

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 Worcester, Massachusetts
 Thursday, November 19, 2020
 Agenda #38

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 19, 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 #0-364 - Administration
 (November 5, 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 – Successor Contract Negotiations – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators).

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 – Successor Contract Negotiations – Massachusetts Laborers' District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees, Local Union 176, Custodians.

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 –Yuisa Perez v. Worcester Public Schools, et al., Worcester Superior Court, Civil Action No. 1785-CV-01465-A.

On a roll call, the vote to recess to 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.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 5:05 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:11 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Mayor Petty

2. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #0-41 - Administration
(November 10, 2020)

Minutes/approval of

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

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

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick	6
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Against the motion:	0
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Absent: Mayor Petty	$\frac{1}{7}$
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The motion carried.

Minutes/
approval of

aor #0-42 - Administration
(November 10, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2020.

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

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick	6
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Against the motion:	0
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Absent: Mayor Petty	$\frac{1}{7}$
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The motion carried.

3. IMMEDIATE ACTION

Recognition/
Chantale Zuzi

gb #0-335.1 - Ms. McCullough/Mrs. Clancey/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick/
Mayor Petty
(November 10, 2020)

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.

Ms. McCullough and Mr. William Foley, Principal of Burncoat High School spoke to the item. Chantale Zuzi was recognized for receiving the Women’s Initiative of Central Massachusetts 2020 Meridith D. Wesby Young Leader Award.

On a roll call, the vote to recognize Chantale Zuzi was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #0-353 - Administration
(November 10, 2020)

Student
Representatives/
input from

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Request that the School Committee consider paying for the 2021 AP Exams. (Fatimah Daffaie) | 2021 Advanced Placement Exams/ consider paying for |
| 2. Request that the Administration consider sharing weekly student check-in survey responses with the School Committee. (Jasmine Owusu) | Student Check-in Survey/consider sharing |

The item first item was held to be considered and discussed with gb #0-346.1.

Student Representative Jasmine Owusu made the following amendment to her item:

Request that the Administration **provide the common activities from the student check-in survey that students engage in most in class.**
(Jasmine Owusu)

On a roll call, the second item, as amended, was referred to the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

4. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Low Math Scores/
theories on

ROS #0-11.1 - Administration/Administration
(November 10, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the request to
provide the theories regarding the low math scores
in grades 4, 5 and 6.

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

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mayor Petty $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

Mayor Petty arrived at 6:25 p.m.

Superintendent's
Self Evaluation,
Goals and
Benchmarks for
2020-21

ROS #0-12 - Administration
(November 11, 2020)

SELF EVALUATION, GOALS AND BENCHMARKS OF
THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR 2020-21

Ms. Novick brought forth the following specific
recommendations:

1. Set a specific goal on disciplinary data.
2. Provide an update on restorative justice to include number of suspensions.
3. Address the declining graduation rates especially for ELL students.

- 4. Work with the City on updating facilities.
- 5. Review and renew the Strategic Plan.
- 6. Set operational norms for the School Committee.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the item be referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the motion 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.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

- 5. The Standing Committee on School and Student Performance met virtually on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

gb #0-228 - Administration (July 6, 2020)

Innovation Schools
Annual Evaluations

To consider review of the following Innovation Schools Annual Evaluations:

- Chandler Magnet School
- Claremont Academy**
- Goddard Scholars Academy at Sullivan Middle School
- Goddard School of Science and Technology**
- Woodland Academy**
- Academy of Science, Technology and Health at Worcester East Middle School
- Worcester Technical High School** and University Park Campus School

Principals from Goddard School of Science and Technology, Worcester Technical High School and Woodland and Claremont Academies spoke to some aspects of their respective Innovation Plans.

Dr. Karrie Allen, Principal of Goddard School of Science and Technology touched on the following:

- the autonomy provided to the school by district leaders
- professional development
- literacy and math
- Envision
- Special Education
- hiring practices and
- attendance

Siobhan Petrella, Principal of Worcester Technical High School presented the following highlights from its plan:

- STEM focused curriculum
- rigor for college readiness
- collaboration with higher education on Articulation Agreements
- creation of demos for students and parents
- staffing
- collaboration with AVID
- graduation rates
- common planning time
- senior year co-ops
- equity and equality issues and
- entrepreneur curriculum

Patricia Padilla, Principal of Woodland Academy along with Assistant Principals Karen Allen and Suzanna Resendes and teacher Sherilynne Parretti spoke to the following:

- dual language-one way program
- American Reading Curriculum
- second hand trauma
- Title III (Second Language Learners)
- alignment with Claremont Academy
- 100% staffing of ESL teachers

- second language as an asset
- bilingual endorsement
- wraparound coordinators and
- staff involvement

Angela Plant, principal of Claremont Academy highlighted the following:

- diverse staff
- honors program Grade 7-12
- My Path curriculum
- partnership with Clark University
- weekly health and guidance meetings
- CSI (College Success Initiative)
- tutoring by Holy Cross students
- Career Day
- Friday attendance and
- grocery and Chromebook distribution

All four principals also alluded to the fact that since the shutdown, the schools have found innovative ways to help keep their students engaged. Many of them have found that the Friday attendance is problematic. They are continuing to look at ways to address that issue. Keeping in constant contact with parents/guardians has been a priority for all of the schools.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

On a roll call, the School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance 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.

6. The Standing Committee on School and Student Performance met virtually on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

Innovation Schools
Annual Evaluations

gb #0-228 - Administration (July 6, 2020)

To consider review of the following Innovation Schools Annual Evaluations:

Chandler Magnet School

Claremont Academy

Goddard Scholars Academy at Sullivan Middle School

Goddard School of Science and Technology

Woodland Academy

Academy of Science, Technology and Health at Worcester East Middle School

Worcester Technical High School and

University Park Campus School

Principals from Chandler Magnet School, Goddard Scholars Academy at Sullivan Middle School and University Park Campus School spoke to some aspects of their respective Innovation Plans.

Daniel St. Louis, Principal of University Park Campus School, discussed the following highlights from the plan:

- heterogeneous all honors for all approach
- 100 percent graduation rate
- many Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Courses
- focus on college readiness for its diverse low-income population
- low suspension rate
- free college courses through the partnership with Clark University
- 44 students in each grade level

Noeliz Irizarry, Principal of Chandler Magnet School and Ivonne Perez, Chief Diversity Officer, discussed the following highlights from the plan:

- transitional bilingual education program
- dual language immersion program
- structured English immersion
- initiation of the American Reading Company program

- full day preschool Dual Language Program
- partnership with Worcester State University and the Latino Education Institution
- mentoring of teachers to take the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure Courses (METL) test

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee forward a letter urging the State to continue to expand opportunities for licensure that don't involve the MTEL with particular attention to educators who are multilingual or involved in English Language Learning.

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

Shannon Conley, Principal of Sullivan Middle School, discussed the following highlights from the plan:

- expansion the GSA program at South High Community School
- a unique staffing autonomy
- addition of a Department Head position for the Goddard Scholars Academy
- rewriting of the application process for the school, due to the lack of MCAS scores
- students flexible schedule during remote learning
- band classes for 7th and 8th graders

gb #8-54 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria (February 2, 2018)

Accountability
Changes/report on

Request that the Administration provide a report on the accountability changes made by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Ms. Kuriacose provided the report with the enrollment changes made by DESE and the enrollment demographics for both Hanover Academy and the Goddard Scholars Academy at Sullivan Middle School.

Ms. Novick suggested that the recommendations for admission to Goddard Scholars Academy at Sullivan Middle School and the Hanover Academy not only come from teachers but also from community members.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

On a roll call, the School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance 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.

7. PERSONNEL

Appointment/
Aide to the
Physically
Handicapped

0-9 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person 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:

Bourogaa, Youssef 11/12/2020

Appointment/
School Bus
Attendant

0-10 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person 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:

Jules, Erlande 11/9/2020

Appointments/
Junior Custodian

0-11 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:

Polenski, Joseph	11/2/2020
Simoncini, John	11/16/2020

- | | | |
|------|--|--|
| 0-12 | The Superintendent has appointed the attached teacher positions for 2020-21. | Appointments/
Teachers |
| 0-13 | The Superintendent has approved the attached teacher Resignations and Retirements for 2020-21. | Resignations and
Retirements/Teachers |

On a roll call, the vote to file Personnel items 0-9 to 0-13 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.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

<u>gb #0-290.2</u> - Administration/Ms. Novick / Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough (November 3, 2020)	Suspensions/ remote learning
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Response of the Administration to the request to clarify under what circumstances students will be suspended during remote learning and what suspension will consist of during that time.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide first quarter data on student discipline and refer the item to the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance.

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

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

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

The motion carried.

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item to the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance 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.

2021 Advanced
Placement Exams/
cost for

gb #0-346.1 -Administration/Ms. Novick/
Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(November 12, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on actual total cost to district families of the 2021 Advanced Placement exams for consideration with the full committee's consideration of the first quarter budget report.

gb #0-353 - Administration
(November 10, 2020)

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

2021 Advanced
Placement
Exams/consider
paying for

1. Request that the School Committee consider paying for the 2021 AP Exams. (Fatimah Daffaie)

(These items were considered together.)

Ms. Novick asked for the total number of AP exams that have been ordered.

Superintendent Binienda stated that 2,208 tests have been ordered.

Dr. Ganius stated that there would be no cancellation fee this year.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that when considering the first quarter budget that the Administration make the commitment to fund the remainder of the cost for AP exams and alert the students that the exams will be at no cost to them.

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

Fatima Daffaie, Ex-Officio member of the School Committee requested the number of students that did not take the College Board this year and Superintendent Binienda stated that she would have that number for the next meeting.

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations 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.

Prior Fiscal Year
Payments

gb #0-354 - Administration
(November 3, 2020)

To consider approval of the following prior fiscal year payments:

1. \$8,304 for tuition owed to the Assabet Valley Collaborative
2. \$6,906.80 to The Whitney Academy, Inc.
3. \$5,730 to LearnWell
4. \$247.92 to two Special Education staff members
5. \$18,121.36 to Southern Worcester Educational Collaborative

On a roll call, 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.

Recognition/set
date

gb #0-355 - Administration/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mayor Petty
(November 4, 2020)

To set a date to recognize University Park Campus School for ranking #57 in Massachusetts High Schools out of 1,368 in National Rankings by U.S. News and World Report for its performance on state tests, graduation rates and preparation of their students for college.

On a roll call, it was moved to set the date of Thursday, December 3, 2020 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.

gb #0-356 - Administration (November 9, 2020) Donation/Worcester Arts Magnet PTG

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$2,098.39 from the Worcester Arts Magnet PTG to Worcester Arts Magnet School to help replace items lost in the fire in Spring 2020.

On a roll call, 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.

gb #0-357 - Mr. Monfredo/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough (November 9, 2020) Coats for Kids

Request that the School Committee support "Coats for Kids", which has been an ongoing collaborative between the Worcester Public Schools and the Worcester Educational Development Foundation for over 25 years.

Ms. McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the Administration upload a copy of the Coats for Kids flyer onto the Worcester Public Schools website.

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

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

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

The motion carried.

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

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

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

The motion carried.

Summer School/
consider expanding

gb #0-358 - Mr. Monfredo/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough
(November 9, 2020)

Request that the Administration consider expanding summer school in its planning, based on the data regarding the academic needs of the students.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report in March 2021 on a cost estimate to expand the summer school program.

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

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

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

The motion carried.

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item to the
 FY22 Budget 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.

gb #0-359 - Administration
 (November 12, 2020)

Self-harm Filter/
 turn on

To consider approval to turn on the self-harm filter
 that is available with the current software that
 monitors those students' behaviors.

Mr. Walton spoke about Lightspeed, a system that
 monitors when a student searches for information
 that may suggest an intent to self-harm. He
 stated that the program is currently being used at
 four schools.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the pilot be turned off and that the
 item be referred to the Standing Committee on
 Governance and Employee Issues in order to invite
 school psychologists, administrators, parents and
 students to be part of a panel for discussion on the
 subject.

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

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

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues 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.

MCAS Test/
administration of
test

gb #0-360 - Administration
(November 12, 2020)

To consider approval of the administration of the MCAS for all eleventh graders and for those twelfth graders that have not yet passed it and administer both the Legacy in January of 2021 and the 2.0 MCAS in March of 2021.

Superintendent Binienda requested that the item be amended to read May 2021, not March.

On a roll call, 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.

gb #0-361 - Administration
(November 12, 2020)

Special Education
School Buses/lease-
purchase contract

To authorize the Administration to enter into a contract for the lease-purchase of ten special education school buses for a term of up to five years for the operation of student transportation for a contract term to begin in June 2021 as part of the five-year fleet replacement cycle of existing school buses.

On a roll call, the vote to grant authorization 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.

gb #0-362 - Ms. McCullough/Miss Biancheria/
Mrs. Clancey
(November 12, 2020)

Special Education
Services/tracking of

Request that the Administration provide a report on the tracking of Special Education services that are currently being provided remotely to students.

gb #0-363 - Ms. McCullough/Miss Biancheria/
Mrs. Clancey
(November 12, 2020)

Special Education
Testing/update on

Request that the Administration provide an update on Special Education testing to include the types that are taking place, the timeline updates and any other pertinent information.

(These items were considered together)

On a roll call, the vote to refer the items to the Administration were 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, the vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. 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.

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