

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 Worcester, Massachusetts
 Thursday, November 5, 2020
 Agenda #37

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 5:00 p.m. in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Thursday, November 5, 2020.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

Mr. Foley was absent.

Mr. Foley arrived at 5:05 p.m.

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

Executive Session .1

EXECUTIVE SESSION

qb #0-352 - Administration
 (October 28, 2020)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Contractual Arbitration – Instructional Assistant/Educational Association of Worcester and Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination Litigation – Instructional Assistant.

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.

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

Executive Session/
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)

Executive Session/
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)

Executive Session/
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.

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

Executive Session/
Bus Yard
Employees/Job
Description

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

On a roll call, the vote to recess to Executive Session 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 School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 5:12 p.m. to 6:27 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:30 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

2. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

Minutes/
approval of

aor #0-39 - Administration
(October 28, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School
Committee Meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020.

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.

Minutes /
approval of

aor #0-40 - Administration
(October 28, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School
Committee Meeting on Monday, October 19, 2020.

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.

3. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #0-332 - Administration
(October 28, 2020)

Student
Representatives/
homework

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

Request that the Administration consider developing a more structured Friday school day and discuss the daily homework assigned to students. Ms. McCarthy

Request that the Administration consider alternative graduation plans based on the impact of COVID-19. Ms. McCarthy

Student Representative Margaret McCarthy stated that some students are requesting that Fridays be restructured to allow teachers to be more accessible to provide assistance. She also stated that she would like the Administration to consider adding extra help periods so students can have video calls with their teachers or guidance counselors.

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.

4. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #0-11 - Administration
(October 28, 2020)

Report of the
Superintendent/Fall
2020 Baseline
Assessments of
Student Academic Data

FALL 2020 BASELINE ASSESSMENTS OF STUDENT
ACADEMIC DATA

Christina. Kuriacose, Director of School and Student Performance, presented the Fall 2020 Baseline Assessments of Student Academic Data.

She stated that, according to the district benchmarks, the students are performing at or above the same level as 40 percent of their peers in the same grade. The state benchmarks were set using the first year of next generation math data so the link between STAR and MCAS and those state benchmarks that are in the system might be a little tenuous, especially for different grades as they've adopted the next generation test.

STAR assessments can be used to monitor progress and make sure that students are growing throughout the year, but it must be pointed out that the assessment was done remotely this year so it makes it difficult to compare between years.

She explained that Lexia is being used with the elementary students that allows the district to get a different predictor at the beginning of every month. The Administration will be monitoring the predictor level changes based on usage of the platform. She also stated that there have been social and emotional check-ins with both students and parents and questions regarding students' ability to focus on school remotely.

The last piece of data that was presented focused on attendance. The Friday attendance drop is something that the Administration is continuing to look into to make sure that it is actually reflecting the attendance rate not just students missing a check in.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the check-in time on Fridays seems to be too early and the Administration is looking into different options.

Mr. Monfredo asked if the Administration has considered either using the vacation weeks or reaching out to social agencies to provide additional help to students.

Superintendent Binienda stated that due to Budget constraints the Administration has not looked into using the vacation weeks for extra help. She also stated that the Worcester Public Library offers free tutoring for students and the Administration would call other community agencies to see if they could assist in providing extra help to students.

Ms. McCullough asked if there is a difference between the remote learning attendance and the in-person attendance on Fridays to which the Superintendent stated that she would provide the data at a later time.

Mr. Foley asked if the Administration would be willing to add a question to the student survey in order to gauge any mental health issues regarding whether or not students are feeling connected to their peers or struggling at home.

Superintendent Binienda stated that some of schools have added follow-up questions to the questions on the survey. One example is as follows:

“Is there a person you would like to talk to?”

Students indicated that they would like to speak to either a teacher, school psychologist, staff member or the guidance counselor.

Ms. Novick asked if the Administration has any theories as to what's going on with math in grades 4, 5 and 6.

Superintendent Binienda stated that she would provide a report at the next School Committee Meeting regarding the low scores in math in grade 4, 5 and 6.

Student Representative Fatimah Daffaie asked if there were less students in the morning than the afternoon who utilized the extra help period.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the extra help period will start in December on Tuesdays and Thursdays during independent time and on Fridays. She indicated that she will provide a report to the School Committee, once the program has been established, on the number of students and the time of day they are accessing the extra help.

On a roll call, items gb #0-319 and ROS #0-11 were accepted and filed as follows:

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| 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.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

5. The **Joint Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education** met virtually on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 5:49 p.m. in the Levi Lincoln Room at City Hall.

2020-21
Educational
Plan/Fall 2020

motion qb #0-246 - Mayor Petty (August 13, 2020)

Request that the 2020-21 Educational Plan entitled Fall 2020 - Return to School Guidance be forwarded to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education for a joint meeting.

Superintendent Binienda introduced the following individuals who presented the PowerPoint presentation regarding the Summary of the School Re-Opening:

- Mr. Allen discussed the facility capacity analysis, the transportation capacity analysis and the FY21 Budget update slides.
- Dr. Meade-Montaque and Dr. Morse discussed the back to school model slides.
- Mrs. Kyriazis and Mr. Walton discussed the technology support slides.
- Mr. Pezzella discussed the school safety slides.

Councilor King questioned how many school buildings are ready for the return of students to which Mr. Allen stated that there are no schools ready at this time but the work on the ventilation systems soon.

Councilor King questioned if the Collaborative is part of the Worcester Public Schools and, if so, will the district be looking to provide additional monies.

Superintendent Binienda stated that it is not part of the Worcester Public Schools and that the it has its own budget.

Councilor King ask whether the technology needs for the school system have been met to which Superintendent Binienda stated that there will always be a need for improvements in technology.

Councilor King requested that the Administration provide an updated report on the diversity hiring processes and goals to the City Council.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Worcester Public School's Strategic Plan contains the diversity goals for the system and that the Chief Diversity Officer is working on establishing a mentoring plan for the newly hired diversity staff.

Councilor Rosen asked if the Administration has received any feedback from teachers regarding how they feel about the virtual learning classes.

Superintendent Binienda stated that many teachers are requesting additional equipment, like dual monitors and more powerful devices so they can run their videos consistently to monitor their students in their classroom. The teachers stated that they felt more confident now than in the Spring due to the 10 week extensive training they received.

Councilor Rosen asked if the teacher evaluations would continue this year to which Superintendent Binienda stated that they are still in negotiations for that issue.

Councilor Rosen asked how the students are doing during virtual learning and if the school system will be doing a traditional grading system or a pass/fail system.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the attendance for the synchronous learning days is 90 percent and the asynchronous day is 80 percent. The consensus is that the high school students like their schedule

while the younger students find it more difficult due to the fact that they need more help with the technology. She also stated that the school system will use the regular grading system for all students.

Councilor Bergman asked whether snow days will be used during the remote learning phase.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Commissioner of Education is going to make that decision based on equity because there are some schools in the state that are in person learning while others are remote learning.

Councilor Bergman questioned if there are enough nurses for each school when the system returns to in person learning.

Superintendent Binienda stated that there were four nurses interviewed but not on the roster yet due to the remote learning phase. Once the system goes to the hybrid model, there will be one nurse for every school.

Councilor Bergman questioned the number of staff that have been furloughed and if the Administration anticipates there will be any more of them in the future.

Mr. Allen stated that approximately 330 staff members were furloughed and depending on the State Budget, Federal stimulus monies and/or additional stimulus monies, or the lack thereof, will determine whether more furloughs are needed.

Council Bergman questioned if the Administration has a been tracking the extra expenses versus the savings the school system has seen due to COVID-19 and, if so, could the report be forwarded to the City Council members.

Mr. Allen stated that the Administration is reconciling the additional costs and additional savings, coupled with the federal stimulus money that the system has received to date. The final report will be reported out at the next Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and could also be forwarded to the City Council members.

Councilor King questioned if there were any discussions in regarding students participating in sports.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the City Manager will announce today the cancellation of Fall Sports. Discussions will take place to discuss the possible start of the Fall Two Sports Season during the Winter and Spring. The MIAA has not made the decision of what sports will be offered during the winter season.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the order status of the Chromebooks for Instructional Assistants, Guidance Counselors and Principals.

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

Miss Biancheria requested that the Administration provide an update on all staff members who have viewed the training video prior to return to work.

Mr. Foley thanked the City Council, the City Manager and Mayor Petty for their support of the Capital Improvement monies for the ventilation systems in the school buildings.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the current status of the ventilation and other

safety considerations in the buildings, the status of teaching and learning with the Collaborative and to share that report with the City Council's Standing Committee on Education.

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

Council King requested that the City's Human Recourse Department collaborate with the WPS one regarding the diversity hiring goals throughout the pandemic.

Superintendent Binienda stated that a conversation about diversity hiring could take place relative to the diversity goals but it is important to note that the hiring process is very different on the City side than what the law states on the school side. The Superintendent makes all the appointments for the school system. However, she stated that she would like to collaborate with the City to help with the advertisement of the school system's Job Fair.

Council King requested that the following Order be put on the City Council's agenda:

Request that the City Manager make available to the Superintendent of the Worcester Public Schools, the availability of the City's Chief Diversity Officer for any assistance that might be requested.

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

On a roll call of 7-0, the School Committee approved the action of the **Joint Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education** 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.

The Standing Committee on **Teaching, Learning and Student Supports** met virtually on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

- _6. gb #8-356.1 - Administration/Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Mayor Petty (February 13, 2019)

Dyslexia/Orton-Gillingham

Response of the Administration to the requests to:

- explore the feasibility of implementing the Orton-Gillingham model for dyslexic students for those students in need of specific services.
- provide a summary of the Orton-Gillingham model program.
- study the feasibility of implementing the cost of this program in the FY20 Budget
- study the feasibility of including students from outside the district, on a tuition basis, if a proposed program is established in the Worcester Public Schools.

Kay Seale, Manager of Special Education and Intervention Services, stated that Susan Gallagher and Erin Garvin, Special Education Department Heads have worked closely with their staff to coordinate extensive staff development training.

Ms. Gallagher outlined the proposed Multi-Sensory Institute for Education model, which is a comprehensive training for teachers and entails an interactive, hands on approach to working with students. She highlighted the following courses from the training manual which she felt would be great resources for teachers which are:

- Comprehensive course geared for kindergarten to second grade and
- Intermediate training specifically for grades 3 and up for remedial reading support.

Mrs. Seale spoke to the need for recruitment of 10-14 teachers as this is a very intensive training.

Mrs. Seale stated that these services are also provided to non-public, parochial and private schools as well as to homeschooled students.

Vice-Chairman Monfredo requested information on early identification screening and what work is being done to bridge the gap between kindergarten and grade one.

Ms. Garvin stated that based on last year's data, utilizing the screening tools for the kindergarteners benefitted the district more by doing it in the Spring after the students had some instructional time.

Mrs. Seale stated that another asset for the district is being able to target interventions based on those screenings in order to train teachers prior to Special Education services. Dr. O'Neil stated that parents and students had the opportunity to work on a tutorial with Massachusetts General Hospital during school closures.

Vice-Chairman Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the teacher training meeting with Massachusetts General Hospital that is scheduled to take place in December.

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

Mr. Foley was pleased to see the work done by the Administration since the January meeting when parents attended and voiced their opinions on alternatives for dyslexia training.

Chairman McCullough requested that a report be provided on the number of students who were flagged for the Mass General study and Dr. O'Neil stated that she would provide that information.

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

gb #9-313 -Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria /Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell (September 17, 2019)

Two Year
Kindergarten 1
program/establish
committee for

Request that the Administration establish a committee by November to include early learning teachers to review the two year kindergarten 1 program for students who are four years old and lack the necessary readiness skills for school success.

Dr. O'Neil stated that the committee that was established will begin meeting next week in order to have a proposal for the budget.

Laurie Kuczka, Director of Head Start and Early Childhood Education, provided an update regarding low enrollment figures as a result of the shutdown. She stated that in March, 1,281 students in pre-school and Head Start and over 2,000 kindergarten students left the face to face model and went remote. She and Mr. Allen discussed ways in which to ensure that those children get the social, emotional and academic support to be prepared for first grade without being face to face. They also talked about the creation of a transitional kindergarten, a 2 year program for students who are not ready to move into grade 1. The program would be two-fold, not only would it help support social and emotional learning gaps, but also help move the cutoff date to September 1st. She stated that they looked at possibly moving the start date to November 1st one year, October 1st the next year and finally in year three to September 1st in order to not interfere with funding.

Vice-Chairman Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration consider establishing a 2 year kindergarten program for those students who are in need of service.

Request that the Administration consider moving the start date from December 31 to November 1 and then to September 1 by the 2022 school year.

Request that the Administration consider expanding the pre-school program to full day starting with two in each quadrant.

Request that the Administration provide a report on this item in late January.

On a roll call of 3-0, the motions were approved.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration study the feasibility of involving community partnerships to work with neighborhood schools and families to build parent skills and family capacity and to prepare their children for successful entrance into kindergarten.

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

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

NoticeAbility
Curriculum

gb #9-349 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo (October 14, 2019)

Request that the Administration invite educators who currently teach or train NoticeAbility Curriculum and consider implementing it for students with dyslexia.

Mrs. Seale stated that, due to current circumstances, there is no additional information to provide, but that a follow-up conversation with representatives from NoticeAbility will be forthcoming.

Chairman McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the item be held for a report in February.

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

gb #9-389 - Mr. Comparetto (November 13, 2019)

Ethnic Studies
Programming/
update on

Request that the Administration provide an update on the efforts of the Administration to create ethnic studies programming.

Colleen Kelly, Curriculum Liaison, provided information on the ethnic studies curriculum by stating that for the 2020-21 school year the following courses have been added:

- African American Studies as an elective at North High, South High, UPCS and Claremont Academy.
- African American Literature to the course catalogue as an ELA at Burncoat High School and
- Historia De Latin America to the course catalogue under Foreign Languages.

Chairman McCullough asked for information on the ongoing exploration to add more courses to which Ms. Kelly replied that the teachers meet quarterly to discuss lesson plans and ideas for new programming with the Social Studies Liaison.

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

gb #9-409 - Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough (November 26, 2019)

Teaching Tolerance/
culturally appropriate
Thanksgiving
programming

Request that the Administration review recommendations made by the organization Teaching Tolerance for culturally appropriate Thanksgiving programming.

Dr. O'Neil provided a list of resources available that will be provided to teachers in a weekly newsletter.

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

On a roll call of 7-0, the School Committee approved the action of the **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.

7. PERSONNEL

Appointment/
Aides to the
Physically
Handicapped

- 0-3 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Aide to the Physically Handicapped, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$17.04 (minimum) to \$21.00 (maximum) per hour, from Civil Service List #320-034, effective as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Bissonnette, Lori | 9/28/2020 |
| Cameron, Elaine | 9/22/2020 |
| Fortin, Manoucheka | 10/20/2020 |
| Raddi, Louis | 9/22/2020 |
| Sanchez, Cathyria | 10/13/2020 |

Appointment/
School Bus
Attendants

- 0-4 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of School Bus Attendant, permanent at a salary of \$16.23 minimum per hour to \$18.08 maximum per hour, from Civil Service List #320-030, effective as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Cassagnol, Marjorie | 9/15/2020 |
| Garcia, Elsy | 9/22/2020 |
| Hernandez, Julio | 9/28/2020 |
| Jimenez, Julio | 9/16/2020 |
| Jimenez, Liselotte | 9/16/2020 |
| Molina, Maria | 9/22/2020 |
| Nakollari, Eli | 9/22/2020 |
| Rivera, Maria | 9/22/2020 |
| Salinas De Portillo, Veronica | 9/22/2020 |
| Spahiu, Klodiana | 9/16/2020 |
| Zuniga, Jacqueline | 9/22/2020 |

0-5 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Junior Custodian, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$16.54 (minimum) to \$21.05 (maximum), per hour, effective as shown: Appointment/
Junior Custodians

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|--------------------|------------|
| Buniowski, Edward | 10/22/2020 |
| Parda, Christopher | 10/15/2020 |
| Veras, Miguel | 10/26/2020 |
| Walker, Joseph | 10/19/2020 |

0-6 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Word Processor, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$20.31 (minimum) to \$24.52 per hour (maximum) effective as shown: Appointment/
Word Processors

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|---------------------|------------|
| Dancy, Erica | 9/21/2020 |
| Parcher, Christine | 3/10/2020 |
| Selvitelli, Heather | 10/13/2020 |

0-7 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of 52 week Word Processor, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$19.02 (minimum) to \$23.52 per hour (maximum) effective as shown: Appointment/
52 Week Word
Processors

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|----------------------|-----------|
| Carrion, Bryanna | 7/13/2020 |
| Monserrate, Michelle | 7/6/2020 |
| Riordan, Samantha | 8/27/2020 |
| Vasiliadis, Marcella | 9/21/2020 |

0-8 The Superintendent has appointed the attached teacher positions for 2020-21. Appointment/Teachers

On a roll call of 7-0, the vote to file the Personnel items 0-3 to 0-8 was as follows:

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| 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Fall Sports Season

gb #0-273.2 - Administration/Miss Biancheria

Response of the Administration to the motion to provide an update on the successes and challenges that took place during the Fall Sports Season.

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

COVID-19 and Remote Learning/
update on

8. gb #0-286.3 - Administration/Mayor Petty/
Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Ms. Novick
(October 29, 2020)

To provide a brief update on COVID-19 and remote learning.

Superintendent Binienda provided an update on the COVID-19 cases that have been reported from October 15th through the 28th. She indicated that there were 10 students, five staff members, four educators and one support personnel staff who were all remote.

Mr. Allen presented an update on the HVAC systems in school buildings. The work is being done by Honeywell which is a \$15 million dollar investment in the schools that began on October 9th and is scheduled to be completed on by February 26, 2021. He stated that the Administration is working to prioritize some of this work to allow for a group of the schools to open sooner to allow for in-person instruction for certain students.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Administration recommends, based on Mr. Allen's presentation, that the School Committee approve the change in the date from November 16, 2020 to January 20, 2021 for the Group C students to return to the schools.

Mayor Petty stated that even though he would like students to return to the schools, he feels that it is not safe to do so until after the HVAC systems are completed. He further stated that the Superintendent, the City Manager and he will continue to meet with Honeywell to make sure they are

adhering to the dates of completion. He suggested that the Administration invite representatives from UMass to a School Committee Meeting to provide a report regarding the metrics, subgroups and prime areas of individuals who are contracting COVID-19.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Mayor, the City Manager and the Superintendent provide a press conference in every media outlet possible, either on Friday, November 6, 2020 or Monday, November 9, 2020, to notify the community of the change in the date of when the students will be returning to school.

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

Mayor Petty also stated that the change will be posted on the website and community agencies will also be notified.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee support the Superintendent's recommendation to postpone the date of November 16, 2020 to January 20, 2021 for students to return to school for in-person learning.

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

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was discussed and held for the meeting on December 3, 2020.

9. qb #0-308.1 - Administration/Ms. Novick/
Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(October 19, 2020) Student Enrollment/
update on

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an updated full student enrollment report for discussion of possible state advocacy regarding the FY22 budget.

Ms. Novick asked if the possible foundation budget decline of ten million dollars is due to the enrollment changes.

Mr. Allen stated that it's primarily attributed to the parents keeping Prek and K students home, the pandemic and the hybrid or remote models that all school districts are implementing. The district should be held harmless to last year's enrollment figures based on the FY21 foundation enrollment for the FY22 Budget.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward letters to the local delegation seeking support to hold harmless to last year's enrollment figures based on the FY21 foundation enrollment for the FY22 Budget.

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

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| 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 stated that the Massachusetts National Association of School Superintendents sent a survey to all districts regarding enrollment figures and when she receives the report, she will share it with the School Committee.

On a roll call, the item was accepted and filed as follows:

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| 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.

10. gb #0-333 - - Mr. Monfredo/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick/
Mayor Petty
(October 19, 2020) Recognition/
forward letter

Request that the Administration forward a letter of appreciation to the Worcester Bravehearts for their work with Carol Manning, the Health and Physical Education Liaison, in putting together a video on physical education activities for the elementary children to use on Fridays.

On a roll call, it was moved to forward a letter of appreciation to the Worcester Bravehearts 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.

11. gb #0-334 - - Administration
(October 19, 2020) Rule 47 of the School
Committee Rules/
amendment to

To consider an amendment to Rule 47 of the School Committee Rules by changing the start time of the Open meeting as follows:

47. Regular meetings of the School Committee shall be held on the first Thursday and the third Thursday of the month and shall convene at 6:00 p.m., at a place so designated on the School Committee Agenda of business, unless by a majority vote, the School Committee determines another day, time and/or place.

On a roll call, the rule as amended 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.

Recognition/
set date

12. gb #0-335 - - Ms. McCullough/Mrs. Clancey/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick/
Mayor Petty
(October 22, 2020)

To set a date to recognize Chantale Zuzi, a student at Burncoat High School, for receiving the Women's initiative of Central Massachusetts 2020 Meridith D. Wesby Young Leader Award.

On a roll call, it was moved to set the date of Thursday, November 19, 2020 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.

Student Workload/
pandemic

13. gb #0-336 - Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick
(October 22, 2020)

Request that the Administration make certain that there is district consistency regarding workload assigned to students during remote learning to include work for both the school day and homework assignments.

Ms. Clancey suggested that the Administration ask the principals and teachers to be mindful of assigning too much homework to students especially in grades 7 to 12.

On a roll call the item was referred to the Administration 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 #0-337 - Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(October 26, 2020) SAT Testing Sites/
information on

Request that the Administration provide a report
that includes the number of students, teachers,
nurses and additional staff that participated in the
SAT testing at the school sites.

On a roll call the item was referred to the
Administration 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.

15. gb #0- 338 - Administration
(October 26, 2020) Prior Fiscal Year
Payments

To approve the following prior fiscal year payments:

1. \$8,052.00 to a WPS teacher
2. \$451.26 to School Health Corporation
3. \$14.80 to Toshiba America Business
Solutions
4. \$3,290 to 15 staff members at Lincoln Street
School
5. \$493.52 to a WPS School Clerk
6. \$410.00 to Early's on Park Ave for towing
expenses related to WPS vehicles
7. \$3,842.30 to the American Arbitration
Association for various arbitrations

| DEPARTMENT | REASON | AMOUNT |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Human Resources/ Accounts Payable | American Arbitration Association Invoice #12449277 | \$325.00 |
| Human Resources/ Accounts Payable | American Arbitration Association Invoice #12551229 | \$325.00 |
| Human Resources/ Accounts Payable | Arbitrator Invoice for case #01-19-0002-4172 | \$1,612.67 |
| Human Resources/ Accounts Payable | Arbitrator Invoice for case #01-19-0001-9177 | \$788.12 |
| Human Resources/ Accounts Payable | Arbitrator Invoice for case #01-19-0002-4173 | \$791.51 |

On a roll call, the item 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: 0
7

The motion carried.

Donations 16. qb #0-339 - Administration
 (October 26, 2020)

To approve the following donations in the amounts of:

- \$1,000 to Lincoln Street School from the Blackbaud Giving Fund/Boston Scientific.
- \$500.00 to Life Skills at Worcester Technical High School from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
- \$500.00 for the arts programs at Worcester Arts Magnet School from a parent

On a roll call, the item 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.

17. gb #0-340 - Administration (October 26, 2020) Recognition/
Brian Allen and Budget
office staff

To recognize Brian Allen, Chief Financial and Operations Officer and the Budget office personnel for receiving the 2020-21 Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for the 8th time from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO).

Superintendent Binienda congratulated Mr. Allen for having received the 2020-21 Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for the 8th time and for the excellent job he does as the Chief Finance and Operations Manager.

On a roll call, Mr. Allen and the Budget Office was recognized 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.

18. Mayor Petty suspended the rules to discuss the following item:

gb #0-286.3 - Administration/Mayor Petty/
Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Ms. Novick
(October 29, 2020) COVID-19 and Remote
Learning/update

To provide a brief update on COVID-19 and remote learning.

Ms. Biancheria asked if the Administration has met with Durham School Services and the bus drivers regarding the changed date for the students to go back to school to which Superintendent Binienda replied that the Administration has already met with Mr. Shmuck and R.J. from Durham School Services and will continue to keep them updated on any changes.

Social Distancing/
review of

- 19. gb #0-341 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(October 28, 2020)

Request that the Administration review the social distancing among students and staff to include the number of students in each classroom.

On a roll call, the item was accepted and filed 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.

COVID-19
Procedures/review
of

- 20. gb #0-342 - Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(October 28, 2020)

Request that the Administration review the procedures for teachers or students who test positive for COVID-19 and are attending schools.

Miss Biancheria stated that she would like to receive the procedures for teachers and/or students who test positive for COVID-19 that are in school.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the COVID-19 procedures were forwarded last week and she would forward them to the School Committee.

On a roll call the item was referred to the Administration 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 #0-343 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo (October 28, 2020) November 16, 2020/
proposed number to
return to school

Request that the Administration provide the number of students that will be attending school, beginning November 16, 2020, to include the sites, the number of teachers and nurses and any additional staff that will be at the school sites.

On a roll call, the item was accepted and filed 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 #0-344 - Administration (October 28, 2020) Appointment/Nurse

Request that the School Committee APPROVE the APPOINTMENT of the following provisional civil service employee as a School Nurse, effective as shown:

St. Laurent, Kathleen, Claremont Academy,
Bachelors, Step 3, \$54,757, effective August 27,
2020. Emergency License: School Nurse All
Levels

On a roll call, the item 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.

FY22 Budgetary
Priorities/consider
setting

23. gb #0-345 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(October 28, 2020)

To set budgetary priorities for the fiscal year 2022
budget in line with the Worcester Public Schools'
strategic plan and recognizing likely fiscal
constraints.

Miss Biancheria requested that the item be referred to the
Standing Committee on Finance and Operation for further
discussion.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the item be referred to the Administration to
develop a framework for the FY22 Budget.

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

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

Against the motion: Miss Biancheria $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

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

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

Against the motion: Miss Biancheria $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

24. gb #0-346 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(October 28, 2020) 2021Advanced
Placement Exams/total
cost for

Request administration report on actual total cost to district families of 2021 Advanced Placement exams for consideration with the full committee's consideration of the first quarter budget report.

On a roll call, the item was referred to the Administration for a response for the November 19th meeting 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.

25. gb #0-347 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough
(October 28, 2020) Limited Admission
Programs/alternative
methods for accepting

Request administration propose for School Committee deliberation and decision alternative methods for determining admission to limited admission programs and schools in light of the lack of 2020 MCAS data.

On a roll call, the item was referred to the Administration 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.

Seal of Biliteracy 26.

gb #0-348 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(October 28, 2020)

Request administration report on if the change in assessment methods for this year's Seal of Biliteracy is expected to impact any Worcester Public students, and if so, what alternative methods the district might arrange.

Ms. Melendez-Quintero stated that the SEAL of Biliteracy team is working to create materials and resources to support students to prepare to take this Assessment of Performance or Proficiency in Languages exam remotely. The Administration will provide a live webinar to students and families on November 13th to provide information on how to qualify for the SEAL of the Biliteracy.

On a roll call, the item was accepted and filed 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.

Outstanding Administrative Items

27. gb #0-349 - Administration
(October 28, 2020)

To consider filing a list of outstanding administrative items or motions.

On a roll call the item was accepted and filed 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.

28. gb #0-350 - Administration Grant/Innovation
(October 28, 2020) Pathway Planning

To accept the Innovation Pathway Planning Grant in the amount of \$25,000.

On a roll call, the item 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.

29. gb #0-351 - Administration Donation/Google LLC
(October 28, 2020) and Amplified IT LLC

To accept a gift in the estimated amount of \$10,000 to provide distance learning consulting and technical deployment services to the WPS funded jointly by Google LLC and Amplified IT LLC.

On a roll call, the item 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 of 7-0, the vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. 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.