

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Worcester, Massachusetts  
Thursday, September 5, 2019  
Agenda #15

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, September 5, 2019.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There were absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty

It was moved to recess to Executive Session.

1. gb #9-295 - (Administration) Executive Session  
(August 28, 2019)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Plumbers and Steamfitters, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Tradesmen, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Aides to the Physically Handicapped and Bus Monitors, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, Case No. CAS-19-7323.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Worcester School Committee v. International

Union of Public Employees, Tradesmen, Local – 135 and International Union of Public Employees, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local – 125, Worcester Superior Court Civil Action No. 1885CV01520.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Jennifer Foley v. City of Worcester School Department, U.S. District Court Civil Action No. 4:19-CV-40109-TSH.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Absent:	Mr. Comparetto,	Mayor Petty	2
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Against the motion:			$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There were absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:05 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

The invocation was given by Reverend Torkum Chorbajian of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church

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

Vice Chairperson Miss McCullough chaired the meeting.

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

2. aor #9-16 - Clerk (August 28, 2019) Minutes/approval of

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, August 15, 2019.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, August 15, 2019.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

3. gb #9-225.1 - Administration/Miss McCullough/  
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/  
Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty (August 16, 2019) Recognition/Ann Ruchala

To recognize Ann Ruchala, a teacher at Jacob Hiatt Magnet School, as the recipient of the Community Person of the Year from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS).

Vice Chairperson McCullough and Superintendent Binienda presented a certificate of recognition to Ann Ruchala.

4. gb #9-253.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/  
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/  
Mayor Petty (August 16, 2019) Recognition/Sarah Kyriazis

To recognize Sarah Kyriazis, Manager of Instructional Technology and Digital Learning, on her selection as recipient of the 2019 Administrator Award from MassCUE (Massachusetts Computer Using Educators).

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for the meeting of Thursday, September 19, 2019.

5. PERSONNEL

- 9-33 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Cafeteria Substitute Helper, permanent/intermittent at a salary of \$14.00 per hour, from Civil Service List #319-022, effective as shown: Appointments/  
Cafeteria Helper

Krauss, Jillian 8/22/19  
Rivera, Claribel 8/22/19

Appointments/  
Junior Custodian 9-34 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Junior Custodian, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$16.54 (minimum) to \$21.05 (maximum), per hour, effective as shown:

Collins, Sumo 7/22/19  
Zwicker, Thomas 8/12/19

Appointments/  
Driver Full Size  
School Bus 9-35 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Driver Full Size School Bus, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$22.66 per hour, from Civil Service List #319-028, effective as follows:

Arsenault, Jayne 8/19/19  
Cullen, John 7/2/19  
Pyram, Kettelie 6/25/19

Appointments/  
Aide to the  
Physically  
Handicapped 9-36 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Aide to the Physically Handicapped, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$17.04 (minimum) to \$21.00 (maximum) per hour, from Civil Service List #319-042, effective as follows:

Abban, Eric 8/26/19  
Celestin, Ronald 8/2/19

Appointments/  
School Bus  
Attendant 9-37 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of School Bus Attendant, permanent at a salary of \$16.23 minimum per hour to \$18.08 maximum per hour, from Civil Service List #319-029, effective as follows:

English, Shyla 8/22/19  
Khoury, Tom 7/1/19  
Lopez Abimael 7/1/19

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

Environmental 6. gb #9-260 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Issues/Columbus Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/  
Park Preparatory Mr. O'Connell  
Academy (August 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration update the School Committee on the mold problem at Columbus Park Preparatory Academy and indicate whether or not the City Health Department has provided any recommendations for remediation of this problem.

It was moved and voice voted to allow Roger Nugent, EAW President to speak to the item.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an update at the first meeting in October on the environmental problems at Columbus Park Preparatory Academy.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

7. gb #9-227.1 -Administration/Mr. Monfredo/ Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/ Mr. O'Connell (August 28, 2019) Cursive Writing

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report at the first meeting in October on the system's plan to teach cursive writing in Grades 2-5.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Foley stated that it is not necessary to teach cursive but rather teach the students the methodology of using cursive for certain purposes.

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

8. gb #9-259 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/ Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/ Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty (August 12, 2019) Recognition/set date

To set a date to recognize the Worcester Bravehearts, as Champions of the Future Collegiate Baseball League and for its community service activities in the Worcester Public Schools and in the community.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, September 19, 2019.

- Family Fest Day 9. gb #9-261 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell  
(August 16, 2019)

Request that the Administration inform our schools and parents about the free "Family Fest Day" on September 7, 2019 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the John Binienda Memorial Beach at Coes Reservoir on Mill Street.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

- Grant/Safer Schools Technology 10. gb #9-262 - Administration  
(August 20, 2019)

To accept the Safer Schools Technology Grant in the amount of \$80,000.00.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a list of the schools that will be receiving the locks and cameras from the Safer Schools Technology Grant.

On a voice vote, 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		5

Absent:	Mr. Comparetto,	Mayor Petty	2
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Against the motion:			<u>0</u>
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The motion carried.

- Grant/High Quality College and Career Pathways 11. gb #9-263 - Administration  
(August 20, 2019)

To accept the High Quality College and Career Pathway Grant in the amount of \$28,683.00.

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday letter, a list of the schools that will benefit from the High Quality College and Career Pathway Grant.

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday letter, the response regarding possible union involvement as part of this grant.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Absent: Mr. Comparetto, Mayor Petty 2

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

The motion carried.

12. gb #9-264 - Administration  
(August 20, 2019)

Grant/21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Community Learning  
Centers Exemplary  
Programs

To accept the 21st Century Community Learning Centers-Exemplary Programs Grant in the amount of \$116,250.00.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Absent: Mr. Comparetto, Mayor Petty 2

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

The motion carried.

13. gb #9-265 - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(August 21, 2019)

Jump Start Programs

Request that the Administration provide a report on the number of students that attended the Jump Start programs at the secondary schools in August 2019.

Miss McCullough made the following amendment to the item:

Request that the Administration include in the report the activities that took place and the number of students who participated in the Jump Start programs at the secondary schools in August 2019.

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

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

FY20 Budget/  
status and  
transfers

14. gb #9-266 - Administration  
(August 21, 2019)

To review the status of the FY20 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

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

Annual Audit and  
Agreed Upon  
Procedures

15. gb #9-267 - Administration  
(August 21, 2019)

To review the annual audit and agreed upon procedures report on compliance and internal controls for the City of Worcester, including the Worcester Public Schools, for the year that ended on June 30, 2019 which included the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) A-133 Reports and the Management Letter.

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

Annual Audit and  
Agreed Upon  
Procedures

16. gb #9-268 - Administration  
(August 21, 2019)

To review the annual audit and agreed upon procedures on the Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed Upon Procedures for Student Activity Fund Testing for fiscal year 2019.

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



17. gb #9-269 - Administration  
(August 21, 2019) Annual Audit and  
Agreed Upon  
Procedures
- To review the annual audit and agreed upon procedures on the Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed Upon Procedures for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education End of Year Financial Report for fiscal year 2018-19.
- It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations.
18. gb #9-270 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. O'Connell  
(August 21, 2019) Half Day Professional  
Development/  
consider offering
- Request that the Administration consider offering half day professional development for staff in light of the training provided to principals that dealt with SEL, the impact of homelessness and foster children and on disciplinary alternatives.
- Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:
- Request that the Administration provide a response in October 2019 to the item regarding the offering of half day professional development.
- On a voice vote, the motion was approved.
- It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration.
19. gb #9-271 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell  
(August 21, 2019) Kids in School Rule
- Request that the Administration continue its collaborative work with various agencies in dealing with the needs of our homeless and foster children and consider reviewing the Cincinnati model entitled "Kids in School Rule."
- Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:
- Request that the Administration provide a Report of the Superintendent in December on how the Worcester Public Schools are dealing with the needs of the homeless and foster children and review the Cincinnati model on this topic.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

Prior Fiscal Year  
Payment/Clifton  
Larson Allen, LLP

20. gb #9-272 - Administration  
(August 23, 2019)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$2,323.00 to CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP for the FY17 and FY18 combined Student Activity Account Agreed Upon Procedures Review.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Absent: Mr. Comparetto, Mayor Petty 2

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

The motion carried.

Cellphone Use  
Policy/  
San Mateo,  
California

21. gb #9-273 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(August 23, 2019)

To review the newly established policy and practice of San Mateo (California) High School, based on a successful pilot project, of prohibiting use of cellphones in school by students during the academic day.

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

Cellphone Use  
Policy/  
Crestwood, Ohio

22. gb #9-274 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(August 23, 2019)

To review the newly established policy and practice of the Crestwood (Ohio) Local School District which prohibits use of cellphones in schools by students except before and after school, at extracurricular activities and at school-related lunches.

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

23. gb #9-275 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/  
Mayor Petty  
(August 26, 2019) Recognition/forward  
letter

Request that the Administration forward a letter of congratulations to Michael P. Lyons, on being selected for the Worcester State University Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community.

It was moved and voice voted to forward a letter of congratulations.

24. gb #9-276 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty  
(August 26, 2019) Recognition/set date

To set a date to recognize Darya Kuruna, an art teacher at Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School, for the creative painting of 30 Murals at her school.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, October 3, 2019.

25. gb #9-277 - Administration  
(August 27, 2019) Donations

To consider approval of the following donations:

- \$67.55 from a donor to the Worcester Public Schools
- \$100.00 from a donor to the Patricia Falcone Memorial Scholarship
- \$3,820.00 from Worcester Area Mission Society for the Summer Cubs Program held at Woodland Academy

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Absent: Mr. Comparetto, Mayor Petty 2

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

The motion carried.

Massachusetts  
Model System  
Rubric

26. gb #9-278 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(August 27, 2019)

To review the Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation, Superintendent and District Administrator Rubric, as updated during July 2019, and to determine whether it requires, or makes advisable, any change in the current process utilized by the School Committee to evaluate the Superintendent, and by the Superintendent to evaluate other district administrators.

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

Mr. Foley left at 7:40 p.m.

Kickoff of School  
Opening

27. gb #9-279 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell/  
Mayor Petty  
(August 27, 2019)

To congratulate the Administration for the 4th annual kickoff of school opening for the entire staff at the DCU Center.

The School Committee congratulated the Administration on the event.

Grant/  
Comprehensive  
School Health  
Services

28. gb #9-280 - Administration  
(August 28, 2019)

To accept the Comprehensive School Health Services (CSHS) Grant in the amount of \$28,683.00.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria Miss McCullough,  
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell 4

Absent: Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley,  
Mayor Petty 2

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

The motion carried.

29. gb #9-281 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo School  
(August 28, 2019) Committee/establish  
goals

To consider establishing goals for the School Committee  
for 2019-20.

Mr. Foley returned at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration establish goals for the  
School Committee by the end of the school year.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

30. gb #9-282 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo Potential School  
(August 28, 2019) Siting/Doherty  
Memorial High School

To determine the most appropriate manner to review all  
plans for the siting and construction of the replacement  
Doherty Memorial High School, in light of Section 4-1 (d)  
(5) of the Worcester Home Rule Charter, which provides  
that "No site for a school building shall be acquired by  
the city unless the approval of the site by the school  
committee is first obtained. No plans for the construction  
of or alterations, with the exception of ordinary repairs,  
in a school building shall be accepted, and no such work  
shall be commenced on the construction or alteration of  
a school building unless the approval of the school  
committee and the city manager shall have first been  
obtained."

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration review the process of determining the siting of a new school building and make certain that the School Committee has the final approval on the proposed site.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

Surplus Frozen Meals

31. gb #9-283 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(August 28, 2019)

To review the pilot program of the Elkhart Indiana Community Schools, which, in conjunction with Cultivate, a nonprofit food rescue organization, repurposes surplus Cafeteria food into frozen meals and distributes those meals to needy families for weekend use.

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

School Site Councils

32. gb #9-284 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(August 28, 2019)

To review the schedule of dates and times of the first meetings of the school site councils, which, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 59C, shall take place "no later than forty days after the first day of school."

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the dates and times of each school's first Site Council meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

Fire Drills/  
compliance with  
law

33. gb #9-285 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(August 28, 2019)

To verify full compliance of the Worcester Public Schools with the provisions of 527 CMR 1.00,

Section 20.2.4.2.1.4, which require that the first fire drill of the year occur within three days of the start of school.

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

34. gb #9-286 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley  
(August 28, 2019) Transportation Issues

Request an update from the Administration regarding ongoing student transportation issues.

35. gb #9-287 - Administration  
(August 28, 2019) Prior Fiscal Year  
Payment/Harbor  
Networks

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$5,252.25 to Harbor Networks.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Absent: Mr. Comparetto, Mayor Petty 2

Against the motion: 0  
7

The motion carried.

36. gb #9-288 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/  
Miss McCullough  
(August 28, 2019) Sexual Education  
Curriculum

Request the establishment of an inclusive and transparent process for selecting and implementing a comprehensive sex education curriculum that is age-appropriate, evidence-based, medically-accurate and LGBTQ inclusive in the Worcester Public Schools.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for the meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2019.

Worcester  
Technical High  
School/  
enrollment

37. gb #9-289 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(August 28, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report of the number of students who applied to Worcester Technical High School and the number of students that are now enrolled.

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

Chapter 74  
Courses/report  
on

38. gb #9-290 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(August 28, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report listing the Chapter 74 courses in all schools and the number of students enrolled in each of these courses.

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

Advanced  
Placement  
Courses/  
reports

39. gb #9-291 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(August 28, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide the following information regarding AP courses:

- the number of courses by titles and school sites
- the number of students who took the courses by titles and school sites and
- the student results by course titles and school sites

Miss McCullough made the following amendment the item:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the parent and student feedback regarding AP courses.

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

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



40. gb #9-292 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(August 28, 2019) STEM/STEAM/  
highlights
- Request that the Administration provide a report on the way in which the Worcester Public Schools is highlighting its successes in the STEM/STEAM Programs during the week of Oct. 21-25, 2019.
- It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration.
41. gb #9-293 - Administration  
(August 28, 2019) Prior Fiscal Year  
Payment/school nurses
- To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the total amount of \$7,800.00 to school nurses for longevity rates.
- It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for the meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2019.
42. gb #9-294 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Foley/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(August 28, 2019) Website Link/access to  
event calendars
- Request that the Administration prepare a plan by January 2020 that will provide a link on the website and a connection to the landing page in order to provide access to student/families to the calendar of events in all schools as well as to the teachers e-mail addresses, forms and supply lists for each grade.
- It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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

