

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Thursday, March 26, 2020
Agendas #12 and 12A

In order to participate in all future public meetings in the Esther Howland Chamber, please call 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 735751404) to participate.

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

There were present at the Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

- 1. aor #0-9 - Clerk Minutes/approval of
(March 10, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, February 27, 2020.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:	<u>0</u> 7
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The motion carried.

Minutes/approval
of

2. aor #0-10 - Clerk
(March 10, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School
Committee Meeting of Monday, March 2, 2020.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

Minutes/approval
of

3. aor #0-11 - Clerk
(March 10, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School
Committee Meeting of Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

Minutes/approval
of

4. aor #0-12 - Clerk
(March 10, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School
Committee Meeting of Wednesday, March 5, 2020.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

5. gb #0-47.1 - Administration/Administration Recognition/held
(February 6, 2020)

To recognize Chrysanthe Manuel for having received
"The Donna Nagel Excellence in General Music
Award" from the Massachusetts Music Educators
Association.

On a roll call, the vote to hold the item was as
follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
Mayor Petty 7

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

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was held.

6. gb #0-97 - Administration Student
(March 10, 2020) Representatives

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

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report of the
Superintendent/
Student
Opportunity Act's
Plan

7. ROS #0-4 - Administration
(March 10, 2020)

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY ACT'S PLAN

Superintendent Binienda presented an overview of the Student Opportunity Act's draft as contained in Annex A.

She explained that the data was collected through student surveys, community forums, principal and site council feedback, the Latino Education Justice Alliance, the Education Association of Worcester and the Worcester Education Collaborative.

Miss Biancheria commented that she was happy with the Early College and Innovation Pathway.

Ms. McCullough asked if the additional preschool programs are full day and also if the SPED funding will be spent on language based learners or dyslexia programs.

Superintendent Binienda stated that there are two brand new all day preschool programs that will be in addition to what is currently at Chandler Magnet and that the SPED funding will be used for materials and social and emotional learning.

Mr. Foley felt that the report lacked initiatives to target and eliminate achievement gaps. Early College and preschool programs should have data. He believes that high school students are not as interested in the Early College programs which could be the result of the lack of support in the early years. Increasing personnel and support should be provided for the three or four schools that have been struggling and then measure the success and try and replicate that across the district. He proposed taking a look at the test scores from the Early Literacy Initiative subgroups. He stated that without data on this initiative and evidence that Early College is working, it is hard to support the SOA proposal.

Superintendent Binienda stated that she was instructed to follow the plan and questions as directed and for this not to be a strategic plan with data. The data is available since the Early College Initiative was presented earlier as a Report of the Superintendent and will be provided to the School Committee.

Mrs. Clancey requested a report on the success of the Innovation Pathways initiative and Superintendent Binienda stated that she would provide that information. She also asked for more information regarding Wraparound supports and academic opportunities that will be increased and broadened through a new seven-part workshop series offered at the district's seven high schools and on the WSU and QCC campuses. The Superintendent suggested that the information be presented as an upcoming Report of the Superintendent.

Ms. Novick stated that with the pandemic causing the shutdown of schools resulting in students being out for five months, the plan did not address the emotional impact on the students. She felt that the emotional and physical well-being of the students will account for more social and emotional personnel, guidance counselors and intense professional development for teachers.

She felt that the Early College program has not been happening long enough to know if it is really working. She was disappointed by not seeing a comprehensive and intense anti-bias training in the proposal. She remarked that looking at the needs of the students now, the plan did not address those needs. What needs to be done in terms of hiring is to look at the way the WPS currently hires staff. Ms. Novick felt that she could not support the plan as she believes it is not focusing on the needs of students.

Superintendent Binienda responded by stating that the system is dealing with anti-bias training and that the Chief Diversity Officer will be working with principals on hiring diverse personnel. She also stated that the SOA is based on buckets from the State. She felt that the plan addressed what the Administration was given to do and that it was written in order to meet the April 1st deadline, even if it were to be extended. Ms. Novick felt it would be important to know the difference between culturally relevant pedagogy and comprehensive anti-bias training.

Mr. Monfredo remarked that the plan was well done but that due to budgetary restraints, there are many programs that he would have liked to see implemented. He specifically mentioned Early Learning initiatives that would address reading by Grade 3, more afterschool programs, more outreach with neighborhood and interfaith groups and finally better relationships with parents. He agreed that the plan is a start, but there is going to be the need for additional resources.

Mayor Petty commended the work of the Administration's ability to focus on the SOA in the midst of all the work that needed to be done as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. He felt that the deadline may be extended and suggested that the School Committee members file items for the next meeting in regard to receiving more data.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the Student Opportunity Act's Plan was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mayor Petty	6
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Against the motion: Ms. Novick	$\frac{1}{7}$
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The motion carried.

On a roll call of 6-1 (nay Ms. Novick), the Student Opportunity Act's Plan was approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Coursework/fees
and charges

8. qb #0-57.1 - Administration/Ms. Novick/
Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley
(March 2, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the request to prepare a list of all fees and charges to students and their families required for coursework in the Worcester Public Schools, vocational programs, innovation programs, dual enrollment programs, or other credit-bearing work.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the item be referred back to the Administration for a complete response which should include fees and charges for credit bearing work, such as AP student costs, innovation program costs and dual enrollment costs.

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item back to the Administration was as follows:

For the motion: Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick Mayor Petty	6
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Against the motion: Miss Biancheria	$\frac{1}{7}$
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The motion carried.

On a roll call of 6-1 (nay Miss Biancheria), the item was referred back to the Administration.

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| 9. | <u>gb #0-98</u> - Miss Biancheria
(March 2, 2020) | Recognition/
forward letter |
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Request that the Administration forward a letter of congratulations to Caitlin McCarthy, an English language arts instructor at Worcester Technical High School, for winning the Best Feature Screenplay award at the 2020 George Lindsey UNA Film Festival that was held from March 5th -7th at the University of North Alabama.

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

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:	$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

On a roll call of 7-0, the item to forward a letter was approved.

Recognition/set
future date

10. gb #0-99 - Administration
(March 4, 2020)

To set a date to recognize Jody Bird, a teacher at University Park Campus School, for earning the College Board's AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award.

On a roll call, the vote to set a future date was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
Mayor Petty 7

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

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was approved to set a future date.

Prior Fiscal Year
Payment/Project
Lead the Way

11. gb #0-100 -Administration
(March 4, 2020)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment to Project Lead the Way in the amount of \$750.00 for services rendered previously.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

Full Day Pre-
school Program/
consider
expansion of

12. gb #0-101 -Mr. Monfredo
(March 5, 2020)

Request that the Administration work with the City Administration to see if there is a building available for the expansion of a full-day pre-school program.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports for a report in July.

13. gb #0-102 -Administration
(March 5, 2020)

Job Description/
Program Evaluation
Specialist

To review, for informational purposes the Job Description for Program Evaluation Specialist.

Ms. Novick stated that this job may not be the best use of resources.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the policy detailing the role of the School Committee regarding the approval of job descriptions.

On a roll call of 6-1 (nays Ms. Novick), the motion was approved.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: Ms. Novick $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was approved.

Recognition/set
future date

14. gb #0-103 -Administration
(March 9, 2020)

To set a date to recognize Carol Manning, Health and Physical Education Liaison, for being selected as the 2020 Honor Award recipient by the Massachusetts Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

On a roll call, the vote to set a future date was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
Mayor Petty 7

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

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was approved to set a future date.

Recognition/
forward letters

15. gb #0-104 -Ms. McCullough
(March 10, 2020)

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to:

- the Burncoat Dance Team for having won their 6th State Title in All Styles and 2nd place in Hip Hop at the MSSAA Dance Team State Competition and
- coach Kellie Shea for receiving the Coaches Award for all her work in the community

On a roll call, the vote to forward letters was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
 Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
 Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
 Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

On a roll call of 7-0, the item to forward letters was approved.

16. gb #0-105 -Administration Grant/Civics Teaching
 (March 12, 2020) and Learning

To accept the Civics Teaching and Learning Grant in the amount of \$36,359.

Mr. Foley stated that June 30, 2020 is the deadline for the grant and inquired if the district is going to spend it by then. Superintendent Binienda stated that she has asked for guidance from DESE and once it gets through with how to teach the students during this crisis, it will be providing information on the Grants.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an update on the guidelines for grants' allocations beyond June 30, 2020.

On a roll call of 7-0 the motion was approved.

On a roll call, the motion was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
 Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
 Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
 Mayor Petty 7

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

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was approved.

Grant/Early
College Support

17. gb #0-106 -Administration
(March 12, 2020)

To accept the Early College Support Grant in the amount of \$180,000.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

Grant/
Project Lead the
Way

18. gb #0-107 -Administration
(March 12, 2020)

To accept the Project Lead the Way Grant in the amount of \$14,974.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

Recognition/set a
future date

19. gb #0-108 -Mr. Monfredo
(March 16, 2020)

To set a date to recognize the following members and coach of the Worcester Technical High School's bowling team for capturing their second straight State High School Championship:

Mia Stolakis (State single champion)
 Ryan West
 Anthony Cormier
 Paul West (State single champion)
 Ryan Smith
 Janyce Pickett
 Riley LaPerle
 Edward Miner (Coach)

On a roll call, the vote to set a future date was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
 Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
 Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick
 Mayor Petty 7

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

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was approved to set a future date.

20. gb #0-109 -Mr. Monfredo
 (March 16, 2020)

Rules of the School
 Committee/
 consider proposed
 changes to

Request that the School Committee submit to the Clerk any proposed changes to the Rules of the School Committee.

Mr. Monfredo suggested that members submit their ideas for changes to the School Committee rules prior to taking up gb#0-28 at the Standing Committee level.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey,
 Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough,
 Mr. Monfredo, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: Ms. Novick $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

On a roll call of 6-1 (nay Ms. Novick), the item was referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

COVID-19/
update on

21. gb #0-111 - Mayor Petty
(March 24, 2020)

To provide an update on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Superintendent Binienda gave an update on what the WPS is doing in response to the pandemic. She was pleased to report that the district has expanded the feeding sites to include the central branch of the YWCA along with the Greendale YMCA. Hasbro Toys has agreed to provide games and puzzles to students at those sites. Fifty packets were returned back to WPS due to incorrect addresses. There will be calls made and attempts to email the packets to those students. There is still no agreement reached with the EAW, but the Admin and the EAW continue to negotiate. The Superintendent meets daily with managers at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and is attempting to make contact with every one of the 5000 Special Education students and their families in order to provide ways to meet the terms of the IEPs. Lack of devices and limited Wi-Fi capabilities is a definite challenge. The State suggested that the learning not only be internet based but also include outside activities with families. If students and their

families access the WPS website, the information will be automatically translated for them.

Mr. Foley commented that the impact on the staff members may require more support as well.

Ms. Novick stated that she is encouraged that the first focus is on the safety and well-being of the students. However, the need for housing and food for needy students is a moral responsibility for the Administration. She would like to see more outreach and structural support with families.

Superintendent Binienda reported that there have been calls placed to families that have said they were without food and water. This information was then given to the city partners who will distribute the goods.

Miss Biancheria stated that she would like the continuation of communication with the City Council and School Committee. She thanked the staff for all their hard work during the crisis.

On a roll call, the vote to file the item was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:	<u>0</u> 7
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On a roll call of 7-0, the item was filed.

Mayor Petty expressed thanks to the Technical Support's personnel who have made the virtual meetings a success, specifically Jamie Zelle, Judy Warren, Jessica Jacques, Niko Vangjeli and Eric Batista.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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