

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
 Worcester, Massachusetts  
 Thursday, May 16, 2019  
 Agenda #10

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, May 16, 2019.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Richard Trainor of Blessed Sacrament Church

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

1. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #9-8 - Clerk  
 (May 9, 2019)

Minutes/  
 approval of

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 25, 2019.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 25, 2019.

aor #9-9 - Clerk  
 (May 9, 2019)

Minutes/  
 approval of

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, May 2, 2019.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, May 2, 2019.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Recognition/  
students from the  
Goddard School of  
Science and  
Technology

2. gb #9-167.1 - Administration/Miss McCullough/  
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/  
Mayor Petty  
(May 6, 2019)

To recognize the winners of student awards for exemplifying behaviors that meet the Core Values at the Goddard School of Science and Technology as part of their turnaround process.

Mayor Petty and Superintendent Binienda presented a certificate to the student who were awarded for exemplifying behaviors that meet the Core Values at the Goddard School of Science and Technology as part of their turnaround process.

3. It was moved and voice voted to take the following item out of order:

Chief Diversity  
Officer

- gb #9-188 - Administration  
(May 6, 2019)

To consider approval of the Job Description for the Chief Diversity Officer.

Mayor Petty suggested that the Chief Diversity Officer for the City of Worcester review the job description and suggest possible edits.

Held

Miss McCullough left at 7:20 p.m.

Student  
Representatives

4. gb #9-182 - Administration  
(May 6, 2019)

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

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

5. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #9-8 - Administration  
(May 8, 2019)

A. THE SOUTH HIGH COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S  
STUDENT DESIGN CLUB

Report of the  
Superintendent/ South  
High Community  
School's Student  
Design Club

An excellent PowerPoint, as contained in the backup, was presented by the following students from the new South High Community School's Student Design Club:

- Gianna Caforio presented the section on the Visual School Entrance Display
- Julie Do, Tia Tomco and Miles Appleton presented the sections on the History Wall and the Lobby Mural Wall
- Iteolawakissi Talabi presented the section of the Digital Wall and
- Eliama Lamptey presented the section of the Word Wall.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Administrative  
Highlights

Gregg Bares	Manager of Grant Resources
Magdalena Gantias, Ed.D.	Manager of Curriculum and Professional Learning
Laurie Kuczka	Director of Head Start

Gregg Bares, Manager of Grant Resources, spoke about the many State, Federal and private sector grants. He also stated that the Head Start Program grant which services the most vulnerable population, is the only such program of its type in Massachusetts that is operated by a public school system.

Magdalena Ganas, Ed.D., Manager of Curriculum and Professional Learning, spoke about her department's Table of Organization, which includes 8 liaisons, one coach and one Avid Specialist. These individuals have made more than 1,500 visits to the 52 schools and to date, have conducted 473 workshops. She also spoke about the many training programs for all teachers in various subjects.

Laurie Kuczka, Director of Head Start, addressed the comprehensive team approach to servicing students and families in the Head Start program by providing them with health, nutrition, mental health family services and engagement, disabilities and early childhood education.

Miss Biancheria requested that the notes from the three speakers be provided to the Clerk of the School to Committee to be disseminated to the School Committee members.

Mayor Petty stated that he could provide names of doctors in Boston, who are part of a non-profit organization, which provides help with eye exams and glasses to students.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

6. PERSONNEL

It was moved and voice voted to file Personnel Items 9-23 through 9-24

Resignation

9-23 The Superintendent has ACCEPTED the RESIGNATION of the person named below:

Civello, Jean, Teacher, Special Education, Roosevelt, effective April 26, 2019.

Pacheco, Vanessa, Nurse, Quinsigamond, effective April 26, 2019.

Retirement

9-24 The Superintendent has ACCEPTED the RESIGNATION for Purposes of RETIREMENT of the person named below:

Quillen, Mary, Teacher, Elementary, Jacob Hiatt, effective April 30, 2019.

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. gb #9-139 - Mr. Comparetto  
(March 27, 2019) High Stakes  
Standardized Testing
- Request that the Administration consider a moratorium on high stakes standardized testing.
- It was moved and voice voted to file the item.
8. gb #9-183 - Administration  
(April 30, 2019) Prior Fiscal Year  
Payment/ Instructional  
Aides
- To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the total amount of \$18,358.66 to Leicester Public Schools for services rendered to Instructional Aides in the Worcester Public Schools.
- Mrs. Seale stated that the payment amount was incorrect and should have been \$4,394.06 to be paid to Leicester Public Schools for services rendered from May 2018 to June 2018 for Instructional Aides.
- Mr. O'Connell requested that the item be amended to reflect the corrected amount as follows:
- To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the total amount of \$4,394.06 to Leicester Public Schools for services rendered for Instructional Aides in the Worcester Public Schools.
- On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Miss McCullough), the item as amended was approved.
- On a roll call, the vote was as follows:
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|--|---------------|
| For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto,<br>Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo,<br>Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty | 6             |
| Against the motion:  | 0             |
| Absent: Miss McCullough  | $\frac{1}{7}$ |
- The motion carried.

Recognition/set date

- 9. gb #9-184 - Administration (April 30, 2019)

To set a date to recognize the following student winners of the Worcester Regional Middle School (grades 6-8) Science and Engineering Contest at WPI:

Grand Prize

Maya Sushkin	Nelson Place School
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Second Place

Anh Tran	Forest Grove Middle School
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Third Place

Carolyn Somers	Thorndyke Road School
Isabella Prodromidis	West Tatnuck School
Casey Coyle	Midland Street School

Honorable Mention

Anya Geist	Sullivan Middle School
Natalie Boucher	Sullivan Middle School

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, June 6, 2019.

Mr. Foley left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Reading in our City Week

- 10. gb #9-185 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/ Miss McCullough/Mr. O’Connell (May 1, 2019)

To support the Proclamation declaring the week of June 9th as “Reading in our City Week” and also support summer reading activities in the schools.

Mayor Petty read the Proclamation.

Mr. Comparetto left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Mayor Petty left the meeting at 8:28.

Mr. O’Connell chaired the meeting from 8:28 p.m. until 8:35 p.m.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Administration promote summer reading by:

- putting posters at stores and social agencies
- doing weekly ConnectEd messages in June, July and August
- contacting Interfaith and Community Agencies about the summer reading list and
- forwarding math activities for the summer months

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report at the June 6th School Committee Meeting as to what is being done to promote math and reading for the summer months.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

FILED

Mr. Foley and Mr. Comparetto returned at 8:30 p.m.

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| 11. | <u>gb #9-186</u> - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/<br>Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell/<br>Mayor Petty<br>(May 6, 2019) | Recognition/<br>forward letters |
|-----|--|---------------------------------|

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the staff members who assisted in the Annual Arts Festival.

It was moved and voice voted to forward a letter.

Mayor Petty returned at 8:33 p.m.

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|-----|--|---------------------------------|
| 12. | <u>gb #9-187</u> - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/<br>Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/<br>Mr. Monfredo<br>(May 6, 2019) | Charter School<br>Reimbursement |
|-----|--|---------------------------------|

To forward a letter to the Worcester Legislative Delegation in opposition to the charter reimbursement formula change as contained in House Bills 70 and 3800 (House Ways and Means Committee) which would reduce reimbursement to the City of Worcester by approximately \$1,500,000 (43% reduction statewide).

Mayor Petty stated that the Senate version of the budget maintains the charter school reimbursement which would result in no loss of funds. Therefore, an alternative to the letter of opposition would be a letter of support for the Senate version of the Bill.

Mr. O’Connell made the following motion:

Request that a letter be forwarded to the local Legislative Delegation urging the members to support the provision of the Senate version of the Budget with regards to the charter school reimbursement funding.

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, Mr. Monfredo,  
Mr. O’Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss McCullough 1/7

The motion carried.

- Due Process 13. gb #9-189 - Administration (May 6, 2019)

To consider approval of an updated Due Process Policy for the Student Handbook

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item.

- Donation 14. gb #9-190 - Administration (May 8, 2019)

To consider approval of a donation in the total amount of \$685.00 to the Worcester Public Schools’ Transition Program from various donors through fundraising efforts.

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, Mr. Monfredo,  
Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

15. gb #9-191 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(May 8, 2019) School Grounds/  
projects

Request that the Administration provide a report to be prepared by the Facilities Department of the projects both in the schools and on the grounds surrounding them for the Summer of 2019.

Mr. O'Connell made the following amendment to Miss Biancheria's item:

Request that the Administration provide a report to be prepared by the Facilities Department of the projects both in the schools and on the grounds surrounding them for the Summer of 2019 **and indicate the action plan regarding the following ongoing issues:**

- **the wall adjacent to Lake View School**
- **repairs to the wall on the Westside of Tatnuck Magnet School and**
- **plans in connection with installation of a pathway from Flagg Street School to St. Paul Drive.**

On a voice vote, the amendment was approved.

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

- Bullying Program
16. gb #9-192 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(May 8, 2019)
- Request that the Administration provide the report on bullying, to include a description of the BRACE Project, that was presented at North High School by Robert Pezzella, Safety Director and Joseph Early, Jr., District Attorney.
- Miss Biancheria requested that a presentation be provided at a School Committee meeting by Robert Pezzella, Safety Director and, if possible, include Joseph Early, Jr., District Attorney regarding the bullying program to include the BRACE Project.
- It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration.
- City Budget/  
Worcester Public  
School/  
summary of
17. gb #9-193 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(May 8, 2019)
- Request that the Administration provide a summary of the funding proposed in the City's Budget for the Worcester Public Schools and indicate the way in which this funding, if approved, can enhance programs in the Worcester Public Schools.
- It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration.
- Recognition/  
set date
18. gb #9-194 - Administration  
(May 8, 2019)
- To set a date to recognize the Worcester public school seniors who received diplomas with the Seal of Biliteracy from the State.
- It was moved and voice vote to set the date of Thursday, June 6, 2019.

19. gb #9-195 - Administration FY20 Budget  
(May 8, 2019)

To set the dates for the FY20 Budget Hearings.

It was moved and voice vote to set the dates of Thursday, June 6, 2019 and Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

20. gb #9-194- (Administration) Executive Session  
(May 8, 2019)

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 8:47 p.m.

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