

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Worcester, Massachusetts  
Thursday, May 19, 2016  
Agenda #17

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 6:12 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, May 19, 2016.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Ms. Colorio

It was moved to recess to Executive Session:

Executive  
Session

1. gb #6-195 - Administration  
(May 11, 2016)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for all Collective Bargaining Agreements, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy in preparation for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to conduct negotiations with nonunion personnel – Superintendent-Elect.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty	6
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Against the motion:		0
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Absent: Ms. Colorio		$\frac{1}{7}$
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The motion carried.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:13 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Colorio arrived at 6:30 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:05 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

The invocation was offered by Reverend Clyde Talley of Belmont AME Zion Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered and the National Anthem was played.

2. Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to approve the Contract for Employment between the City of Worcester, acting by and through its School Committee, and Maureen F. Binienda, effective May 24, 2016.

Contract/Superintendent  
of Schools/Mrs. Binienda

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

It was moved to suspend rules to reconsider the motion.

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

It was moved to reconsider the motion to approve the Contract for Employment between the City of Worcester, acting by and through its School Committee, and Maureen F. Binienda, effective May 24, 2016.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: 0

Against the motion: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,  
Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,  
Mayor Petty  $\frac{7}{7}$

The motion was defeated.

Central  
Massachusetts  
Special Education  
Collaborative/  
appoint Mrs.  
Binienda

3. It was moved to suspend rules to appoint Mrs. Binienda to the Board of the Central Massachusetts Special Education Collaborative to represent the Worcester Public Schools.

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:  $\frac{0}{7}$

The motion carried.

It was moved to appoint Mrs. Binienda to the Board of the Central Massachusetts Special Education Collaborative to represent the Worcester Public Schools.

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:  $\frac{0}{7}$

The motion carried.

It was moved to suspend rules to reconsider the motion:

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

It was moved to reconsider the motion to appoint Mrs. Binienda to the Board of the Central Massachusetts Special Education Collaborative to represent the Worcester Public Schools.

For the motion:		0
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Against the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty	$\frac{7}{7}$
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The motion was defeated.

#### APPROVAL OF RECORDS

- |    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 4. | <u>aor #6-13</u> - Clerk<br>(May 6, 2016) | Minutes/approval of |
|----|---|---------------------|

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 28, 2016.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 28, 2016.

- |    |  |                     |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 5. | <u>aor #6-14</u> - Clerk<br>(May 11, 2016) | Minutes/approval of |
|----|--|---------------------|

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, May 5, 2016.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, May 5, 2016.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Recognition/Stop  
and Shop Family  
Foundation and  
Worcester County  
Food Bank

6. gb #6-155.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/  
Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/  
Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty  
(May 5, 2016)

To recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, the donation of a "hybrid food truck" to the Worcester Public Schools, by the Stop and Shop Family Foundation and the Worcester County Food Bank.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item.

Recognition/  
Sebastian  
Kopacz

7. gb #6-165.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/  
Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/  
Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty  
(May 5, 2016)

To recognize Sebastian Kopacz, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student in the Worcester Technical High School electrical program, on his selection by The Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) and the Massachusetts Vocational Association (MVA) as one of 52 Massachusetts students honored at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Award Banquet at Mechanics Hall.

Mayor Petty and Dr. Rodrigues presented a Certificate of Recognition to Sebastian Kopacz.

Recognition/  
Working for  
Worcester

8. gb #6-170.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/  
Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/  
Mayor Petty  
(May 6, 2016)

To recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, the organizers and volunteers of the Working for Worcester initiative, which enlisted the assistance of 1,100 volunteers in projects which benefited the Worcester Public Schools, the young people of Worcester, and the citizens of Worcester generally.

Mayor Petty and Dr. Rodrigues presented a Certificates of Recognition to the organizers and volunteers of the Working for Worcester initiative.

9. gb #6-176.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/  
Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/  
Ms. Colorio/Mayor Petty  
(May 6, 2016)

Recognition/donors that  
contributed funds for the  
CPR/AED Program

To recognize the following donors who graciously contributed funds for the CPR (compression training)/AED program to begin in September in all secondary schools:

- Worcester District Medical Society
- The Hanover Insurance Group
- Greater Worcester Foundation
- Worcester Educational Development Foundation
- CVS Health
- Worcester County Sheriff's Association
- UMASS Medical School
- Spectrum Health Services
- Ryan P. Quinn Memorial Golf Tournament
- Ann Day and Donna Enberg
- Richard and Kathleen Perry
- Elinor Lamberton

Mayor Petty and Dr. Rodrigues presented a Certificates of Recognition to donors who graciously contributed funds for the CPR (compression training)/AED program.

10. gb #6-179 - Administration  
(May 11, 2016)

Student Representatives/  
consider input

To consider input from the School Committee's student representatives.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

11. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Student Achievement met at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

School  
Accountability  
Plans

gb #2-325 - Ms. Novick/Miss Biancheria (November 29, 2012)

To review school accountability plans.

## 5-17-16 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mr. King made a presentation regarding the Wake-Up Math Program which is one developed by the faculty at Forest Grove Middle School. Each day, during the morning homeroom period, students work on a math problem. The student responses are then collected and submitted to the cluster math teachers who review the problem with students. Math teachers at Forest Grove acknowledge students on a weekly basis, based on their correct responses. The school year starts with review material and the problems get more challenging as the year progresses.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration circulate a description of the Wake-Up Math Program to other schools for possible implementation.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

When Mr. King was asked by a Standing Committee member about needs in the math department, he mentioned textbooks and materials for inclusion and at-risk students.

It was moved and voice voted to discuss the School Accountability Plans for University Park Campus School and Worcester Technical High School at the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Student Achievement.

## 5-19-16 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

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

gb #5-84 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (March 11, 2015)

To review the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education report entitled, "Elm Park Community School Level 4/School Redesign Grant (SRG) Monitoring Site Visit" which took place December 4-5, 2014 and to consider the "Strengths" and "Areas for Improvement" detailed in it.

Elm Park Community  
School Level 4/School  
Redesign Grant (SRG)  
Monitoring Site  
Visit/review  
report

5-17-16 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Ms. Santa, Principal, Elm Park Community School, made an excellent presentation regarding the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education report entitled, "Elm Park Community School Level 4/School Redesign Grant (SRG) Monitoring Site Visit" which took place December 4-5, 2014.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday Letter, the updated follow-up report from the state in order to publicize the quality of the program.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

FILE.

5-19-16 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

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

gb #5-184 - Administration (July 8, 2015)

To consider participation in the USDA Community Eligibility Program which provides free meals to all students within the Worcester Public Schools.

USDA Community  
Eligibility Program



## 5-17-16 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report as to whether the change to the USDA Community Eligibility Program has had an impact on the Worcester Public Schools eligibility for grant funding.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

FILE.

## 5-19-16 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

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

MCAS and  
PARCC/  
review scores

gb #5-243 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (September 10, 2015)

To review the scores achieved by Worcester students in the 2015 administration of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) examinations, at all levels.

## 5-17-16 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration determine whether the results of MCAS or PARCC should continue to be a criteria for use to select students for the Goddard Scholars Program, since they are separate and distinct tests.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide evidence that supports the following two statements as contained in the backup in Annex A, page 3, first bullet:

"In contrast to the MCAS (aligned to the "old" Massachusetts Frameworks), the PARCC is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Because of this, the assessment is more rigorous than MCAS."

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Ms. Colorio stated that when the Massachusetts standards were first implemented, they were considered to be the best in the country and that was due to the fact that the English curriculum included good literature and very strong content. To date, there is no evidence that supports the statement that the PARCC assessment or Common Core is more rigorous than the MCAS.

Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Administration conduct a survey or add to an existing one an item to determine whether data about MCAS or PARCC is useful to teachers.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

#### 5-19-16 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

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

#### PERSONNEL

- |                 |   |  |         |                 |         |                                  |
|-----------------|---|--|---------|-----------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| 12.             | It was moved and voice voted to file Personnel Items 6-20 – 6-23.   |  |         |                 |         |                                  |
| 6-20            | <p>The Superintendent APPROVED the RETIREMENT of the person named below:</p> <p>Pryor, Barbara, Teacher, Library Media, South High Community School, effective April 30, 2016</p>   | Retirement                                   |         |                 |         |                                  |
| 6-21            | <p>The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the person named below:</p> <p>Carabba, Angela, Teacher, Special Education, WEMS, BA+15, Step 4, \$55,836, effective April 29, 2016</p>   | Appointment/<br>Special Education<br>Teacher |         |                 |         |                                  |
| 6-22            | <p>The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Junior Custodian, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$15.28 (minimum) to \$19.17 (maximum), per hour, effective as shown:</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Dufault, Todd</td> <td>4/25/16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holloway, Shane</td> <td>4/25/16</td> </tr> </table> | Dufault, Todd                                | 4/25/16 | Holloway, Shane | 4/25/16 | Appointment/Junior<br>Custodians |
| Dufault, Todd   | 4/25/16   |  |         |                 |         |                                  |
| Holloway, Shane | 4/25/16   |  |         |                 |         |                                  |

Appointment/Aide  
to the Physically  
Handicapped

- 6-23 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Aide to the Physically Handicapped, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$16.06 (minimum) to \$19.78 (maximum) per hour, from Civil Service List #315-078, effective as follows:

Cruz, Herminia 4/25/16

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

Policies Handbook/  
Wellness Policy/  
amendment

13. gb #6-180 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/  
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough  
(May 2, 2016)

Request that the School Committee consider approval of the following language to be included into the Wellness Policy for the 2016-17 Policies Handbook:

All students in grades 7 – 12 will receive instruction in physical education classes in hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and on the use of the external automated defibrillator (AED).

Mayor Petty left the meeting at 7:40 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman O'Connell chaired the meeting from 7:40 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Miss Biancheria left the meeting from 7:40 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley,  
Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo,  
Mr. O'Connell 5

Absent: Miss Biancheria, Mayor Petty 2  
7

The motion carried.

14. gb #6-181 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/  
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty  
(May 4, 2016) Recognition/  
set date

To set a date to recognize Mary-Margaret Mara a pre-school teacher at Chandler Magnet School for having been selected as a finalist in the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year award.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, June 2, 2016.

15. gb #6-182 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/  
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty  
(May 4, 2016) Recognition/  
set date

To set a date to recognize Elizabeth Bria, the Editor for the Worcester Telegram's Happy Time Page Section, for encouraging students to write or draw designs for this section of the paper which has been in existence for 65 years.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, June 2, 2016.

It was moved and voice voted to request that the item be referred to the Administration to encourage students to participate in the Happy Time page and file the item.

16. gb #6-183 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/  
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty  
(May 9, 2016) Recognition/  
set date

To set a date to recognize Dr. Richard Howath, a teacher at North High School, for his creation of a TEDxNorthHighSchool Program which was presented on May 7, 2016 and forward congratulatory letters to the participants.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, June 2, 2016.

Reading in Our City  
Week

17. gb #6-184 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/  
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough  
(May 9, 2016)

Request that the Administration inform the schools about the Annual Reading in Our City Week from June 5 – 11 which was initiated by Worcester: the City that Reads and involve staff in preparing their students in meaningful literacy events and to highlight summer reading with both students and parents.

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

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration consider publicizing reading week during the week of June 5-11 and summer reading program by a variety of means including, but not necessarily limited to, ConnectEd, outreach to community and faith based agencies and to include appropriate mathematics activities as well.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Parking/Durkin  
Administration  
Building

18. gb #6-185 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio/  
Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough  
(May 10, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide clarification on the parking spaces at the Durkin Administration Building designated for School Committee or the Handicapped and include a list of all individuals who have DAB passes and explain the way in which the parking lot is monitored.

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

Miss Biancheria asked the Administration to provide clarification on the parking spaces at the Durkin Administration Building designated for School Committee and the Handicapped.

Dr. Rodrigues indicated that the Administration is addressing the situation because a handicap parking spot can't be shared with anybody else.

19. gb #6-186 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio/  
Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough  
(May 10, 2016)

Chief Human Resources  
Officer/job description

Request that the Administration provide a copy of the Job Description for the Chief Human Resources Officer.

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

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration for a response as soon as possible.

20. gb #6-187 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/  
Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough  
(May 10, 2016)

Special Education/  
services provided

Request that the Administration provide a report on the services provided, including reading services, for students classified as deaf and in need of services in the Special Education Department.

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

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration work diligently to fill the positions that are necessary to provide services and keep the School Committee apprised of its progress in this area.

On a voice vote, motion was approved.

21. gb #6-188 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/  
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough  
(May 11, 2016)

Recognition/  
Arts Festival and the  
Meet the Artist Night  
event/forward letters

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the art and music liaisons for the splendid work done at the Art Festival and at the Meet the Artist Night event.

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

Donation/Lou Anne  
and John  
Branche/McGrath  
School/\$5,000

22. gb #6-189 - Administration  
(May 11, 2016)

To accept a donation from Lou Anne & John Branche in the amount of \$5,000 for McGrath Elementary School.

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:  $\frac{0}{7}$

The motion carried.

Absences/process  
of computing the  
excused and  
unexcused student  
absences

23. gb #6-190 - Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/  
Miss Biancheria  
(May 11, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide a report describing the process of computing the excused and unexcused student absences for accountability purposes.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Student Achievement.

Vernon Hill School/  
provide information

24. gb #6-191 - Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/  
Miss Biancheria  
(May 11, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide:

- a list of daily student and staff activities to include, but not be limited to, common planning, recess and professional development
- a list of parent involvement activities and
- MCAS student data results for the last 3 years at Vernon Hill School.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration for a report in a Friday Letter.

25. gb #6-192 - Miss McCullough/Ms. Colorio/  
Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria  
(May 11, 2016)

Space Monkey  
Challenge/inform  
students and staff about  
the dangers

Request that the Administration inform students and staff about the dangers of participating in the "Space Monkey Challenge" in order to educate and protect children from the consequences of this game.

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

26. gb #6-193 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Foley/  
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough  
(May 11, 2016)

Latino Dollars for  
Scholars Program

Request that the Administration alert the public about the Latino Dollars for Scholars Program which will take place on May 21, 2016 at the Manor Restaurant, 424 West Boylston Street at 5:30 p.m. and the cost of tickets is \$35.00.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

27. gb #6-194 - Administration  
(May 11, 2016)

Donation/Eos Foundation

To accept a donation from the Eos Foundation for the total amount of \$5,500 which would grant \$500 to each of the schools listed below 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 in our high-need communities:

Belmont Street Community School  
Elm Park Community School  
Goddard School of Science and Technology  
Lincoln Street School  
Francis J. McGrath Elementary School



Quinsigamond School  
Rice Square School  
Union Hill School  
Vernon Hill School  
Wawecus Road School  
Woodland Academy

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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