

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Thursday, February, 2016
Agenda #6

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 7:08 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, February 4, 2016.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Greg Lisby of All Saints Episcopal Church.

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

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

- 1. aor #6-3 - Clerk
(January 26, 2016)

Minutes/
approval of

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Friday, January 15, 2016.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Friday, January 15, 2016.

- 2. aor #6-4 - Clerk
(January 26, 2016)

Minutes/
approval of

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, January 21, 2016.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, January 21, 2016.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Recognition/
365Z Foundation

3. gb #5-285.2 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/
Ms. Novick/ Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss Ramirez/
Mr. Foley/Mayor Petty
(January 5, 2016)

To recognize the following individuals of the 365Z
Foundation for implementing their program of kindness in
the Worcester Public Schools:

Rosemary Ford, President
Paul LaCava, Co-founder
Ed Gardella, Co-founder

Mayor Petty and Dr. Rodrigues presented Certificates of
Appreciation to the 365Z Foundation for implementing
their program of kindness in the Worcester Public Schools.

Recognition/
Worcester Rotary Club and
Worcester
Polytechnic Institute

4. gb #5-345.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Ramirez/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty
(January 8, 2016)

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 and to recognize a representative from
Worcester Polytechnic Institute for the work of its students
in the engineering of the bridge.

Mayor Petty and Dr. Rodrigues presented Certificates of
Appreciation to the Worcester Rotary Club and Worcester
Polytechnic Institute.

Recognition/
Frederick Rushton
and Phillip Palmieri

5. gb #6-8.1 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty
(January 25, 2016)

To recognize former City Councilors Frederick C. Rushton
and Philip P. Palmieri for their years of dedication and
support on behalf of the Worcester Public Schools and the
children of Worcester.

Mayor Petty and Dr. Rodrigues presented a Certificate of Appreciation to former City Councilors Frederick C. Rushton and Philip P. Palmieri for their years of dedication and support on behalf of the Worcester Public Schools and the children of Worcester.

6. gb #6-12.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mayor Petty
(January 25, 2016)

Recognition/
Paula Harrity

To recognize and to congratulate Paula Harrity, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, on the occasion of her retirement from the Worcester Public Schools, and to thank her for her decades of dedicated service to the children of Worcester.

7. gb #6-54 - Administration
(January 25, 2016)

School Committee's
Student
Representatives/
consider input

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

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

It was moved and voice voted to suspend rules to take up the following item:

8. gb #6-55 - Administration
(January 15, 2016)

Grant/Worcester
HEARS Grant/
\$431,700

To accept the Worcester HEARS (Healthy Environment and Resilience in Schools) grant in the amount of \$431,700.

Dr. Rodrigues, Dr. Yost and Dr. Carey made a brief presentation relative to the HEARS (Healthy, Environment and Resilience in Schools) Grant.

Ms. Colorio requested that the Administration provide information on the cost to sustain the program after the five years.

Dr. Rodrigues indicated that the system has had a partnership with the Family Health Center and is interested in opening the school-based health clinic at Worcester East Middle School with the help of this grant. The Family Health Center is also looking into the sustainability piece after the grant comes to an end. He also stated that this grant is a startup grant to put many mechanisms in place and in the long run, it will be sustained by sources other than this grant.

It was moved to approve the HEARS (Healthy, Environment and Resilience in Schools) Grant in the amount of \$431,700.

On a roll call of 6-1 (nay-Ms. Colorio), the motion was approved.

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

Against the motion: Ms. Colorio 1/7

The motion carried.

Donation/
Fallon Community Health
Plan/\$1,000

9. gb #6-56 - Administration
(January 15, 2016)

To accept a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Fallon Community Health Plan to support the food pantry at Burncoat High 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: 0/7

The motion carried.

10. gb #6-57 - Administration
(January 15, 2016)
- Grant/STARS
Residencies FY16
University Park
Campus Grant/
\$2,200
- To accept the STARS Residencies FY16 University Park
Campus School grant in the amount of \$2,200.
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.
11. gb #6-58 - Administration
(January 15, 2016)
- Grant/Making
Connections –
Mandala Weaving
Grant/\$2,405
- To accept the Making Connections-Mandala Weaving
grant for Jacob Hiatt Magnet School in the amount of
\$2,405.
- Mr. O'Connell requested that, upon completion of the
project, a photograph be furnished to the Administration
and the School Committee.
12. gb #6-59 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough
(January 15, 2016)
- Legislative
Delegation/
setup meeting
- To set the date of March 11, 2016 to meet with the
Legislative Delegation to:
- discuss items generated by the School Committee
 - consider working on the creation of laws that would
benefit the children and
 - request items from the delegation to be included on the
agenda.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the following topics be included on the agenda of the next joint meeting with the local delegation:

- kindergarten funding
- an amendment to the Charter School reimbursement formula
- an alignment of the inflation rate with current trends
- impact on the Worcester Public Schools in terms of the definition of low income Chapter 70 funding

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the School Committee and Administration forward their legislative agenda items to the Clerk of the School Committee three weeks in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Rodrigues indicated that Senator Moore suggested that the next meeting be in early April or May and Senator Chandler indicated that April 1, 2016 would be the most appropriate time to have this meeting because it is before the House convenes its sessions.

Miss Biancheria requested an updated report on the 2015 Summer Programs as soon as possible.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

13. ros #6-1 - Administration
(January 27, 2016)

Report of the
Superintendent/
FY17 Preliminary Budget
Estimates

FY17 PRELIMINARY BUDGET ESTIMATES

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Administration forward a letter to the local delegation regarding the recommendations that Mr. Allen presented in his PowerPoint that could save money for the City of Worcester.

Ms. Colorio inquired as to the per pupil amount that the system received this year for ELL Learners and the amount expected in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Allen indicated that the per pupil amount for ELL Learners for FY16 is \$9,303 and \$9,283 for FY17.

Ms. Colorio inquired as to the per pupil cost for FY16 and the recommended amount in the Governor's Budget.

Mr. Allen indicated that the per pupil amount is \$3,400 for elementary and \$2,800 for secondary. In the Governor's Proposed Budget, the amount is \$4,135 per pupil.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report in a Friday Letter indicating the change in demographics over the past 20 years (October 1995 to October 2015).

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Foley requested that the Administration forward a letter to the delegation relative to the Governor's Proposed Budget to include points such as the inflation factor going down this year and the health insurance probably going up to 7.5%.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the breakdown of trades subsumed under the total of 1,868 students in Chapter 74 for 2015 and do the same breakdown for 2016.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss Biancheria requested an update regarding the recommendations from the School Safety Advisory Committee.

Miss Biancheria requested that the Administration provide a breakdown in a Friday Letter of the 83 positions under District-based Administration and Support as contained in Annex A, page 28.

Mayor Petty made the following motions:

Request that the State reimburse, as indicated in State Law, the current allocation for Charter School reimbursement as outlined in Annex A, page 14.

Request that the School Committee oppose the current allocation for Charter School reimbursement and forward a letter to the local delegation relative to this matter.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

PERSONNEL

14. It was moved and voice voted to file Personnel Item 6-6.

Teacher/
appointment of

6-6 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the person named below:

Latham, Lance, Teacher, Special Education, North High, BA+15, Step 5, \$58,296 effective January 19, 2016.
Licensed: Moderate Disabilities 5-12.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Recognition/Martin Luther
King, Jr. Art Contest
winners

15. gb #6-60 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty
(January 18, 2016)

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the following students and Art groups for being selected as winners in the Martin Luther King, Jr. art contest:

Heard Street Discovery Academy
Kayla Tran, grade 5
Tommy Burny, grade 6

Art Groups

City View School
West Tatnuck School
Lake View School
Flagg Street School

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

16. gb #6-61 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty
(January 18, 2016) Recognition/
set date

To set a date to recognize South High Community School's Marching Band under the direction of Johnetta Smith for being selected to represent the State of Massachusetts in the commemoration of the 240th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, PA.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, March 17, 2016.

Mr. Monfredo indicated that the school has established a fundraising website and also individuals can forward checks made payable to the South High Band Association.

17. gb #6-62 - Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mayor Petty
(January 19, 2016) Recognition/South
High Community
School's Robotics
Club, Greg Ricardi
and Tara Vaidya

To forward a letter, on behalf of the School Committee, to congratulate the South High Community School's Robotics Club, and coaches Greg Ricardi and Tara Vaidya, on winning the 2015-16 VEX Robotics Competition at Quinsigamond Community College and to wish them continued success at the March state championship.

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

18. gb #6-63 - Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mayor Petty
(January 19, 2016) Recognition/
Gerald Snay

To forward a letter, on behalf of the School Committee, to congratulate Coach Gerald Snay and the students of North High School and Worcester Technical High School on their success at the East Coast Track and Field Invitational Championships and to wish the participating students well at the Eastern States Indoor Championships and at the 2016 elite invitational competitions.

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

- Recognition/
Worcester State University
Community Service Project
19. gb #6-64 - Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mayor Petty
(January 20, 2016)
- To forward letters of appreciation to the students of the
Community Service Project of Worcester State University
and WPS art instructor Cory Shepherd, for the college and
career readiness artwork created by them at May Street
School.
- It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.
- Every Student Succeeds
Act
20. gb #6-65 - Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough
(January 26, 2016)
- To discuss the options available to the Worcester Public
Schools, under the Every Student Succeeds Act, to waive
or modify the state guidelines and regulations which
incorporate standardized testing results into the teacher
evaluation process.
- It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the
Standing Committee on Governance and Employee
Issues.
- Mr. Monfredo requested that, prior to discussion of the
item at the Standing Committee on Governance and
Employee Issues, the Administration provide information
regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act that would
waive or modify the state guidelines and regulations which
incorporate standardized testing results into the teacher
evaluation process.
- After-School Programs/
City Manager's Office and
the District Attorney's
Office
21. gb #6-66 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss McCullough
(January 26, 2016)
- Request that the Administration provide a detailed update
on the After-School Programs that have been established
with the collaborative efforts of the City Manager's office
and the District Attorney's office.
- It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the
Administration for a report back on February 25, 2016.

Miss Biancheria requested that the Administration provide information regarding:

- the type of After-school Programs that have been established with the collaborative efforts of the City Manager's office and the District Attorney's office
- an explanation regarding whether the Site Administrators and teachers are all under the umbrella of the Worcester Public Schools
- discussion as to whether the Site Administrators and teachers in this program are getting the same pay rate as other teachers and Site Administrators who work for the Worcester Public Schools
- the eligibility of students in other schools to enroll in these After-school Programs

Dr. Rodrigues indicated that the system's role in this effort is to open school department buildings for use for the After-school Programs which are part of a City initiative operated by Recreation Worcester. He also indicated that it is a combination of homework centers, art, recreational activities and all are fully funded through private sources.

22. gb #6-67 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss McCullough
(January 27, 2016) Students' Arrival and
Departure from
School

Request that the Administration provide procedures and policies that pertain to students' arrival and departure from school property by foot, by bus or by parent drop off.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration for a report back in April 2016.

23. gb #6-68 - Administration
(January 27, 2016) Grant/Innovation
School
Implementation
Grant/\$75,000

To accept the Innovation Schools Implementation grant in the amount of \$75,000.

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.

Grant/Pre-school
Expansion Grant/
\$40,000

24. gb #6-69 - Administration
(January 27, 2016)

To accept the Pre-school Expansion grant in the amount
of \$40,000.

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.

Search for the Next
Superintendent of
Schools/Job Description,
Application Form and
Evaluation Form

25. gb #6-70 - Mr. O'Connell, Chair/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Foley
(January 27, 2016)

To consider approval of the draft copies of the Job
Description, Application Form and the Evaluation Form
which will be used in the process for the selection of the
next Superintendent of the Worcester Public Schools.

It was moved to approve the draft copies of the Job
Description, Application Form and Evaluation Form which
will be used in the process for the selection of the next
Superintendent of 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 to approve the draft copies of the Job Description, Application Form and Evaluation Form which will be used in the process for the selection of the next Superintendent of 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 reconsider the motion to approve the draft copies of the Job Description, Application Form and Evaluation Form which will be used in the process for the selection of the next Superintendent of the Worcester Public Schools.

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.

Executive Session

26. gb #6-71 - Administration
(January 27, 2016)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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