The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 6:13 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, May 4, 2017.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Mayor Petty

It was moved to recess to Executive Session:

1. gb #7-179 - Administration (April 26, 2017)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Teachers and Unit A/B, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares

To consider an International Union of Public Employees (I.U.P.E.) Grievance Complaint – HVAC Technician

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty 1

The motion carried.
The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:14 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.

Mayor Petty arrived at 6:30 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:25 p.m.

The invocation was given by Reverend Richard Trainor of Blessed Sacrament Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered and the National Anthem was sung by Kathryn Ortiz and Richard Gonzales, students from South High Community School.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

Miss Bianchiera, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell and Mayor Petty

**IMMEDIATE ACTION**

2. **gb #7-151.1** - Administration/Administration (April 28, 2017)

To recognize Brian Allen for having received for the 4th time, the Meritorious Budget Award for excellence in preparation and issuance of its budget for the Fiscal Year 2016-17 from the Association of the School Business Officials International (ASBO).

Mayor Petty and Superintendent Binienda presented a Certificate of Recognition to Brian Allen.

3. **gb #7-165.1** - Administration/Administration (April 28, 2017)

To recognize the following schools for having received the Eos Foundation and Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge Award:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Principals</th>
<th>Nutrition People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belmont Street Community School</td>
<td>Sue Hodgkins</td>
<td>Debora Gonyea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School</td>
<td>Mary Sealey</td>
<td>Rosina Brindisi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandler at the Y</td>
<td>Jessica Boss</td>
<td>Jillian Stapleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elm Park Community School</td>
<td>Joany Santa</td>
<td>Linda Viviamore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lincoln Street School</td>
<td>Martha Dewar</td>
<td>Cheryl Burke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Francis J McGrath Elementary School</td>
<td>Paula Gibb-Severin</td>
<td>Michelle Cantwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Hill School</td>
<td>Ishmael Tabales</td>
<td>Theresa Zarr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vernon Hill School</td>
<td>Corenza Jackson</td>
<td>Jayne Troy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wawecus Road School</td>
<td>Joanna Loftus</td>
<td>Kathleen Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Academy</td>
<td>Patricia Padilla</td>
<td>Lynne Stewart</td>
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</table>

Mayor Petty and Superintendent Binienda presented Certificates to Recognition to the recipients of the Eos Foundation and Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge Awards.

It was moved and voice voted to suspend the Rules of the School Committee to take up the following item:
To discuss the impact of radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation from wifi and cellular towers on students and staff in schools, potentially including neurologic impairment and malignancy, and to consider means of minimizing any such risk within the Worcester Public Schools by changes as to practice and policy.

It was moved and voice voted to suspend rules to allow Lance McKee to speak to the item.

Mr. O’Connell discussed the following motion made by Mr. Monfredo at the Standing Committee level on April 24, 2017:

Request that Annex A of the backup for the item be placed on the WPS website and be given to all schools to be shared with the students.

Mr. O’Connell made the following amendment to Mr. Monfredo’s motion:

Request that the following language in Annex A of the backup for the item be placed on the WPS website and be **posted in a conspicuous location within the individual schools:**

Radio Frequency (RF) Exposure (Annex A)

It is the Administration’s view that existing government regulating agencies should be setting proper exposure levels and offering best practices, such as the EPA and FCC. While neither agency has established a link between mobile devices and cancer, they do offer some suggestions for those that are concerned about Radio Frequency (RF) exposure.
FCC:


Some measures to reduce your Radio Frequency (RF) exposure include:

- Use a speakerphone, earpiece or headset to reduce proximity to the head (and thus exposure). While wired earpieces may conduct some energy to the head and wireless earpieces also emit a small amount of RF energy, both wired and wireless earpieces remove the greatest source of RF energy (the cell phone) from proximity to the head and thus can greatly reduce total exposure to the head.
- Increase the distance between wireless devices and your body.
- Consider texting rather than talking - **but don’t text while you are driving.**

EPA:

https://www3.epa.gov/radtown/wireless-technology.html

Scientists continue to study the effects of long-term exposure to low levels of RF. If you are concerned, you can take these simple steps to reduce exposure to RF radiation:

- **Limit use** - Reduce the number and length of your calls or time spent on a wireless device.
- **Use hands-free devices** - Using hands-free devices keeps mobile phones away from your head.
- **Increase distance** between the wireless device and your body.
Based on the guidance from these agencies, the Administration proposes the following:

If you are concerned about radiation or heat from electronic devices, follow these guidelines:

- Consider increasing the distance between electronic devices and your body
- Consider keeping your cellphone, tablet, or laptop in your purse, backpack, or briefcase case instead of keeping it on or close to your body
- If talking on a cellphone, consider using speakerphone or a hands free headset or reduce the number or length of calls
- When not using wireless or Bluetooth, consider shutting off these services on the device or put the device in Airplane mode
- Consider not placing the device directly on your lap. Instead consider placing it on a hard surface such as a desk or book

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley,
Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfreso,
Mr. O’Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: Ms. Colorio 1

The motion as amended carried.

It was moved to suspend the rules of the School Committee.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley,
Miss McCullough, Mayor Petty 4

Against the motion: Miss Biancheria,
Mr. Monfreso,
Mr. O’Connell 3

The motion to suspend was defeated.
Ms. Colorio made the following amendment to Mr. Monfredo’s motion:

Request that Annex A of the backup for the item be placed on the WPS website only.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, 3

Against the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O’Connell, Mayor Petty 4 7

The motion was defeated.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

To discuss the impact of radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation from wifi and cellular towers on students and staff in schools, potentially including neurologic impairment and malignancy, and to consider means of minimizing any such risk within the Worcester Public Schools by changes as to practice and policy.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O’Connell 3

Against the motion: Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mayor Petty 4 7

The motion was defeated.

5. gb #7-174 - Administration (April 28, 2017)

To consider input from the School Committee’s student representatives.
It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

6. ROS #7-8 - Administration (April 26, 2017)

RECENT INITIATIVES IN THE NUTRITION DEPARTMENT OF THE WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Donna Lombardi, Director of School Nutrition, provided a report regarding the recent initiatives in the Nutrition Department of the Worcester Public Schools.

Miss Blancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the School Committee with a hard copy of the dates and times that the food trucks will be at the parks.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration notify the School Committee if the State invites comments on the new proposed state guidelines in light of the new Federal decision.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

PERSONNEL

7. It was moved and voice voted to file Personnel Item 7-12.

Teacher/ appointment of 7-12 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the person named below effective as shown:

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. **gb #7-159.1** - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/
   Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/
   Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria
   (April 6, 2017)

To select a voting delegate and an alternate voting
delegate for the Annual Business Meeting of the
Massachusetts Association of School Committees,
scheduled for November 1, 2017.

Ms. Colorio stated that she would like to be the
voting delegate for the Annual Business Meeting of
the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

Miss Biancheria stated that she would like to be the
alternate voting delegate for the Annual
Business Meeting of the Massachusetts Association
of School Committees.

It was moved and voice voted to select Ms. Colorio
as the voting delegate and Miss Biancheria as the
alternate voting delegate.

9. **gb #7-168.1** - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/
   Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/
   Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria
   (April 28, 2017)

Request that the School Committee consider
revisions to the proposed resolutions regarding the
need to fund the recommendations of the
Foundation Budget Review Commission.

MASC/voting and
alternate voting delegate

Foundation Budget
Review Commission/
resolution
It was moved to endorse the following resolution regarding the need to fund the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission prepared by Mr. O'Connell to be forwarded to the members of the Worcester Legislative Delegation and to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees:

**Whereas**, Part II, c. 5, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth (1780) states that "it shall be the duty of legislatures and magistrates, in all future periods of this Commonwealth, to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences...public schools and grammar schools in the towns." And

**Whereas**, the Constitution was drafted by John Adams, a former Worcester schoolteacher, who in 1776 wrote in his Thoughts on Government that "[I]aws for the liberal education of youth ... are so extremely wise and useful, that, to a humane and generous mind, no expense for this purpose would be thought extravagant." 4 *Works of John Adams* 194 (C.F. Adams ed. 1851) at 199. 415 Mass. at 583-584. And

**Whereas**, *McDuffy v. Secretary of the Executive Office of Education et al*, 415 Mass. 545 (1993) ruled that "the Commonwealth has a duty to provide an education for all its children, rich and poor, in every city and town of the Commonwealth at the public school level, and that this duty is designed not only to serve the interests of the children, but, more fundamentally, to prepare them to participate as free citizens of a free State to meet the needs and interests of a republican government, namely the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." 415 Mass. at 606. And
Whereas, in Hancock v. Commissioner of Education, 443 Mass. 428 (2005), Chief Justice Marshall emphasized that "I do not suggest that the goals of education reform adopted since McDuffy have been fully achieved. Clearly they have not. Nothing I say today would insulate the Commonwealth from a successful challenge under the education clause in different circumstances." 443 Mass. at 435. And

Whereas, the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center report Cutting Class: Underfunding the Foundation Budget’s Core Education Program (2011) found "the real value of the original foundation budget has eroded significantly over time, due in large part to rapid cost growth for health care and special education. Since the foundation budget’s original design did not foresee this rapid cost growth, spending reductions have been forced in other key areas, especially Regular Education Teachers." At Page 4. And

Whereas, the Foundation Budget Review Commission, in its Final Report (2015), stated that "22 years after the advent of education reform, the challenge we have not yet achieved desired results on is to deliver quality consistently to all geographies and all demographic groups across our state," Report, Page 4.

Now Therefore
We, the School Committee of the City of Worcester, petition the 190th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to implement without further delay in full the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.
On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Against the motion:  
0  
7

The motion carried.

Recognition/  
Teacher and  
Nurse  
Appreciation Week

10. gb #7-175 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/  
Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Mayor Petty  
(April 20, 2017)

Request that the Administration, on behalf of the School Committee, forward e-mails to all teachers and nurses in the Worcester Public Schools during National Teacher’s Week May 8 – 12 and Nurses’ Appreciation Week May 6-12 in appreciation for their efforts for the students in the Worcester Public Schools.

It was moved and voice voted to forward two separate e-mails.

Mr. O’Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward letters of thanks, on behalf of the School Committee, to the students who designed the congratulatory messages for the teachers and nurses that were sent to our staff.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Donation/Eos  
Foundation/$5,000

11. gb #7-176 - Administration  
(April 25, 2017)

To accept a donation from the Eos Foundation in the amount of $500 each to the following schools for their commitment to support universal free, after the bell, breakfast in the classroom (BIC) as a powerful tool to fight childhood hunger and boost academic achievement:
Belmont Street Community School
Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School
Chandler Elementary Community School
Elm Park Community School
Lincoln Street School
Francis J. McGrath Elementary School
Union Hill School
Vernon Hill School
Wawecus Road School
Woodland Academy

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,
Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O’Connell,
Mayor Petty

Against the motion:

The motion carried.

12. gb #7-177 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio/
Mr. O’Connell/Mr. Monfredo
(April 26, 2017)

Request that the Administration review the precautionary measures and safety features under the safety regulations of the bus contracts for both the Worcester Public Schools and Durham School Services.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration identify the person who is in charge of the checklist that is used to make certain that the busses are completely safe to transport the students in the Worcester Public Schools and provide a report in July or August.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration.
13. gb #7-178 - Administration
(April 26, 2017)

To consider approval of the new 7th grade science textbook published by McGraw Hill, Inc.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

7

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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