

The following items will be discussed at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues to be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building:

gb #9-99 -Mr. Comparetto/Mr. O'Connell (March 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration review the action taken by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection against White & Brite Cleaners in Worcester and take necessary precautions to ensure that the students and staff at Gates Lane School are safe from exposure to contaminants.

c&p #0-1 -Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a policy regarding clear and uniform districtwide standards for suspensions.

c&p #0-2 -Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a uniform districtwide policy on age appropriate touching.

c&p #0-3 -Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a policy of an adequate number of counselors and teachers.

c&p #0-4 -Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a clear and uniform policy for the Worcester School District regarding emergency removals that do not have a racially adverse impact.

c&p #0-5 -Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to the establishment of a Residents' Advisory Commission which can formally petition the Worcester School Committee and to which the Worcester School Committee would be required to provide a response.

gb #0-28 - Mayor Petty/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick (January 8, 2020)

To create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Worcester School Committee to consider changes to the school committee rules, meetings and agendas to make the work of the School Committee and our meetings more effective and better aligned with the focus on the strategic direction of the district. These changes should reflect best practices and address the recommendations included in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's report from 2017.

Committee Members
Laura Clancey, Chair
John F. Monfredo, Vice-Chair
Tracy O'Connell-Novick

Administrative Representative
Jennifer Boulais
Helen A. Friel, Ed.D.

OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
20 IRVING STREET
WORCESTER, MA 01609

AGENDA #1

The Standing Committee on GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEE ISSUES will hold a meeting:

on: Tuesday, February 11, 2020
at: 4:30 p.m.
in: Esther Howland South Chamber at City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #8-74 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough (February 14, 2018)

To formulate a policy, and appropriate protocols and guidelines, as to initiation of procedures in Juvenile Court under the "Children Requiring Assistance" statute (Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 119, Sections 21 and 39E - 39I), in light of the decision of the Supreme Judicial Court in Millis Public Schools v. M.P. et al (SJC-12384, February 6, 2018).

gb #9-99 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. O'Connell (March 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration review the action taken by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection against White & Brite Cleaners in Worcester and take necessary precautions to ensure that the students and staff at Gates Lane School are safe from exposure to contaminants.

gb #9-350 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo (October 14, 2019)

Request that the School Committee work with the Clerk of the School Committee to determine 3 or 4 dates in 2020 for policy forums/conversations that will be open to the community.

c&p #0-1 - Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a policy regarding clear and uniform districtwide standards for suspensions.

c&p #0-2 - Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a uniform districtwide policy on age appropriate touching.

c&p #0-3 - Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a policy of an adequate number of counselors and teachers.

c&p #0-4 - Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a clear and uniform policy for the Worcester School District regarding emergency removals that do not have a racially adverse impact.

c&p #0-5 - Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to the establishment of a Residents' Advisory Commission which can formally petition the Worcester School Committee and to which the Worcester School Committee would be required to provide a response.

gb #0-28 - Mayor Petty/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick (January 8, 2020)

To create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Worcester School Committee to consider changes to the school committee rules, meetings and agendas to make the work of the School Committee and our meetings more effective and better aligned with the focus on the strategic direction of the district. These changes should reflect best practices and address the recommendations included in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's report from 2017.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

ITEM: gb #9-99

STANDING COMMITTEE: **GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEE ISSUES**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

ITEM: Mr. Comparetto/Mr. O'Connell (March 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration review the action taken by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection against White & Brite Cleaners in Worcester and take necessary precautions to ensure that the students and staff at Gates Lane School are safe from exposure to contaminants.

PRIOR ACTION:

3-21-19 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 page) contains a copy of the Administration's response to the item.

Summary of Testing Results at Gates Labe School

Ground Water

None of the ground water tests conducted near school property showed any traces of volatile organic compounds

Interior Surface Slabs

All four interior sub-soil gas screening tests conducted at the school were below residential sub-slab soil gas screening values

Exterior Surface Slab:

Only one of four exterior sub-soil gas screening tests had a result above the residential sub-slab soil gas screening values.

Indoor Air Quality:

All air sample collections were below the Massachusetts Residential Indoor Air Threshold Values and Massachusetts Commercial/Industrial Indoor Air Threshold Values.

It was determined by DEP the stack on the dry cleaner building adjacent to the school is not used to vent dry cleaning machines and dry cleaning equipment is only used for a couple hours per week on Monday mornings.

No further actions are needed at the school in accordance with guidance from the Department of Environmental Protection and Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Indoor Air Quality Program.

STANDING COMMITTEE: **GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEE ISSUES**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

ITEM: Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a policy of an adequate number of counselors and teachers.

PRIOR ACTION: Considered with c&p 0-1, 0-2, 0-4 and 0-5

1-16-20 - Gordon Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, Gwen Davis, member of the Progressive Labor Party and Ruth Rodriguez spoke to the Communications and Petitions filed by Mr. Davis regarding suspensions and the perceived adverse impact on the black and Latino community. Referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

BACKUP: The Worcester NAACP petitions the Worcester School Committee to establish a policy of maintaining an adequate number of counselors and teachers especially for the support of children who have experienced trauma. The adequacy shall be determined by objective standards and results.

ITEM: c&p #0-2

STANDING COMMITTEE: **GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEE ISSUES**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

ITEM: Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a uniform districtwide policy on age appropriate touching.

PRIOR ACTION: Considered with c&p 0-1, 0-3, 0-4 and 0-5

1-16-20 - Gordon Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, Gwen Davis, member of the Progressive Labor Party and Ruth Rodriguez spoke to the Communications and Petitions filed by Mr. Davis regarding suspensions and the perceived adverse impact on the black and Latino community. Referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

BACKUP: The Worcester NAACP petitions the Worcester School Committee to establish a policy of a clearly defined and age appropriate districtwide standard for inappropriate touching.

ITEM: c&p #0-4

STANDING COMMITTEE: **GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEE ISSUES**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

ITEM: Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a clear and uniform policy for the Worcester School District regarding emergency removals that do not have a racially adverse impact.

PRIOR ACTION: Considered with c&p 0-1, 0-2, 0-3 and 0-5

1-16-20 - Gordon Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, Gwen Davis, member of the Progressive Labor Party and Ruth Rodriguez spoke to the Communications and Petitions filed by Mr. Davis regarding suspensions and the perceived adverse impact on the black and Latino community. Referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

BACKUP: The Worcester NAACP petitions the Worcester School Committee to establish a policy of emergency removals that do not have a racially adverse disparate impact.

ITEM: c&p #0-1

STANDING COMMITTEE: **GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEE ISSUES**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

ITEM: Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a policy regarding clear and uniform districtwide standards for suspensions.

PRIOR ACTION: Considered with c&p 0-2, 0-3, 0-4 and 0-5

1-16-20 - Gordon Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, Gwen Davis, member of the Progressive Labor Party and Ruth Rodriguez spoke to the Communications and Petitions filed by Mr. Davis regarding suspensions and the perceived adverse impact on the black and Latino community. Referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

BACKUP: The Worcester NAACP petitions the Worcester School Committee for a policy of citywide uniform standards for suspensions. This includes no suspension for grades K through 3 and not more than 1 day suspension for non-drug and non-violent suspensions.

ITEM: c&p #0-5

STANDING COMMITTEE: **GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEE ISSUES**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

ITEM: Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to the establishment of a Residents' Advisory Commission which can formally petition the Worcester School Committee and to which the Worcester School Committee would be required to provide a response.

PRIOR ACTION: Considered with c&p 0-1, 0-2, 0-3 and 0-4

1-16-20 - Gordon Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, Gwen Davis, member of the Progressive Labor Party and Ruth Rodriguez spoke to the Communications and Petitions filed by Mr. Davis regarding suspensions and the perceived adverse impact on the black and Latino community. Referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

BACKUP: The Worcester NAACP and others petition the Worcester School Committee to establish a Residents Advisory Commission which would be authorized to petition the Worcester School Committee and the Worcester School Committee would be required to respond.

STANDING COMMITTEE: **GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEE ISSUES**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

ITEM: Mayor Petty/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo (January 8, 2020)

To create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Worcester School Committee to consider changes to the school committee rules, meetings and agendas to make the work of the School Committee and our meetings more effective and better aligned with the focus on the strategic direction of the district. These changes should reflect best practices and address the recommendations included in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's report from 2017.

PRIOR ACTION:

- 1-16-20 - Mayor Petty requested that the item be referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues in order to have a transparent meeting where Mrs. Clancey can bring in experts from other cities and towns.
Referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues as amended.

BACKUP:

The Administration recommends that this item be referred to the School Committee retreat.