

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Thursday, October 15, 2020
Agenda #34

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 6:00 p.m. in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Thursday, October 15, 2020.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

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

.1 EXECUTIVE SESSION Executive Session

gb #0-329 - Administration
(October 23, 2020)

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.

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 – NAGE R1-16 Cafeteria Workers.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester, Charging Party and Worcester School Committee, Respondent, MUP-20-8221, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations.

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:	$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:05 p.m. to 7:25 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:30 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Mr. Monfredo (connectivity issues)

Minutes/
approval of

2. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #0-38 - Administration
(October 7, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2020.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mr. Monfredo), the vote to approve the item was as follows:

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

Absent: Mr. Monfredo (connectivity) 1

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

The motion carried.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

3. gb #0-301.1 -Administration Recognition/Ann
(October 5, 2020) Rokosky

To recognize Ann Rokosky, an Elementary Art Teacher at Chandler Magnet School, for having been named the Art Teacher of the Year by the Massachusetts Art Education Association.

Timmary Leary, Visual Arts Curriculum Liaison and Ivonne Perez, Chief Diversity Officer recognized Ann Rokosky for having been named the Art Teacher of the Year by the Massachusetts Art Education Association.

On a roll call of 7-0, the vote to recognize Ann Rokosky 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.

4. A Moment of Silence was held in memory of Patricia Garvey, wife of former Superintendent of Schools Dr. James L. Garvey. Moment of Silence/
Patricia Garvey

5. gb #0-317 -Administration Student
(October 5, 2020) Representatives

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

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

Report of the
Superintendent/
The Proposed
Hybrid Plan

6. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #0-10 - Administration
(October 7, 2020)

THE PROPOSED HYBRID PLAN

Mayor Petty allowed comments from the following teachers and parents:

Catherine Ricci, Elena Cruz, Jacqueline Patron, Sara St. Peter, Kalli Hess, Maria Drury and Kristen Lee Camarra.

Superintendent Binienda presented the Worcester Public Schools' Transition From Remote to Hybrid Learning Proposal. She began by stating that all plans, including start dates can be affected by the following:

- building readiness
- changes in guidance from the State and
- COVID-19 protocols

The Administration looked at and considered having preK-grade 1 fit into the November 16th and January 22nd model but was unable to make that happen. Students with the most complex disabilities will begin on Monday, November 16th. She went on to describe in detail all the color delineated schools, the number of students that will be transitioning to hybrid and days of the week for learning time. She also listed which staff members that will be returning and outlined the tasks that were assigned and completed in order for the transition to hybrid to occur.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the complete document is posted on the Worcester Public Schools website at worcesterschools.org.

Mr. Allen provided an overview of both the building and transportation capacities.

Mayor Petty announced that the City has invested fifteen million dollars into city buildings to upgrade the HVAC systems in order to make sure the students and staff are safe.

He asked if there was a schedule for the school readiness plan to which Mr. Allen explained that

Mr. Allen stated that the plan is two-fold consisting of:

- building architects and mechanical engineering studies and
- Honeywell bi-polarization equipment installation

Mr. Foley asked what the school day would potentially look like to which Superintendent Binienda replied that the Administration is working at the school level to work it out. Chapter 74 and ETA will be in one class for their ETA, then proceed to another area with their Chromebooks and headphones to resume their regular classes as if remote.

Ms. McCullough inquired about purchasing a class live screen learning package to which Mrs. Kyriazis explained that the cost for that kind of equipment would be an expensive undertaking. Ms. McCullough also stated that she has heard from a number of parents who wondered if it would help if they opted to drive their child/ren to school. Mr. Allen stated that it would have to be universally across all schools.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration, in January, consider allowing Prek-Grade 1 students back to school for more than one day a week.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Ms. Novick stated her dislike of having to follow DESE guidelines in lieu of medical professionals. She asked the Administration for information on adding more staff for hybrid teaching to which Superintendent Binienda replied that without knowing the number of students who will be opting for hybrid learning, the number of new hires remains unknown.

Ms. Novick inquired about any additional information regarding the budget to which Mr. Allen replied that the Administration is drafting a memo to the School

Committee but announced that updated Governor's Budget reflected an \$860,000 reduction because the district is one million dollars underfunded in Charter School reimbursement.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the SOA funding has been postponed for one year.

Ms. Novick made the following motions:

Request that the Administration forward letters to the Local and Federal Delegation in support of additional funding.

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday letter, the number of positive cases reported and include a timeline for contact tracing.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mayor Petty asked if DESE is tracking the cases within the public schools that are currently open.

Superintendent Binienda stated that DESE has a website which shows the number of cases that were reported. She also announced that a forum will be taking place for Spanish speaking families.

On a roll call of 7-0, the vote to support the Transition from Remote to Hybrid Learning Plan 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.

Memorandum of Understanding/
NAGE R1-16
Cafeteria
Workers/approval
of

7. Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding between the School Committee and NAGE R1-16 Cafeteria Workers.

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

8. PERSONNEL

Job Description/
Assessment Specialist

- 0-2 To review for informational purposes the Job Description for an Assessment Specialist.

On a roll call of 7-0, 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. gb #0-275.2 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/
Ms. McCullough
(September 10, 2020) HVAC/ update on

Response of the Administration to the request to provide monthly updates on the air quality and HVAC work being done in the schools beginning September 17, 2020.

On a roll call of 7-0, the motion to accept and file the update and hold the item for the meeting of Thursday, November 19, 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.

COVID-19
motions/held

10. gb #0-286.2 - Administration/Mayor Petty/
Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Ms. Novick
(October 5, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the following motions from the update on COVID-19:

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the number of meals that have been distributed weekly. **Miss Biancheria**

Request that the Administration provide a report to the School Committee on October 15th relative to the number of teachers who are teaching their class/es remotely from their respective schools. **Miss Biancheria**

On a roll call of 7-0, the vote to hold the item for updates at the meeting of Thursday, November 5, 2020 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.

Ms. Novick again asked the Administration to alert parents via social media to the time changes for food pickup.

Attendance
Numbers

11. gb #0-318 - Mr. Monfredo
(October 5, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide reasons for some school attendance numbers dropping to the 80s and indicate whether the numbers have improved.

Ms. Novick requested that the response to the item be provided in a Friday letter.

On a roll call of 7-0, 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

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

The motion carried.

12. gb #0-319 - Mr. Monfredo Academic Growth/
(October 5, 2020) loss of learning

Request that the Administration provide a report on the ways the district is assessing academic growth based on the loss of learning time that occurred in the Spring and indicate what the plan is moving forward.

On a roll call of 7-0, the vote to refer the item to the Administration 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.

13. gb #0-320 - Mr. Monfredo SATs/update on
(October 5, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the SAT exams taking place in October.

Superintendent Binienda provide an update on the number of students who have registered to take the exams.

Miss Biancheria requested that her name be added as a co-sponsor of the item.

On a roll call of 7-0, the vote to accept and file 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: 0
7

The motion carried.

Donation/
Mercy Wire
Products

14. gb #0-321 - Administration
(October 5, 2020)

To consider the approval of a donation in the amount of \$2,500 to the Worcester Public Schools' Special Education Department from the Mercy Wire Products Foundation.

On a roll call of 7-0, the vote to approve 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: 0
7

The motion carried.

Grant/Career and
Technical
Education
Partnership
Planning

15. gb #0-322 - Administration
(October 6, 2020)

To accept the Career and Technical Education Partnership Planning Grant in the amount of \$15,000 for this school year.

On a roll call of 7-0, the vote to approve 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: 0
7

The motion carried.

16. gb #0-323 - Administration (October 6, 2020) Prior Fiscal Year Payments

To approve the following prior fiscal year payments:

1. \$51.58 to an employee for mileage reimbursement.
2. \$4,555.45 to St. Anne's Home, Inc.
3. \$5.14 to Gatehouse New England/Telegram & Gazette.
4. \$668.50 to Toshiba Business Solutions.
5. \$3,656.77 to Seven Hills Groton.

On a roll call of 7-0, the vote to approve 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: $\frac{0}{7}$

The motion carried.

(The following items were taken together)

17. gb #0-324 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo (October 6, 2020) Bussing

Request that the Administration review the process of signing in and out at the WPS bus yard.

gb #0-325 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo (October 6, 2020) Bussing/assigning bus routes to drivers

Request that the Administration provide a report to include the process of assigning bus routes to bus drivers and include the itinerary for each route.

gb #0-326 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo (October 6, 2020) Bus Yard/review budget

Request that the Administration review the budget for the bus yard to insure that it contains monies and the necessary tools to provide a safe environment for our employees.

Bus Yard
Employees/job
description

gb #0-327 -Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo
(October 6, 2020)

Request that the Administration review the
Job Descriptions and duties of all bus yard
employees to include directors.

Due to the fact that there are ongoing discussions in
Executive Session, Miss Biancheria stated that she
wanted the bus employees to know that their voices
are being heard.

On a roll call of 7-0, the vote to refer the items to a
future Executive Session 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.

Adult Learning
Center/application
process

18. gb #0-332 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo
(October 6, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide a report on
the Adult Learning Center application process and
success of remote learning.

On a roll call of 7-0, the vote to refer the item to the
Administration 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 meeting adjourned at 9:38
p.m.

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