

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Thursday, December 17, 2015
Agenda #25 and #25A

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, December 17, 2015.

There were present at the Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez and Mayor Petty

It was moved to recess to Executive Session in order to discuss the following item:

Executive
Session

- 1. gb #5-348 - Administration
(December 9, 2015)

To provide an update on litigation relative to elevator fines assessed against the Worcester Public Schools - City of Worcester v. Elevators Maintenance & Service et. al., Worcester Superior Court Civil Action No. WOCV2015-00062-B

To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies in the Worcester Public Schools.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:		<u>0</u> 7
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The motion carried.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:06 p.m. to 7:14 p.m.

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Lou Soiles of Journey Community Church.

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

There were present at the second Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez and Mayor Petty

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

2. aor #5-25 - Clerk
(December 9, 2015)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, December 3, 2015.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, December 3, 2015.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

3. gb #5-316.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/
Ms. Novick/Miss Ramirez/
Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty
(December 7, 2015) Recognition/
James O'Donoghue

To recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, the quarter century of service by James O'Donoghue as announcer of Worcester Public Schools' games at Foley Stadium.

Mayor Petty and Dr. Rodrigues presented a Certificate of Appreciation to James O'Donoghue as announcer of Worcester Public Schools' games at Foley Stadium.

COMMUNICATION AND PETITION

4. c&p #5-8 - Clerk
(December 4, 2015) Communication and
Petition/proposed
policy for non-arrest
of students

To consider a petition from a citizen regarding a proposed policy for non-arrest of students at school.

The following individuals addressed the petition regarding a proposed policy for non-arrest of students in the Worcester Public Schools:

Gordon Davis	Chris Robarge
Gwen Davis	Len Zalauskas
Sally LaPorte	Ron Madnick
David Balyon	Ruth Rodrigues
Idalla Hazzard	Keith Scott
Walter Joelle	Reverend Aaron Payson

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report of the
Superintendent/ School
Safety and Security
Assessment Report

5. ros #5-14 - Administration
(December 9, 2015)

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY ASSESSMENT
REPORT

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

Mr. Lucy, Principal, Risk Management and Mr. Gallagher, Principal, Design & Engineering from Good Harbor Techmark, LLC discussed the School Safety and Security Assessment Report for the Worcester Public Schools.

Vice-chairman Biancheria chaired the meeting from 8:20 p.m. – 8:25 p.m.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the report be forwarded to the principals and the School Liaison Officer.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the newly formed Safety Advisory Committee of the Worcester Public Schools submit a progress report regarding its work relative to the School Safety and Security Assessment Report.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that when the item is referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations it include:

- Miss Biancheria's motion to bring the item back to the full committee on February 25, 2016
- the recommendations from the Administration regarding the report
- a multi-year initiative to be imbedded in the FY17 Budget and capital recommendations to the City Manager and
- involvement with the School Building Authority as to how these recommendations can be carried out over the course of multi-years.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration consider offering more safety training hours to staff and to seek grant money for such training.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss Biancheria suggested that the Administration consider reinstating at this time the position that was cut in the Safety Office who offered support not only to the Safety Liaison but to the schools.

Ms. Novick suggested that the Administration review the Admissions Policy for Worcester Technical High School.

6. gb #5-338 - Administration
(December 7, 2015)

Recognition/
Dr. Dolores Gribouski

To recognize Dolores Gribouski for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

The School Committee presented a chair to Dolores Gribouski for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

7. The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

gb #2-139 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio
(April 11, 2012)

Boston Debate
League

To consider development of a partnership with the Boston Debate League to support academic debate teams in high schools in Worcester.

12-8-15 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mrs. Eressy spoke to the item and indicated that she would provide information regarding the National Debate Organization to the secondary principals.

Mr. O'Connell requested that the Administration conduct a survey at the secondary level in the winter to determine interest regarding the establishment of Debate Teams, Model Congresses or a Model UN Congress in the Worcester Public Schools.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the item be held for a report back in late January or early February 2016.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to request that the Administration contact the President of Becker College to determine interest in working in a collaborative way to develop a public speaking or debate initiative in the Worcester Public Schools.

12-17-15 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

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

The Gateway Cities Vision
for Dynamic Community-
wide Learning Systems

gb #4-39 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty (February 4, 2014)

To review and consider the report which sets forth "The Gateway Cities Vision for Dynamic Community-Wide Learning Systems."

12-8-15 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Dr. Rojas made a presentation relative to a multi-tiered system of supports which tied into "The Gateway Cities Vision for Dynamic Community-Wide Learning Systems."

Mr. Monfredo and Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a report to the Standing Committee during the month of February with regard to progress made in the formulation of its multi-tiered system of supports.

Request that the Administration also provide any recommendations it has for budgetary investment by the School Committee in connection with the program for FY17.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

12-17-15 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

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

North High School/
convene a listening
session

gb #5-42 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Ramirez/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (January 26, 2015)

To convene a School Committee "listening session" at North High School, to welcome the input and advice of staff, students, parents and other members of the community as to topics of interest and concern they choose to raise regarding their school, and as to any issues of policy and/or budget which they believe the School Committee should address.

12-8-15 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

FILE.

12-17-15 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

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

gb #5-48 - Administration (January 29, 2015)

To accept the systemic, culture, climate and safety Action Plan for North High School.

North High School/
accept the systemic,
culture, climate and
safety Action Plan

12-8-15 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

FILE.

12-17-15 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

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

gb #5-237 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo (September 9, 2015)

Request that the Administration consider implementing the Reach Out and Read Program in the Worcester Public Schools.

Reach Out and Read
Program

12-8-15 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

FILE.

12-17-15 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

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

PERSONNEL

8. It was moved and voice voted to file Personnel Items 5-52 and 5-53.

5-52 The Superintendent ACKNOWLEDGES the RESIGNATION of the persons named below:

Resignations

Fay, Linda, Teacher, Science, Unassigned, effective November 12, 2015.

Rosales, Elisa, Teacher, Mathematics, North, effective October 30, 2015

5-53 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the persons named below:

Appointments

Boulay, Michelle, Teacher, Elementary, Burncoat Prep, MA, Step 5, \$61,912 effective November 30, 2015.
Licensed: Elementary 1-6.

Burke-Montero, Brendan, Teacher, English as a Second Language, Burncoat High, BA, Step 2, \$47,522 effective October 17, 2015. Licensed: English as a Second Language 5-12.

Howard-Donlin, Grace, Director, Advanced High School Academy at Doherty, MA, Step 4, \$94,979 effective November 30, 2015. Licensed: Principal/Assistant Principal 9-12.

Mercado, Albert, Liaison, Guidance, Systemwide, MA+30, Step 8, \$75,428, effective November 30, 2015. Licensed: School Guidance Counselor 5-12.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Ms. Novick left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Donation/Susan & Seth
Popinchalk/
\$500

9. gb #5-340 - Administration
(November 30, 2015)

To accept a donation in the amount of \$500 from Susan & Seth Popinchalk for the Goddard Scholars Academy.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Donation/Lake View
School parents, students,
friends and
relatives/\$5,720

10. gb #5-341 - Administration
(December 3, 2015)

To accept a donation in the amount of \$5,720.35 from parents, students, friends, and relatives to support a spelling contest for Lake View School.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

- 11. gb #5-342 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Miss Ramirez/
Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty
(December 8, 2015)

Recognition/
Robert Kraft

Request that the Administration forward a letter of appreciation to Robert Kraft for a donation of \$100,000 to Worcester Technical High School.

Ms. Novick returned to the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

It was moved and voice voted to forward a letter of appreciation to Robert Kraft for a donation of \$100,000 to Worcester Technical High School.

- 12. gb #5-343 - Administration
(December 9, 2015)

Donation/Big Y Foods, Inc./Claremont Academy, Gates Lane, Grafton Street, Midland Street, Tatnuck Magnet and Forest Grove Middle schools/\$500 each

To accept donations in the amount of \$500.00 each from Big Y Foods, Inc. for the following schools:

- Claremont Academy
- Gates Lane School of Science and Technology
- Grafton Street School
- Midland Street School
- Tatnuck Magnet School
- Forest Grove Middle School

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

- 13. gb #5-344 - Ms. Novick/Miss Ramirez/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. Foley/Mayor Petty
(December 9, 2015)

Islamophobia/
adopt the City Manager's
statement

Request that the School Committee consider adopting the City Manager's statement against Islamophobia.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

Recognition/set date

- 14. gb #5-345 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Ramirez/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty
(December 9, 2015)

To set a date to recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, the donation of \$50,000 by the Worcester Rotary Club to assist with construction, by the students of Worcester Technical High School, of the Myra Kraft Footbridge at Elm Park.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, January 21, 2016.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the item be amended to include recognizing the students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute who had participated in the engineering that led into preparation of the bridge whether by a certificate to a representative of WPI or by letters to an appropriate individual at WPI.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Donation/JVE Co, Inc./Tatnuck Magnet School/\$195

- 15. gb #5-346 - Administration
(December 9, 2015)

To accept a donation in the amount of \$195.00 from JVE Co, Inc. for Tatnuck Magnet School.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

Budget Reduction/
\$501,120

- 16. gb #5-347 - Administration
(December 9, 2015)

To consider a budget reduction in the amount of \$501,120 to reflect the final state budget for charter school reimbursement and tuition assessments.

Miss Novick made the following motions:

Request that the Administration forward a letter, on behalf of the School Committee, to the local delegation and provide carbon copies to the Joint Committee on Education and Governor Baker to:

- point out that the Worcester Public Schools is cutting its budget in December 2015 by \$500,000 due to the lack of full funding of the Charter School reimbursement and
- consider lifting the Charter School cap.

Request that the Administration forward a letter, on behalf of the School Committee, to the Board of Education with a carbon copy to the Commissioner of Education to:

- point out that the Worcester Public Schools is cutting its budget in December 2015 by \$500,000 due to the lack of full funding of the Charter School reimbursement
- consider lifting the Charter School cap
- make the point that the Board of Education, under the recommendation of the Commissioner of Education, continues to consider adding seats to the Charter Schools despite not fully funding its current legal obligations.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved to reduce Account 500-91111 Teacher Salaries in the amount of \$501,120.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

It was moved to approve the FY16 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$318,291,993.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

Recognition/
Hilda Ramirez

17. gb #5-337 - Administration
(December 7, 2015)

To recognize Hilda Ramirez for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

The School Committee presented a chair to Hilda Rodrigues for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

Recognition/
Tracy O'Connell
Novick

18. gb #5-336 - Administration
(December 7, 2015)

To recognize Tracy O'Connell Novick for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

The School Committee presented a chair to Tracy O'Connell Novick for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

Recognition/
Tracy O'Connell
Novick/MASC's Division
IX All-State School
Committee 2015 award

19. gb #5-270.1 - Administration/Mr. Foley/
Miss Ramirez/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty
(December 7, 2015)

To recognize Tracy O'Connell Novick for being selected to receive MASC's Division IX (Urban) All-State School Committee 2015 award.

Mayor Petty and Dr. Rodrigues presented a Certificate of Recognition to Tracy O'Connell Novick for being selected to receive MASC's Division IX (Urban) All-State School Committee 2015 award.

Student
Representatives/
input

20. gb #5-339 - Administration
(December 7, 2015)

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

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

It was moved to suspend the Rules of the School Committee to discuss gb #5-349 from Supplemental Agenda #25A.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

- 21. gb #5-349 - Administration
(December 17, 2015)

MCAS or PARCC
Assessments/school
preferences for
Spring 2016

To consider approval of the Interim Superintendent's recommendation on school preferences for the Spring 2016 administration of MCAS or PARCC assessments in grades 3-8.

Mayor Petty stated that as of the posting deadline for the agenda submittal, he did not anticipate that this item would be taken up at this meeting.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, 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 item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Tatnuck Magnet
School/replace
flagpole

23. Mayor Petty made the following motion:
Request that the Administration consider replacing the
flagpole at Tatnuck Magnet School.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

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