

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 Worcester, Massachusetts
 Thursday, June 4, 2020
 Agenda #19

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 of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 4:00 p.m. in the Esther Howland Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, June 4, 2020.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Mayor Petty.

Vice-chairman Foley chaired the meeting from 4:00 p.m. to 5:25 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

1. Vice-chairman Foley opened the meeting and allowed testimony from the public regarding the FY21 Budget.

FY21 Budget
 Hearing/Public
 Testimony

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mayor Petty), it was moved to suspend rules to allow the following individuals to state their concerns for the FY21 Budget for the Worcester Public Schools:

Gordon Davis, NAACP, spoke to the elimination of racial inequity and the need to hire an adequate number of teachers, counselors and other staff to insure that the disparities are eliminated.

Maria Ciavola, teacher, requested a public statement of acknowledgment and an unequivocal commitment to the solution for systemic racism that impacts students, families and staff.

Martin O'Hari, former music teacher, North High School, spoke to the need for diversity in hiring and the elimination of police officers in schools.

Edward Dumphy, CPPAC, spoke to the importance of a SIS.

Representative Mary Keefe, introduced a letter which will be forwarded, on approval by the School Committee, to the Ways and Means Committee concerning the SOA and was looking for support from the School Committee.

Mr. Foley stated that the item will be addressed later in the meeting.

Pat Chamberlain, IA, spoke to the need for more availability to technology for IAs and would like to see more monies allotted for them.

Heidi Fitch, IA, stated that she did not want to see any cuts in the Budget that would impact IAs. She also spoke to the need for more Chromebooks.

Christopher Brennan, teacher, would like to see a plan for instructors to have a voice, not just principals.

Matt would like to see the elimination of police in the WPS.

Dante Comparetto stated that he would like the committee to consider more social workers and Restorative Justice Programs along with the elimination of SROs in the schools.

Nancy Caswell, addressed the need for more social and emotional support for students.

Robert Michel, NAACP, was requesting information on the status of Restorative Justice Programs in the WPS to which Mr. Foley stated that he would ask for a report from the Administration.

Elise spoke regarding the school to prison pipeline, removing police from schools and providing more mental health counselors.

Lorraine would like to see the elimination of police in schools.

Cynthia Picard-Melanson, transportation, stated that there is a need for cleaning supplies, trash bags and upgraded seating in her department.

Marika would like to see a reduction in police officers in the schools.

Casey Panarelli, IA, would like IAs to be equipped with the proper technology and also would like the police to be removed from the schools.

Jen Florio, IA, stressed the need for technology for the IAs.

Molly Caisse stated that she would like to see an end to the MOU with the WPD and the hiring of more staff of color.

Mr. Charpentier would like the MOU with the WPD to be suspended.

Brady Burton felt that it is not appropriate for police officers to be in schools.

Shirley Martin, IA, spoke to the importance of IAs especially for the younger grades.

Max Stearns, teacher, spoke to the ending of the MOU with the WPD and that the monies saved be reallocated. He wants to see the elimination of police presence in the schools.

Alisha Bishop stated that she would like to see a more diverse staff and more LGBTQ counseling for students.

Asancha Howe disapproves of police officers in schools and would like to see day by day substitutes be paid more per day.

Tina Mansfield, transportation, stated she was anxious as to what the COVID-19 pandemic will do to bus transportation

Corey spoke to the root causes of social issues and the importance of investing in public education. He also would like to see the police officers eliminated in the schools.

Ann, teacher, would not like to see a reduction in funding for the arts programs.

Kathleen Vray stated she would like the WPD to be removed from the schools and not have suspensions for children K-3.

Mayor Petty arrived at 5:20 p.m.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward a report to Mr. Robert Michel, member of the Worcester Chapter of the NAACP, on the current Restorative Justice Program in the Worcester Public Schools.

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

Vice-chairman Foley closed the section of the FY21 hearing relative to the testimony from the public at 5:15 p.m.

Letter/
Representative
Keefe

2. At the beginning of the FY21 Budget Hearing, Mr. Foley read the following letter from Representative Mary Keefe:

Dear Chair Michlewitz,

It seems like a very long time ago that we met to discuss fiscal year 2021 budget priorities for the 15th Worcester District, and certainly a lot has changed since that meeting. Besides very local initiatives I included in our conversation, my priority is equitable funding of the Chapter

70 foundation rates as enacted by the Student
Opportunity Act.

Of particular concern is that the Governor's budget did not fund the rate for economically disadvantaged students at the equitable rate of 14%, but at 4%. This is not what the bill we passed in the Legislature clearly intended. The statutory requirement from the SOA involves a 7-year implementation, with the rates being increased in "***an equitable and consistent manner***" each year. **For the Worcester Public Schools, the difference between 14% and 4% amounts to \$2.9 million!**

We fully understand the tremendous pressure that your office is under due to the public health crisis. However, we also agree with the economists' letter to The Boston Globe asking that the Commonwealth hold steady to our foundation of investment for the greater good. Education is certainly the keystone for today and for the future of Massachusetts. I respectfully request that we find a way for an equitable roll out of the SOA, and that it includes a way for districts to fully understand what the impact will be for their communities.

Thank you for your consideration, and please be in touch should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



cc: Speaker Robert DeLeo

Mr. Monfredo stated that he would support Representative Keefe's letter. He hopes that the State realizes that education is the most powerful weapon that Worcester Public Schools has to change the community and build a stronger economy.

Ms. Novick requested that the letter of support that the School Committee forwards to Representative Keefe, has the correct dollar amount of 6.8 million.

Mr. Foley suggested that Mr. Allen work with the Superintendent and the Clerk of the School Committee to make sure the letter reflects the correct amount.

Superintendent Binienda suggested that the letter also include a request to ask for guidance on how the students will be counted.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee forward a letter of support to Representative Keefe to raise the percentage of the SOA monies from 4% to 14% for the economically disadvantaged students and to include the way in which the students will be counted.

On a roll call, the motion was approved was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Miss 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, it was moved to consider the accounts in the FY21 Budget.

On a roll call, the vote to consider the accounts in the FY21 Budget was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Miss 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.

Superintendent Binienda provided opening remarks. She stated that the FY21 Budget was a good Budget in spite of the pandemic. She highlighted the fact that the Administration included suggestions from both the SOA forums and the public in general. She mentioned that there are additional staff in the social emotional area, additional wraparound coordinators, support staff and a priority for the expansion of the dual language and Preschool programs.

Miss Biancheria requested additional supplies for the Transportation Department and was happy to see an increase in Instructional Assistants. She also hoped that the system received additional funding from Federal Grants.

3. gb#0-138.1 - Administration/Administration (May 18, 2020) FY21 Budget

To consider the proposed FY21 Budget.

500101-96000 Retirement

Retirement/
500101-96000

Miss Biancheria asked if the system planned for an Early Retirement Incentive Program for some positions.

Superintendent Binienda stated that there has been some discussion at the State level but nothing has come to fruition at this point.

Mr. Monfredo stated that he would not support an Early Retirement Incentive Program because the system is having a difficult time hiring teachers and can't afford to lose the ones they currently have.

Ms. Novick stated that the system is still paying for the last Early Retirement Incentive Program which was 10 years ago.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account 500101-96000 Retirement in the amount of \$19,683,751.

Athletics Ordinary
Maintenance/
500122-92000,
Athletic Coach
Salaries/
500-91116

500122-92000 Athletics Ordinary Maintenance
500-91116 Athletic Coach Salaries

(These accounts were considered together)

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an itemized list of the cost for the supplies in line D on page 217.

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

Miss Biancheria asked for clarification on the use of a third party vendor for transportation services on page 218 under Athletic Transportation.

Mr. Allen stated that the Worcester Public Schools uses Durham School Services and other third party vendors to transport athletic teams over state lines due to the fact that the system doesn't currently have a license to do so. The system does provide about 90 to 95 percent of all transportation.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account 500122-92000 Athletics Ordinary Maintenance in the amount of \$465,819.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account 500-91116 Athletic Coach Salaries in the amount of \$712,702.

Transportation/
540103-92000

540103-92000 Transportation

Mr. Foley stated that the Transportation Account is increasing at 8.5 percent this year which is approximately \$530,000. He also stated that when the Durham School Services contract expires in FY22, and the system is running its own buses, it will be able to save about 3 million dollars per year. He further stated that the system needs to keep the focus on trying to get the most efficient delivery of services at the best price in order to put the savings that will be realized back into the schools.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the McKinney-Vento grant that provides homeless student transportation which is reimbursed by the State and goes back to the City's General Fund

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

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account **540**103-92000 Transportation in the amount of \$18,030,031.

500123-96000 Health Insurance

Health Insurance/
500123-92000

Ms. Novick stated that there is an 8 percent increase in the health insurance and the Foundation Budget calculated the increase at 2.34 percent.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account 500123-96000 Health Insurance in the amount of \$51,521,725.

500125-92000 Other Insurance Programs

Other Insurance
Programs/
500125-92000

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account 500125-92000 Other Insurance Programs in the amount of \$63,086.

500129-91000 Workers Compensation Salaries

500129-92000 Workers Compensation Non

Salary

500129-96000 Workers Compensation

Fringe

Workers Compensation
Salaries/
500129-91000,
Non-Salary/
500129-92000,
Fringe/500129-96000

(These three items were considered together.)

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Accounts:

- 500129-91000 Workers Compensation Salaries in the amount of \$1,166,800.
- 500129-92000 Workers Compensation Non Salary in the amount of \$122,305.
- 500129-96000 Workers Compensation Fringe in the amount of \$678,461.

The following items were considered together:

Personal Services
(Non Salary)/
500130-92000
and
500130-96000

500130-92000 Personal Services (Non Salary)

500130-96000 Personal Services (Non Salary)

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide quarterly reports on the Professional Development taking place in the system (page 225, Line A, Staff Development).

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

Superintendent Binienda stated that she would forward the extensive list of Professional Development that will take place during the summer and next year which is posted on Teach Point.

Miss Biancheria asked if the recommended budget for the graduation expenses of \$57,000 was accounted for due to the different type of graduation ceremonies.

Mr. Allen stated that, even though the system didn't use the money for the DCU center and the police, the money was spent on providing all the students with caps, gowns, tassels and the postage amount.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a brief summary of the \$150,000 for contracted services for turnaround school supports and indicate the name of the company that is contracted for each school.

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

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an itemized report on the legal cost for services

rendered prior to the School Committee meeting
on Thursday, June 18, 2020.

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

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the how much it would cost the system to provide caps, gowns and tassels next year for graduating seniors.

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

Ms. Novick inquired as to what the \$40,000 is actually spent on for the UMass Collaborative in the North Quadrant.

Mr. Allen stated that it was used to pay for the program at UMASS.

Superintendent Binienda stated that it is a partnership with health career opportunities for students who have internships at UMass and the system pays for the supervisors that are involved. The system pays for the supervisors and the pipeline collaborative between North High School and UMASS.

Ms. Novick asked if there were any NEASC evaluations this year. (line H on page 224).

Superintendent Binienda stated that there were several high schools due to be evaluated but they were postponed until the Spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Novick questioned if the district had any plans to hire rather than pay for arts consultants (line L on page 224).

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on how much it would cost the system to pay for the AP exams next year.

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

Mayor Petty questioned if the budgeted amount of money for graduations balanced out.

Mr. Allen stated that the total cost was \$54,000, \$32,000 was for the caps, gowns and tassels and \$22,000 was for the postage.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Accounts 500130-92000 Personal Services (Non Salary) and 500130-96000 in the total amount of \$2,662,087.

Special Education
Tuition/
500132-92000

500132-92000 Special Education Tuition

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account 500132-92000 Special Education Tuition in the amount of \$20,068,553.

Printing &
Postage/
500133-92000

500133-92000 Printing & Postage

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account 500133-92000 Printing & Postage in the amount of \$317,272.

Instructional
Materials/
500-92204

500-92204 Instructional Materials

Ms. Novick requested an update on the proposed Health Curriculum and the plans for the material costs associated with it.

Superintendent Binienda stated that, due to the pandemic, there have not been any updated guidelines from the State.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account 500-92204 Instructional Materials in the amount of \$3,965,969.

Miscellaneous
Education-
Non-Salary/
500136-92000,
Miscellaneous
Education-Capital/
500136-93000,
Miscellaneous
Education-
Rentals/
540136-92000

500136-92000 Miscellaneous Education - Non-Salary
500136-93000 Miscellaneous Education - Capital
540136-92000 Miscellaneous Education - Rentals

(These three items were considered together.)

Miss Biancheria questioned how system is planning on replenishing the medical supplies that the school nurses will need for the beginning of the school year. (page 237).

Mr. Allen stated that the system is waiting for guidance from DESE and that there will be changes in the Budget in September.

On a roll call of 6-0-0-1 (recused Ms. Novick), it was moved to approve Account 500136-92000 Miscellaneous Education - Non-Salary in the amount of \$3,230,836.

On a roll call of 6-0-0-1 (recused Ms. Novick), it was moved to approve Account 500136-93000 Miscellaneous Education – Capital in the amount of \$250,000.

On a roll call of 6-0-0-1 (recused Mr. Foley), it was moved to approve Account **540**136-92000 Miscellaneous Education – Rentals in the amount of \$660,542.

500137-96000 Unemployment Compensation

Unemployment
Compensation/
500137-96000

Ms. Novick indicated that she would like to know the projections for this account.

Mr. Allen stated that the system is seeing claims greater than what was anticipated. The FY20 budget was predicated on both historical claims and the fact that the system was adding new positions not reducing them. The system anticipated that the number of claims would have been less than the budget growth year. However, the amount that was actually seen last summer was 50% greater than the benchmarks for those months. For the month of April, it was \$102,000 and for the month of May \$137,000 for unemployment.

If a person worked for the system during the past 12 months, but does not work for it now, the system is still responsible for a portion of their unemployment.

Ms. Novick asked if there were any fraudulent claims against the system.

Superintendent Binienda stated that an email will be sent out to all WPS employees to provide directions to safeguard from being a victim of this scam. The email will have recommendations from the State agency. Today, the Business Office added a more complicated protection for all

employees in the Worcester Public Schools.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account 500137-96000 Unemployment Compensation in the amount of \$732,000.

Building Utilities/
500146-92000

500146-92000 Building Utilities

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the eleven locations of the solar panels.

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

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account 500146-92000 Building Utilities in the amount of \$6,230,254.

Facilities
Department Non-
Salary/
500152-92000

500152-92000 Facilities Department Non-Salary

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the percentage from the Foundation Budget for operations and maintenance that is funded in this account.

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

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on how the Environmental Management System will be involved in the Worcester Public Schools for the next 3 months.

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

Miss Biancheria inquired as to how many vehicles are included in this account and asked for an explanation regarding the inclusion of the equipment that has fancy tires, chrome and tinted window on the trucks.

Mr. Allen stated that the answer was on page 170 of the Budget Book for the amount of vehicles that are counted. He also stated that certain trucks that the system purchases, like F350s,

automatically come with these standard accessories.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to approve Account 500152-92000 Facilities Department Non-Salary in the amount of \$4,435,469.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Petty stated that the School Committee will recess into Executive Session to discuss the following item:

It was moved to recess to Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. to discuss the following item:

qb #0-198 - Administration
(May 27, 2020)

Executive Session

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Coronavirus/COVID-19 Related Issues – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators); Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Instructional Assistants; Parent Liaisons; Tutors; and Therapy Assistants.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Miss 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.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:32 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

Mayor Petty

255

June 4, 2020

For the motion: Miss Biancheria Mrs. Clancey,
Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo,
Mayor Petty 5

Against the motion: Mr. Foley, Ms. Novick $\frac{2}{7}$

The motion carried.

On a roll call, the vote to approve item aor #0-22 was as follows:

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

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

The motion carried.

6. aor #0-23 - Clerk
(May 13, 2020)

Executive Session
Minutes/approval of

To consider approval of the Executive Session Minutes of March 17, 2016, May 19, 2016, June 16, 2016, July 14, 2016, August 18, 2016, September 1, 2016, September 30, 2016, October 6, 2016, October 20, 2016, November 3, 2016, November 17, 2016, December 1, 2016 and December 15, 2016.

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

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

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

The motion carried.

7. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met virtually at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2020 in the Esther Howland South Chamber at City Hall.

Textbooks/
approval of

qb #0-169 - Administration (April 29, 2020)

To consider approval of the following textbooks:

- Discovering World Geography (McGraw Hill)-
grade 6 Social Studies
- Studysync (McGraw Hill)-grades 7 and 8 ELA

Dr. Kelly provided an overview of the Discovering World Geography textbook by stating that it aligns with the newly approved Massachusetts State frameworks and also is compatible with Chromebooks. McGraw Hill also offers online professional development opportunities for teachers.

Mr. Monfredo asked what type of training the teachers will be provided for use of this textbook.

Dr. Kelly stated that there is a four phase rollout approach for training the teachers. During the first phase, there were opportunities for live webinars with a blended learning expert who went through the many tips, tricks and techniques that work well with remote learning. During the second phase, there were mini prerecorded webinars that provided a brief overview of all the different aspects of the platform. The third phase will take place during the first week of June which will provide teachers with a two-hour live training session. This will also be taped so the teachers can revisit it at anytime. The fourth phase will be a follow-up training the week of September 21st.

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was filed since the textbooks were approved at the last meeting.

gb #0-175 - Administration (May 12, 2020)Strategic Thinking
Course/approval of

To consider approval of a course entitled Strategic Thinking.

Dr. O'Neil provided an overview of the Strategic Thinking course for South High Community School.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report, in a Friday Letter, on how the students will be graded in this course and any feedback from students and teachers by the end of the 2021 school year.

On a roll call of 3-0, the motion was approved.

Mr. Foley inquired as to the achievement goals and expectations for the students in this course.

Dr. O'Neil stated that this course will teach the students critical and analytical thinking and strategies to help dissect complicated texts and materials.

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was approved and filed.

gb #0-176 - Administration (May 12, 2020)ARC Core Literacy/
approval of

To consider approval of the ARC Core literacy in English and Spanish for elementary students in grades K-6 Dual Language and Transitional Bilingual Education classrooms.

Mrs. Melendez provided an overview of the ARC Core literacy and stated that the system is still working on the evaluation process with the help of Dr. Patrick Proctor, a professor from Boston College. She stated that the ARC program has high quality curriculum materials and will provide the system with the tools it needs to measure how the students are progressing in the Spanish language.

Chairman McCullough asked whether the ARC program would be implemented in other schools or remain only in the two pilot schools.

Mrs. Melendez stated that the system is looking to implement the ARC Core in all dual language programs and also the Spanish Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) Program. In the future, the goal is to expand dual language into other schools.

Mr. Monfredo inquired as to how the system became aware of the ARC Core.

Ms. Goldstein stated that the Bilingual Department, with the help of parents, teachers and the Administration:

- visited many school systems to view their curriculum instruction and resources for their dual language students
- contacted the Multi State Association of Bilingual Education (MABE) for input on this program and
- also researched different programs throughout the United States

Mr. Monfredo stated that the program in English is for K-12 students and in Spanish only from K-5. He asked what the system is doing to teach Spanish in grade 6.

Ms. Goldstein stated that grade 6 is an area that is still being discussed with the company and that there are four major units of study. The first unit is in both English and Spanish for grade 6. The last 3 units of study have not been developed yet due to the pandemic.

Mr. Monfredo asked what materials are provided to parents to help their child/ren and questioned how students articulate their own goals.

Ms. Goldstein stated that there is a component called the 100 Book Challenge where students take 5 books home each week. Parents are encouraged to help their child/ren with these books. The parents are also provided a skills card that focuses on what the student is learning at that point in time. It also tells the parents what they can do to help their child/ren to succeed.

She further stated that what it means for students to articulate their own goal is that the students are involved in their own learning process. ARC helps students to be independent learners and helps them to understand the skills that they're working on.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report by the end of the 2021 school year regarding the strengths and challenges of this program.

On a roll call of 3-0, the motion was approved

Mr. Foley asked what textbook is currently being used in the middle school for the dual language program.

Ms. Goldstein stated that the English language learners get the same access to the general curriculum that everyone else gets. For the Spanish language learners, the classes fall under World Language and the students are provided text sets for each unit.

Mr. Foley inquired as to what the appropriate lifetime of a curriculum like this would be.

Ms. Goldstein stated that the filing rights are now different than they were 10 years and the big part of the investment is the text which will be replaced over time. She also stated that the approach is based on the most current research on bilinguals and biliteracy.

After the discussion, it was moved to approve the ARC Core literacy in English and Spanish for elementary students in grades K-6 Dual Language and Transitional Bilingual Education classrooms.

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was approved.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

On a roll call the School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports as stated as follows:

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

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

The motion carried.

8. **IMMEDIATE ACTION**

Student
Representatives

gb#0-186 - Administration
(May 28, 2020)

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

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

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

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

The motion carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Chromebooks/
distribution of

9. gb#0-164.1 - Administration/Ms.
Novick/
Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo

Response of the Administration to the request to consider the number of Worcester Public Schools' students in a family in the distribution of district Chromebooks.

Ms. Novick stated that she would like to have a discussion on the concerns of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding backfilling Chapter 70 rather than providing additional monies.

Mayor Petty stated that the system needs to buy more Chromebooks and the Administration is working on a plan for the summer that he hopes will be announced on Monday. He would like to know, that if the system receives more monies from the Federal Government, that it would have as a priority the purchase of additional Chromebooks. He stated the need for access to the internet and hopes that CARES Act monies will be received.

Ms. Novick requested that a discussion take place in July or August when there is a Way and Means Budget.

Mayor Petty stated that the number one priorities should be the purchase of Chromebooks and access to the internet for students and teachers.

Mr. Foley asked that the Administration provide a report regarding the process that was used for families to pick up Chromebooks.

Superintendent Binienda stated that it was a very organized process. The principals sent directions out to the parents and phoned them with an assigned time to pick up the Chromebook at the schools. She also stated that the Administration and the principals received no complaints on this process.

Mr. Monfredo stated that the WEDF is still working on gathering donations for Chromebooks. They have reached over \$100,000 for the purchase of 250 and hope to raise monies to purchase another 200 in the next couple of weeks.

Superintendent Binienda stated that there have been conversations with the City Manager regarding the CARES Act monies. If the system does receive the monies, it will be spending \$1.5 million on six thousand Chromebooks. This will allow every student to have one before the start of school in August. The other \$1.5 million would be spent on connectivity. She also stated that the Instructional Assistants will be receiving Chromebooks.

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

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

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

The motion carried.

Rubric/district
assigned versus
extended work.

10. gb#0-165.1 - Administration/Ms.
Novick/
Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/
Ms. McCullough

Response of the Administration to the request to clarify the structure of the feedback rubric vis-à-vis district assigned work versus extended work.

Ms. Novick stated that she felt there were equity issues in terms of the opportunity that students had to earn the points, depending on the level of connectivity. She also stated concern regarding the rubric for grading and how it will impact the top ten students in their class or the valedictorian.

Ms. McCullough stated that a lot of time was put into the development of the rubric but it has been interpreted differently throughout the system. As an example, some second grade teachers are requiring students to complete 25 activities per week if they want to receive a 3. She feels that this a lot to ask and stated she doesn't want this to become an equity issue.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the guidance of using the rubric was very clear but understands people interpret things differently. She stated that she will make sure the principals discuss this issue with teachers. She is sure that the teachers are not trying to cause an equity issue but trying to make their class more rigorous and to have the students engaged.

Ms. McCullough stated that if a parent has concerns regarding the rubric they can contact the principal, Administration or a School Committee Member to discuss the issues.

Superintendent Binienda stated that, according to the Commissioner of Education, school systems will be using the regular grading system at the beginning of the school year.

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

For the motion: Miss Biancheria Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Miss 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.

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|-----|---|--|
| 11. | <u>gb #0-183.1</u> - Administration/Ms. Novick/
Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo | Student Representative
Elections/results of |
|-----|---|--|

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on results of student election of Worcester School Committee representatives for the 2020-21 year as called for in MGL Ch. 71, sec. 38M.

Ms. Novick asked if these students were elected.

Dr. Friel stated that the letters that went out to the principals in early March stated that the schools must have elections according to the law.

Ms. Novick stated that the School Committee needs to figure out a better way to involve the student representatives in School Committee deliberations. She also suggested that each School Committee member adopt one of the student representatives to better strengthen the relationship between both parties.

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

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

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

The motion carried.

Grant/Local
Equipment and
Technology

12. gb#0-187 - Administration

To accept the Local Equipment and
Technology Grant in the amount of
\$50,000.

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

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

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

The motion carried.

Superintendent/
grant annual
authorization to
make transfers

13. gb#0-188 - Administration

Request that the Superintendent be
granted the annual authorization to make
the final year end transfers necessary to
balance surplus and deficit accounts for the fiscal
year ending on June 30, 2020.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the final year end transfers.

On a roll call, the vote the motion was approved as follows:

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

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

The motion carried.

On a roll call, the vote to grant authorization was as follows:

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

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

The motion carried.

14. gb#0-189 - Administration

Recognition/set date

To set a date to recognize Mary E. Meade-Montague, Ed.D., Secondary Manager of Instruction and School Leadership for her 30 years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

On a roll call, the vote to set the date of Thursday, June 18, 2020 was as follows:

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

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

The motion carried.

2020-21 Academic Year/preparation for

15. gb#0-190 - Ms. McCullough/Miss Biancheria/
Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. Novick

To provide a Report of the Superintendent with anticipated plans of possible options of what the return of school will look like in preparation for the 2020-21 academic year to include the following options:

- full return
- hybrid
- full remote and
- any other scenarios being considered by Administration

2020-21 School Year/management plans

16. gb #0-194 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/
Ms. McCullough

Request administration report on management for planning for the 2020-21 school year to include:

- who is involved in the planning (by position and representation)
- timelines for planning
- family and student outreach
- interaction with FY21 budgeting

(These items were considered together.)

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report at the June 18, 2020 meeting on the approximate amount of monies needed with the different scenarios and who is involved in the planning process to begin the 2020-21 school year.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the motion was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0
7

The motion carried.

Mr. Foley stated that his concern for opening in the Fall is the health and safety of the students, teachers and staff and the cost implications to do this. He also stated that not only will the transportation and the food service be costly but also the supplies like masks, gowns, sanitizers and all the equipment needed to keep everyone safe.

Mayor Petty questioned who has the authority to say when schools can begin in the buildings.

Ms. Novick stated that there is no real guidance and feels that this would be a legal dispute as to who has the authority to say when schools can be back in session at the buildings.

Mayor Petty would like to see the schools start in September.

Miss Biancheria would like to know:

- how the system would be handling the Chapter 74 students with their internships which is counted as part of their grade and provides them with the experience they need to graduate.
- what the Administration is doing to prepare a safe environment for students if a student or teacher does become sick.
- how this will impact the Nutrition Department in terms of state reimbursements.
- how the system is prepared to deal with employees that are not comfortable returning to school.
- if the system is prepared for more parents requesting to homeschool their child/ren and does the system have the capacity to handle the number of people that may be interested in homeschooling and
- what the system is doing for the preparation for school opening in terms of cleaning and safety supplies.

Superintendent Binienda stated that she does share everyone's concern about the safety of the students and staff. She stated that the Commissioner will be providing guidance during the 2nd or 3rd week in June and will be providing new guidance sometime in August.

The buses will be allowed to run with 20 students per bus which will still be a challenge for the system which usually runs 50 students per bus. Students will not be allowed in the cafeterias for breakfasts or lunches due to the social distancing. The students will have to be released one classroom at a time to get their lunches. A big expense for the system will be taking the temperatures of the students and staff every morning before entering the building. Mr. Allen has researched the cost of temperature scanners which is approximately \$3,000 for each one. The state is exploring a buyers club for all cleaning and safety supplies which would allow the State to purchase and the towns and cities would reimburse them.

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item to the Administration for a report back on June 18, 2020 was as follows:

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

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

The motion carried.

Culture, Literature and the Arts
Course/
approval of 17.

qb #0-191 - Administration

To consider approval of a course entitled Culture, Literature and the Arts.

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

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

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

The motion carried.

19. gb #0-192 - AdministrationDonation in Memory of
Donna Rodrigues

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$2,000 from the administration of the Hudson Public Schools in memory of Donna Rodrigues to University Park Campus School.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration, on behalf of the School Committee, forward a letter of appreciation for the donation of \$2,000 from the Hudson Public Schools in memory of Donna Rodrigues.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the motion was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Miss 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, the vote to approve the item was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Miss 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.

Recognition/
student recipients
of the
Seal of Biliteracy

20. gb #0-193 - Administration

To acknowledge the following recipients of the Seal of Biliteracy:

Frances Adhamhidhi	Kevin Arevalo
Jeysmar Borrero Batiz	Heydi Carmona
Lilian Castillo Romero	Johanna Cerna
Alanis Cortes	Enzenia Diaz-Lambert
Jaslyn Fajardo	Brian Figueroa Padilla
Eduardo Galicia, Eduardo	Herwin Godinez
Leslie Hernandez	
Shannen Jimenez Alfonso	
Archange Lombo	Darlin Luna
Hilda Maldonado	Wilvanette Medina Cruz
Nayelie Melendez	Jonathan Mora
Coralys arvaez Roman	Besma Nurhussien
Luis Ortiz Ortiz	Kimberly Patrocinio
Alanis Perez	Annette Ramirez
Doris Ramos	Ashley Reyes
Guilherme Salazar	Michel Salazar
Emily Santana	Luiz Santana
Mylla Santana	Yogearis Suarez
Maria Alejandra Tapia Betancourt	
Pablo Tapia Betancourt	
Jose Torres	Fidel Torres Menjivar
Wendy Umana	Hemily Utida
Miguel Zacarias	
Francisco Zafon-Whalen	

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the students who received the Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the motion was as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Miss 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, the vote to acknowledge virtually and file the item was as follows:

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

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

The motion carried.

21. gb #0-195 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/
Ms. McCullough

Remote Learning/
student involvement in

Request administration report on student involvement in remote learning, including breakdown by:

- race/ethnicity
- EL status and language spoken at home
- school and grade level
- online access, including source of access

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item to the Administration for a report back on June 18, 2020 was as follows:

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

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

The motion carried.

22. gb #0-196 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. McCullough

Cleaning and
Disinfecting/process for

Request that the Administration review the process of cleaning and disinfecting Worcester Technical High School after the shelter was closed.

Miss Biancheria requested information on the process used for the cleaning of North High and Worcester Technical High schools.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the City has cleaned and disinfected both sites.

Mr. Allen stated that the City used the gymnasiums as a shelter at both North High and Worcester Technical High schools. Upon the closure of the shelters, the City paid for the cleaning and disinfecting of all surfaces and areas within the gymnasium. There was a question on whether to disinfect the HVAC system and the City stated it was not necessary. The Administration decided to change all the filters in the HVAC system. The Administration obtained quotes on disinfecting the HVAC system and will speak to a medical professional for their opinion on it. The Administration will also speak to Dr. Hirsh for a medical opinion to determine whether or not changing the filters is a sufficient precaution for protection of COVID-19.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a response relative to the need to disinfect the HVAC systems at both North High and Worcester Technical High schools.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the motion was as follows:

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

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

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

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

The motion carried.

23. gb #0-197 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/
Ms. McCullough

MassINC Report

To consider the MassINC report "[Gateway Cities at the Center of the Digital Divide](#)".

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

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

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

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

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