

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
 Worcester, Massachusetts  
 Thursday, July 18, 2019  
 Agenda #13

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 4:05 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, July 18, 2019.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There were absent: Miss Biancheria and Mr. Foley

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

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

1. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #9-14 - Clerk  
 (July 3, 2019)

Minutes/  
 approval of

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School  
 Committee Meeting of Thursday, June 20, 2019.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the  
 Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of  
 Thursday, June 20, 2019.

It was moved and voice voted to suspend the rules  
 to take the following items out of order

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 gb #9-234, gb #8-153.5, gb #9-232 and gb #9-233

2. gb #9-234 - Administration  
 (July 8, 2019)

Chapter 74  
 Programming/  
 new Doherty Memorial  
 High School

To consider approval of the Chapter 74 Programming  
 for the new Doherty Memorial High School.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 4:16 p.m.

Katie Crockett, President of Lamoureux, Pagano Associates Architects provided a description of the District's vision for its education delivery methodology for Chapter 74 Programming. Superintendent Binienda, Kyle Brenner, Principal of Worcester Technical High School and Sally Maloney, Principal of Doherty Memorial High School responded to questions relative to the proposed Chapter 74 programming.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration review the Construction Craft Laborer Chapter 74 programs at Medford Vocational High School, Roger L. Putnam Vocational-Technical Academy and B.M.C. Durfee High School.

Request that the Administration publicize August 19th as the date for the Design Committee meeting for the new Doherty Memorial High School in order for the community to be aware of it.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a report on college and union collaborations and the Articulation Agreements.

Request that the Administration provide updates on the Perkins funding, when available.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee approve the Chapter 74 Programming for the new Doherty Memorial High School.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto,  
Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo,  
Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mr. Foley  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

The new programs are as follows:

- Programming and Web Development
- Marketing Management and Finance
- Construction Craft Laborer

The current Engineering and Technology Academy at Doherty will be expanded and an Advanced Academy will be added.

3. gb #8-153.5 - Administration/Administration  
(June 27, 2019)

Strategic Plan Quarterly  
Update

Response of the Administration to the request that the Superintendent, district and school leadership monitor and implement the Strategic Plan and provide a report quarterly to the School Committee.

Superintendent Binienda presented the first of the quarterly reports on the Strategic Plan with updates, benchmarks and evidence. She provided links to the evidence that can be accessed online on the Worcester Public Schools' website.

Miss McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the link from the WPS website to access the Middle School Flyer.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration highlight one goal per meeting from the Strategic Plan for discussion.

Request that the Administration provide a report on which programs are successful under Cultural Innovations.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide an update on the reading and math benchmarks and include the scores and successes when the data is available.

Request that the Administration provide an update when the mobile app is launched and operative.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mr. Comparetto left at 5:50 p.m.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Strategic Plan is a five-year plan and that the data provided was based on only ten months.

Mayor Petty stated that the Strategic Plan is a fluid plan that continues to be worked on and stressed the need for community involvement. He also stated that he would be appointing a committee to oversee the Plan.

It was moved and voice voted to accept the report and hold the item for the next quarterly report.

Attorney Paige L. Tobin/contract extension for

4. gb #9-232 - Administration (July 2, 2019)

To extend the proposed contract of Attorney Paige L. Tobin from Murphy, Lamere and Murphy for three years.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley 2  
7

The motion carried.

5. gb #9-233 - Administration  
(July 2, 2019)

Attorney Sean P. Sweeney/contract extension for

To extend the proposed contract of Attorney Sean P. Sweeney for three years.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,  
Mayor Petty 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley  $\frac{2}{7}$

The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved to recess to Executive Session.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,  
Mayor Petty 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley  $\frac{2}{7}$

The motion carried.

6. gb #9-243 - (Administration)  
(July 10, 2019)

Executive Session

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct collective bargaining regarding Grievance #18/19-17.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct collective bargaining regarding Grievance #18/19-19.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for a Worker's Compensation for a teacher, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:20 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:50 p.m.

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to deny Grievance #18/19-17.

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley) the motion was approved.

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to deny Grievance #18/19-19.

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley) the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to suspend the rules to take the following item out of order:

7. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Self -Evaluation,  
Goals and  
Benchmarks of the  
Superintendent for  
2019-20

ROS #9-11 -Administration  
(July 12, 2019)

SELF EVALUATION, GOALS AND BENCHMARKS OF  
THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR 2019-20.

It was moved and voice voted to file the Superintendent's Self Evaluation, as contained in Annex A of the backup for the item.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee approve the Goals and Benchmarks for the Superintendent for 2019-20.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,  
Mayor Petty 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley 2  
7

The motion carried.

It was moved to suspend the rules to reconsider the vote to approve the Superintendent's Goals and Benchmarks.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty	5
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Against the motion:	0
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Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley	$\frac{2}{7}$
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The motion carried.

It was moved to reconsider the vote on the Superintendent's Goals and Benchmarks.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	0
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Against the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty	5
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Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley	$\frac{2}{7}$
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The motion to reconsider was defeated.

It was moved and voice voted to file the Self Evaluation and approve the goals.

#### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

8. The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 2019 in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

It was moved and voice voted to consider items gb #9-39, gb #8-174, gb #9-62 and gb #9-71 together.

2019-20 Student  
Handbook/  
approval of

gb #9-39 - Administration (January 25, 2019)

To consider approval of the 2019-20 Student Handbook of the Worcester Public Schools.

Minor amendments were made to the proposed changes by individual vote, as reflected on pages 1 and 2 of the Action Sheet.

-Page 6, bullet 8 - replace the word **ay** with **may**

-Page 12, second paragraph – replace **student’s** with **student’s**

-Page 13, (Nondiscrimination) capitalize the word **manager**. Add the word **members** after the word staff in the last paragraph

-Page 13 (In-School Suspension) reverse the words **consistently** and **adhere**

-Page 13 (Due Process) change the MGL reference to read 37 H1/2 throughout the document

-Page 13, (Parent/Guardian Meeting) put a space between the words **If** and **the** in line 4.

-Page 13, (Notice for any Out of School Suspension) remove the period between set and forth in entry Line 1

-Page 13, (Principal Hearing), remove random periods in entry Line a, and delete the word **public** in Line d

-Page 13, (Superintendent’s Appeal Hearing) replace the letter l with then number 1 in Line g and put a space between the words **If** and **the**

-Page 13, (Section III) replace the word **their** with **his/her** in entry Line 2

-Page 13, (Educational Services and Academic Progress), remove the space between the dash in system-wide.

-Page 14, (Sexual Harassment) replace the word **we** with **the Worcester Public Schools** in line 3

-Page 16, (Child Abuse) remove the letter **s** from the word **requires**



-Page 34, (Bullying) replace the word **that** with **which** in paragraph 2  
-Page 55, (Student Absence Notification Program) replace the word **they** with **he/she** in paragraph 2, line 2

-Page 55 (Dropout Prevention) insert the word **that** before the word **the** in line 8 and replace **and** with **but** in Line 9

-Page 62 (Class Rank Grade Point Average) change the word **third** to **second** in line 3

-Page 63 (Seal of Biliteracy) in paragraph 2, replace the word **our** with **its**, the words **we are** with **the Worcester Public Schools**, replace **recognizing** with **recognizes, honoring** with **honors** and **encourage** with **encourages**. In paragraph 4, change the spelling of **Blliteracy** with **Biliteracy**

-Page 65 (ELPAC) Line 7, replace the word **are** with **is**

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a Report of the Superintendent on Title IX requirements and training.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report indicating the process for monitoring the adherence of the eight feet rule.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following suggestions:

-that the following language be added to the Home School change:

**"The Worcester Public Schools shall do whatever is feasible to expedite the approval process."**

-that the word Committee be changed to Council in the title of English Learner Parent Advisory Committee.

Dress Code Policy/  
proposed changes

gb #8-174 - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo (May 15, 2018)

Request that the Administration review the overall Dress Code Policy and update it, if appropriate.

The following changes were proposed for the Dress Code Policy on page 6:

No droopy pants or clothing that reveals undergarments; the length of shorts and skirts must **measure to at least mid-thigh length**

**Students may wear hooded sweatshirts or shirts but may not wear the hoods up or covering their heads or faces in the building or on school property**

**No ear buds or headphones may be worn or used except with permission of school personnel**

On a voice vote, the proposed changes were approved.

FILE

Headwear/  
proposed changes

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

Request that the Administration consider changes to the Student Handbook regarding headwear. The following change was proposed for the Dress Code Policy on page 6:

No hats, bandanas, scarves or headwear that cover full head **unless for religious or medical reasons**

On a voice vote, the proposed change was approved.

FILE

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

Cell Phone Policy/  
proposed changes

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

The following change was proposed under the section Student Lockers on page 12 by deleting the words "**cell phones**" from paragraph 3 which will then read as follows:

Students must store all book bags, gym bags and outerwear (coats and jackets) in their lockers during the school day.

On a voice vote, the proposed change was approved.

FILE

#### SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues as amended.

gb #9-39 - Administration (January 25, 2019)

Student Handbook/  
approval of

It was moved to amend page 45, under Riding School Buses, number 3, bullet 4 as follows:

Remain at least **ten (10)** feet from the bus when it stops to pick up and move toward the bus only when the door opens.

On a voice vote, the amended motion was approved.

Mr. Monfredo moved to amend Miss Biancheria's motion to read as follows:

Request that the Administration provide a report indicating the process for monitoring the adherence of the **ten (10)** feet rule.

On a voice vote, the amended motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the 2019-20 Student Handbook as amended.

It was moved to suspend the rules to reconsider the vote to approve the 2019-20 Student Handbook.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,  
Mayor Petty 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley  $\frac{2}{7}$

The motion carried.

It was moved to reconsider the vote on the 2019-20 Student Handbook.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: 0

Against the motion: Miss Biancheria,  
Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo,  
Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty 5

Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley  $\frac{2}{7}$

The motion was defeated.

9. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #9-9.1 - Administration/Administration  
(July 2, 2019)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a detailed report on the number of homeless students currently enrolled in the Worcester Public Schools and include the number of students who are doubled up, in foster care or living in shelters.

Homeless  
Students

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration refer to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports, the response from the Highlights regarding a detailed report on the number of homeless students and provide the updated numbers to the state in order to get credit for those students.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS

10. gb #9-195.3 - Administration/Administration (June 27, 2019) FY20 Budget Responses

Response of the Administration to the following motions from the FY20 Budget:

**500132-92000 Special Education Tuition**

Request that the Administration provide a report on the number of special education students and indicate:

- their placement and
- the per diem costs associated with residential placement Mr. O'Connell

**500122-92000 Athletics Ordinary Maintenance**

Request that the Administration provide a composite list of funding obtained through grants, from the Worcester Educational Development Foundation, the District Attorney's office and Recreation Worcester.

Miss Biancheria

It was moved and voice voted to file the responses to the motions.

11. gb #9-225 - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/ Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty (June 14, 2019) Recognition/set date

To set a date to recognize Jacob Hiatt Magnet School teacher Ann Ruchala for being recognized as the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) community person of the year.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, September 5, 2019.

Safety/pick up and drop off policies

12. gb #9-226 - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(June 14, 2019)

To review pick up and drop off policies for all schools to ensure student safety and smooth traffic flow.

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

Cursive Writing/  
update on

13. gb #9-227 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell  
(June 26, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide an update on when cursive writing is taught in the district and include any changes forthcoming in the future.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report, prior to the start of the 2019-20 school year, on what is being proposed for the teaching of cursive writing.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

Innovation Schools  
Annual Evaluations

14. gb #9-228 - Administration  
(June 26, 2019)

To consider review of the following Innovation Schools Annual Evaluations:

Chandler Magnet School  
Claremont Academy  
Goddard Scholars Academy at Sullivan Middle School  
Goddard School of Science and Technology  
Woodland Academy  
Academy of Science, Technology and Health at Worcester East Middle School  
Worcester Technical High School and  
University Park Campus School

Superintendent Binienda stated that Worcester East Middle School has discontinued participation in the Innovation Schools Annual Evaluation due to the fact that the school will become a Gifted Academy within the next few years.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

- 15. gb #9-229 - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(July 1, 2019) Donations of School  
Supplies/  
consideration of pilot  
program

Request that the Administration consider implementation of a pilot program in Worcester, modeled on that implemented by the Las Vegas City Council, to allow parking tickets to be paid with donations of school supplies for the benefit of the Worcester Public Schools.

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

- 16. gb #9-230 - Administration  
(July 2, 2019) Prior Fiscal Year  
Payment/SEI Instructor

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$5,575.00 to an SEI Endorsement Course Instructor for services rendered.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O’Connell, Mayor Petty	5
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Against the motion:	0
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Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley	<u>2</u> 7
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The motion carried.

- 17. gb #9-231 - Administration  
(July 2, 2019) Prior Fiscal Year  
Payment/  
Director of Nursing

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$153.15 to the Director of Nursing for travel (mileage) in FY19.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,  
Mayor Petty 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley  $\frac{2}{7}$

The motion carried.

Prior Fiscal Year  
Payment/teacher

18. gb #9-235 - Administration  
(July 9, 2019)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount  
of \$284.15 for in-state travel reimbursement for a  
teacher.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,  
Mayor Petty 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley  $\frac{2}{7}$

The motion carried.

Donations

19. gb #9-236 - Administration  
(July 9, 2019)

To consider approval of the following donations:

- \$688.43 from Lifetouch to Woodland Academy
- \$47.30 from Box Tops for Education to Woodland Academy
- \$136.14 from CEC Entertainment Inc./Chuck E. Cheese to Woodland Academy
- \$481.29 from Lifetouch to Tatnuck Magnet School
- \$750.00 from Verizon Foundation to Tatnuck Magnet School
- \$250.00 from Furniture Trust Organization, Inc. to St. Casimir's Alternative School for 2nd place in the Eco Carpentry Challenge (Small School Shop).
- \$50.00 from a donor to the South High Community School Food Pantry in memory of Maureen Mohammed



- \$300.00 from Sunbelt Rentals Inc. to the South High Community School Diesel Program
- \$500.00 from New England Dairy Food Council to South High Community School
- \$43.50 from Box Tops for Education to Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School
- \$1,275.00 from various donors to the Patricia Falcone Memorial Scholarship
- \$500.00 from Project Bread Summer Eats for the purchase of 3-4 picnic tables for Worcester Public School's sponsored mobile summer meal service on the front lawn area of Curtis Apartments, 32 Great Brook Valley Avenue

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty	5
Against the motion:	0
Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley	<u>2</u> 7

The motion carried.

20. gb #9-237 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(July 10, 2019) Gas Lines/  
repair near schools

Request that the Administration coordinate with officials of the City of Worcester, and appropriate utilities, to discover and repair, leaks in gas lines in the vicinity of schools.

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

21. gb #9-238 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(July 10, 2019) Domestic Skills and  
Financial Management  
Training/consider  
offering

Request that the Administration offer training in "domestic skills" and personal financial management to Worcester students and interested citizens through Night Life and after-school and summer programs.

Superintendent Binienda stated that she would provide a report on the number of students who have elected to take the new financial class which will be offered at all of the high schools.

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

"Creating the Will: A Community Roadmap to Achieving Educational Excellence for Latino Students in Worcester"

22. gb #9-239 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(July 10, 2019)

Request that the Administration review "Creating the Will: A Community Roadmap to Achieving Educational Excellence for Latino Students in Worcester," and to consider both progress made, and topics which require further attention, since issuance of the report in July 2011.

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

Harvard Teacher Fellows and Teach for America Programs

23. gb #9-240 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(July 10, 2019)

Request that the Administration interact with the Harvard Teacher Fellows Program, and Teach for America, as to placement of prospective teachers in the Worcester Public Schools.

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

- 24. gb #9-241 - Administration  
(July 10, 2019)

Grant/Career and  
Technical Education  
Partnership Planning

To accept the Career and Technical Education  
Partnership Planning Grant in the amount of  
\$7,500.00.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,  
Mayor Petty 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley  $\frac{2}{7}$

The motion carried.

- 25. gb #9-242 - Administration  
(July 10, 2019)

Donation/  
Berklee College of  
Music

To accept a donation of various instruments from the  
Berklee College of Music in the total estimated value  
of \$13,500.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Miss McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell,  
Mayor Petty 5

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mr. Foley  $\frac{2}{7}$

The motion carried.

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration forward a letter of appreciation to the Berklee College of Music for its donation of musical instruments to the Worcester Public Schools.

Request that the Administration provide in a Friday letter, a list of the schools who will receive the donated instruments.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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