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 Blancheria were absent.

It was moved to recess to Executive Session:

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

   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

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

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.

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

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

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**

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 1

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 1

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 1

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 1

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 1

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 1

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

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

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

6. **gb #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

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.

PERSONNEL

8. **Appointment 8-07**  

The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the person named below:

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


8-09 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RETIREMENT of the following person named below:

Crosby, Janet, Teacher, Elementary, Belmont, effective January 22, 2018.

8-10 The Superintendent has APPROVED the LEAVE OF ABSENCE of the person named below:


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:

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:

Carlson, Deanna  01/16/18
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. gb #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. gb #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)

   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  1

   The motion carried.

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

   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.
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 1

The motion carried.

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. Monf redo/ Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/ Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough (January 19, 2018)

   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. Monf redo/Mr. O'Connell/ Miss Biancheria/Mr. Comparetto/ Miss McCullough (January 19, 2018)

   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. Monf redo/ Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/ Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough (January 19, 2018)

   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.

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 CliftonLarsonAllen, 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.

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)

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)

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 - Llyodia Agyemang – Sullivan Middle School
Goddard Scholars
Madeline Zafon-Whalen – Forest Grove Middle School
Elvin Sanchez – Worcester East Middle School
Zoan Jeliz Jimenez – Burncoat Middle School
Jaylen Remillard – Burncoat Middle School
Grade 10 - Antonia Amenu McCarthy - South High Community School
Gianna Castro – South High Community School
Kados Rashid – Caradonia 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 - Umarakia 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 Mietis - May Street School
- Annabelle Monero - Chandler Elementary School
- Giendy Lopez Castillo - McGrath Elementary School

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

**Third Place**
- Oscar D. Hernandez Molina
- Hamza Al Sayed Hassan
- McGrath Elementary School

**Honorable Mention**
- Carmela Cifredo
- Elaine 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 Zoller, Nevaeh Gaudette, Joshua Juca and Brandon Humphrey

**Third Place**
- Flagg Street School, grade 4
  - Bridgid Trainor, Arleanna 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.
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.

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty 1

7

The motion carried.
23. gb #8-41 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/ Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/ Miss McCullough
   (January 23, 2018)

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)

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty 1

7

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  1

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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