

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Worcester, Massachusetts  
Thursday, January 18, 2018  
Agenda #4

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, January 18, 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

It was moved to recess to Executive Session:

1. gb #8-24 - Administration Executive Session  
(January 10, 2018)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Occupational Therapy Assistants and Physical Therapy 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 Cafeteria Workers, 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 Occupational Therapy Assistants and Physical Therapy 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 Cafeteria Workers, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining 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 7

Against the motion: 0  
7

The motion carried.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:15 p.m. to 7:07 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:15 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Paul Frechette of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered and the National Anthem was sung by the Burncoat Street Preparatory School's Chorus led by Miss Allissa Szymcik.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

Memorandum of Agreement/Side Letter of Agreement/Therapy Assistants/ approval of

- 2. Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement including the Side Letter of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Therapy Assistants, effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

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: 0  
7

The motion carried.

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement including the Side Letter of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Therapy Assistants effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020.

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: 0  
7

The motion carried.

- 3. Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to ratify the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement between the School Committee and the NAGE R1-16 Cafeteria Workers, effective August 26, 2017 through August 25, 2020.

Memorandum of Agreement/NAGE R1-16 Cafeteria Workers/ approval of

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: 0  
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The motion carried.

It was moved and voice voted to suspend the Rules of the School Committee to take item gb 8-23 out of order.

- 4. gb #8-23 - Administration  
(January 10, 2018)

Outstanding General Business Items/filing of

To consider filing the General Business items and motions, as contained in the backup for Annexes A-N.

Mr. O’Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration interact with local colleges and universities to inquire about any used equipment that may be available for use by the Worcester Public Schools per the NCAA guidelines outlined in Annex J.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to accept and file items and motions as contained in the backup for this item.

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

Minutes/approval of

- 5. aor #7-28 - Clerk  
(January 8, 2018)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, December 21, 2017.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, December 21, 2017.

Minutes/approval of

- 6. aor #8-1 - Clerk  
(January 8, 2018)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, January 2, 2018 Agenda 1 - Straw Vote for the Vice-Chairperson and Seating Order.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, January 2, 2018 Agenda 1 - Straw Vote for the Vice-Chairperson and Seating Order.

Minutes/approval of

- 7. aor #8-2 - Clerk  
(January 8, 2018)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, January 2, 2018 Agenda 2 - Inauguration.

Mr. O'Connell made the following amendment to remove the following language on page 3 of the Minutes:

It was moved to elect John L. Foley to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the School Committee for 2018.

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:		$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

On a voice vote, the above mentioned motion was removed from the minutes.

Mr. O'Connell moved to insert the following wording to replace the above mentioned deleted motion:

On a roll call vote, John L. Foley was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman of the School Committee for 2018.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

8. aor #8-3 - Clerk  
(January 8, 2018)

Minutes/approval of

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, January 2, 2018 Agenda 3 - Acceptance of Rules and Regular Meeting.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, January 2, 2018 Agenda 3 - Acceptance of Rules and Regular Meeting.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Recognition/  
Bertha-Elena  
Rojas

9. gb #7-401.1 Administration/Administration  
(January 2, 2018)

To recognize Bertha-Elena Rojas, Manager of English Language Learners, for her years of dedicated service to the students and staff in the Worcester Public Schools.

Mayor Petty, the School Committee, and Superintendent Binienda recognized Bertha-Elena Rojas, Manager of English Language Learners, for her years of dedicated service to the students and staff in the Worcester Public Schools.

Student  
Representatives/  
consider input

10. gb #8.9 - Administration  
(January 5, 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/  
Self-Evaluation  
and Proposed  
Goals for  
Superintendent  
Binienda for 2018-  
19

11. ROS #8-1 - Administration  
(January 5, 2018)

SELF-EVALUATION AND PROPOSED GOALS OF SUPERINTENDENT BINIENDA FOR 2018-19.

Superintendent Binienda first presented a Self-Evaluation PowerPoint as the first step in the Cycle for her next evaluation which is contained in Annex A of the backup. Following her Self-Evaluation, she presented a PowerPoint highlighting her 2018-19 Proposed Goals which are contained in Annex B of the backup.

- Mr. O’Connell recommended that the Strategic Plan be included as a salient part of her goals. Superintendent Binienda agreed, but stated that the plan will not be fully developed and approved until late February or early March. Mr. O’Connell suggested that the School Committee amend the goals after the Strategic Plan is approved.
- Mr. O’Connell made a motion to amend the wording under Other Goals as follows:

Goal 6 “Through November 2018, Mrs. Binienda will continually support the development of a positive school climate in all schools by monitoring intensified research tiered interventions of social and emotional learning and by consistent enforcement of appropriate disciplinary rules and procedures”.

It was moved to approve the Goals 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

Against the motion: 0  
7

The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

12. The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

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

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

Courses/approval of

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

**1-18-18 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION**

There is an urgent need to approve more courses under this item, not Mandarin Chinese courses. The approval needed now is for the courses listed in Annex A. The reason is that the Administration needs to add them to the course selection sheet.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration report back to the Standing Committee in June 2019 as to the effectiveness of the Independent Study Physical Education course.

Request that the Administration amend the prerequisites of the academic AP Research paper by amending the number of words from 4000-5000 to 4000-8000.

Request that the Administration notify the School Committee of the date, time and location of the Career Technical Education Department's Open House highlighting a viewing of the students' presentations as an integral part of the Career Readiness Capstone Program.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved to approve the following courses as contained in Annex A of the backup:

Activities of Daily Living Awareness  
Activities of Daily Living Development  
Activities of Daily Living Independence  
AP Research Course  
Career Readiness Capstone Course  
Independent Study Physical Education  
Intro to Advanced Manufacturing  
Intro to Construction  
Intro to Health Assisting  
Introductory Physics  
IT Essentials  
Language Seminar  
Literacy Access



Literacy Application  
 Literacy Skills  
 Numerical Skill Development  
 Numerical Awareness  
 Numerical Skills  
 Science Awareness  
 Science Development  
 Science Skills  
 Social Studies Awareness  
 Social Studies Development  
 Social Studies Skills

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

**1-18-18 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION**

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

13. PERSONNEL

8-01 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the persons named below: Appointments

Barbato, Emily, Teacher, Special Education, Worcester East Middle, BA +15, Step 1, \$48,312\*, effective January 3, 2018. License pending: Moderate Disabilities PreK-8.

Brennan, Megan, Teacher, Mathematics, New Citizen Center, BA, Step1, \$45,970 \*, effective December 20, 2017. Licensed: Mathematics 5-8.

Cormier, Nicole, Teacher, English, Gerald Creamer Center, BA, Step1, \$45,970 \* effective December 19, 2017. Licensed: English 8-12.

Finkle, Jill, Teacher, Special Education, Systemwide, MA, Step 6, \$65,665\*, effective December 18, 2017. Licensed: Occupational Therapist.

Francois, Genevieve, Teacher, English as a Second Language, Chandler Magnet, MA, Step 4, \$60,644\*, effective January 2, 2018. License pending: English as a Second Language PreK-6.

Miner, Erin, Teacher, Elementary, Goddard, BA, Step 1, \$45,970\*, effective January 2, 2018. License pending: Early Childhood PreK-2.

Peck, Jason, Psychologist, Systemwide, CAGS/2M, Step 8, \$78,955\*, effective January 8, 2018.  
Licensed: School Psychologist.

Walsh, Daniel, Teacher, Vocational, Worcester Technical, VL4, Step 8, \$75,082\*, effective January 2, 2018. License pending in Electricity Chapter 74.

## Resignations

8-02 The Superintendent has ACCEPTED the RESIGNATION of the persons named below:

Cadavid, Michelle, Liaison, Systemwide, effective January 1, 2018.

Hauver, Brook, Teacher, Mathematics, Claremont Academy, effective January 1, 2018.

Lyons, Diane, Teacher, Elementary, Columbus Park, effective January 1, 2018.

Rojas, Bertha-Elena, Manager, English Language Learners, Durkin Administration Building, effective December 31, 2017.

Sullivan, Sara, Psychologist, Systemwide, effective January 5, 2018.

Vargas-Baker, Mariagraciela, Psychologist, Systemwide, effective December 31, 2017.

## Retirements

8-03 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RETIREMENT of the following persons named below:

Brown, Michelle, Teacher, Special Education, Systemwide, effective December 31, 2017.

Slavinskas, Daniel, Teacher, Vocational Education, Worcester Technical, effective December 29, 2017.

## Appointments

8-04 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the persons 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:

Gonzalez, Justina	01/02/18
Guzman, Sasha	12/20/17

8-05 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Word Processor, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$19.13 (minimum) to \$ 23.27 per hour (maximum) effective as shown:

Ramirez, Coralys 12/26/17

Appointment

8-06 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Junior Custodian, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$15.90 (minimum) to \$20.24 (maximum), per hour, effective as shown:

Goodrich, Kristopher 01/02/18

*\*prorated*

Appointment

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. gb #8-10 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria (December 21, 2017)

Be Our Valentine Contest

Request that the Administration support the Worcester Historical Museum's 40th annual "Be Our Valentine Contest" by encouraging participation of the students in grades 3 to 6.

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

15. gb #8-11 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty (December 21, 2017)

College of the Holy Cross/Athletic Department/Athletic Association/Women's Basketball team/forward letters of appreciation

To forward letters of appreciation to the College of the Holy Cross, its Athletic Department, its Athletic Association and its Women's Basketball team, for inviting the elementary students of the Worcester Public Schools to attend the December 20th Women's Basketball game between Holy Cross and Dartmouth College in the Hart Center as their guest.

It was moved and voice voted to send letters of appreciation.

Doherty Memorial High School's Basketball team/forward letter of congratulations

- 16. gb #8-12 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty  
(January 2, 2018)

Request that the Administration forward a letter of congratulations to the Doherty Memorial High School's Basketball team and its coach Jermaine Chavis for winning the Laska Yuletide Invitational Tournament which was held at Assumption College.

It was moved and voice voted to send a letter of appreciation.

Prior fiscal year payment/\$1,334.00

- 17. gb #8-13 - Administration  
(January 3, 2018)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment to the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrator (MAVA) in the amount of \$1,334 for a 2017 Summer Education Cohort course.

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: 0/7

The motion carried.

Donations/approval of

- 18. gb #8-14 - Administration  
(January 3, 2018)

To consider approval of the following donations:

- \$250 from the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children to Belmont Street Community School
- \$1000 from the Worcester Educational Development Foundation to the Worcester Public Schools-AVID Program for salary reimbursement.

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: 0  
7

The motion carried.

- 19. gb #8-15 - Administration  
(January 5, 2018)

6 Claremont Street  
property/declared  
surplus

To consider the recommendation of the  
Administration to declare the property located at 6  
Claremont Street (Assessors Parcel 06-036-00030)  
as no longer needed for public school purposes.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the item be referred to the Standing  
Committee on Finance and Operations in order to  
discuss further the vote taken to declare the parcel  
of land surplus.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved to approve the item and refer it to the  
City Manager.

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: 0  
7

The motion carried.

- 20. gb #8-16 - Administration  
(January 5, 2018)

Statements of Interest/  
Accelerated Repair Projects/  
authorization to submit

To authorize the Administration to submit Statements of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the following Accelerated Repair Projects for 2018:

Challenge and Reach Academy (at Harlow Street) –  
Windows, Roof and Boiler Replacements

It was moved to approve the item and refer it to the City Council.

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: 0  
7

The motion carried.

Facilities Master Plan Report

- 21. gb #8-17 - Administration  
(January 5, 2018)

To consider the findings and recommendations of the Facilities Master Plan Report as prepared by Symmes Maini & McKee Association Inc., Architects, (SMMA).

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

Enrollment Report/  
October 1, 2017

- 22. gb #8-18 - Administration  
(January 5, 2018)

To review the October 1, 2017 Enrollment Report.

Mr. Monfredo recommended that this item be included on the agenda for the Legislative Breakfast on February 9, 2018.

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

It was moved and voice voted to suspend the Rules of the School Committee to take item 8-21 out of order.

23. gb #8-21 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo  
(January 10, 2018)

Students from Puerto Rico/update on

Request that the Administration provide an update on the plan to accommodate the 321 students from Puerto Rico.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a list of the Worcester Public Schools that currently accommodate the students from Puerto Rico.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

24. gb #8-19 - Administration  
(January 9, 2018)

Massachusetts School Building Authority/  
Statements of Interest/resubmit

To authorize the Administration to resubmit Statements of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the following projects for major renovation or replacement for 2018:

- Burncoat High School (district priority project)
- Worcester East Middle School

It was moved to approve the item and refer it to the City Council for approval.

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: 0  
7

The motion carried.

- 25. gb #8-20 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Miss  
Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo  
(January 10, 2018)

Circuit breaker  
reimbursement  
rate/reduction in

To interact with the Worcester legislative  
delegation as to the proposed change in the circuit  
breaker state reimbursement rate from 75% to  
65%, which could result in a reduction in state aid  
to the Worcester Public Schools of \$476,204.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to  
the Legislative Breakfast meeting on February 9,  
2018.

- 26. gb #8-22 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/Mr.  
Monfredo  
(January 10, 2018)

DCF/referral  
process

Request that the Administration provide the  
following information relative to the process for  
DCF referral 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

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a detailed  
report regarding DCF referrals from their inception  
to their resolution. Superintendent Binienda stated  
that her bulletins outline this procedure.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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