

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Thursday, February 27, 2020
Agenda #8

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 6:15 p.m. in the Esther Howland Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, February 27, 2020.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Miss Biancheria

It was moved to recess to Executive Session to discuss:

Executive Session 1.

qb #0-81 - Administration
(January 29, 2020)

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker's Compensation- Instructional Assistant, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker's Compensation- School Nurse, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker's Compensation- School Secretary, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

6

Absent: Miss Biancheria

1

Against the motion:

0

7

The motion carried.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session
from 6:15 p.m. to 6:40 p.m.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:20 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session
at 7:00 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

The invocation was given by Pastor Tom Sparling
of The Journey Community Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered and the
National Anthem was performed by the Worcester
Arts Magnet Chorus.

2. Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to approve a Worker's Compensation Settlement in the amount of \$48,500 for an Instructional Assistant
- Worker's Compensation
Settlement/
Instructional Assistant

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.

Worker's
Compensation
Settlement/
School Nurse

3. Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to approve a Worker's Compensation Settlement in the amount of \$35,000 for a School Nurse.

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.

Worker's
Compensation
Settlement/
School Secretary

4. Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to approve a Worker's Compensation Settlement in the amount of \$25,000 for a School Secretary.

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.

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

Minutes/
approval of

5. aor #0-6 - Clerk
(February 19, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, February 6, 2020.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, February 6, 2020.

Minutes/
approval of

6. aor #0-7 - Clerk
(February 19, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Monday, February 10, 2020.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Monday, February 10, 2020.

7. aor #0-8 - Clerk
(February 19, 2020) Minutes/
approval of

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, February 13, 2020.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, February 13, 2020.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

8. gb #0-22.1 -Administration/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Mayor Petty
(January 27, 2020) Recognition/Worcester
Arts Magnet School

To recognize Worcester Arts Magnet School for being one of seventy-three schools in the country to be named as a National Elementary and Secondary Act's Distinguished School based on performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years by DESE.

Mayor Petty and Superintendent Binienda presented a certificate to Mary Ellen Scanlon, Principal of Worcester Arts Magnet School.

9. gb #0-40.1 -Administration/Ms. McCullough/
Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/
Ms. Novick/Mayor Petty
(February 6, 2020) Recognition/Burncoat
High School

To recognize William Foley, Principal, staff members and the police liaison at Burncoat High School who saved the life of a fellow staff member.

Mayor Petty and Superintendent Binienda presented a certificate to William Foley, Principal of Burncoat High School.

It was moved and voice voted to take the following item out of order:

Recognition/
Forward letters

10. gb #0-69 -Ms. McCullough/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/
Ms. Novick/Mayor Petty
(February 7, 2020)

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the following winners of 42nd annual Valentine Contest presented by Worcester Historical Museum for grades 3, 4,5 and 6.

HISTORIC (any design in the style of valentines made in Worcester from the late 1840s to 1942)

Grade 3 Keira Emmons Worcester Arts Magnet School
Grade 4 Delyan Aguirre Chandler Magnet School
Grade 5 Sophia Gomes McGrath Elementary School
Grade 6 Angelise Moore Lake View School

CONTEMPORARY (an original valentine, possibly featuring a favorite book, story or character)

Grade 3 Ramsey Openshaw Worcester Arts Magnet School
Grade 4 Wilson Hernandez Jacinto Woodland Academy
Grade 5 Zineily Skerrett Lincoln Street School
Grade 6 Osiris Del Cid Amezquita McGrath Elementary School

VERSE (an original verse by today's valentine maker)

Grade 3 Andrea Martinez Ramirez Woodland Academy
Grade 4 Jayven Alvarado Melendez Chandler Elementary School
Grade 6 Riwan Sadam Clark Street School

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration also forward a letter of appreciation to William Wallace, Executive Director of the Worcester Historical Museum.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

11. gb #0-63 -Administration
(February 11, 2020) Student
Representatives

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

It was moved and voice voted to accept and file the item.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

12. ros #0-3 - Administration
(February 19, 2020) Report of the
Superintendent/
Project Lead the Way

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

A PowerPoint presentation was provided by principals, staff members and students representing Worcester Technical High School, Jacob Hiatt Magnet School and Doherty Memorial High School on Project Lead the Way, a non-profit organization providing a project based approach to biomedical, computer science and engineering.

Kyle Brenner, Principal of Worcester Technical High School, spoke to the school's focus on cybersecurity.

Jyoti Datta, Principal of Jacob Hiatt Magnet School introduced STEM teachers Madeline Carelton and Roger Clapp to speak relative to the elementary school's approach to PLTW.

Sally Maloney, Principal of Doherty Memorial High School focused on the school's Engineering and Technology Academy and introduced Assistant Principal John Staley and teacher Annette Cochran along with Sokol Hoxha, Fatimah Daffaie and Kwaku Nyarko, students who spoke about their involvement in ETA.

Miss Biancheria inquired as to the possibility of expanding PLTW into other quadrants or at least incorporate some of the best practices and hands on projects in the North and South quadrants. Superintendent Binienda stated that the Doherty quadrant is the model and that starting next year, Forest Grove Middle School will be participating.

Ms. Novick questioned what happens to the PLTW money when the grant funding runs out. Superintendent Binienda explained that the membership fee is \$700 per elementary school and \$3,000 every year for high schools. The membership fees are paid by the school district and the teacher training and necessary supplies are paid by the One8 Foundation.

Ms. Novick also asked for an explanation on how the college credits work.

Mr. Staley explained that students in the Engineering program are able to purchase their college credits for a far reduced fee and bank the credits received from grades 9-12.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the number of Project Lead the Way students who attend college with the names of the colleges they attend.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mrs. Clancey asked if there is any data reflecting a change in MCAS scores for 9th grade students who are involved in PLTW. Ms. Maloney said she believed that the preparation the students receive through PLTW would certainly reflect positively on their scores.

Ms. McCullough commented that she was happy to see that the program included assessment and student feedback.

It was moved and voice voted to accept and file the item.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Communication
and Petition/
sex education
curriculum

13. c&p #0-7 - Clerk
(February 12, 2020)

To consider a communication from Dante Comparetto relative to voicing community concerns about the prospect of the school district creating its own sex education curriculum rather than choosing an existing evidence based curriculum.

Dante Comparetto spoke to the need for community input and transparency from the Administration when it comes to a comprehensive sexual health curriculum.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

14. c&p #0-8 - Clerk
(February 19, 2020)

Communication and
Petition/
donation of accrued
sick time

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of Doherty Memorial High School's faculty and staff to donate accrued sick time to a colleague who is experiencing significant health challenges.

Phillip Spellane spoke on behalf of the staff and faculty of Doherty Memorial High School who would like to be allowed to offer their accrued sick time to a fellow employee who is dealing with health issues.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues and provide the Action Sheet from that meeting at the March 26, 2020 School Committee meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

15. gb #0-18.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria
(February 12, 2020)

Shades/Burncoat
Middle and High
Schools

Response of the Administration to the request to consider placing shades at the Burncoat Middle and Burncoat High schools' classrooms this school year due to the fact that the sun's rays may impact learning. It was moved and voice voted to accept and file the item.

It was moved and voice voted to accept and file the item.

Black History
Month

16. gb #0-19.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough
(February 12, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the request to encourage the schools to incorporate studies in black history during February's "Black History Month."

It was moved and voice voted to accept and file the item.

Mrs. Clancey left at 8:15 p.m.

Public
Hearing/School
Choice

17. gb #0-64 -Administration
(February 6, 2020)

To set a date in April for a public hearing on School Choice.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, April 16, 2020.

Prior Fiscal Year
Payment/
Learnwell

18. gb #0-65 -Administration
(February 6, 2020)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment to Learnwell dba EI US. LLC 2 in the amount of \$540.00 for services rendered previously.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Absent: Mrs. Clancey 1

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

The motion carried.

Grant/Financial
Literacy Planning

19. gb #0-66 -Administration
(February 6, 2020)

To accept the Financial Literacy Planning and Implementation Grant in the amount of \$13, 000.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Absent: Mrs. Clancey 1

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

The motion carried.

20. gb #0-67 - Administration Grant/STARS
(February 6, 2020) Residency-Clark Street
Community School

To accept the STARS Residencies FY20 Clark Street
Community School Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Absent: Mrs. Clancey 1

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

The motion carried.

21. gb #0-68 - Administration Grant/STARS
(February 6, 2020) Residency-Columbus
Park Preparatory
Academy

To accept the STARS Residencies FY20 Columbus Park
Preparatory Academy Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Absent: Mrs. Clancey 1

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

The motion carried.

Read Across
America Day

22. gb #0-70 -Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Ms. McCullough
(February 7, 2020)

Request that the Administration have all Elementary and Middle Schools participate in the NEA's Read Across America Day during the week of March 2nd and reach out to the community partners and parents and include them in a "literacy celebration."

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

Recognition/
Forward letters

23. gb #0-71 -Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Ms. Novick/Mayor Petty
(February 7, 2020)

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the following students for being selected by the Central Massachusetts Music Educators Association central district to participate in their concerts:

Burncoat High School

Alexandra Economou, Tuba and All State
Recommendation
Liam Gates, Violin and All State Recommendation
Kim Nguyen, Viola
Sienna Leone, Violin

Doherty Memorial High School

Lilyann MacDormand, Soprano
Matthew Davis, Tenor
Tamwa Guithere, Bass

South High Community School

Heather Bachand, Soprano and All State
Recommendation
Marlon Oyerevide, Clarinet and All State
Recommendation
Kate Popinchalk, Bassoon

Sullivan Middle School

Alicia Liu, Clarinet
Eli Black, Bass Clarinet

Burncoat Middle School

Mauro Depasquale, Trumpet
Abigail Jones, Violin
James Morse, Violin
William Ryan, Violin

Thimjos Richards, Cello
 Elyjah Abernathy, Baritone
 Jack King, Baritone
 Daniel Parke, Baritone
 Carlos Rivera, Baritone
 Jada Bordes, Alto
 Jayden Bordes, Alto
 Sweeta Ghimiray, Alto
 Hilda Kamanu, Alto
 Nevaeh Agyeman Duah, Soprano
 Elizabeth Garcia, Soprano
 Alex Hill, Soprano
 Victoria Rich, Soprano
 Maya Valle, Soprano

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

Mrs. Clancey returned at 8:20 p.m.

24. gb #0-72 -Administration Donations
 (February 10, 2020)

To consider approval of the following donations:

- \$125 to Lake View Elementary School from fundraising efforts in collaboration with Thebe Enterprises, LLC
- \$700 to Woodland Academy from Scholarship America
- \$100 to Woodland Academy from the University of Wisconsin Madison
- \$100 to the Library Fund at Quinsigamond Elementary School from Spear Management Group in memory of Peter Petrella, Jr., the recently passed father in law of an employee
- \$5,000 to the Belmont Street Community School's reading curriculum from The Journey Community Church

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

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

The motion carried.

Long Term
Substitutes/
review policy

25. gb #0-73 -Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough
(February 10, 2020)

Request that the Administration review the policy on long term substitutes.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Administration update the policy regarding long-term substitute teachers. He said that they need to come to work 45 consecutive days without an absence before they qualify for long-term substitute teacher pay. If they miss a day, the counter goes back to Day 1. Ms. Boulais stated that the policy is negotiated as part of the Unit A collective bargaining agreement with the teachers union.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the results of the Unit A collective bargaining that will be taking place in the Spring.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to Negotiations.

Roosevelt
School/traffic
congestion

26. gb #0-74 -Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(February 11, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide an update from the School Safety Task Force relative to traffic congestion at Roosevelt School on Grafton Street at the arrival and dismissal times.

Miss Biancheria spoke to the problems facing small businesses located near Roosevelt School. Mayor Petty stated that he and the City Manager are aware of the issues but that it would be costly. Superintendent Binienda said that the Principal Williamson has come up with a pilot plan in conjunction with parents that may alleviate some of the traffic congestion.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday letter, any updates on the Roosevelt School traffic problems once contracts are signed.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

27. gb #0-75 -Ms. Novick/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(February 11, 2020)

Charter
Reimbursement
Funds/amend FY21
state budget language

Request the delegation include in the FY21 state budget language that would direct the municipal treasurer to deposit charter reimbursement funds in a separate account for school committee expenditure without further appropriation.

Ms. Novick stated once a municipality has set a tax rate, they can no longer forward any additional funds to the schools unless they have a particular account number. Without the designation of the separate account, and given the fact that the city had already set the tax rate, the money is sitting in the city's general fund.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the administration ask the state legislative delegation for a change in the FY21 budget language in order to deposit charter school reimbursement from the state to a separate account for School Committee expenditure.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report by the March 26th meeting compiled by Mr. Allen and Mr. Zidelis on how this would work and the right language that the Administration wants to propose to the delegation.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the delegation.

Joint Committee on Ways and Means/offer testimony

- 28. gb #0-76 -Ms. Novick/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(February 12, 2020)

To offer testimony before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means hearing on education funding on March 6 advocating for a 14.3% implementation of the low income rate towards the FY27 target (adjusted for year 1 inflation).

Ms. Novick stated and the School Committee approved that she offer testimony at the Joint Ways and Means Committee hearing on March 6, 2020 to discuss education funding.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

Dropout Rates/ DESE report

- 29. gb #0-77 -Ms. Novick/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(February 14, 2020)

To discuss the 2019 4 and 5- year graduation and dropout rates as released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on February 13, 2020.

Superintendent Binienda proposed that the response to this item be provided in a Report of the Superintendent.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Administration for a Report of the Superintendent.

Prior Fiscal Year Payments/two employees

- 30. gb #0-78 -Administration
(February 14, 2020)

To approve prior fiscal year payments in the total amount of \$425.88 for salary adjustments to two employees.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0
7

The motion carried.

31. gb #0-79 -Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Mayor Petty
(February 12, 2020) Recognition/
Forward letters

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the North High JROTC, Chief Pastrana and Ricky Bland Warrant Officer for their highly successful Area Manager's Inspection last month by the Navy.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration invite the members of the North High School JROTC to perform the National Anthem at the March 26, 2020 School Committee meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

32. gb #0-80 -Administration
(February 18, 2020) Recognition/
Forward letters

To forward letters of recognition to the following schools for having received the Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge Award:

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Participation Percentage</u>
Belmont Street Community School	90.56%
Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School	90.22%
Chandler at the Y	97.55%
Chandler Magnet School	82.68%
Clark Street Community School	88.46%
Elm Park Community School	85.12%
Grafton Street School	85.05%
Francis J McGrath Elementary School	88.95%
Union Hill School	96.76%
Woodland Academy	80.14%

It was moved and voice voted to forward letters.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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