

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Thursday, February 1, 2018
Agenda #5

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, February 1, 2018.

There were present at the Call to Order:

Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo and Mayor Petty

Mr. O'Connell and Miss Biancheria were absent.

It was moved to recess to Executive Session:

1. gb #8-47 - Administration (January 24, 2018) Executive Session

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

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

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for J. Perez vs Worcester School Committee et al. if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

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 5

Against the motion: Miss Biancheria,
Mr. O'Connell 2
7

The motion carried.

The School Committee recessed to Executive
Session from 6:05 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session
at 7:17 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Kevin L.
Downer of Greendale People's Church.

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

Moment of Silence

- 2. A Moment of Silence was offered in memory of
Dennis Ferrante, Patricia Gaudette, Todd Williams
and Patricia Ganas.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

Mayor Petty was absent

School Committee
meetings/Channel
192

- 3. Vice-chairman Foley made an announcement that
the School Committee meetings on February 15th
and March 1st will be televised on Channel 192, the
Government Channel, not Channel 191, the
Education Channel.

4. gb #8-47 - Executive Session Item

Memorandum of Agreement/
Instructional Assistants

On a voice vote, Miss Biancheria recused herself from all votes relative to the Instructional Assistants Contract due to a potential conflict of interest.

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty $\frac{1}{6}$

The motion carried.

It was moved to suspend the Rules of the School Committee to reconsider the motion ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty $\frac{1}{6}$

The motion carried.

It was moved to reconsider the motion to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	0
Against the motion: Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell	5
Absent: Mayor Petty	$\frac{1}{6}$

The motion carried.

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell	5
Against the motion:	0
Absent: Mayor Petty	$\frac{1}{6}$

The motion carried.

It was moved to suspend the Rules of the School Committee to reconsider the motion ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley, Miss
McCullough, Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O'Connell 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty $\frac{1}{6}$

The motion carried.

It was moved to reconsider the motion to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: 0

Against the motion: Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley,
Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O'Connell 5

Absent: Mayor Petty $\frac{1}{6}$

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

5. aor #8-4 - Clerk
(January 24, 2018)

Minutes/approval of

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, January 18, 2018.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, January 18, 2018.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Student
Representatives/
consider input

- 6. qb #8 25 - Administration
(January 22, 2018)

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/
FY19 Preliminary
Budget Estimates

- 7. ROS #8-2 - Administration
(January 24, 2018)

FY19 PRELIMINARY BUDGET ESTIMATES

Mr. Allen made an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the FY19 Preliminary Budget Estimates which is contained in Annex A of the backup.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward a letter to the State's Joint Committee on Education regarding the preliminary Budget before Monday.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

- 8. PERSONNEL

Appointment

- 8-07 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the person named below:

Gibree, Rene, Teacher, Special Education, North, MA, Step 6, \$65,665*, effective January 16, 2018.
License pending: Severe Disabilities All Levels.

- 8-08 The Superintendent has ACCEPTED the RESIGNATION of the person named below: Resignation

Peck, Jason, Psychologist, Systemwide, effective January 19, 2018.
- 8-09 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RETIREMENT of the following person named below: Retirement

Crosby, Janet, Teacher, Elementary, Belmont, effective January 22, 2018.
- 8-10 The Superintendent has APPROVED the LEAVE OF ABSENCE of the person named below: Leave of Absence

Rocheleau-Demers, Marie, Teacher, Vocational, Worcester Technical, effective January 16, 2018 – March 9, 2018.
- 8-11 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Cafeteria Substitute Helper, permanent/intermittent at a salary of \$13.20 per hour, from Civil Service List #317-050, effective as shown: Appointment

Molina, Maria 01/16/18
- 8-12 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Word Processor, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$18.09 (minimum) to \$22.38 per hour (maximum) effective as shown: Appointment

Carlson, Deanna 01/16/18

Appointment 8-13 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Principal Clerk, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$20.39 per hour (minimum) to \$25.10 per hour (maximum) effective as shown:

Hathaway, Haley 01/16/18

**prorated*

GENERAL BUSINESS

KcKinney-Vento Homeless Emergency Support Grant/apply for 9. qb #7-392.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio/Mayor Petty (January 12, 2018)

Response of the Administration to the request to apply for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Emergency Support Grant (Fund Code 313) offered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to school districts enrolling 50 or more students "who lost their housing in Puerto Rico due to Hurricane Maria."

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

DCF referrals 10. qb #8-22.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo (January 24, 2018)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide the following information relative to the process for DCF referrals to include:

- the timeframe for a principal to make a call to DCF, when needed
- the individuals who are notified of the phone call and
- the follow-up regarding the incident

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

- 11. gb #8-26 -Administration
(January 11, 2018)

Donations

To consider approval of the following donations:

- \$250 from Walmart to Woodland Academy
- \$286.80 from Box Tops for Education to
Tatnuck Magnet School

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 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

- 12. gb #8-27 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough
(January 15, 2018)

Love a Book Month/
participate in

Request that the Administration encourage schools to participate in February's "Love a Book Month" initiated by Worcester: the City that Reads with meaningful reading activities in school and at home as a way of focusing on the importance of reading within the community.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item based on the answer provided at the meeting.

Unum Strong
Schools
Grant/\$20,000

- 13. gb #8-28 - Administration
(January 16, 2018)

To accept the Unum Strong Schools 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 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

Comprehensive
Plan/ grade three
reading at grade
level

- 14. gb #8-29 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Comparetto/
Miss McCullough
(January 16, 2018)

To engage in a comprehensive plan in an effort to have children read on grade level by the end of grade three.

Reading
Programs/
Read Side by Side
and Fountas & Pinnell Classroom

- gb #8-45 -Administration
(January 24, 2018)

To consider approval of the Read Side by Side reading program to be implemented in grades 3-6 and also for the Fountas & Pinnell Classroom to be implemented in grades K-2.

These items were considered together.

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

15. gb #8-30 -Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough
(January 19, 2018) Indoor Recess Policy

Request that the Administration provide an update on the district's indoor recess policy.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item based on the answer provided at the meeting.

16. gb #8-31 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Foley/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Comparetto/
Miss McCullough
(January 19, 2018) Attendance Policy

Request that the Administration provide an update on the Attendance Policy currently in place and provide an:

- explanation of excused vs unexcused absences and
- the impact that the letters that are going home for chronic absenteeism are having on students and families.

- gb #8-32 - Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough
(January 19, 2018) Student Attendance
Policy/review of

Request that the Administration review the policy regarding absences of students from school and consider distinguishing in their student records unexcused absences from excused absences due to documented illnesses or religious holidays.

These items were considered together.

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

Certified Public Accounting Firm of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP/ report from

- 17. gb #8-33 - Administration (January 19, 2018)

To review the reports on compliance and internal controls for the City of Worcester, including the Worcester Public Schools, from the Certified Public Accounting Firm of CliftonLarsenAllen, LLP for the year that ended on June 30, 2017 which included the GAO and OMB A-133 Reports and the Management Letter and the Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed Upon Procedures for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education End of Year Financial Report for fiscal year 2016-17, prepared by Robert C. Alario, CPA, P.C.

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

Policies Handbook/ 2018-19

- 18. gb #8-34 - Administration (January 19, 2018)

To consider approval of the 2018-19 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.

19. gb #8-35 -Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough
Mayor Petty
(January 22, 2018)

Model United Nations
Competition Awards/
forward letters

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the students who participated in the Model United Nations Competition and the following advisers for having these students participate in this outstanding "Future Leaders Conference," which was held at Clark University:

Patricia Peters – Doherty Memorial High School
Dave Crompton – Goddard at Sullivan Middle School
Max Stern and Cecelia Spencer – University Park Campus School
Daniel Makela – Worcester East Middle School
Brian Cormier – South High Community School

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

20. gb #8-36 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mayor Petty
(January 22, 2018)

Martin Luther King Jr.
Youth Breakfast Poetry
Competition/forward
letters

To forward letters to the following Worcester public schools' students who were honored as winners of the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Breakfast Poetry competition:

Grade 8 - Lloydia Agyemang – Sullivan Middle School
Goddard Scholars
Madeline Zafon-Whalen – Forest Grove Middle School
Elvin Sanchez – Worcester East Middle School
Zoanjeliz Jimenez – Burncoat Middle School
Jaylen Remillard – Burncoat Middle School

Grade 10 - Antonia Amonu McCarthy – South High Community School
Gianna Castro – South High Community School
Kados Rashid – Caradonio New Citizens Center
Hawa Zuo – Worcester Technical High School
Noorhan Alzuhair – North High School
Deborah Doku – North High School

Grade 11 - Magdalene Agyemang – South High Community School
John Pena – North High School

Grade 12 - Ukamaka Asia – Burncoat High School
Mariangeli Hermans – North High School
Rose Vu – North High School
James Vega – North High School

Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Breakfast Essay Competition/forward letters

gb #8-37 - Mr. O’Connell/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mayor Petty
(January 22, 2018)

To forward a letter of congratulations to Anthony Matimu, an eighth grade student at the Sullivan Middle School Goddard Scholars program, who has been honored as a winner of the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Essay competition, for his paper on “How can you be the best of whatever you are to make our community a better place?” - the question raised by Dr. King in a 1967 speech to Philadelphia junior high school students.

Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Breakfast Art Competition/forward letters

gb #8-38 - Mr. O’Connell/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty
(January 22, 2018)

To forward letters of congratulations to the following Worcester public schools’ students who have been honored as winners of the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Art competition, for their artistic renditions inspired by the question originally raised by Dr. King in a 1967 speech to Philadelphia junior high school students: “How can you be the best of whatever you are to make our community a better place?”:

Individual Winners**First Place**

Noah Mielta - May Street School
Annabelle Monero - Chandler Elementary School
Glendy Lopez Castillo - McGrath Elementary School

Third Place

Oscar D. Hernandez Molina
Hamza Al Sayed Hassan
McGrath Elementary School

Second Place

Ava Davis - Worcester Arts Magnet School
Sofia Raya
Heard Street Discovery Academy

Honorable Mention

Carmela Cifredo
Elaina Ocasio
Belmont Street School
Angelina Lam
Linda Nguyen
Canterbury Street School

Group Winners:**First Place**

Flagg Street School, grade 4
Charlotte Martin, Matthew Lefebvre, and Aeden Wetherbee

Worcester Arts Magnet School, grade 5
Bodhi Parks, and Joshua Richard

McGrath Elementary School, grade 6
Yan C. Miguel, Kennedy Nkrumah, and Gabriel Lucas S. Timoteo

Second Place

Heard Street School, grade 5
Nehemiah Zoiler, Nevaeh Gaudette, Joshua Juica and Brandon Humphrey

Third Place

Flagg Street School, grade 4
Bridgid Trainor, Arieanna Erlich, Jessica Hanna, Lily Coughlin, and Kylie Abdulky

McGrath Elementary School, grade 6
Maya Luna, Melanie Romer, Genesis Centeno and Jordy Jarama Castillo

(These items were considered together)

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

Innovation Plan
for Worcester East
Middle
School/eliminate
6th grade

- 21. gb #8-39 - Administration
(January 23, 2018)

To consider an amendment to the Innovation Plan for Worcester East Middle School which will eliminate the admission of 6th grade students commencing in the 2018-19 academic school year in order to prepare a proposed Citywide Health and Science Gifted Academy for 7th and 8th grade students for the 2019-20 academic school year.

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

Mr. Foley suggested to all School Committee members to forward any questions relative to this item to the Superintendent before the meeting of the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports so that they can be discussed at the meeting.

Prior Fiscal Year
Payment/Air Force
JOTC instructors/
payments to

- 22. gb #8-40 - Administration
(January 23, 2018)

To approve prior fiscal year payments in the total amount of \$7,324.23 reflecting adjustments to Minimum Instructor Pay (MIP) rate increases for Air Force JOTC instructors.

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	6
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Against the motion:	0
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Absent: Mayor Petty	<u>1</u> 7
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The motion carried.

23. gb #8-41 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss McCullough
(January 23, 2018)
- Health Insurance Trust
Fund/notify City
Manager of purchases

Request that the School Committee keep the City Manager apprised regarding the purchases that will be made as a result of additional monies from the Health Insurance Trust Fund.

It was moved and voice voted to forward the backup to the City Manager and file the item.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report in Executive Session, on the deployment of security devices at South High Community, Forest Grove Middle, Doherty Memorial High, Worcester East Middle schools and Woodland and Claremont Academies.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

24. gb #8-42 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Comparetto/
Miss McCullough
(January 23, 2018)
- Community Service
Projects/involvement of
students in

Request that the Administration study the feasibility of involving students in community service projects at the Senior Center.

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

Health and
Wellness
Curriculum/creation of

- 25. gb #8-43 - Mayor Petty/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough
(January 24, 2018)

Request that the Superintendent create an updated Health and Wellness Curriculum for middle and high school students.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item.

Textbooks/approval of

- 26. gb #8-44 - Administration
(January 24, 2018)

To consider approval of funds for the most updated version of the AP texts and Grade 8 Science texts as a continuation of the current, approved Grade 7 series.

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	6
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Against the motion:	0
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Absent: Mayor Petty	$\frac{1}{7}$
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The motion carried.

Transfer of Funds/
approval of

- 27. gb #8-46 - Administration
(January 24, 2018)

Request that the Administration approve a transfer of funds resulting from excess funds in the Health Insurance Trust Fund to be used to make one-time investments in textbooks, educational materials, technology, school safety, and maintenance.

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 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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