

Committee Members

Brian A. O'Connell, Chairman
John F. Monfredo, Vice-Chairman
Molly McCullough

AGENDA #1
TLSS
3-20-19
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A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 4:03 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at the Durkin Administration Building in Room 410.

There were present: Mr. Monfredo and Chairman O'Connell

There was absent: Miss McCullough

Miss McCullough arrived at 4:06 p.m.

Representing Administration were: Dr. O'Neil and Dr. Friel

Others in Attendance: N. Caswell, Dr. Gantias, S. Kyriazis, M. Scully, and B. Walton

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

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

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a list of debate competitions that will take place in the City of Worcester.

Request that the Administration investigate opportunities for private sector funding to help support and expand the debate competitions.

Request that the Administration consider competitions between and among the Worcester schools.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration contact Toastmasters International and organizations that focus on debating to determine if they are able to assist the program by volunteer efforts or by financial contributions.

gb #2-139 (continued)

Request that the Administration consider providing transportation for students to debate competitions in smaller vans and using student activity funds and other available resources to minimize the cost to the Budget and to determine if there are other options to expand the program by supplemental funding.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item and provide the responses in a Friday Letter in June 2019.

gb #6-270 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria (July 22, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the summer school programs to include:

- academic progress
- attendance
- community involvement
- engagement of colleges in summer activities
- number of ELL students
- number of grade 1 and 2 students

and suggest improvements for next year.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration interact with interfaith organizations, social service agencies and other appropriate entities for help in assisting with the recruitment of students to attend summer school programs.

Request that the Administration interact with interfaith organizations, social service agencies and other appropriate entities to consider holding summer workshops and other activities that would assist with the enrollment of students in summer programs.

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the outreach initiatives to students who are struggling academically and who will benefit from the summer programs.

gb #6-270 (continued)

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the efforts made to recruit students in grades 1 to 3 who will benefit from supplemental literacy and mathematics work during the summer months.

Request that the Administration provide a report on any appropriate actions the School Committee can or should take that would help in the effort with the enrollment of more students who will benefit from the summer programs and the summer activities.

Request that the Administration send ConnectEd messages out during the months of June, July and August to parents regarding the Summer Reading Program.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for a report in May 2019.

gb #7-4 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough (December 16, 2016)

To urge the individual Worcester public schools, and departments, to review and expand their websites, as a means of (1) increasing the information available through them, (2) showcasing student work and achievements, (3) sharing detailed curricular and programmatic information, and (4) assisting prospective students and parents in making informed decisions as to selection of an appropriate school.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration investigate and, where feasible, expand school and student related activities such as school and student events, sports, debate and robotics competitions on the website and publicize a listing of the schedules for such events and activities on Channel 11.

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding what is already being done to showcase the Worcester Public Schools on the website.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item and provide the responses to the motions in a Friday letter in September 2019.

gb #7-23 - Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria (January 3, 2017)

To consider making an online grading system available to all teachers for the 2017-18 academic and fiscal year.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration implement the online grading system for the 2020-21 school year.

Request that the Administration consider the implementation of a third-party student information system which will be compatible with or incorporate an online grading system.

Request that the Administration provide recommendations, prior to the FY20 Budget, for the cost of both an online grading system and an updated student information system.

Request that the Administration forward the backup to the CPPAC and School Site Councils for their recommended budgetary impact analysis prior to the FY20 Budget and invite the members to the budgetary deliberations at the School Committee meetings in June.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for a report in May 2019.

gb #7-127 - Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (March 21, 2017)

To consider establishing a literary magazine for the Worcester Public Schools, to publish the writings, paintings, drawings, and other creative work of WPS students, teachers and other staff members.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward copies of the literary magazine entitled It's Literature to the members of the School Committee when it is publicized.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #7-127 (continued)

Dr. Gantias indicated that the members of the School Committee will receive copies of the magazine and will also be invited to the student, parent and family celebration that will be held on May 16, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at Nelson Place School.

Miss McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the school newspapers and newsletters be posted on the school website.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report indicating the schools that print and publicize a student newspaper and also consider expanding the number of schools.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item and provide the responses in a Friday Letter.

gb #7-285 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio/
Mr. O'Connell (August 7, 2017)

To explore options and policies regarding work assigned and performed at home on snow days in an effort not to extend the school year.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the development of a proposal for an Alternative Structured Learning Day Program.

Request that the Administration provide recommendations, with consideration of the state guidelines, of a proposal of an Alternative Structured Learning Day Program.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for a report in September 2019.

gb #7-322 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio
(September 25, 2017)

Request that the Administration consider developing a student program to instruct secondary students about food allergies and anaphylactic risks.

FILE.

gb #8-55 - Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Comparetto/Miss
Biancheria (February 3, 2018)

Request that the Administration provide a progress report on the Hanover Academy at Burncoat Middle School.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration continue its efforts to publicize the Hanover Academy of the Arts Program for its availability to students.

Request that the Administration update, in a Friday Letter, the ways in which the School Committee can assist budgetarily the evolution of the Hanover Academy of the Arts at Burncoat Middle School.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

FILE.

gb #8-59 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo (February 7, 2018)

To consider a review of a publication entitled Teaching Hard History: American Slavery from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration emphasize to the community what the Worcester Public Schools is doing to teach diversity in the school system.

Request that the Administration continue to implement the initiative by:

- investigating additional supplemental resources
- continuing to update the textbooks
- modifying appropriate teaching strategies and
- supporting learning academic discourse, close reading and text annotation

gb #8-59 (continued)

Request that the Administration review the material from the Southern Poverty Law Center and consider adapting the material into the curriculum.

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the actions it has taken to date and what its plans are for the coming years.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

gb #8-94 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell (March 2, 2018)

Request that the Administration consider expanding the Worcester: Future Teachers Program in conjunction with Worcester State University in an effort to recruit the best and brightest students.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide recommendations to expand the Worcester: Future Teachers Program in order to make it available to more students.

Request that the Administration publicize the opportunities available for teaching in the Worcester Public Schools for students in the colleges and universities that are in the area of Worcester and others as appropriate.

Request that the Administration provide expanded opportunities for students in high schools and colleges regarding pursuit of teaching in the Worcester Public Schools.

Request that the Administration consider reaching out to students that are attending colleges that have many education majors and try to recruit them, especially those of color to teach in the Worcester Public Schools.

Request that the Administration provide an action plan regarding what is currently being done and what will be done to continue the efforts of recruiting future teachers for the Worcester Public Schools.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for a report in June 2019.

gb #8-161 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell (May 9, 2018)

Request that the Administration study the feasibility of developing partnerships with Recreation Worcester and other municipal or non-municipal organizations in order to create more team sports in Worcester's middle schools.

gb #8-162 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/ Mr. O'Connell (May 9, 2018)

To consider a review of a report entitled Extracurricular Participation and Course Performance in the Middle Grades: A Study of Low-Income, Urban Youth by Kate Schwartz.

gb #8-163 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/ Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell (May 9, 2018)

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the process of bringing together various private and public groups to develop middle school athletic programming as highlighted in the Worcester Magazine's article entitled The Case For Middle School Sports: Can City Hoops Spark a Rebound?

(These items were considered together.)

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a report on options of expanding participation of students in middle school sports including the encouragement of more students in the middle school to do so.

Request that the Administration consider opportunities for raising funds from private sectors, booster clubs and others with an interest in sports.

Request that the Administration survey the interest of students in sports including recommendations of sports that should be added or modified in terms of inclusion in the schedule of student sports.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Miss McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the FY20 Budget recommendations for the expansion of school sports.

On a voice vote the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for a report in May 2019.

gb #8-164 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(May 9, 2018)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the JROTC programs and include ways to actively promote interest at the middle school level for high school participation in this program.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration discuss with the directors of the JROTC Programs ways in which the School Committee can assist **budgetarily** to publicize and make them available to other students.

Request that the Administration provide a report as to whether schools should be adding additional JROTC Programs in schools that do not have one.
On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for a report in June 2019.

gb #8-366 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Comparetto(December 10,
2018)

Request that the Administration consider having parent conferences for K-3 parents during a Professional Development Day in October.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report in June 2019, in a Friday Letter, on what has been implemented and discussed with principals and have further discussions with them to indicate any solutions they may have for the next school year.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.