National Anthem was sung by the Norrback Avenue School’s 5th and 6th Grade Chorus

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 #7-6** - Clerk  
   (February 22, 2017)

   To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, February 16, 2017.

   It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

3. **gb #7-56.1** - Administration/Administration  
   (February 21, 2017)

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

   Mayor Petty and Superintendent Binienda presented a Certificate of Recognition to Saul Ramos, a paraprofessional, who was named the 2016 MTA Education Support Professional of the Year.

4. **gb #7-70** - Administration  
   (February 21, 2017)

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

   It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

5. It was moved and voice voted to suspend the rules to allow Roger Nugent, President of the EAW to address the School Committee relative to concerns of the EAW regarding PCBs.

   Miss Blancheria chaired the meeting from 7:15 p.m. to 7:24 p.m.
In response to the EAW’s concerns, Mayor Petty stated that:

- The Administration has worked with the EPA for the past six years and will be testing for PCBs on:
  - April 3, 2017 at Burncoat High School
  - April 24, 2017 at Doherty Memorial High School

- The EAW will receive the results of these PCB tests at the same time as the Administration receives them.

- The Administration will continue to follow the Best Management Practices of the EPA.

- The Mayor, the Administration and the School Committee take the issue of the remediation of PCBs and the safety of students and staff in the schools as their highest priority and have dedicated monies to take care of this effort.

Mr. Allen stated that the actions, taken in accordance with EPAs Best Management Practices, included:

- identification of buildings that were built between 1958 – 1978

- replacement of all light ballasts

- improvement of HVAC systems at schools with a focus on Burncoat High School and Doherty Memorial High School

- vigorous cleaning procedures at Burncoat High School and Doherty Memorial High School

- engagement of DPH on air quality assessments

- visual inspection of all window caulking
6. **gb #7-71** - Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell/
   Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria/
   Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty
   (February 13, 2017)

   Request that the Administration study the
   feasibility and cost of implementing a bus tracking
   system similar to the one used by the Boston
   Public Schools.

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

   Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

   Request that the Administration determine if our
   routing software system is able to incorporate the
   content in the item as part of its system.

   On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

7. **gb #7-72** - Administration
   (February 14, 2017)

   To set a date to recognize the following students
   who won positions in the Central Massachusetts
   Festival Band, Orchestra and Chorus after
   competing with more than 800 musicians:

   **Burncoat Middle School**
   Isabella Montalvo, Soprano

   **Sullivan Middle School**
   Heather Bachand, Flute
   Alexandra Economou, Tuba
   Clarise Liu, Clarinet
   Eno Manu-Gyamfi, Alto
   Bao Han Ngo, Clarinet

   **Burncoat High School**
   Valeria Bergier, Cello
   Aaron Balboa, Cello
   Madeline Rich, Soprano,
   All-State Recommendation
   Ryan McCarthy, Bass,
   All-State Recommendation
Doherty Memorial High School
Maggie Hastings, Soprano,
All-State Recommendation

South High Community School
Alyssa Goins, Clarinet,
All-State Recommendation and
2017 All-State Music Festival
Lillian Wright, Flute, All-State Recommendation
Zachary Roy, Bass, All State Recommendation
Oved Rico, French Horn

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, March 16, 2017.

Mayor Petty suggested that some of the members of this recognition sing the National Anthem.

8. gb #7-73 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/
Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough/
Mayor Petty
(February 15, 2017)

To congratulate the Burncoat Dance Team, its students, teachers and choreographers, on the honors, awards and recognitions they received at the MSSA State Dance Team Tournament, and on qualifying for the Nationals to be held at Walt Disney World.

It was moved and voice voted to forward a letter of congratulations.

9. gb #7-74 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell/
Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty
(February 16, 2017)

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the following individuals from Worcester Arts Magnet School who received the Silver Medal Award at Shepherd Hill School's Annual Central Mass Show Choir Festival:
Chrysanthi Manuel, Music Teacher
Cathy Taylor, Dance Instructor
MetroGnomes, student performers

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the MetroGnomes attend the School Committee Meeting on April 27, 2017 to sing the National Anthem and perform two of their winning numbers.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

10. gb #7-75 - Administration
    (February 21, 2017)

To accept a donation in the amount of $305.00 from the Tri State Truck Center, Inc. to the South High Community School’s Diesel Technician Training Program for the cost of a bus for a field trip.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Blancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O’Connell, Mayor Petty 7

Against the motion: 0

The motion carried.
11. **gb #7-76** - Mayor Petty/Mr. Foley/
Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss McCullough
(February 21, 2017)

Request that the Superintendent consider the feasibility of establishing boys and girls soccer teams at Claremont Academy and University Park Campus School.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item.

12. **gb #7-77** - Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Monfredo
(February 22, 2017)

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the number of students who participate in partial or full time on-line learning.

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

13. **gb #7-78** - Ms. Colorio/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo
(February 22, 2017)

Request that the Administration provide a report by school regarding the number of teachers and staff that were on paid administrative leave for the school years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration.
Miss Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the paid administrative leaves by school, length of leave and whether the individual returned to the same school or whether he/she was dismissed.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

14. gb #7-79 - Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty
(February 22, 2017)

To set a date to recognize and to congratulate Margaret Sokolowski, Michaela Hannon-Curran, Christine Rovezzi and Susan Teixeira, librarians of the Worcester Public Schools, on each receiving $1,000 awards from the National Education Association's Read Across America and the NEA Foundation for purchase of books for their school libraries, as part of the 2016 NEA Books Across America Library Books Award and to congratulate Ann Grilla on winning Round Two from the Foundation in the Award competition.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, March 16, 2017.

15. gb #7-80 - Administration
(February 22, 2017)

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

- English Composition & Literature I
- The Development of Early Civilizations
- Science Engineering & Technology I
- Advanced Seminar

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.
To forward a letter of congratulations to Mary Anne Dube on her selection as Grand Marshal of the 2017 St. Patrick's Parade.

It was moved and voice voted to forward a letter.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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