

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 Worcester, Massachusetts
 Thursday, February 28, 2019
 Agenda #3

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 21, 2019.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Steven Barrett of
 Christ the Rock Fellowship 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. Comparetto, Mr. Foley,
 Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell
 and Mayor Petty

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

Minutes/
 approval of

1. aor #9-3 - Clerk
 (February 20, 2019)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School
 Committee Meeting of Thursday, February 7, 2019.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the
 Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of
 Thursday, February 7, 2019.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

2. gb #9-36.1 - Administration/Miss McCullough/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Comparetto/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Mayor Petty
(February 11, 2019) Recognition/
Madelyn Rich

To recognize Madelyn Rich, a student at Burncoat High School, for being nominated to audition and for being accepted to an International All Young Women's Choir that will be performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Sunday February 11, 2019.

Mayor Petty and Superintendent Binienda presented a certificate to Madelyn Rich.

3. gb #9-49 - Administration
(February 11, 2019) Student
Representatives

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

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

4. It was moved and voice voted to take the following items out of order:

- gb #9-62 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough
(February 13, 2019) Policy/headwear

Request that the Administration consider changes to the Student Handbook regarding headwear.

Councilor Sarai Rivera and Jessica Reyes spoke to the item regarding head wraps.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the Administration first discuss the item with principals prior to referring it to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Education Promise
Act

gb #9-66 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell
(February 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration forward a letter to the State Delegation urging action on the Education Promise Act, a bill to update the funding formula for school districts.

Mr. Richard Shea spoke to the item and thanked the School Committee for co-sponsoring the Future Funding Forum which will be held on Monday, March 4, 2019 at Nelson Place School.

Mr. O'Connell suggested, that in the letter to the State Delegation, the Administration provide the details with regards to the recommendations from the Governor's funding formula and also highlight the provisions in the sections of the Massachusetts Associations of School Committee's January 24, 2019 press release that is beneficial to the school system.

It was moved and voice voted to forward a letter to the State Delegation.

Suspensions/
reduction of

gb #9-61 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough
(February 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a progress report from the committee tasked with coming up with a plan to reduce school suspensions.

Dr. Margot Barnet, Ruth Rodrigues and Roger Nugent, EAW President, spoke to the item regarding suspensions.

Mayor Petty requested that the Administration provide a Report of the Superintendent indicating what is being done to lower suspension rates.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Superintendent provide a report, during budget time, with recommendations regarding an appropriate package for a comprehensive Staff Development initiative for principals and teachers with how they can maintain an orderly environment within their school that is conducive to learning and therefore, maximizing the prospect of students not being suspended but being part of the solution.

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration notify Mr. Nugent, President of the EAW, when the item will be discussed at the Standing Committee on Teaching Learning and Student Supports.

Request that the Administration provide a report to include

- the data on suspension rates
- the facilities that house the suspended students
- the programs that are offered to the students and
- the process utilized for suspending students

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

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

5. It was moved and voice voted to allow Mary-Margaret Mara and Cindy Bly to speak regarding teacher preparation time for preschool teachers.

6. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #9-2 - Administration
(January 30, 2019)

Report of the
Superintendent

FY20 PRELIMINARY BUDGET ESTIMATES

Mr. Allen provided an excellent PowerPoint on the analysis of the Governor's Proposed Budget and recent legislative budget proposals as contained in Annex A of the backup.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration identify an element in each plan that would most benefit the Worcester Public Schools concentrating on the areas of Health, Special Education, English Language Learners and low income students and forward that information to the State Delegation for consideration in the development of a final plan.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss Biancheria requested that the Administration provide the enrollment figures at all levels in September 2019, especially since new buildings would have to accommodate these changes.

In response to Miss Biancheria's request relative to allocation meetings, Superintendent Binienda stated that a sheet for request of new items will be filled out by principals for the first time in a long period of time.

Miss Biancheria requested that the School Committee be apprised of the development of the tiered approach to Chapter 74 offerings.

Mr. Allen stated each of the 3 bills is doing exactly what the Foundation Budget Review Commission recommends.

Mr. Foley stated that he is in favor of a 5 year review and update of the Foundation Budget.

Mr. O'Connell stressed the need to meet with the legislators to educate the members as to the areas in each of these bills that will have the greatest impact on the Worcester Public Schools.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it would be the first time that the authority the School Committee has over the allocation funds would be trumped by what the Governor's budget would permit under that particular formula.

It was moved and voice voted to accept and file the item.

7. PERSONNEL

It was moved and voice voted to file Personnel Items 9-10 and 9-11

Appointments

9-10 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the persons named below:

Jordan, Janis, Teacher, Special Education, North, MA, Step 8, \$75,970 effective February 13, 2019. Licensed: Moderate Disabilities 5-12. *

McHugh, Caroline, Teacher, English as a Second Language, Claremont, BA, Step 8, \$69,755 effective February 4, 2019. License pending: English as a Second Language 5-12.*

**prorated*

- 9-11 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Junior Custodian, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$16.22 (minimum) to \$20.64 (maximum), per hour, effective as shown:

Berthiaume, Joshua	02/11/19
Jackson, Bryan	02/11/19
Tokatli, Nicholas	02/18/19

Appointments/
Custodians

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. gb #8-289.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(December 12, 2018)

Transportation
Operations/
Fremont Street facility

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on all transportation operations that were transferred to the Fremont St. facility and include all administrative vacancies that were advertised along with new or additional bus routes that were added.

9. gb #8-290.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(November 28, 2018)

Bus Transportation

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on the Worcester Public Schools' bus transportation system and include information relative to the ten new buses operated by the Worcester Public Schools and indicate the routes of said buses.

10. gb #8-341.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(November 12, 2018)

Bus Stops/
addition of

Response of the Administration to the request to review the process by school for requesting changes or additions to bus stops.

(These items were considered together)

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide an update, in a Friday letter, on the dollar amount that the system will receive from Durham School Services for late busses and indicate how that money will be allocated.

Request that the Administration inquire as to having a direct line from the Department of Public Works to the Transportation Department so it can be notified of unforeseen circumstances that would interrupt a bus route from arriving on time to allow significant time to reroute the bus.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to accept and file gb #8-289.1, gb #8-290.1 and gb #8-341.1.

In Force
Technology 911
Software

11. gb #8-311.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(January 16, 2019)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on the In Force Technology (IFT) 911 Software program that allows teachers and other staff members to contact 911 directly in case of emergency.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

Civics Bill

12. gb #8-346.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/
Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Foley
(February 11, 2019)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on the new Civics Bill filed by State Senator Harriette Chandler and indicate the impact of it on current and future students.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday Letter, an update on the Civics Pilot Programs that will be taking place during the next school year.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to accept and file the item.

13. gb #8-356.1 - Administration/Miss McCullough/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Comparetto/
Mr. Foley/Mayor Petty
(February 13, 2019) Dyslexic Program

Response of the Administration to the requests to:

- explore the feasibility of implementing the Orton-Gillingham model for dyslexic students for those students in need of specific services.
- provide a summary of the Orton-Gillingham model program.
- study the feasibility of implementing the cost of this program in the FY20 Budget
- study the feasibility of including students from outside the district, on a tuition basis, if a proposed program is established in the Worcester Public Schools.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration notify Mr. Portuondo, his daughter Bella and any other interested citizens of the date and time of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports when the item is discussed.

Request that the Administration conduct the meeting of the Standing Committee meeting early enough to have an impact for next year's FY20 Budget.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Miss McCullough requested that any information that was presented at the School Committee meeting be provided as backup for the item when it is discussed at the Standing Committee level.

Mayor Petty suggested that the Administration discuss with the City Manager the financial impact to implement a Dyslexic program.

It was moved and voice voted refer the item to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

Claremont Academy/
catchment area

- 14. qb #9-50 - Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(February 1, 2019)

Request that the Administration work with the site council and staff at Claremont Academy to develop a geographic catchment area for students who wish to attend Claremont.

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

Prior Fiscal Year Payment/
Learnwell Education

- 15. qb #9-51 - Administration
(February 1, 2019)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$48.00 to Learnwell Education.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto,
Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,
Mayor Petty 7

Against the motion: $\frac{0}{7}$

The motion carried.

16. gb #9-52 - Administration (February 7, 2019) School Choice
- To set a date in April for a public hearing on School Choice.
- It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, April 25, 2019.
17. gb #9-53 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo (February 7, 2019) Health Education and
Sex Education
Standards
- To review, and, as appropriate, to comment upon, standards and evidence proposed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education related to health education and sex education.
- It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.
18. gb #9-54 - Administration (February 8, 2019) Grant/STARS
Residencies FY19 Clark
Street Community
School
- To accept the STARS Residencies FY19 Clark Street Community School Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.
- It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.
- On a roll call, the vote was as follows:
- For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto,
Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,
Mayor Petty 7
- Against the motion: 0
- 7
- The motion carried.

Grant/Amplify Program

- 19. gb #9-55 - Administration (February 8, 2019)

To accept the Amplify Program Grant in the amount of \$1,000.00.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto,
 Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough,
 Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,
 Mayor Petty 7

Against the motion: 0
 7

The motion carried.

Recognition/forward letters

- 20. gb #9-56 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
 Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell/
 Mayor Petty
 (February 8, 2019)

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the following winners of the "Be My Valentine" Contest, sponsored by the Worcester Historical Museum.

HISTORIC (any design in the style of valentines made in Worcester from the late 1840s to 1942)

Grade 3	Hennesy Balbuena	McGrath
	Elementary School	
Grade 4	Leah Cruz	Chandler
	Magnet School	
Grade 5	Jordan Golinski	Lake View
	School	
Grade 6	Benito G. Martinez	Worcester
	Arts Magnet School	

CONTEMPORARY (an original valentine, possibly featuring a favorite book, story or character)

Grade 3	Chloe Latham	Worcester
	Arts Magnet School	
Grade 4	Lily Bocelli	McGrath
	Elementary School	
Grade 5	Jadalise Bonaparte	Lincoln
	Street School	
Grade 6	Celine Astacio	Lake View
	School	

VERSE (an original verse by today's valentine maker)

Grade 3	Patrick Kodra	Worcester
Arts Magnet School		
Grade 4	Imogene Gay	Worcester
Arts Magnet School		
Grade 6	Annabelle Monero	Chandler
Elementary School		

MASTERS (students in grades 4, 5, and 6 who have won in previous years must enter in the Master's Competition. These entries are judged as a group—not by grade level)

Grade 5	Emiy Yoshida Araujo	McGrath
Elementary School		

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters of recognition.

21. gb #9-57 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/
Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty
(February 12, 2019) Recognition/
forward letters

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to Gerald Snay, track and field coach at Worcester Technical High School's and to track stars Shawna Thomas from WTHS and Robert Jackson from North High School for being honored to represent the Inter High and the Worcester Public Schools at the 3rd annual indoor track recognition breakfast at the MIAA Headquarters in Franklin, MA.

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters of recognition.

22. gb #9-58 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(February 12, 2019) H.R. 141

To vote to support H.R. 141, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2019, "to amend Title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions."

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

Bid Specifications/
student
transportation

23. gb #9-59 - Administration
(February 13, 2019)

To review bid specifications for student transportation services and award contract to lowest responsive and responsible bidder for a contract term to begin in June 2020.

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

Recognition/
forward letters

24. gb #9-60 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell/
Mayor Petty
(February 13, 2019)

To forward letters of congratulations to the following members of the South High Community School High School Quiz Team for advancing to the quarterfinals in the WGBH High School Quiz Show with the help of their coaches Kitren Farrell and Kayla Avellino.

Jacob Boatright	Julio Morales-Mena
Mauricio Tejada Davila	Galen Greenwald
Samuel Posner	Jessica Clivio

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters of recognition.

Chief Diversity
Officer

24. gb #9-63 - Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough
(February 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration consider hiring a Chief Diversity Officer.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a Report of the Superintendent on the history of the position of the Diversity Officer in the Worcester Public Schools.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

26. gb #9-64 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell
(February 13, 2019) Marijuana Tax

Request that the Administration ask the City Council to consider adding a tax to marijuana retailers to help pay for a tutor for every underperforming Worcester Public School student.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the City Manager.

27. gb #9-65 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(February 13, 2019) Budget/increase
amount

Request that the Administration ask the City Manager to consider increasing the Worcester Public Schools' budget in light of new revenues coming into the city.

Miss Biancheria requested that the Administration not send a letter to the City Manager relative to increasing the Worcester Public Schools' budget in light of new revenues coming into the city.

On a roll call of 4-3, (Nays- Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough and Mayor Petty), the request was defeated.

On a roll call, the vote to forward a letter to the City Manager was as follows:

For the motion: Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell 4

Against the motion: Miss Biancheria,
Miss McCullough,
Mayor Petty 3

The motion carried.

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|---------------------------|-----|---|
| State Spending on Prisons | 28. | <p><u>gb #9-67</u> - Mr. Comparetto
(February 13, 2019)</p> <p>Request that the Administration forward a letter to the State Delegation requesting a reduction in state spending on prisons and to redirect that funding to public schools.</p> <p>It was moved and voice voted to file the item.</p> |
| Shannon Initiative Grant | 29. | <p><u>gb #9-68</u> - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell
(February 15, 2019)</p> <p>Request that the Administration ask the City Manager to provide a report on the Shannon Initiative Grant in the amount of \$656,525.14 and indicate how it will impact youth violence and gang activities and work, in conjunction with the Worcester Public Schools, to implement it.</p> <p>It was moved and voice voted to hold the item.</p> |
| Recognition/set date | 30. | <p><u>gb #9-69</u> - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Mayor Petty
(February 15, 2019)</p> <p>To set a date to recognize Officer Sean Lovely on his selection as the 2019 Worcester County St. Patrick's Parade Grand Marshal.</p> <p>It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, March 21, 2019.</p> |
| Lawsuits | 31. | <p><u>gb #9-70</u> - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(February 15, 2019)</p> <p>Request that the Administration provide an update on the number of lawsuits that are pending before the School District and the School Committee and those that are current lawsuits.</p> |

Miss Biancheria made the following amendment to the item:

Request that the Administration provide an update on the number of lawsuits that are pending before the School District and the School Committee and those that are current lawsuits **and provide the policies and procedures when handling such lawsuits and appeals.**

On a voice vote, the item as amended was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to Executive Session.

- 32. gb #9-71 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough
(February 19, 2019) Policy/cell phone

Request that the Administration seek input by April 2, 2019 from secondary principals regarding changes to the cell phone policy.

Miss McCullough made the following amendment to the item:

Request that the Administration seek input by April 2, 2019 from secondary principals **and teachers** regarding changes to the cell phone policy.

On a voice vote, the item as amended was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

- 33. gb #9-72 - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell
(February 19, 2019) Graduation Rates

Request that the Administration provide an update on graduation rates by ethnic categories.

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

Prior Fiscal Year
Payment/
CollegeBoard

- 34. gb #9-73 - Administration
(February 19, 2019)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$1,300.00 to the CollegeBoard.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto,
Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,
Mayor Petty 7

Against the motion: $\frac{0}{7}$

The motion carried.

Donations

- 35. gb #9-74 - Administration
(February 20, 2019)

To consider approval of the following donations to Woodland Academy:

\$172.00 from various donors from a school fundraiser

\$700.00 from Target for field trip

It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto,
Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,
Mayor Petty 7

Against the motion: $\frac{0}{7}$

The motion carried.

36. gb #9-75 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(February 20, 2019) Jane Doe v. Worcester
Public Schools

To request a status report, and to meet with counsel and appropriate administrative personnel, regarding the action of Jane Doe v. Worcester Public Schools et al (Worcester Superior Court Civil Action #18-1920-D, Massachusetts Appeals Court Action #2019-J-0055).

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to Executive Session.

37. gb #9-76 - Executive Session (Administration)
(February 20, 2019) Executive Session

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.

Filed.

38. Mayor Petty announced that the Irish festival would take place at Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Saturday, March 2, 2019. Irish Festival

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

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