

Committee Members

John L. Foley, Chairman
Molly McCullough, Vice-chairman
Dante Comparetto

City Council Members

Morris Bergman, Chairman
Gary Rosen
Khrystian King

Representatives

Brian Allen

A C T I O N S

The Joint Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education met at 5:32 p.m. on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at the Durkin Administration Building in Room 410.

There were present:

Standing Committee on Finance and Operations

Mr. Comparetto and Chairman Foley

Miss McCullough was absent.

Mr. Monfredo was also in attendance.

City Council's Standing Committee on Education

Mr. Rosen, Mr. King and Chairman Bergman

Mr. Wally was also in attendance.

Representing Administration was: Mr. Allen, Superintendent Binienda and Dr. Friel

Others in attendance: J. Bedard, P. Poinelli, A. Pottle and M. VanHamel

gb #4-214 - Ms. Novick/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo (July 22, 2014)

To consider the city's contribution to the Worcester Public Schools for FY16 and years following.

FILE.

gb #7-27 - Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Miss McCullough (January 5, 2017)

Request that the Administration make a presentation on the projected FY18 Budget to the Joint Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education.

FILE.

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).

Superintendent Binienda commented that the system is well served to have a Facilities Master Plan.

Mr. Allen stated that the MSBA recommended that the development of the Facilities Master Plan would be a blueprint for future projects.

Mr. Pointelli provided the information which is contained in the Executive Summary (Annex A of the backup)

Bookmarks are contained within the document on the website of the Worcester Public Schools to identify each of the 28 schools. A review of the engineering system of all sites was reviewed to determine what needs to be repaired under what is referred to as deferred maintenance.

Mr. Foley stated that the City Manager, the Mayor and City Council have helped to fund the Capital Projects.

Mr. Allen stated that the next phase of the projects will be 10 to 15 years down the road. The MSBA knows that the system submits a Statement of Interest that it has thought carefully about how to develop and organize the schools. He further stated that the development of the FY20 Renovation Budget will reflect the 5 year plan and each year will be updated and be used as a guide to identify projects that will be done through the Building Renovation Projects and funds received from the City.

Councilor Rosen asked if a massive building could be built for Doherty Memorial High and Burncoat High schools.

Mr. Allen stated that that topic possibly could be discussed in the feasibility study.

FILE.

gb #8-72 - Administration (February 14, 2018)

Request that the Administration set a date to hold a Joint Meeting of the City Council's Standing Committee on Education and the School Committee's Standing Committee on Finance and Operations to discuss the FY19 Budget.

Mr. Allen provided a condensed version of the PowerPoint presentation on the FY19 Budget which he presented in full at the School Committee meeting on May 3, 2018.

Mr. Foley stressed that people should contact the House of Representatives to push for more funding on a longer term basis with the state to fund education more equitably across the Commonwealth.

Councilor Bergman requested that the Administration provide a report on the number of children transferring in and out of schools under School Choice and compare that number for the past 2 years.

Mr. Allen stated that there are about 500 students transferring out of the system and 100 coming into it through School Choice.

Councilor Bergman asked how the system can deter students from transferring out of the Worcester Public Schools through School Choice.

Mr. Allen stated that the new South High Community and Doherty Memorial High schools will help to retain students by providing more course offerings.

Councilor Bergman asked if the system could do an exit survey to determine why the students are leaving the Worcester Public Schools.

Councilor Bergman inquired as to progress with the lawsuit, relative to the Foundation Budget.

Mr. Foley stated it would be discussed in Executive Session and indicated that there is a growing interest in other communities to join the lawsuit.

Councilor King asked if there is a governmental affairs person designated to work on some of the legislative issues.

Mr. Allen stated that Superintendent Binienda would be the primary person.

Councilor King inquired as to the number of students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands that are currently attending the Worcester Public Schools.

Mr. Allen stated that there are 276 students attending the Worcester Public Schools from those areas.

Mr. Monfredo stated that the system has waited 3 years for the Foundation Budget to be passed and stressed how important it is to move forward with it because it is impacting the education of the children.

Councilor Bergman stated that he would like a Resolution put on the City Council agenda regarding the Foundation Budget formula.

Mr. Pottle stated that he would file a chairman's Resolution relative to support for a change in the Foundation Budget formula.

FILE.

motion (gb #5-93) - Mr. Foley (November 16, 2015)

Request that the Foundation Budget Review Committee's Final Report and the PowerPoint presentation be referred to the Joint Committee of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education.

FILE.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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