

STANDING COMMITTEE: **GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEE ISSUES**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, March 13, 2017

ITEM: Clerk (August 24, 2016)

To consider a communication from a citizen expressing an interest in promoting civic engagement in the Worcester Public Schools by initiating a "Municipal Governance Day" which would give high school students an opportunity to learn how the municipal government works.

PRIOR ACTION:

- 9-1-16 - Referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.
Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:
Request that when the item is discussed at the Standing Committee level, that the Administration provide appropriate information as to what schools are now doing regarding governance activities for students.
(Continued on page 2.)

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 page) contains a copy of the communication.
Annex B (1 page) contains a copy of the Administration's response to the item.

PRIOR ACTION (continued)

9-1-16 - Request that the issue of voter registration be part of the discussion
(continued) that takes place at the Standing Committee level and provide options
in terms of registering voters.

Request that the Administration notify the Election Commission regarding this item and welcome its participation with regard to a voter registration initiative in the schools.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that when legislators participate in the program that both parties have equal representation.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that Mr. Collins be notified when c&p #6-7 and c&p #6-8 are planned to be scheduled so that the meeting can be set up at a time that is convenient to him.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

The Superintendent mentioned the following civic engagements that are currently taking place in the Worcester Public Schools:

- A program, conducted by Senator Chandler, in all the high schools yearly, for grades 11 and 12 which involves a representative from the Voter Registration Office who gives the forms to the students in order to register them to vote.
- The schools are involved in Mock Trials in which the students argue different cases which involves them in civic engagement.
- Every year, high schools send students to the State House Day where they actually get to sit in the chairs of the State Representatives and Senators and present and argue different issues.
- A visit to the Kennedy Congressional Building Museum in Boston during which time students are actually assigned as either as a Democrat or Republican and the setup replicates a Congressional Assembly where students are able to debate different issues.