

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Thursday, May 17, 2018
Agenda #14

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 7:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, May 17, 2018.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Kris Casey of Adams Square Baptist Church.

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

IMMEDIATE ACTION

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| 1. | <p><u>gb #8-126.1</u> - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough/
Mayor Petty
(May 8, 2018)</p> | Recognitions |
|----|---|--------------|

To recognize:

- The Worcester Railers Ice Hockey Team for the "Skate to Success" program that impacted more than 2,000 fourth grade students. (Mr. Monfredo)
- Burncoat High School's Quadrivium and David Twiss Director, for placing first in the a cappella competition, sponsored by the Worcester Educational Collaborative, at its third annual event. (Mr. Monfredo)
- the volunteers of Working for Worcester Program, sponsored by the College of the Holy Cross, for their tremendous work on various projects that benefit the children of the Worcester Public Schools. (Mr. O'Connell)

- the four recipients of Dell Scholarships of \$20,000.00 each in addition to mentors during their college years.
(Mr. O’Connell)

Mayor Petty and Superintendent Binienda presented certificates to the Worcester Railers Ice Hockey Team, the Burncoat High School’s Quadrivium and the recipients of the Dell Scholarship.

The Recognition for the Volunteers of Working for Worcester Program was held for the School Committee on Thursday, June 7, 2018.

Key to the City/
Lorenzo
Hernandez

2. Mayor Petty presented Lorenzo Hernandez, Ex-Officio member of the School Committee, with the Key to the City and thanked him for his excellent input at School Committee meetings.
3. It was moved and voice voted to suspend rules to take up the following items out of order and consider them together and also to allow individuals to speak on these items:

Team Sports/
middle schools

gb #8-161 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O’Connell
(May 9, 2018)

Request that the Administration study the feasibility of developing partnerships with Recreation Worcester and other municipal or non-municipal organizations in order to create more team sports in Worcester’s middle schools.

gb #8-162 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(May 9, 2018)

Course
Performance in
the Middle School

To consider a review of a report entitled
Extracurricular Participation and Course
Performance in the Middle Grades: A Study of Low-
Income, Urban Youth by Kate Schwartz.

gb #8-163 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(May 9, 2018)

City Hoops
Program

Request that the Administration provide a report
regarding the process of bringing together various
private and public groups to develop middle school
athletic programming as highlighted in the Worcester
Magazine's article entitled The Case For Middle
School Sports: Can City Hoops Spark a Rebound?

Councilor King, Ms. Gem, Ms. Rodrigues and Ms.
Quinn offered testimony on the importance of
middle school sports.

Mr. Comparetto stated that school sports help
reduce suspension rates, dropout rates, juvenile
arrests, and can lead to better academic
achievement if all students have access to school
sports.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a proposed Budget recommendation prior to the Budget deliberation for middle school sports for FY20 and for summer school sport opportunities for 2018.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved and referred to the Administration.

Mr. Foley added that the Administration provide the estimated cost for a tiered summer school sports program and seek Community Partners to sponsor such a program.

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

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Student
Representatives

- 4. gb #8-150 - Administration
(May 8, 2018)

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

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

- 5. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report of the
Superintendent/
Process for the
District's Site
Visits

- ROS #8-7 - Administration
(May 8, 2018)

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS FOR THE
DISTRICT'S SITE VISITS

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an updated report in December 2018 and in March 2019 in a Friday Letter indicating the success of the District's Site Visit and ways in which it can be improved.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Superintendent Binienda stated that parents don't see the report because this is a confidential self-study between the faculty and the district team. What the parents would see is the identified needs of the school and what the goals are going to be. The parents will be informed as to how the school intends to resolve the needs.

6. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #8-10 - Clerk
(May 4, 2018)

Minutes/
approval of

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 26, 2018.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 26, 2018.

aor #8-11 - Clerk
(May 8, 2018)

Minutes/
approval of

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, May 3, 2018.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, May 3, 2018.

7. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 14, at the Durkin Administration Building in Room 410.

Mandarin Chinese

gb #4-259 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (September 17, 2014)

To initiate a course in Mandarin Chinese at the Advanced Placement level, offered either in a customary classroom setting or through Virtual High School.

Mr. Monfredo and Miss McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the number of students who will take a Mandarin Chinese course through the Virtual High School Program.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration study the feasibility of establishing of a Foreign Exchange Program which will include a teacher who will instruct interested students in Mandarin Chinese.

On a voice vote the motion was approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the responses to the motions in June 2018.

On a voice voted the motion was approved.

gb #6-264 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria (July 6, 2016)

Gifted Students

To consider opportunities to enhance the education of the academically gifted students of the Worcester Public Schools, at all appropriate levels.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the after school opportunities for students in literacy and math.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward a report on the initiatives at the elementary level for academically gifted students.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

In response to Mr. O'Connell's request to provide more challenging work for academically gifted students at the elementary level, Dr. O'Neil stated that she would forward information regarding approaches for differentiated instruction that are contained in the Read Side by Side and Fountas and Pinnell books.

Hold for a report in June 2018.

gb #6-270 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria (July 22, 2016)

Summer School Programs

Request that the Administration provide a report on the summer school programs to include:

- academic progress
 - attendance
 - community involvement
 - engagement of colleges in summer activities
 - number of ELL students
 - number of grade 1 and 2 students
- and suggest improvements for next year.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the success of the 2018 Summer School Programs in order to prioritize needs for the 2019 Summer School Programs to include:

- a change to a 5 or 6 week Summer Program rather than a 3 week one
- recruitment of 1st and 2nd graders for Summer School Programs
- emphasis to the parents during the "Reading in our City Week" of the importance of Summer School
- interaction with the interfaith leaders, various agencies like Worcester Art Museum, Broad Meadow Brook and social agencies like the Boys and Girls Club and United Way to provide educational opportunities to the students in the Worcester Public Schools
- an advertisement of the Summer School Programs on the bookmobiles
- ConnectEd messages regarding summer reading on a weekly basis
- interaction with the City Manager, business partners and others regarding funding for this program

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration include information regarding the Tenacity Program on the website and forward e-mails and fliers to principals to share with the students.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward the information to families regarding the Free Fun Friday activities.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration prepare a proposed 2019 Budget for a comprehensive 6 week Summer School Program.

Request that the Administration interact with the following Colleges and Universities to determine ways to involve them in the Summer School Programs or invite them to a meeting of the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports to discuss possible collaborative efforts to enrich the Summer School Programs in the Worcester Public Schools:

- The College of the Holy Cross
- WPI
- Worcester State University
- UMASS Medical School
- Nickels College University
- Becker College
- Anna Maria College
- Quinsigamond Community College
- Clark University
- Fitchburg State University

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration appropriate the extra funds allotted by the Ways and Means Committee, that were not included in the FY19 Budget, for the 2018 Summer School Programs.

Request that the Administration provide a report on the above mentioned motions in August 2018.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

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

Citywide Girl's Ice Hockey Team

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

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a status report on the success of the Girl's Ice Hockey Team in a Friday Letter in the Fall of 2019.

On a voice voted the motion was approved.

FILE.

PEAK Program

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

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

Hold for a report in June 2018.

Worcester: Future Teachers Program/expand

gb #8-94 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell (March 2, 2018)

Request that the Administration consider expanding the Worcester: Future Teachers Program in conjunction with Worcester State University in an effort to recruit the best and brightest students.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration meet with students from the local colleges and universities, in their junior year to interest them in a teaching career in the Worcester Public Schools.

Request that teachers interact with the students in the Worcester: Future Teachers Program to describe the teaching profession and to interest students to pursue this career.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the Administration conduct a Career Fair to recruit students to become teachers and publicize it to area college students.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration contact a representative from the College of the Holy Cross to have their practitioners visit schools to encourage students to consider teaching as a career.

On a voice voted, the motion was approved.

Hold for the Summer of 2018.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports as amended.

gb #6-270

Summer School
Programs

Superintendent Binienda indicated that if the Worcester Public Schools receives an increase of 3 million dollars, the funds would be utilized to hire 44 new teachers.

Mr. Foley indicated that he would like to utilize the additional monies for classroom purposes not for Summer Programs.

Mr. O'Connell made the following amendment to his initial motion:

Initial Motion:

Request that the Administration appropriate the extra funds allocated by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, that were not included in the FY19 Budget, for the 2018 Summer School Programs.

Amended motion:

Request that the Administration **recommend** an allocation of certain extra funds allotted by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, that were not included in the FY19 Budget, for the 2018 Summer School Programs.

Mr. Foley made the following amendment to Mr. O'Connell's amended motion:

Request that the Administration **consider** an allocation of certain extra funds allotted by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, that were not included in the FY19 Budget, for the 2018 Summer School Programs.

On a voice vote, the motion as amended was approved and referred to the Administration for a report prior to the Budget deliberation.

On a roll call of 7-0, the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports was approved as amended.

8. PERSONNEL

Appointments

8-28 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Aide to the Physically Handicapped, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$16.38 (minimum) to \$20.18 (maximum) per hour, from Civil Service List #318-005, effective as follows:

Jacquez, Greisy	04/30/2018
Salas, Angela	05/03/2018

It was moved and voice voted to file Personnel Item 8-28.

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. gb #7-355.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell
(April 3, 2018) Free Driver's
Education Courses

Response of the Administration to a request to seek grant opportunities for free driver's education courses, in conjunction with input from the petitioner Lorenzo Hernandez.

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

10. gb #8-93.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell Earth Day
(May 9, 2018) Activities

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on the students' participation with Earth Day activities including projects completed at school sites with support from the community.

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

11. gb #8-151 - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell Vocational/
(April 26, 2018) Technical
Opportunities

Request that the Administration provide a progress report regarding additional vocational/technical opportunities for students not admitted to Worcester Technical High School.

Superintendent Binienda indicated that she would forward a copy of the Innovation Career Pathway Grant to the School Committee members.

Miss Biancheria requested that the Administration provide a progress report in a Friday letter regarding the three year Innovation Career Pathway Grant.

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

Funds/
Puerto Rico and
U.S. Virgin Islands

12. gb #8-152 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(April 26, 2018)

To appropriate funds received from the State's grant to the Worcester Public Schools "to assist districts serving students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who were displaced by last Fall's hurricanes."

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

Strategic Plan

13. gb #8-153 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(April 26, 2018)

To review the recommendations of the proposed Strategic Plan and assign them to appropriate Standing Committees of the School Committee, and/or to the Administration, for further analysis, consideration, discussion, and development.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item the Administration for a response at the School Committee meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2018.

- 14. gb #8-154 - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(May 1, 2018)

Parent Advisory
Council/establish

To establish an English Learner Parent Advisory Council, in compliance with Section 56 of Chapter 138 of the Acts of 2017 (“An Act Relative to Language Opportunity for our Kids”).

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

- 15. gb #8-155 - Administration
(May 1, 2018)

Prior Fiscal Year
Payment/Special
Education Student

To consider approval of a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$1,496.50 for services rendered to a Special Education student who was placed in the Uxbridge Public Schools.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O’Connell, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:	<u>0</u> 7
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The motion carried.

- 16. gb #8-156 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. O’Connell/
Mayor Petty
(May 2, 2018)

Recognitions/
forward letters

To forward letters of recognition to:

- South High Community School's Johnetta Smith, Band Director and Angela Poirier, Choral Director and their talented students for an outstanding Spring Concert.
(Mr. Monfredo)

- the 2018 Outstanding Seniors in the Arts selected by their secondary schools and to Lisa Leach, Performing Arts Liaison and Timmary Leary, Visual Arts Liaison for coordinating the 61st Art Festival event:

<u>Burncoat High School</u> Danielle DeSantis Liam Keaney Ryan McCarthy Kelleigh Levesque Riff Lehto <u>Doherty Memorial High School</u> Emma Comeaux Andrew Farrington Benjamin Black <u>South High Community School</u> Zachary Roy Bonnie Vega Santiago Henry Rich Charisma Lai <u>Worcester Technical High School</u> Natalia Godoy Liam Carmody Mariah Donahue Arianna Cheng Ruiz	<u>Claremont Academy</u> Bob Nusah Keyla Bianco <u>North High School</u> Joshua Tekpeh Tessa Mina Alejandro Quinones Nancy Huynh <u>University Park Campus School</u> Juan Adolphe (Mr. Monfredo)
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- the MetroGnomes Musical Group from Worcester Arts Magnet School and Chrysanthe Manuel, music teacher and Cathy Taylor dance teacher for placing 2nd in the Easter Show Choir Competition which was held in Waltham, Ma.
(Mr. Monfredo)

- to the Board of Directors at the Worcester Public Library for their participation in the Worcester Pubic Schools Art Exhibit and for the use of their facility to display the outstanding art work by students in the Worcester Public Schools. (Miss Biancheria)

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters of recognition.

17. gb #8-157 - Administration
(May 7, 2018)

Donations

To consider approval of the following donations:

- \$4,000.00 from the WEDF for the Leap Program in collaboration with the Worcester Art Museum
- \$250.00 from donors to Heard Street Discovery Academy for the purchase of a new classroom rug
- \$1,000.00 from donors to a Doherty Memorial High School football player in memory of Thomas Walles
- \$1,000.00 from Alliance Energy LLC to Grafton Street School
- \$1,000.00 from a Foundation to the Goddard Scholars Academy for the purchase of a tuba for the their Band
- to Woodland Academy:
 - \$122.31 from CEC Entertainment Inc.
 - \$250.00 from the College of the Holy Cross
 - \$2,583.87 from the City of Worcester for being selected as a recipient of a Worcester Arts Council 2018 Award for their project "Making the Impossible Possible"

- to Tatnuck Magnet School:
 - \$4.50 from Box Tops for Education
 - \$85.00 from various donors
 - \$300.00 from I.U.O.E Local No. 4 Social Action Committee
 - \$500.00 from Country Bank

Mr. O’Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration forward letters of appreciation to of all the donors.

Request that a portion of the item be amended as follows:

\$1,000.00 from donors **to award a scholarship** to a Doherty Memorial High School football player in memory of Thomas Waller

On a voice vote, the motions were approved as amended.

On a roll call the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O’Connell, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:	<u>0</u> 7
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The motion carried.

High-Quality
Instructional Grant

18. qb #8-158 - Administration
(May 7, 2018)

To accept the High-Quality Instructional Grant in the amount of \$20,000.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto,
Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

- 19. gb #8-159 - Administration Donation/
(May 7, 2018) Berkshire Bank

To accept a donation in the amount of \$500,000 from Berkshire Bank (successor to Commerce Bank and Trust Company) to extend the 2007 Donation Agreement to December 31, 2028 and to make certain improvements to Commerce Bank Field at Foley Stadium.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward a letter of appreciation to Berkshire Bank.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto,
Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

Reading in our
City Week

20. gb #8-160 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough/
Mr. O'Connell
(May 8, 2018)

Request that the Administration inform the schools about "Reading in our City Week," which will take place from June 10 through June 16 and read a Mayor's Proclamation at the School Committee Meeting on June 7, 2018 to commemorate the event.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Administration promote summer reading by:

- putting posters at stores and social agencies
- doing weekly ConnectEd messages in June, July and August
- contacting Interfaith and Community Agencies about the summer reading list and
- forwarding math activities for the summer months

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

JROTC Program

21. gb #8-164 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(May 9, 2018)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the JROTC programs and include ways to actively promote interest at the middle school level for high school participation in this program.

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

22. gb #8-165 - Administration
(May 9, 2018)

Executive Session

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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