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CLERK OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
20 IRVING STREET  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01609

AGENDA #19

on: Thursday, May 6, 2021  
at: 5:00 p.m. - Executive Session  
6:00 p.m. - Regular Session  
Virtually in: Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER  
INVOCATION  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #1-13 - Administration  
(April 21, 2021)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 8, 2021.

aor #1-14 - Administration  
(April 21, 2021)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 15, 2021.

aor #1-15 - Administration  
(April 21, 2021)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION – NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

ACTION

gb #1-103.1 - Administration/Ms. McCullough/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Monfredo/  
Ms. Novick/Mayor Petty  
(April 16, 2021)

To recognize the following staff, teachers and administrators of the Worcester UNITES program:

**Coaches**

Burncoat High School

Isabella Montalvo  
Elijah Villanueva  
Riley West  
Scott Zalomis

North High School

Raven Falcon  
Rafael Magalhaes Santos Dorneles

Worcester Technical High School

Vera Kacevich

**Teachers**

Burncoat High School

Jeff Conner

North High School

Jacob Gross  
Jeremy Zglobicki

Lincoln Street School

Joanne Daly

**Administrators**

Burncoat Middle School

Margarita Baez

**Program Manager** - Lisa Leach

North High School

Mike Cardin

gb #1-124 - Administration  
(April 28, 2021)

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

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #1-8 - Administration  
(April 22, 2021)

FINAL SUMMARY OF THE HEARS GRANT

VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE

VIII. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met virtually on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5:34 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met virtually on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 4:36 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

The Joint Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council’s Standing Committee on Education met virtually on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 5:09 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

IX. PERSONNELACTION

- 1-15 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RESIGNATIONS of the persons named below:

Chittim, Annamaria, Roosevelt, Teacher, Special Education, Resigned, Behavior Specialist, effective April 2, 2021.

Januszewski, Helen, WTHS, Teacher, Vocational Education, Resigned, Veterinary Tech effective April 16, 2021

Schneider, Susannah, Midland Street, Teacher, Elementary, Resigned, Primary, effective April 26, 2021

- 1-16 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the person named below:

Lindquist-Grady, Jean, Systemwide Psychologist, Acting - 1 Year, PHD, 9, effective April 26, 2021

- 1-17 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 #321-008, effective as follows:

Domenech, Suelaine            4/6/2021

- 1-18 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Driver Full Size School Bus, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$22.66 per hour, from Civil Service List #321-009, effective as follows:

Luna, Genaro                    3/29/2021

- 1-19 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 #321-010, effective as follows:

Warren, Adrilla                3/29/2020

- 1-20 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:

Hernandez, Maria            3/15/2021

Padeni, Patricia                3/29/2021

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

ACTION

gb #0-286.9 - Administration/Mayor Petty/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/  
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick  
(April 28, 2021)

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

gb #0-304.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/Mrs. Clancey/  
Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick  
(April 27, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on the distribution of Chromebooks and iPads and indicate whether additional equipment will be needed in the near future.

gb #0-315.1 - Administration/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick  
(April 28, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on the timeline of when a student received an IEP and when he or she receive assistance with it.

gb #1-19.1 - Administration/Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/  
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(April 27, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on current efforts to expand internet access in the City of Worcester.

gb #1-52.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/  
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(April 27, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to review the Public Safety Program, offered through career development, for high school juniors and seniors.

gb #1-125 - Ms. McCullough  
(April 11, 2021)

To review the feasibility of including a position in the FY22 Budget for a Director of Communications and Community Engagement.

gb #1-126 - Administration  
(April 12, 2021)

To accept the FY21 DLCS Student Learning Devices Grant in the amount of \$2,028 for Burncoat Middle School.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #1-127 - Administration  
(April 12, 2021)

To accept a donation of warehouse space for the storage of personal protective equipment (PPE) from Chacharone Properties for use by the district.

gb #1-128 - Administration  
(April 14, 2021)

To accept the Teaching Gardens Network Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

gb #1-129 - Administration  
(April 15, 2021)

To authorize the Administration to resubmit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for Burncoat High School (district priority project) for major renovation or replacement for 2021.

gb #1-130 - Mr. Monfredo  
(April 16, 2021)

Request that the Administration forward an email to the school nurses in recognition of their dedication during the celebration of School Nurse Appreciation Week (May 6 to the 12<sup>th</sup>).

gb #1-131 - Mr. Monfredo  
(April 16, 2021)

Request that the Administration forward an email to the teaching staff (including IA's) in the celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2-8<sup>th</sup>) to thank them for their dedication and hard work, especially during this year of the pandemic.

gb #1-132 - Mr. Monfredo  
(April 20, 2021)

Request that the Administration update the Family Handbook prior to the end of the school year and share the document with the Citywide Parent Planning Advisory Council.

gb #1-133 - Administration  
(April 26, 2021)

To accept a donation of a 2015 Ford Transit 12 Passenger Van to South High Community School from Andy's Attic Inc.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #1-134 - Mayor Petty  
(April 26, 2021)

To consider approval of naming the auditorium at South High Community School as the Brian A. O’Connell Memorial Auditorium.

gb #1-135 - Administration  
(April 26, 2021)

Request that the School Committee waive the Retention and/or loss of Credit policy for the 20-21 school year.

gb #1-136 - Administration  
(April 26, 2021)

Request that the School Committee change the requirement for eligibility for summer school to a final grade of 45-64 for the 20-21 school year

gb #1-137 - Ms. Novick  
(April 28, 2021)

Request legal counsel report on the authority to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for the 2021-22 school year, as provided under state law, for:

1. Worcester Public Schools' employees.
2. Worcester Public Schools' students.

gb #1-138 - Ms. Novick  
(April 28, 2021)

Request administration update on transportation extending to high school five days a week at the May 20 meeting.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #1-139 - Administration  
(April 28, 2021)

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

**(Continued on next pages.)**

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (continued)

ACTION

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); Educational Association of Worcester, Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Educational Association of Worcester, Instructional Assistants; Educational Association of Worcester, Parent Liaisons; Educational Association of Worcester, Tutors; and Educational Association of Worcester, Therapy Assistants.

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

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8368, Interactive Process and Requests for Workplace Accommodations.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester vs. Worcester Public Schools, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, MCAD Docket No. 20WEM02609 and EEOC Docket No. 16C-2021-00275.

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); Educational Association of Worcester, Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Educational Association of Worcester, Instructional Assistants; Educational Association of Worcester, Parent Liaisons; Educational Association of Worcester, Tutors; and Educational Association of Worcester, Therapy Assistants; NAGE R1-156, 52 Week Secretaries; NAGE R1-16, Cafeteria Workers; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176, Custodians; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176, Educational Secretaries; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176/Unit D, Computer Technicians; IUPE Local -125 Plumbers and Steamfitters; IUPE Local -135, Tradesmen; Massachusetts Nurses Association, Worcester School Nurses.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS  
Clerk  
(April 21, 2021)

ITEM - aor #1-13  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 8, 2021.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (38 pages) contains a copy of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 8, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.



IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Worcester, Massachusetts  
Thursday, April 8, 2021  
Agenda #15

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 5:02 p.m. in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Thursday, April 8, 2021.

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

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

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #1-117 - Administration  
(March 31, 2021)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct collective bargaining regarding Grievance #20/21-09.

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 litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8221, Bargaining Regarding Reopening.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8368, Interactive Process and Requests for Workplace Accommodations.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester vs. Worcester Public Schools, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, MCAD Docket No. 20WEM02609 and EEOC Docket No. 16C-2021-0027.

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).

On a roll call, the vote to recess to Executive Session was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss Biancheria  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 5:04 p.m. to 6:09 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:13 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

Miss Biancheria was absent.

2. **APPROVAL OF RECORDS**

(The following items were considered together.)

aor #1-10 - Administration  
(March 31, 2021)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Monday, March 15, 2021.

aor #1-11 - Administration  
(March 31, 2021)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, March 18, 2021.

aor #1-12 - Administration  
(March 31, 2021)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

On a roll call the vote to approve aor #1-10, aor #1-11 and aor #1-12 were approved collectively as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss Biancheria  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

On a roll call, the vote it was moved to suspend rules to report out the action of the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss Biancheria  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:16 p.m.

3. **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The Standing Committee on **Teaching, Learning and Student Supports** met at 5:34 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at the Durkin Administration Building in Room 410.

gb #9-288 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo (August 28, 2019)

Request the establishment of an inclusive and transparent process for selecting and implementing a comprehensive Sex Education Curriculum that is age-appropriate, evidence- based, medically-accurate and LGBTQ inclusive in the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #9-416 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo (December 4, 2019)

Request that the Administration consider incorporating the campaign entitled "RESPECTfully" when the Sex Ed Curriculum is established.

gb #0-31 - Mayor Petty/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick (January 8, 2020)

Request that the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports recommend a comprehensive, inclusive, evidence-based sexual and health curriculum and an appropriate level of increased classroom time for health education to the school committee for the FY21 budget.

**(These items were considered together.)**

Mr. Bersin, Curriculum Liaison/Physical Education/Health, stated that the Worcester Public Schools' health teachers examined and rated 7 external health curricula as well as the WPS health curriculum. Mr. Bersin, Health Liaison, Ms. Denault and Ms. Capstick, health teachers, would provide an overview of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Comprehensive Health Education Curriculum that was reviewed and rated by the health education teachers.  
<https://view.earthchannel.com/PlayerController.aspx?PGD=worceschma&ID=816>)

Ms. Capstick outlined a 9<sup>th</sup> grade health education lesson which included the following topics:

- body image to make better decisions about their bodies
- abstinence
- sexually transmitted infections
- the reproductive system
- the stages of human development and
- the stages of pregnancy

Mr. Bersin stated that the health educators are recommending a commitment to provide two full time health educators at each comprehensive high school and conducting three year-long pilot programs using selectively the curricula Get Real and Rights Respect Responsibility and by also developing its own Sexual Education Curriculum.

Dr. Ganas discussed how a pilot process is established and reviewed throughout the year. Teachers, principals, students and parents will be involved in the review process.

Chairman McCullough asked what the potential options are for piloting the two recommended curricula and the WPS curriculum in the schools.

Dr. Ganas stated the Administration, in collaboration with the principals, teachers and the liaisons, will discuss the best way to pilot the three curricula.

Chairman McCullough asked how the 54 lessons at the middle school and the 20 week lessons at the high school levels are broken-down.

Mr. Bersin stated that grades 7 and 8 have 45 classes.

Ms. Denault stated that the high school sexual education portion of the health curriculum is a 20-week one which is elective and takes about 2 to 2 ½ weeks. The teachers will teach lessons in injury prevention, mental health, substance use disorder and prevention.

Ms. Capstick stated that at the beginning of the school year, letters are sent out to parents inviting them to attend a meeting to review the different lessons. At that time, they will be given an option to opt their child(ren) out of the class if they so choose.

Mr. Foley indicated support of the proposed comprehensive, evidence-based sexual health education section of the curriculum. He asked why the Worcester Public School health curriculum was rated so poorly.

Mr. Bersin stated that the Michigan model which is used in grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 is accurate and evidence-based, but is not inclusive enough for students in the Worcester Public Schools.

Miss Biancheria asked if there would be a kindergarten through grade 12 sexual education section in the Health Curriculum.

Superintendent Binienda stated that there will only be sexual education classes taught in the middle and high schools. However, there will be health education classes taught from kindergarten through grade 12.

Dr. Castiel stated that the 2019 data from the State indicates that the rate of Worcester's sexually transmitted infection is higher than the state rate. She advocated that the Administration select a comprehensive sex education curriculum that is vetted by the Health and Human Services at the Federal level.

Mr. Foley requested that the Administration consider requiring a health education course for high school students in order to graduate.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the graduation requirements are already too difficult for students to fulfill and if another requirement is added, students will find it very difficult to fit it into their schedule. She also stated that five secondary level health education teachers are being hired.

Chairman McCullough stated that the public could email their questions and comments to her at [McCulloughm@worcesterschools.net](mailto:McCulloughm@worcesterschools.net) for discussion at the next Standing Committee meeting.

The following individuals spoke to their approval or disapproval of the proposed Sex Education section in the Health Curriculum of the WPS:

R. Frazier, C. Berg Powers, A. Bealer, J. Trobough, S. Rodman, Dr. Kimball, Dr. Star, N. Grigas, J. Croke, M. Roach, K. Thompson, M. Desai, E. Sanchez, K. Pare, J. Berg Power, M. King, R. Araujo, M. Rollo, A. Kaplan and D. Arbetter

Chairman McCullough stated that there will be one or two more meetings scheduled for more discussion regarding the Sexual Education section of the Health Education Curriculum of the WPS.

Mr. Foley stated that he would like to see the Sexual Education portion of the Health Curriculum implemented in the Fall of 2021.

Chairman McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the item be held for discussion at the next meeting.

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

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

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 met to research and discuss the development of a two-year kindergarten program. The Administration recommended piloting two models and evaluating them over three years. The first pilot would be the Preschool Reggio model at the new South High Community School. The second would be a Kindergarten Co-Teaching for Developmentally Appropriate and SEL Responsive Acceleration.

Dr. Morse stated that there is a potential for an enrollment bubble at the kindergarten level. The Administration is expecting that the students that didn't enroll in kindergarten last year will enroll next year. The Administration is looking at a flex up model where students could potentially be in first grade but may need extra supports and services.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward a letter to the Local Delegation requesting additional funding for full day preschool programs.

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

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration consider delaying or adjusting the start date for kindergarten entry age for the 2023-24 school year.

On a roll call of 2-1 (nay Mr. Foley), the motion was approved.

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

gb #0-363.1 - Administration/Ms. McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey (November 24, 2020)

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

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



qb #1-53 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick (February 12, 2021)

Request that the Administration collaborate with community agencies, retired teachers and other groups, to study the feasibility of establishing a summer learning program to assist K-8 students.

Dr. O'Neil stated that new grant opportunities were announced by the State this week and plans for the 2021 summer programs have begun.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an update in May regarding summer program possibilities and pandemic planning.

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

qb #1-86 - Administration (March 9, 2021)

To consider approval of the following courses:

- US History Survey
- Foundations of Modern Biotechnology
- Applications of Modern Biotechnology

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was filed due to the fact that it was approved at the March 23, 2021 School Committee meeting.

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION**

qb #9-313

Mr. Foley made the following amendment to Mr. Monfredo's motion:

Request that the Administration consider **exploring the impact and seek public input on a delay of** the start date for kindergarten entry age for the 2023-24 school year.

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

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss Biancheria  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the amended School Committee's action of the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss Biancheria  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

Miss McCullough left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

**IMMEDIATE ACTION**

gb #1-98 - Administration  
(March 22, 2021)

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

On a voice vote, the item was filed.

.5 **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

c&p #1-4 - Clerk  
(March 24, 2021)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of Quinsigamond School's faculty and staff to donate sick days to a colleague.

c&p #1-5 - Clerk  
(March 24, 2021)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of North High School's faculty and staff to donate sick days to a colleague.

(These items were considered together.)

Mayor Petty allowed Roger Nugent, President of the EAW, and Melissa Verdier to speak regarding donating sick time to a colleague. They requested that the School Committee approve the sick days from the teachers to be transferred to their colleague.

Mayor Petty made the following motions:

Request that the items be referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues to be discussed at the next meeting.

Request that the Administration provide enough sick days from the faculty at Quinsigamond and North High schools until such time as the item is discussed at the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues and voted on at the School Committee meeting on May 6, 2021.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough), the motions were approved.

On a roll call, the vote to refer the items to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee issues were as follows:

For the motion: Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mayor Petty	6
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Against the motion:	0
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Absent: Ms. McCullough	<u>1</u> 7
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The motion carried.

6. **IMMEDIATE ACTION**

gb #1-85.1 - Administration/Administration  
(March 24, 2021)

To recognize Nhi Huynh, a junior at North High School, for being selected as a City of Worcester 2021 Young Women of Consequence recipient and for having her selected photograph included in the 2021 Massachusetts Amazing Emerging Artists High School Recognitions Exhibit.

Ms. Houlihan, Principal and Ms. Mulcahy, teacher at North High School discussed the many accomplishments of Nhi Huynh by stating that she is:

- number two in her class
- artist of the Week on March 22nd
- an active member of the Vietnamese community
- a tutor to 5 students
- an advocate for family members new to the country
- an active member of the National Honor Society
- a member of Student Council
- a research assistant for WPI's RAMP program

On a roll call, the vote to recognize Nhi Huynh and file the item was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

7. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

ros #1-6 -Administration  
(March 26, 2021)

UPDATE ON 2020 DROPOUT AND GRADUATION RATES

gb #1-105 - Mr. Monfredo (March 25, 2021)

Request that the Administration review the newly released graduation and dropout rates for the Worcester Public Schools.

(These items were considered together.)

Ms. Kuriacose discussed the 2020 overall dropout and graduation rates. She stated that the data that is provided in the PowerPoint can be found on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website.

#### Graduation Rate Data

Most subgroup graduation rates increased from 2019 to 2020, but the graduation rate for students with disabilities had a slight decrease. The student groups that are performing below the overall graduation rates are economically disadvantaged students who are Hispanic and Latino, English Learners and students with disabilities. Worcester's overall graduation rate has been lower than the State's rate from year to year but that gap has been decreasing. The English learner graduation rate for four years has surpassed the State's graduation rate and the four year graduation rate for students with disabilities was lower than the State's overall graduation rate. The graduation rate for the Hispanic and Latino students was higher than the state's graduation rate. Worcester's four year graduation rate is higher than other urban districts across Massachusetts.

#### Dropout Rate Data

The dropout rate is the percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who dropped out between July 1 through June 30 of the 2019-20 school year and those who didn't return by October 1, 2020.

- Worcester's 2020 overall dropout rate was slightly above the State's average.
- The English learners dropout rate was significantly lower than the State and
- The students with disabilities and the Hispanic and Latino student's dropout rate is slightly lower than the State.

Worcester's dropout rate was significantly lower than most urban districts in Massachusetts.

Current District Activities to Improve Graduation and Dropout Rates:

- Panorama Student Success Dashboard to monitor "at-risk" status
- After school and summer programming
- College & Career Readiness curriculum
- Post-Secondary Success work through the BARR Foundation Grant
- EL Dropout Task Force
- Seal of Biliteracy expansion
- Dual Language program expansion
- Leveraging UDL and Co-Teaching instructional practices
- Attendance and Discipline Task Forces

Mr. Foley stated that the Administration should pay close attention to the graduation rates for the students with disabilities. He asked if those students were staying in high school longer than age 18.

Ms. Kuriacose stated that the DESE reports for graduation rates tell what percentage of students in each group have remained in school the following school year. The percentage for students with disabilities was 13.9 percent for the class of 2019 and 19.4 percent for the class of 2020. Therefore, students with disabilities are documented as staying in school longer instead of graduating.

Mr. Foley stated that the Administration should also keep track of the English learners dropout rate.

Ms. Kuriacose stated that the MCAS seems to be a significant barrier for a lot of new EL students. The Administration suggested that the modified competency determination could have had a large part in some of EL data specifically for that reason.

Ms. Biancheria asked if the Administration would provide a brief summary of the process used when students drop out of school and indicate what services are provided to them.

Superintendent Binienda indicated that the Administration contacts the parent and tries to find a solution for them. If a student drops out to support their family, it is suggested that they attend evening classes at the Gerald Creamer Center.

Ms. Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report in a Friday Letter for the last two years on the number of students who:

- dropped out of school
- attended the Gerald Creamer Center or
- returned the following year.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough), the motion was approved.

Ms. Novick asked if the Administration could provide the data regarding new English learner students who would possibly not be able to pass the MCAS but did but did graduate due to the approval of the modified competency determination. She further requested that the Administration forward a letter to the Board of Education stating that it has created an artificial barrier to English learners, in particular those who are newcomers.

Mayor Petty suggested that the data be presented at a Standing Committee meeting prior to forwarding a letter to the state.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the data regarding new English learner students who would possibly not be able to pass the MCAS but did but did graduate due to the approval of the modified competency determination. It was further requested that the motion be referred to the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough), the motion was approved.

On a roll call, the vote to file ros #1-6 and gb #1-105 were as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

### **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

8. The Standing Committee on **Governance and Employee Issues** met virtually on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

#### c&p #1-1 - Clerk (December 28, 2020)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of Burncoat High School's faculty and staff to donate accrued sick time to a colleague.

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the Instructional Assistant be granted the sick time from the faculty of Burncoat High School in accordance with her doctor's orders.

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

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

#### c&p #1-2 - Clerk (February 17, 2021)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of Gates Lane School's faculty and staff to donate sick days to a colleague.

Roger Nugent, President of the EAW, stated that the Instructional Assistant will not be able to return to work until the Fall.

Ms. Clancey asked if the number of sick days that were donated are enough to get the Instructional Assistant through the time until she returns to work.

Mr. Nugent stated that colleagues donated one sick day each which will get the Instructional Assistant through the school year.



Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the Instructional Assistant be granted the sick time through the remainder of the 2021 school year from the faculty of Gates Lane School.

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

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

gb #0-28 - Mayor Petty/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick (January 8, 2020)

To create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Worcester School Committee to consider changes to the school committee rules, meetings and agendas to make the work of the School Committee and our meetings more effective and better aligned with the focus on the strategic direction of the district. These changes should reflect best practices and address the recommendations included in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's report from 2017.

Mrs. Clancey stated that the members of the Standing Committee of Governance and Employee Issues would serve as the Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the Rules of the School Committee be forwarded to all members for their review in order to submit suggested changes to the Clerk of the School Committee for discussion as its next meeting.

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

Ms. Novick suggested that the recommendations that were in the 2017 report from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education be forwarded to the School Committee members and be included as backup for the item.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Standing Committee members also consider proposed changes from Administration.

**(Consider gb0-59 and gb0-210 together.)**

gb #0-59 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley  
(January 29, 2020)

To rewrite the Worcester Public Schools' Student Dress Code.

gb #0-223 - Administration (July 6, 2020)

To consider amendments to the current Student Dress Code Policy to be included in the Student Handbook and the Policy Manual.

Mr. Monfredo stated that there should be no change to the current Dress Code Policy.

Ms. Novick stated that the district should adopt the Seattle Public School's Dress Code Policy.

Superintendent Binienda stated disapproval of the Seattle Dress Code Policy and indicated that the Administration, teachers and students on the Superintendent's Advisory Committee reviewed and approved for adoption of the current Dress Code Policy.

Mrs. Clancey stated that she was in favor of moving forward with the current Dress Code Policy.

Ms. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the current Dress Code Policy remain unchanged and file items gb#0-59 and gb#0-233.

On a roll call of 2-1 (nay Ms. Novick), the motion was approved.

gb #0-230 - Administration (July 7, 2020)

To consider approval of the proposed 2020-21 Student Handbook of the Worcester Public Schools.

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

gb #0-264 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough (August 17, 2020)

Consider and redraft as necessary the policies and associated sections of the student handbook considered by "Pandemic Policy Specific for Back to School."

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the item be filed.

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

gb #0-368 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough (November 23, 2020)

To create Worcester School Committee operational norms.

Mr. Monfredo suggested review of the norms from the Massachusetts Association of School Committee and consider possible amendment for the following year.

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that pages 6, 7 and 8 of Annex B of the backup be forwarded to School Committee to fill out and forward back to the Clerk of the School Committee to be discussed at a future meeting of the Standing Committee.

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

Mr. Monfredo requested that Annex A of the backup be forwarded to School Committee members.

Mrs. Clancey requested that Ms. Novick forward to the Clerk of the School Committee the norms that she has from other school districts.

gb #1-35 - Administration (January 25, 2021)

To consider approval of the proposed 2021-22 Student Handbook of the Worcester Public Schools.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the last sentence in the first paragraph be deleted under Rule 14 - Cell Phones, Electronic Devices, and Laser Pointing Devices as follows:

**Rule 14. - Cell Phones, Electronic Devices, and Laser Pointing Devices**

While on school premises or at a school sponsored event during the school day, a student shall not, without expressed permission of appropriate

school personnel, use any cell phone, smart phone, tablet, camera or any other type of electronic device which may potentially be disruptive of school activities or a distraction to students. Electronic devices shall include any cell phone, smart phone, tablet or anything powered by electricity and is suitable for communicating any oral, voice, audio or text messages or postings or for recording or communicating any audio, voice, picture, image or video imagery.

**Students are not permitted to have their cell phones or electronic devices while in school unless permitted by a school staff member.**

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

On a roll call of 3-0, pages 0 through 33 in the Student Handbook were approved as amended.

gb #1-50 - Ms. McCullough/Miss Biancheria//Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/  
Mr. Monfredo (January 25, 2021)

Request that the Administration review camera use procedures regarding privacy, legal and family contract options.

Attorney Tobin stated in her backup that the district does not require that cameras be turned on due to privacy issues. However, she stated that the Administration would like all students to turn their cameras on for attendance purposes.

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the Administration encourage students to have their cameras on during class and draft a Camera Policy for students to have their cameras on during attendance.

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

HOLD

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION**

gb #0-59  
gb #0-223

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that gb #0-59 and gb #0-223 be held for discussion at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues on April 27, 2021.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough), the motion was approved.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the amended School Committee’s action of the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

9. The Standing Committee on **School and Student Performance** met virtually on Monday, March 29, 2021 at 4:34 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

gb #1-92 - Mr. Monfredo (March 10, 2021)

Request that the Administration establish an advisory committee to include personnel, community representatives and experts in the field of student health to discuss a later starting time for secondary students, or move the time forward by 30 minutes for everyone.

Motion gb #1-3 - Mr. Monfredo (January 7, 2021)

Request that the Administration consider forming a committee to study the feasibility of changing the secondary school start time to 8:00 a.m. and provide a report to the full committee in the first week of March.

(These items were considered together.)

Chairman Novick and Mr. Monfredo referenced studies performed over decades on the subject of later secondary start times and the positive impact on student performance. Some conclusions were:

- improved attendance rates
- decreased tardiness
- increased standardized test scores
- decreased automobile accidents
- decreased depression
- improved mental health
- decreased substance abuse and
- decreased health issues

Superintendent Binienda provided examples of situations that could potentially be impacted by a later start time which include:

- Innovation Pathways Program at WTHS
- travel to sporting events
- secondary students responsible for younger siblings after school
- Early College classes and
- transportation

Mrs. Clancey asked if there was any data on the impact of later start times at Sullivan and Forest Grove middle schools. Mrs. Kuriacose stated that an analysis could be done, but due to the different demographics, culture and climate at those schools, the results may not necessarily reflect that the data is due to the later start time.

Vice-Chairman Biancheria requested that students and teachers provide their feedback on the issue.

Chairman Novick made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a list of the ending times of all schools within the sporting leagues that WPS teams compete against.

Request that the Administration conduct a student survey to include the following:

- How many secondary students are responsible for younger siblings after school?
- How many students work after school and provide the shift times?

Vice-Chairman Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a list containing a random sampling of secondary school start times for schools in Massachusetts and the other five states in New England.

Request that the Administration provide a list of the elementary dismissal times.

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

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION**

gb #1-92

Motion gb #1-3

Ms. Novick made the following amendment to her motion:

Request that the Administration conduct a student survey to include the following:

- the number of secondary students who are responsible for younger siblings **or relatives** after school
- the number of students who work after school and provide the shift times

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough), the motion was approved.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the amended School Committee's action of the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

10. **PERSONNEL**

1-14 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RETIREMENT of the person named below:

Brian, Dara, teacher at Worcester East Middle School, effective March 12, 2021

On a roll call, the vote to file Personnel item 1-14 was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

11. gb #0-286.7 - Administration/Mayor Petty/Miss Biancheria/  
Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick  
(March 22, 2021)

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



gb #1-100 - Mr. Monfredo  
(March 19, 2021)

Request that the Administration provide a report at each meeting on the COVID-19 statistics to include:

the number of students  
the number of staff (schools impacted)  
the number of students involved in sports

gb #1-112 - Miss Biancheria  
(March 31, 2021)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the newly implemented COVID-19 program for testing of students.

**(These items were considered together.)**

Superintendent Binienda stated that during the week of March 26 through April 1<sup>st</sup>, there were 7 staff members that tested positive for COVID-19, one teacher was remote and the other 6 were in the school buildings. Seventeen staff members were in close contact with someone who had COVID-19 and needed to be quarantined. Forty-six students have tested positive for COVID-19, thirty-nine were remote and seven were in the school buildings and one needed to be quarantined. During the week of April 2<sup>nd</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup>, there were 10 staff members who tested positive for COVID-19, one staff member was remote, nine were in the school buildings and fifteen were quarantined. Forty students tested positive for COVID-19, thirteen were remote, twenty-seven in the school buildings and six quarantined.

Mr. Pezzella provided a brief overview of the COVID-19 protocol and the notification program in place at the schools. The response team is monitoring the statistics closely to prevent the spread of it.

Superintendent Binienda stated that hybrid learning is going well and students are happy to be back in the classrooms. The Administration is prepared for the last group of students to return to school on May 3, 2021.

Mayor Petty asked how many school buildings were impacted by individuals who contacted COVID-19.

Mr. Pezzella stated that almost every school had at least one case documented.

Miss Biancheria asked if the Administration could provide a brief summary of the Family Health Center's testing program.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Administration continues to meet with members from the Family Health Center to review what has happened during the week and how they can improve the COVID-19 procedures. Once a student is suspected to have COVID-19, the parents are notified to pick the student up and a referral to the Family Health Center is given to the parent. The sooner a child is tested, the quicker contact tracing can be done.

Mr. Pezzella stated that only one game was cancelled since the opening of the sports season.

Ms. Novick requested that the Administration provide weekly clear COVID-19 case numbers on the website, reminding staff members of the mask protocol and make accommodations for students who celebrate Ramadan which starts the week of April 12, 2021.

Superintendent Binienda stated that a message goes out to teachers weekly reminding them of the mask protocol and that she would forward an email to principals and teachers requesting they make accommodations for students celebrating Ramadan.

Mayor Petty asked how many parents/students have responded to the remote learning survey.

Superintendent Binienda stated that approximately 11,247 have responded to it out of 16,000 students. Principals will be calling the families who have not responded to inquire if their child(ren) will be returning to hybrid learning. There are approximately 5,800 surveys that need to be filled out. If a parent/student fills out the survey after the deadline, that student will be put on a waiting list to return to school.

Ms. Novick requested that gb #0-286.7 be included on the April 15, 2021 agenda.

On a roll call, the vote to hold gb #0-286.7 for the meeting of April 15, 2021 and refer gb #1-100 and gb #1-112 to the Administration were as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-82.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo  
(March 31, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to consider a kindergarten 2 class for those students not ready for grade 1 and provide an update in the first week of May.

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

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-99 - Administration  
(March 19, 2021)

To review, for informational purposes the Job Description for a Building Automation System Controls Coordinator.

Ms. Novick made the following amendment to the item:

**Request that the School Committee approve** the Job Description for a Building Automation System Controls Coordinator.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough), the motion was approved.

On a roll call, the item as amended was approved as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-101 - Mr. Foley  
(March 23, 2021)

To discuss the use of school buses operated solely on electric power either through acquisition, conversion or a combination of both.

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, Mr. Monfredo,  
Ms. Novick, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-102 - Miss Biancheria  
(March 23, 2021)

Request that the Administration discuss with the City's Department of Public Works the overhead bridge near Belmont Community School about cleaning the surrounding areas of both the entrance and exit ramps including the painting/art work.

Miss Biancheria stated that Worcester Public Schools should work in partnership with the City of Worcester to clean, paint and maintain the bridge near Belmont Community School.

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, Mr. Monfredo,  
Ms. Novick, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-103 - Ms. McCullough  
(March 25, 2021)

To set a date to recognize the following staff, teachers and Administrators of the Worcester UNITES program:

**Coaches**

<u>Burncoat High School</u>	<u>North High School</u>
Isabella Montalvo	Raven Falcon
Elijah Villanueva	Rafael Magalhaes
Santos Dorneles	
Riley West	
Scott Zalomis	
<u>Worcester Technical High School</u>	
Vera Kacevich	

**Teachers**

<u>Burncoat High School</u>	<u>Lincoln Street School</u>
Jeff Conner	Joanne Daly
<u>North High School</u>	
Jacob Gross	
Jeremy Zglobicki	

**Administrators**

<u>Burncoat Middle School</u>	<u>North High School</u>
Margarita Baez	Mike Cardin

**Program Manager**\_- Lisa Leach

On a roll call, the vote to set the date of Thursday, May 6, 2021 was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-104 - Ms. McCullough  
(March 25, 2021)

To explore the feasibility of including recess for students in grades seven and eight.

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

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-106 - Administration  
(March 25, 2021)

To consider approval of the following courses:

- Introduction to Gender Studies Computer Science for Innovators and Makers
- Freshman Advancement and Success Tools 1-4
- Latin American Studies
- Music Production & Engineering Intro to Dance Non-Magnet
- Integrated Theater
- Performing Arts Teaching Assistant
- Peace Building Computer Science for Innovators and Makers
- Introduction to Materials Science
- Spanish Language & Literature Level 3

Ms. Novick stated that the Administration should set deadlines for submitting new courses so they can be properly referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Administration is aware of the process for the referral of courses but teachers put the requests for the new courses in later than expected.

On a roll call, the vote to approve the courses and refer the item to Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports to discuss the proper recommendations of course approvals was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-107 - Administration  
(March 25, 2021)

To approve the following prior fiscal year payments:

1. \$5,897.40 to MacMillan Holdings, LLC.
2. \$4,012.40 to Follett School Solutions, Inc.
3. \$409.84 to Pocket Nurse Enterprises, Inc.
4. \$41,015.04 to a Special Education parent for tuition payments for FY19 and FY20.

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

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-108 - Administration  
(March 31, 2021)

To accept the Grant from FY20 Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grants for ESOL-Enhanced Training and Placement Programs.

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

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-109 - Administration  
(March 31, 2021)

To review, for informational purposes, the Job Description for a Director of Payroll, Procurement, and Accounts Payable Services.

Ms. Novick made the following amendment to the item:

**Request that the School Committee approve** the Job Description for a Director of Payroll, Procurement, and Accounts Payable Services.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough), the motion was approved.

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

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.



gb #1-110 - Ms. Novick  
(March 31, 2021)

Request administration provide an update on student transportation.

Ms. Novick asked what the contractual agreement is for paying Durham School Services and their provision of services.

Mr. Allen stated that due to the anticipation of the return to school model, which was originally scheduled for January 25th, the system started paying Durham School Services on December 1, 2020. This allowed them to get the busses inspected, their drivers back on schedule and everything they would need to begin transporting students. The system began paying for the drivers on January 4, 2021. The Administration continued to meet weekly with representatives from Durham School Services to discuss the numbers of drivers that they have available to the Worcester Public Schools which can range from 139 to 147 drivers. He also stated that more information will be provided on this topic at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Ms. Novick asked what the payment structure was in regards to reimbursements from Durham School Services.

Mr. Allen stated that the agreement that was reached with Durham School Services was that the system would pay them no less than 50 percent of the 138 contracted busses. The intent of that method was to ensure some stability while schools were fully remote. On January 4, 2021, the system paid 77 percent of the daily rate which also guaranteed that the drivers got paid. The Worcester Public Schools is using fewer busses than anticipated. Therefore, the school system does receive some savings. The Administration's biggest challenge was combining bus routes which increased ridership on some busses. The planning for the students to return to school on May 3rd is going to be critical. Based on students' selection of returning to school or remaining remote the system to know

the number of busses needed. The Administration has requested that Durham School Services provide, at the meeting on Tuesday the number of busses they can commit for May 3, 2021.

M. Foley asked if the Worcester Public Schools would be reimbursed from Durham School Services for the 13 weeks and the 36 bus driver vacancies that the system started paying for on January 4, 2021.

Mr. Allen stated that Durham School Services had submitted copies of their payroll which were verified during those weeks. The Administration is working with the Law Department to change the wording of the contract.

Mayor Petty requested that the Administration provide a detailed report regarding the current bus routes, the pickup and drop off bus stops and how many students missed the bus.

Mr. Foley stated that Mr. Allen would be providing that information for the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and it would be reported out at the full School Committee meeting on Thursday, May 6, 2021.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough), the item was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations.

gb #1-111 - Mayor Petty  
(March 31, 2021)

To consider an amendment to number 29 of the School Committee Rules as follows:

- The Clerk of the School Committee will forward by blind carbon copy the items for the agenda for each School Committee meeting to the School Committee members on the Wednesday prior to each Friday's delivery inquiring as to interest in co-sponsoring the various items on the agenda.
- The School Committee members will complete a form and forward it back to the Clerk of the School Committee on or before the Monday prior to each meeting by putting their initials next to the item(s) they wish to co-sponsor.

- The Mayor will read the names of the co-sponsor(s) for each item prior to its discussion at each School Committee meeting.

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

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-113 - Miss Biancheria  
(March 31, 2021)

Request that the Administration review the handling of breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria, classroom, pick up or brought in.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the protocol for how breakfast and lunches are handled varies from school to school but students can pick up their breakfast as they walk into the school building and go to their classroom to eat it. If the students eat lunches in the cafeteria, there are chairs marked "do not sit here" to maintain proper distancing. The students can also eat lunch at their desk and are encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands before eating.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Administration consider having the grounds crew help with mowing lawns at school buildings where there is only one custodian.

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

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-114 - Miss Biancheria (March 31, 2021)

Request that the Administration review the sites for high school graduations and include the dates and times.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the middle school graduations will be held at Foley Stadium and the high school ones will be held at Polar Park. The following are the dates and times for the graduations:

Middle Schools at Foley Stadium:

- Sullivan Middle School – Friday, June 11, 2021 at 1:00 PM
- Worcester East Middle - Friday, June 11, 2021 at 9:00 AM
- Claremont Academy (8) - Monday, June 14, 2021 at 12:00 PM
- University Park Campus (Grade 8) - Monday June 14, 2021 at 9:00 AM
- Forest Grove Middle - Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 9:00 AM
- Burncoat Middle School - Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 1:00 PM

High Schools at Polar Park

- Doherty Memorial High School - Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:00 PM
- South High Community School - Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM
- Burncoat High School - Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM
- Worcester Technical High School - Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 6:00 PM
- North High School - Friday, June 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM

Claremont Academy (12) - Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM  
Gerald Creamer Center - Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM  
University Park Campus School - Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 4:00 PM

St. Casimir – Friday, June 11, 2021 at 2:00 PM in a private room at Polar Park.

Superintendent Binienda stated that, if it should rain during the middle school graduations, another time and/or date will be scheduled. If it rains during a high school graduation, parents are asked to bring an umbrella and students will be brought inside where the graduation will commence and be broadcasted out to the field to a large screen.

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

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-115 - Mrs. Clancey  
(March 31, 2021)

Request that the Administration provide an update on transitioning high schools back to 5 day in-person learning.

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, Mr. Monfredo,  
Ms. Novick, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

gb #1-116 - Mrs. Clancey  
(March 31, 2021)

Request that the Administration consider renaming the bullying hotline or establishing a separate line of communication to provide a safe and confidential reporting line for students to anonymously report incidents.

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, Mr. Monfredo,  
Ms. Novick, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

Mayor Petty stated that it is the Regional Environmental Council's birthday celebration on Saturday from 8:00 to 2:00 p.m.

On a roll call 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough), it was moved to

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, Mr. Monfredo,  
Ms. Novick, Mayor Petty 6

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Ms. McCullough  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

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

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS  
Clerk  
(April 28, 2021)

ITEM - aor #1-14  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 15, 2021.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (23 pages) contains a copy of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 15, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 5:05 p.m. in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Thursday, April 15, 2021.

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

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

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #1-122 - Administration  
(April 7, 2021)

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker's Compensation-Cafeteria Helper, 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 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); Educational Association of Worcester, Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Educational Association of Worcester, Instructional Assistants; Educational Association of Worcester, Parent Liaisons; Educational Association of Worcester, Tutors; and Educational Association of Worcester, Therapy Assistants.



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

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8368, Interactive Process and Requests for Workplace Accommodations.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester vs. Worcester Public Schools, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, MCAD Docket No. 20WEM02609 and EEOC Docket No. 16C-2021-00275.

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); Educational Association of Worcester, Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Educational Association of Worcester, Instructional Assistants; Educational Association of Worcester, Parent Liaisons; Educational Association of Worcester, Tutors; and Educational Association of Worcester, Therapy Assistants; NAGE R1-156, 52 Week Secretaries; NAGE R1-16, Cafeteria Workers; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176, Custodians; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176, Educational Secretaries; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176/Unit D, Computer Technicians; IUPE Local - 125 Plumbers and Steamfitters; IUPE Local -135, Tradesmen; Massachusetts Nurses Association, Worcester School Nurses.

On a roll call, the vote to recess to Executive Session was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss Biancheria  $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 absent Miss Biancheria), it was moved to recess to Executive Session.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 5:10 p.m. to 6:19 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:20 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Miss Biancheria

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:30 p.m.

2. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #1-119 - Administration  
(April 7, 2021)

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

The item was filed.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

c&p #1-6 -Clerk  
(March 31, 2021)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of City View School's faculty and staff to donate sick days to a colleague.

On a roll call the item was referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues as follows:

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

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

The motion carried.

The following item was taken out of order:

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #1-121 -Mayor Petty/Mrs. Clancey/  
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick  
(April 9, 2021)

To consider a report from the Worcester Mayoral Commission on Latino Education and Advancement.

Mayor Petty stated that in May 2018, he asked Dr. Pedraja and Ms. Marion to gather and analyze data from the Worcester Public Schools and other sources, to listen to the community and engage with other Worcester leaders and stakeholders in a productive citywide dialogue. Those findings and recommendations were provided by Dr. Luis Pedraja, President of Quinsigamond Community College and Mary Jo Marion, Assistant Vice-President of Urban Studies and Latino Education at Worcester State University in the presentation.

Dr. Pedraja stated that over the course of the commission from Mayor Petty, there have been eleven meetings and four at-large community sessions. The data analyzed revealed that 43.1% of Worcester Public Schools' students are Latinx and that there are significant barriers and equity issues. He provided recommendations for improvement

which included rebuilding trust, transparency, equity, accountability and quality of life.

Ms. Marion stated that the Latinx community does not feel represented and would like to be seen and heard more. She recommended that there be no suspensions for students in grades K-3.

Dr. Pedraja stated that the report also recommended an equity audit of the WPS and would require that all WPS employees attend implicit bias training sessions. He also offered suggestions for curriculum changes and culturally responsive outreach.

In conclusion, Dr. Pedraja and Ms. Marion recommended that the Strategic Plan include an Equity Advisory Committee and that the WPS should implement a Comprehensive Sex Education curriculum.

Mr. Foley stated that he was happy to see the collaboration with community groups and families. He asked for the commission's help in providing outreach to Latinx families regarding enrollment in pre-k and Head Start

Mr. Monfredo suggested that the commission also seek assistance from parents to enroll their child(ren) in summer school programs and also would like to see Latinx college students be recruited for mentoring.

Ms. Novick asked that the Mayor forward this report to the City Council.

Jasmine Owusu, School Committee Student Representative, stated that she appreciated the report and felt that the information reflected what she and other students of color have experienced.

On a roll call, the item was referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues and a copy of the report be sent to the City Manager and City Council 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.

Mayor Petty allowed Jennifer O'Connor, representing Durham School Services Drivers, Monitors and Mechanics, as an individual, not on behalf of the union, to speak out of order to the motion for a Breach of Contract that was voted on affirmatively by the members of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations. She stated that due to the pandemic, payments were made to the drivers, but not enough money to support their families, therefore they were forced to find other jobs to supplement their income. She also stated that drivers are being offered jobs within the WPS system and alleged that the WPS is using the pandemic to discredit Durham School Services. She further stated that there are many routing problems within the transportation department compromising the safety of the students.

5. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #1-7 - Administration  
(April 7, 2021)

RENNIE CENTER-PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Rennie Center partnered with the WPS in the formulation of the Strategic Plan and was given the task of looking at data, working with and interviewing personnel regarding the progress being made on the Strategic Plan.

Annelise Eaton, Research Director at the Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy, presented a mid-point progress report focusing on three sections:

Welcoming Schools

This section focused on the climate of schools in order to make students and families feel welcome along with discipline and attendance. She indicated that attendance was better and there was a decline in punitive discipline rates, but there is still a significant racial gap.

### Academic Excellence

This section focused on career exploration. The work with Innovation Pathways and AVID were presented as bright spots. Culturally Responsive Teaching and elementary math instruction were areas in need of continued growth.

### Culture of Innovation

This section focused on evidence based best practices and support of school leaders. The Reggio Emilia early childhood opportunity in Head Start and ST Math were highlighted as positives. Aligning and adapting high quality curricula were areas that still need to be addressed.

Mr. Monfredo asked for an update on The Worcester Future Teachers Program.

Superintendent Binienda stated that she met with Worcester State University on continuing the Worcester Future Teachers Program. Due to COVID, there will be no summer program for WFT, so a two-day program will be held. There is a partnership agreement in progress with Generation Teach which would involve 250 WPS students next summer.

Mr. Monfredo suggested recruiting more Latinx students for the Generation Teach program and also would like to have them as mentors assigned to assist on the attendance issues facing Latinx students. He also suggested having businesses provide incentives and rewards to Latinx students to encourage greater attendance.

Mr. Foley requested that representatives from the Worcester Education Collaborative and the Worcester Research Bureau be present at the next update of the Strategic Plan in order to provide community perspective and feedback.

Ms. Novick stated that having a five-year Strategic Plan is no longer considered among best practices within other school districts. The district should be looking at building a culture within the schools that encourages students to stay and become teachers as well as enticing them to want to part of the WPS.

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

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-286.8 - Administration/Mayor Petty/  
Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/  
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/  
Ms. Novick  
(April 9, 2021)

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

Superintendent Binienda provided an update by stating that hybrid learning has been successful. More than seventy percent of students will be returning full time on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and she attributes that to the success of hybrid learning. She reported that there has been an increase in COVID cases from last week's report.

Last week's **staff** numbers  
10 (1 remote and 9 within buildings)  
15 quarantined

This week's **staff** numbers  
7 (all within buildings)  
13 quarantined

Last week's **student** numbers  
40 (13 remote and 27 within buildings)  
6 quarantined

This week's **student** numbers  
60 (25 remote and 35 within buildings)  
4 quarantined

Superintendent Binienda also provided information on hotpots that have been overheating. She provided the Verizon phone number to call (1-800-540-4263) regarding this issue and stated that the information will be posted on the website along with the CDC Guidelines for April school vacation travel.

Ms. Novick asked whether Night Life programs will be happening this Spring. Superintendent Binienda stated that there are some limited programs that will be conducted virtually.

Ms. McCullough asked if there is plan to inform families about the process for returning to school fulltime. After much discussion, it was decided to hold a Public Forum on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

On a roll call, the item was held for updates 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 #0-328.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(April 5, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on the Adult Learning Center application process and success of remote learning.

On a roll call, the item was accepted and filed 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 #1-7.1 - Administration/Mrs. Clancey/  
Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick  
(April 6, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to work with community clinical providers to provide additional in-school clinical services to students.

Mrs. Clancey requested that the Administration continue to reach out to community partners in order to provide in-house counseling.

On a roll call, the item was accepted and filed 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 #1-20.1 - Administration/Mr. Foley  
(April 6, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide safety protocol signage in all school buildings

On a roll call, the item was accepted and filed 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 #1-29.1 - Administration/Mrs. Clancey/  
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/  
Ms. Novick  
(April 6, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on the Pre-K programs offered throughout the district for the 2021-22 school year and the community outreach planned for enrollment.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Worcester Housing Authority be added to the list of community outreach partners.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the cost that would be incurred to convert the half day pre-k programs to full day.

On a collective roll call, the motion was approved and the item was accepted and filed 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 #1-62.1 - Administration/Mrs. Clancey/  
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms.  
Novick  
(April 7, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on trainings for School Adjustment Counselors and Counselors prior to the reopening of schools.

Mrs. Clancey stated that some of the School Adjustment Counselors were looking for more support and additional training and were told it may not be possible due to budget constraints. She asked if the Administration has reached out to them for their input. Mrs. Mahoney stated that the district has been providing open house/office hours where staff discuss what they would like to see in the area of training.

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an update on the Bridge for Resilient Youth Program at Woodland Academy.

Ms. Novick asked to amend Mrs. Clancey's motion by adding "**prior to the Budget**".

On a collective roll call, the item was and accepted and filed and the motion was approved as amended as follow:

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 #1-104 -Ms. McCullough/Mrs. Clancey/  
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick  
(March 25, 2021)

To explore the feasibility of including recess for students in grades seven and eight.

On a roll call, the item was referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports 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 #1-120 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(April 7, 2021)

To respond to the House Ways and Means proposed FY22 Budget.

Ms. Novick stated that although the local aid agreement implements SOA at 1/6 of the goal rate rather than 1/7, it does not allow the district to use the higher 2019-20 enrollment.

Mr. Allen stated that the 1/6 provides a 2.1 million dollar increase in funding above what the Governor proposed. Overall, the WPS Budget goes up almost 2.2 million dollars more than what was being used from the Governor's budget. It does not fund hold harmless enrollment, but 40 million dollars has been set aside statewide for a reserve fund for districts in November when enrollment numbers are known. The WPS Budget was reduced by 16.1 million dollars from the Budget that was passed last June and this House Budget increases it by 16.1 million dollars, but with cost increases and inflation, there will be a structural deficit. He stated that the Superintendent and the City Manager will be working on a multi-year plan combining ESSER funds with the FY22 Budget that will be presented as one comprehensive spending plan for FY22.

Ms. Novick stated that WPS will be dealing with a structural deficit in the first year of SOA implementation if the Legislature does not fix the hold harmless enrollment issue.

Ms. Novick made the following motions:

Request that the Administration strongly advocate within the next twenty-four hours to the Local Delegation that they put something into the House Budget that would actually do hold harmless enrollment.

Request that the Administration also forward letters to MASC, MASS, MASBO and MMA to get hold harmless enrollment into the House Budget.

A copy of the letter is as follows:

TO:  
FROM: Helen A. Friel  
DATE: April 16, 2021

At the School Committee Meeting that was held on Thursday, April 15, 2021, the following item was discussed:

To respond to the House Ways and Means proposed FY22 Budget.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee urge (organization) to join in advocating now for enrollment hold harmless—using the higher of 2019 or 2020 enrollment by category—in the House budget.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office.

HAF/ers  
cc: Superintendent Binienda

On a roll call of 7-0, the motions were approved.

Mayor Petty suggested that the Administration solicit input from the community during the Budget decision process.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the members of the School Committee also place calls to the Local Delegation.

On a roll call, the item was filed 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. **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The Standing Committee on **Finance and Operations** met virtually at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021 at the Durkin Administration Building in Room 410.

gb #9-11 -Administration (January 2, 2019)

To review the annual audit and agreed upon procedures on the Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed Upon Procedures for Student Activity Fund Testing for fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 prepared by CliftonLarsenAllen, LLP.

Matthew Hunt, Principal from CliftonLarsenAllen LLP, presented the findings on the Independent Accountant's Report of Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures for Student Activity Fund Testing for the fiscal years 2017 and 2018. He stated that each school provides its bank record reconciliations which should be done within 30 days of the month's end. He highlighted six minor findings and reported that none of them were found to be significant enough to warrant any action.

Mr. Allen stated that, in the past, the schools used Quicken to track their Student Activity Funds and that the district is now using an online platform for Student Activity Funds in order to support their account activities.

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

gb #9-267 -Administration (August 21, 2019)

To review the annual audit and agreed-upon procedures report on compliance and internal controls for the City of Worcester, including the Worcester Public Schools, for the year that ended on June 30, 2019 which included the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) A-133 Reports and the Management Letter.

Mr. Hunt also presented the annual audit and agreed upon procedures report on compliance and internal controls for the City of Worcester, including the Worcester Public Schools. He spoke specifically to the review of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Title I Grant and stated that there were no findings associated with that Grant.

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

gb #9-269 -Administration (August 21, 2019)

To review the annual audit and agreed-upon procedures on the Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education End of Year Financial Report for fiscal year 2018-19.

Karen Spinelli, CPA representing Spinelli Accountants and Advisors reported on the findings based on the Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education End of Year Financial Report for fiscal year 2018-19.

Under the Summary of Procedures and Finding for Procedure 2, Finding 2, there were two minor findings and Ms. Spinelli stated the numbers have been amended.

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

gb #9-260.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Mr. O'Connell (January 6, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on the mold problem at Columbus Park Preparatory Academy and indicate whether or not the City Health Department has provided any recommendations for remediation of this problem.

Mr. Allen provided an update on Columbus Park which included replacement of windows, radon testing and ongoing work with Honeywell.

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

ROS #0-6 -Administration (May 15, 2020)

UPDATE ON THE STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIS) PROCUREMENT PROJECT – Center for Educational Leadership and Technology (CELT)

Mr. Walton stated that the District is on schedule with the RFP for the new Student Information System. He anticipates that the system will be fully in place by the Fall of 2022.

On a roll call of 3-0, the update was accepted and the item was held for further updates.

gb #0-33 - Mr. Foley/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick (January 8, 2020)

To include a standing item for "Transportation Update" at each Finance and Operations committee meeting with information provided regarding the problems facing student transportation and improvements experienced.

Mr. Allen stated that the Administration meets weekly with representatives from Durham School Services to discuss the number of drivers that are available to the Worcester Public Schools. The number of buses needed will be based upon the number of students choosing to return to school or remaining remote.



Ms. McCullough wondered what the options would be in the event of a shortage.

Mr. Allen offered potential options which included:

- subcontracting drivers from other companies
- moving tiered school times around
- reducing the number of students who may be eligible for transportation

Mr. Allen stated that all WPS owned buses have been used every day since the start of the school year.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide weekly transportation updates to include information from the Durham meetings and the status of Durham bus drivers.

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

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration and School Committee work with the City Solicitor to produce a notice of Breach of Contract letter to be sent to Durham School Services highlighting the Breach of Contract reaffirming the Worcester Public Schools' legal and financial rights and raising the imperative nature of the May 3, 2021 return to school and the need to have the full allotment of bus drivers in place by that time.

On a roll call of 2-1 (nay Miss Biancheria), the motion was approved.

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was held for additional updates.

gb #0-58 - Ms. Novick/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo (January 29, 2020)

To discuss the proposal to move city polling locations into the Worcester Public Schools.

Superintendent Binienda stated that last year the gymnasiums were used while the students and staff were fully remote, but it may be a challenge this year due to the fact that there is no way to tell what the COVID situation will be in the Fall.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report, as soon as it becomes available, on the potential traffic

situation, COVID protocols and student/staff safety issues of allowing Worcester Public Schools to be used as polling locations.

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

**(Items gb #0-267, gb #0-346.1, gb #0-353 and motion gb #0-138 were taken together).**

gb #0-267 - Administration (August 18, 2020)

To review the status of the FY21 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

Mr. Allen spoke to the status of the FY21 Budget and appropriate transfers.

It was moved to approve the following transfers:

<b>Amount</b>	<b>From Account</b>	<b>Account Title</b>	<b>To Account</b>	<b>Account Title</b>
\$200,000	500132-92000	Tuition	500130-92000	Personal Services
\$100,000	500132-92000	Tuition	500-92204	Instructional Materials
\$250,000	500-91120	Maintenance Salaries	500152-92000	Facilities Ordinary Maintenance
\$900,000	500123-96000	Health Insurance	500-91111	Teacher Salaries
\$400,000	540103-92000	Transportation	500130-92000	Personal Services
\$300,000	540103-92000	Transportation	500136-92000	Miscellaneous Educational OM
\$400,000	540103-92000	Transportation	540103-93000	Transportation

On a roll call of 3-0, the transfers were approved and the item was held.

gb #0-346.1 - Administration/Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo (November 10, 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.

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

motion (gb #0-138.5) Ms. Novick (December 17, 2020)

500130-92000 Personal Services (Non-Salary)

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

Mr. Allen stated that \$37, 500 will be used for the payment of caps, gowns and tassels and that the cost of the AP exams would be provided through the Title IV Grant.

On a roll call of 3-0, items gb #0-346.1, gb #0-353 and motion gb #0-138.5 were filed.

gb #0-299 - Mayor Petty/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough (September 10, 2020)

Request that the Superintendent/Administration develop a Transition Plan to include HVAC upgrades to resume in-person educational services for high need special education students prior to the end of the first quarter.

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

gb #1-44 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo (January 26, 2021)

Request administration propose for Committee consideration a priority list of facilities projects to improve the health and safety of school buildings

using the new Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

Mr. Allen stated that he, along with Mr. Bedard, Superintendent Binienda and the City Manager, have discussed ways in which the ESSER funds can be used to improve school facilities by looking at what strategic improvements can be made for capital improvements to school ventilation systems and renovation projects.

Miss Biancheria inquired as to when the School Committee would be able to make their suggestions on how to use the ESSER funds for small line items such as increased security cameras, use of school auditoriums and furniture.

Mr. Foley stated that the ESSER funds are to be used specifically for COVID related issues.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide updates to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations as they are developing the budget for next year to include plans for the ESSER funds for next year and subsequent years.

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

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION**

gb #1-44

Mr. Foley made an amendment to the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide updates to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations as they are developing the budget for next year to include plans for the ESSER funds for next year and subsequent years.

Request that the words **“and School Committee”** be added.

On a roll call, the motion as amended was approved 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 #0-33

On a roll call of 5-2 (nays Miss Biancheria and Mr. Monfredo), the following motion was approved:

Request that the Administration and School Committee work with the City Solicitor to produce a notice of Breach of Contract letter to be sent to Durham School Services highlighting the Breach of Contract reaffirming the Worcester Public Schools’ legal and financial rights and raising the imperative nature of the May 3, 2021 return to school and the need to have the full allotment of bus drivers in place by that time.

Mr. Foley requested a vote to reconsider the motion.

On a roll call of 2-5 (yeas Miss Biancheria and Mr. Monfredo), the motion for reconsideration was defeated.

On a roll call of 7-0, the School Committee approved the Action Sheet as amended.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to suspend rules to allow Mr. Monfredo to make the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward letters to principals in recognition of Principals’ Day on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

On a roll call, the vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 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

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS  
Clerk  
(April 28, 2021)

ITEM - aor #1-15  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (2 pages) contains a copy of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 6:35 p.m. in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Mayor Petty

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #1-123 - Administration  
(April 20, 2021)

To conduct a community forum to respond to pre-prepared questions relative to the full return to in-person learning for Pre-k to Grade 8 students.

Superintendent Binienda provided an outline for the May 3, 2021 full in-person learning for students in PreK-8. She stated that the Commissioner of Education announced that students in grades 9-12 are now given the option to return to full in-person learning starting May 17th. In order to prepare for that, a survey was posted on the website for the parents/guardians to choose full in-person learning or remain remote. The survey closes on Tuesday, May 4th at 6:00 p.m.

**You can access the full meeting by clicking the following link:**

<https://view.earthchannel.com/PlayerController.aspx?&PGD=worceschma&eID=821>

Other salient points regarding the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Pre-K returned included that:

- The Worcester Public Schools will continue to provide full remote learning to all interested families through June 15, 2021.
- Guidance from DESE regarding the distance between students in the classroom and on the buses was updated on April 21, 2021 from 6 feet apart to 3 feet.
- All updates from DESE are posted on the website at worcesterschools.org, through social media and Connect-Ed messages.
- The number of students returning to school for in-person learning is 11,329.
- The number of students continuing with remote learning is 4,541.
- The number of students that have not responded yet is 532.
- Classroom teachers will teach students who are in-person and/or remote learners and will develop daily instruction for all.
- Both in-person and remote students will participate simultaneously in synchronous instruction with their teachers daily, whenever appropriate.
- Students are requested to bring two masks to school each day.
- Masks will be expected to be worn at all times, except during mask breaks.
- The number of people within a closed area will be limited to reduce exposure to COVID-19. Transition and directional plans have been created for safe movements throughout the building.
- Desks and tables are three feet apart and face in the same direction.
- Students will have seating assignments for contact tracing, if necessary.
- There is a cleaning protocol in place for disinfecting shared supplies between uses.
- Lockers are not being used during this phase of reopening; coats and backpacks are allowed in the classrooms.
- Students are required to bring their chargers, earbuds and district issued devices fully charged to school each day.
- Students are not allowed to use a personal device in school.



- All students/families should complete a symptom self-check via the health portal daily before leaving for school.
- Arrivals and dismissal times are staggered to avoid large groups entering and exiting the building at the same time.
- Students will go directly to classrooms when entering the building.
- All water bubblers and fountains are shut off.
- Food service people provide water during the school day.
- Breakfast and lunch are grab and go or being delivered to the classroom.
- All elementary schools have scheduled recess breaks and are required to wear their masks and maintain social distancing while playing.
- Mask breaks are conducted outside, whenever possible.
- Students must maintain a three feet distance while waiting to board the bus.
- Students should face forward at all times and refrain from eating, singing, shouting, or sharing items while in transit.
- Buses are cleaned and disinfected between all runs and windows stay open.
- An individual who is symptomatic at home should stay home and get tested.
- If a student or staff member is positive, they need to notify the building principal.
- If a student is COVID-19 positive, home with symptoms, or quarantining, they can participate in remote learning.
- A student that is symptomatic on the bus or in school will immediately be brought to the COVID-19 medical waiting room for assessment and wait to be picked up.
- Symptomatic students will require a pickup and will not be allowed to ride the bus home.
- In the event of multiple cases of COVID-19 in the school building, the Administration will:
  - consult with Worcester Regional Department of Public Health
  - review the specific COVID-19 public health metrics for the City of Worcester
  - determine if it is necessary to shut down a classroom, wing, or entire building for a short time by consulting with necessary stakeholders and WPS administration for a final decision
  - inform the community
  - communicate the building reopening plan

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mayor Petty), it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

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

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION  
Administration/Ms. McCullough/  
Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick/  
Mayor Petty  
(April 16, 2021)

CURRENT ITEM - gb #1-103.1  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

1ST ITEM gb #1-103 S.C.MTG. 4-8-21  
2ND ITEM gb #1-103.1 S.C.MTG. 5-6-21

ITEM:

To recognize the following staff, teachers and Administrators of the Worcester UNITES program:

**Coaches**

Burncoat High School

Isabella Montalvo  
Elijah Villanueva  
Riley West  
Scott Zalomis

Worcester Technical High School

Vera Kacevich

North High School

Raven Falcon  
Rafael Magalhaes Santos Dorneles

**Teachers**

Burncoat High School

Jeff Conner

North High School

Jacob Gross  
Jeremy Zglobicki

Lincoln Street School

Joanne Daly

**Administrators**

Burncoat Middle School

Margarita Baez

North High School

Mike Cardin

**Program Manager** - Lisa Leach

ORIGINAL ITEM: Ms. McCullough/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick/  
Mayor Petty (March 25, 2021)

To set a date to recognize the following staff, teachers and Administrators of the Worcester UNITES program: **(Continued on page 2.)**

PRIOR ACTION:

4-8-21 - On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough), it was moved to set the date of Thursday, May 6, 2021.

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Recognize and file.

ORIGINAL ITEM (continued)

**Coaches**

Burncoat High School

Isabella Montalvo  
Elijah Villanueva  
Riley West  
Scott Zalomis

Worcester Technical High School

Vera Kacevich

North High School

Raven Falcon  
Rafael Magalhaes Santos Dorneles

**Teachers**

Burncoat High School

Jeff Conner

North High School

Jacob Gross  
Jeremy Zglobicki

Lincoln Street School

Joanne Daly

**Administrators**

Burncoat Middle School

Margarita Baez

North High School

Mike Cardin

**Program Manager** - Lisa Leach

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION  
Administration  
(April 28, 2021)

CURRENT ITEM - 1-124  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

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

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

File.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
Administration  
(April 22, 2021)

ITEM - ros #1-8  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

FINAL SUMMARY OF THE HEARS GRANT

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (10 pages) contains a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Accept and file.

# Worcester HEARS

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*Healthy Environments And Resilience in Schools*

## Approach, Accomplishments and Next Steps

Worcester Public Schools  
School Committee  
May 6, 2021

**Brandeis**

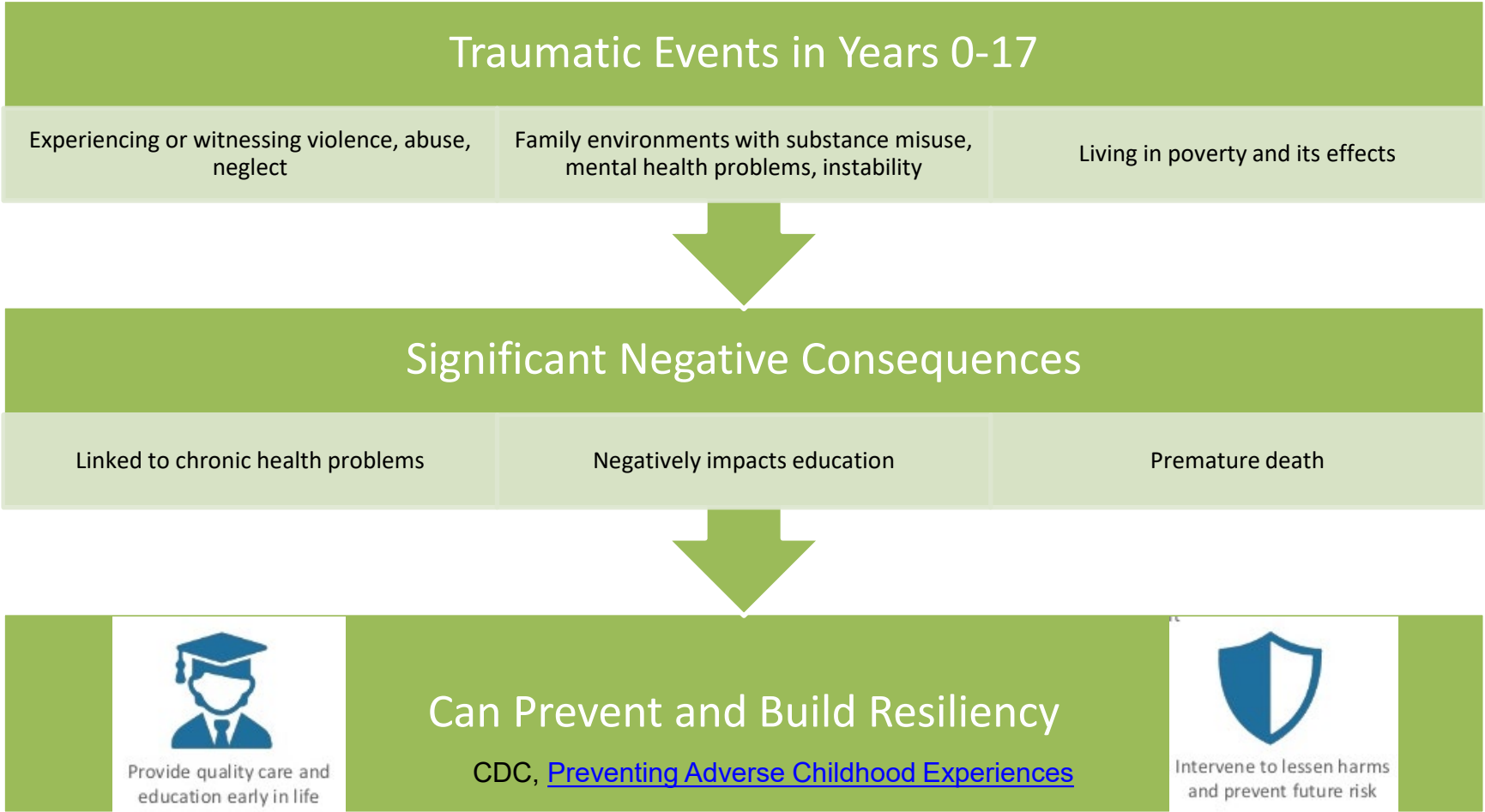
THE HELLER SCHOOL  
FOR SOCIAL POLICY  
AND MANAGEMENT  
Institute for  
Behavioral Health

**WORCESTER**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



THE  
**HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

# Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



# Worcester Public Schools in 2012

High suspension rates – 2x state average

- 4,800 suspensions
- 35,000 hours of lost instruction

Suspensions lead to:

- Long-term learning and education impacts
- Impact on graduation, college, jobs and quality of life

Many suspensions due to classic responses to trauma (fight, flight, freeze)

- Oppositional behavior
- Impulsivity
- Withdrawal/Avoidance



# The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts Provided:



\$1.9 MILLION IN GRANT  
FUNDING  
JAN 2015 TO AUG 2020



SUPPORT FOR GRANT FROM  
THE FRED HARRIS DANIELS  
FOUNDATION



RESULTS ORIENTED  
GRANTMAKING & GRANT  
IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

# Worcester HEARS Brought Universal Trauma Sensitive Approach



Lesley University Courses on Trauma and Flexible Framework



HEARS Support Team/Mental Health Supports



School-based Health Center



Community of Practice

# Worcester HEARS Accomplishments



53 educators took part in Lesley trainings on trauma sensitive schools – 39 successfully completed all four courses



WEC trained additional 246 educators – 97 in WH schools and 149 in other schools



Demonstrated ability to implement comprehensive approach



Renovated and re-opened school-based health center at a middle school and added behavioral health services



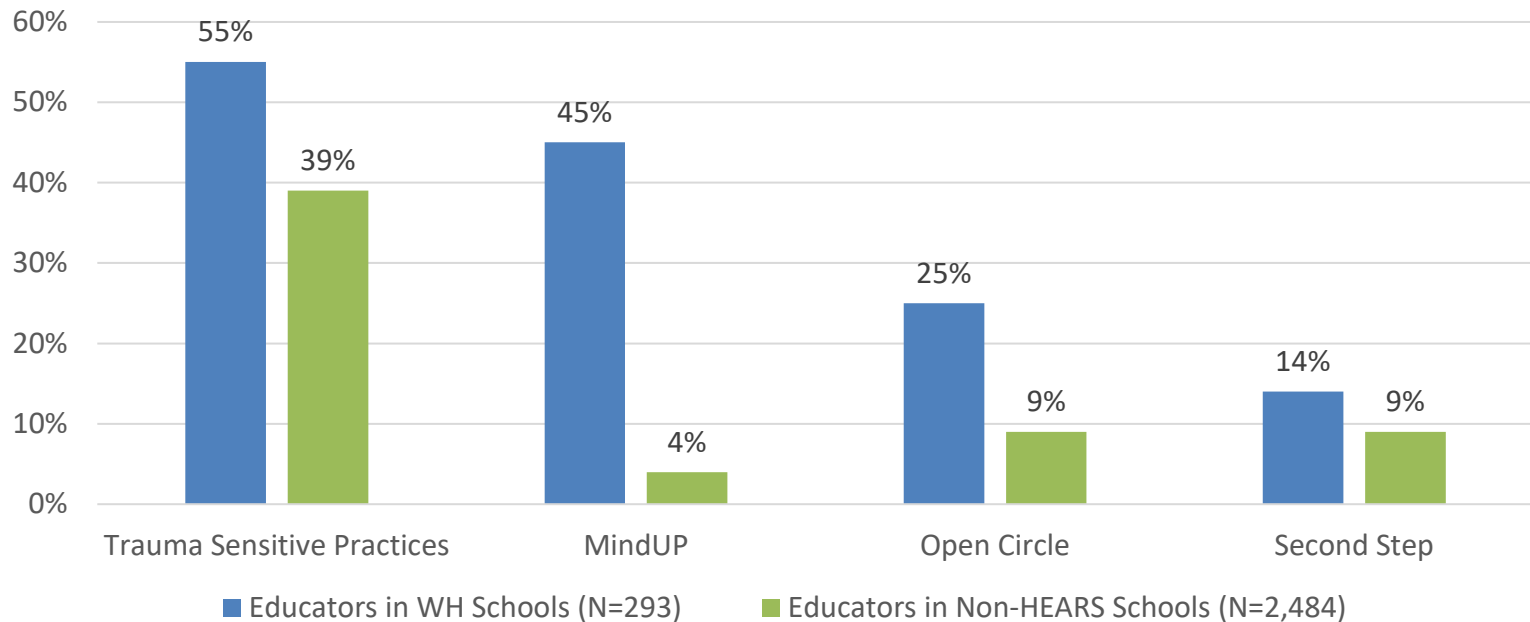
Provided behavioral health supports within schools and connections to community services



Partnered with community organizations to provide after-school counseling services

# Educator Outcomes Observed

- No significant changes in attendance, chronic absenteeism or discipline found due to study issues
- Educators in WH schools had more trauma and SEL training



# Outcomes



9 OUT OF 10 TRAINED EDUCATORS VALUE  
TRAUMA SENSITIVE PRACTICES

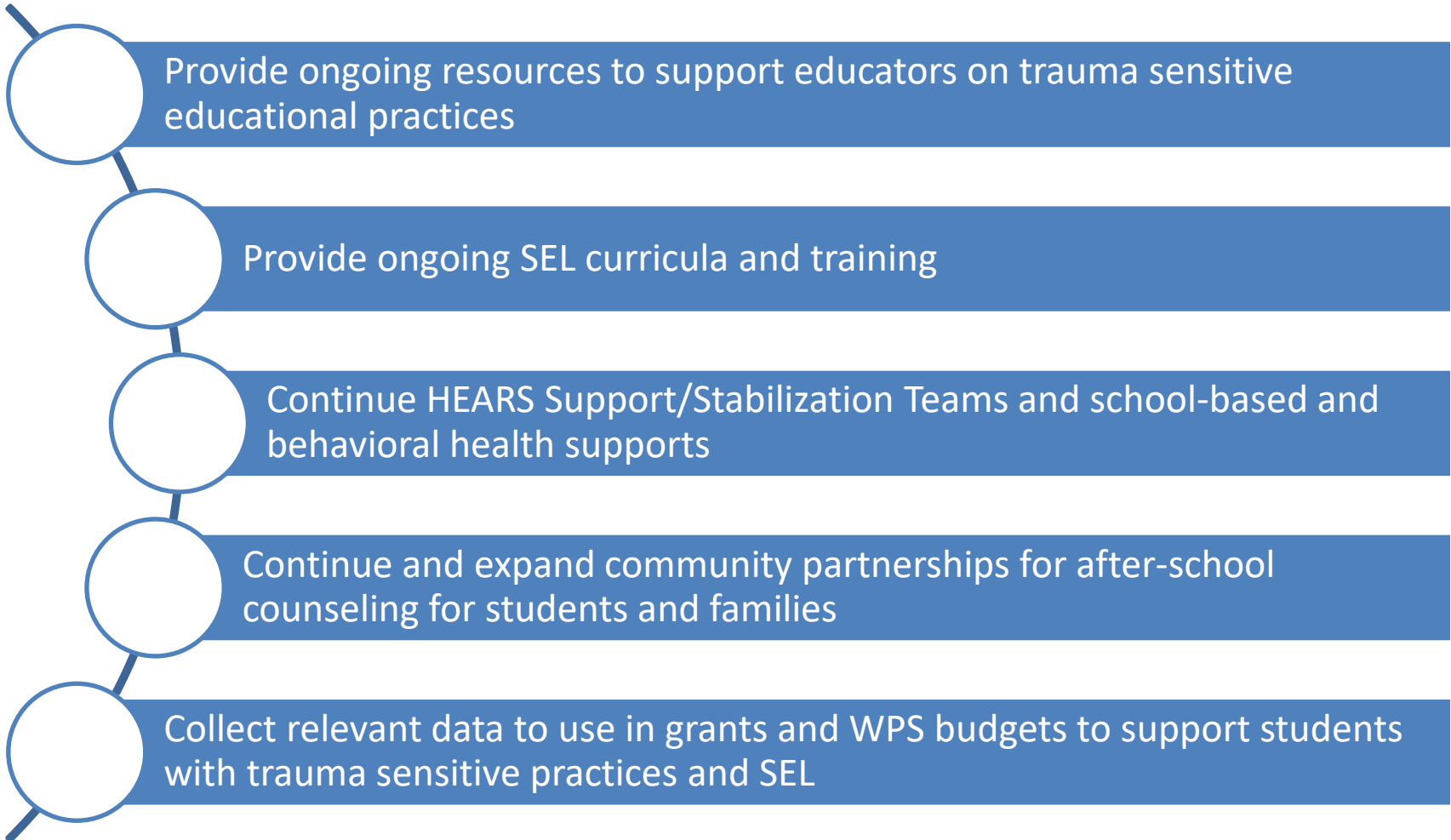


95% OF EDUCATORS ACROSS THE  
DISTRICT CONSIDER SEL SKILLS ONE OF  
SEVERAL TOP PRIORITIES



WPS DEVELOPED STRATEGIC  
SYSTEMWIDE PLAN WITH UMASS  
MEDICAL TO DIFFUSE TRAUMA SENSITIVE  
PRACTICES THROUGHOUT DISTRICT

# To Sustain Work WPS Should:



# WPS HEARS SCHOOLS



City View



Grafton Street



Rice Square



Roosevelt Elementary



Worcester East Middle



A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 5:34 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2021 at the Durkin Administration Building in Room 410.

There were present: Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo and Chairman McCullough

Mrs. Clancey and Ms. Novick were also in attendance.

Representing Administration were: Dr. O'Neil, Superintendent Binienda and Dr. Friel

Others in Attendance: Dr. Castiel and Dr. Ross

**(Consider gb #9-288, gb #9-416 and gb #0-31 together.)**

gb #9-288 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo (August 28, 2019)

Request the establishment of an inclusive and transparent process for selecting and implementing a comprehensive Sex Education Curriculum that is age-appropriate, evidence-based, medically-accurate and LGBTQ inclusive in the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #9-416 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo (December 4, 2019)

Request that the Administration consider incorporating the campaign entitled "RESPECTfully" when the Sex Ed Curriculum is established.

gb #0-31 - Mayor Petty/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick (January 8, 2020)

Request that the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports recommend a comprehensive, inclusive, evidence-based sexual and health curriculum and an appropriate level of increased classroom time for health education to the school committee for the FY21 budget.

Dr. Castiel stated that a Comprehensive Sex Education Curriculum plays a key role in addressing health disparities for Black, Latino and LGBTQ youth, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on Adolescent Health Care. Studies have demonstrated that comprehensive sexual education programs reduce the rates of sexual activity, sexual risk behaviors, sexually transmitted infections and adolescent pregnancies. It also provides youths with the tools they need to identify and delay risky behaviors while keeping themselves safe and healthy.



Dr. Ross stated that, when reviewing the Sexual Education Curriculum, the Wish Task Force focused on fifteen criteria:

- accuracy of information
- clear outcomes
- a positive approach to human sexuality and relationships
- culturally sensitive curriculum
- inclusion of LGBTQ students
- trauma informed
- developmentally appropriate for intended age and ability
- parental involvement
- proven effective
- emphasized skill building based on sound education methodology
- teacher friendly
- resource quality
- access to quality resources
- resources for evaluation and
- resources for teacher training

Chairman McCullough stated that what is being discussed is the implementation of a K-12 comprehensive health curriculum with the sexual education section for the middle and high school levels. The sexual education section of the curriculum is not mandatory and parents will have the option to opt their child(ren) out of it.

The following individuals spoke to their approval or disapproval of the proposed Sex Education section in the Health Curriculum of the WPS:

M. Rollo, M. Siegler, L. Kuykendall, Reverend A. Payson, M. King, M. McDonald, Reverend R. Reidy, J. Desilva, D. Smolkin, E. Rays, R. Kennedy, J. Trobough, C. Berg Powers, H. Ramirez, C. Chan, A. Zamarro, M. Nguyen, M. Bell, E. Sanchez, E. Lopez, E. Dowd, S. Crawford, V. Angelico, M. Pandada, M. Desai, A. Kaplan, A. Harris, S. Suzy, E. Valez, R. Araujo, J. Perry, J. Palmer, T. Nguyen, S. Rodman, N. Rivera, G. Ryan, L. Divoll, P. Nguyen, D. Nguyen, L. Brown-Noguera, R. Mensah Essien, P. Emanuel and J. Cosgrove

**You can access the full meeting by clicking the following link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X16OFMQ14B0>

Mr. Foley made the following four motions:

1. a. Adopt Rights, Respect and Responsibility as a Comprehensive K to 12 Health Curriculum for the 2021-22 school year and implement it with fidelity.  
b. Utilize a sexual education curriculum for middle and high school levels.  
c. Provide the necessary training for the teachers.
2. Commit to hiring additional health and wellness teachers and budgeting for those positions in FY22.

3. In addition to all students at the middle school level currently taking the equivalent of a quarter year of health, work on scheduling options to provide similar opportunities for health at the high school level.
4. Request that the Administration communicate well and engage with parents about this curriculum.

On a roll call of 2-1 (nay Mr. Monfredo), the motions were approved.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration not implement any sexual education program until a transparent session takes place with parents on the program selected which will allow parents the opportunity to ask questions.

On a roll call of 1-2 (yea Mr. Monfredo), the motion was defeated.

Chairman McCullough stated that the School Committee and Administration will continue the effort to improve the communication with parents. The Superintendent will make certain that parents receive the opt-out information in advance of the teaching of the sexual education component of the health curriculum.

Chairman McCullough made the following motion:

Request that gb #9-288, gb #9-416 and gb #0-31 be approved and filed.

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

gb #1-106 - Administration (March 25, 2021)

To consider approval of the following courses:

Introduction to Gender Studies	Computer Science for Innovators and Makers
Freshman Advancement and Success Tools 1-4	Latin American Studies
Music Production & Engineering	Intro to Dance Non-Magnet
Integrated Theater	Performing Arts Teaching Assistant
Peace Building	Computer Science for Innovators and Makers
Introduction to Materials Science	Spanish Language & Literature Level 3

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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

Committee Members  
Laura Clancey, Chairman  
John Monfredo, Vice-chairman  
Tracy O'Connell-Novick

AGENDA #2  
G/EI  
4-27-21  
Page 1

A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met virtually at 4:36 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

There were present: Chairman Clancey, Vice-Chairman Monfredo and Ms. Novick

Representing Administration: Dr. Friel, Ms. Boulais, Dr. O'Neil and Superintendent Binienda

Others in attendance: R. Nugent

gb #9-350 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo (October 14, 2019)

Request that the School Committee work with the Clerk of the School Committee to determine 3 or 4 dates in 2020 for policy forums/conversations that will be open to the community.

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

gb #0-28 - Mayor Petty/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick (January 8, 2020)

To create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Worcester School Committee to consider changes to the school committee rules, meetings and agendas to make the work of the School Committee and our meetings more effective and better aligned with the focus on the strategic direction of the district. These changes should reflect best practices and address the recommendations included in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's report from 2017.

Chairman Clancey stated that she would like to hold this item in order to allow all School Committee members the opportunity to provide their recommendations and any proposed changes to the Rules of the School Committee.

Ms. Novick requested that the School Committee also submit any proposed recommendations to the norms.

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was held in order for all members to submit their proposed changes to the rules and norms of the School Committee.

c&p #1-4 - Clerk (March 24, 2021)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of Quinsigamond School's faculty and staff to donate sick days to a colleague.

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the staff member be granted the sick time through the remainder of the 2021 school year from the faculty of Quinsigamond School.

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

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

c&p #1-5 - Clerk (March 31, 2021)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of North High School's faculty and staff to donate sick days to a colleague.

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the staff member be granted the sick time through the remainder of the 2021 school year from the faculty of North High School.

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

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

c&p #1-6 - Clerk (March 31, 2021)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of City View School's faculty and staff to donate sick days to a colleague.

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the staff member be granted the sick time through the remainder of the 2021 school year from the faculty of City View School.

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

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

gb #1-35 - Administration (January 25, 2021)

To consider approval of the proposed 2021-22 Student Handbook of the Worcester Public Schools.

**Legal Policies**

Notice for Out-of-School Suspensions

Ms. Novick asked if it would be possible to consider a policy that would state that students who are Grade 3 and under would not be given an out of school suspension, but rather an in school suspension. She asked that the Administration recommend providing additional resources to assist in this when considering the Budget.

Superintendent Binienda stated the law is clear when it comes to principals having the authority to suspend and she does not want to take that responsibility away from them. She also stated that even with additional resources, the out of school suspension is a last resort for principals when it becomes a safety issue for the other students.

Ms. Novick stated that the Boston Public Schools policy states that K-3 students are not given out of school suspensions and requested that the Administration seek a legal opinion regarding the jurisdiction of principals.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report describing what would be needed in order to eliminate out of school suspensions for K-3 students and solicit recommendations from principals on what their school would need to make that happen.

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

**Legal Policies**

Superintendent's Appeal Hearings

Ms. Novick requested that the Clerk of the School Committee include on the next Executive Session agenda the item that pertains to this policy.

**Procedures for Suspension(s) Exceeding 10 School Days**

Page 53- Do **not** delete the word "agree" after the words special circumstances or parent.

Chairman Clancey requested that the word SAGE be replaced with Student Information System throughout the entire Handbook.

On a roll call of 3-0, pages 26 through 54 of the Student Handbook were approved as amended.

**(gb #0-59 and gb #0-223 were considered together.)**

gb #0-59 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley (January 29, 2020)

To rewrite the Worcester Public Schools' Student Dress Code.

gb #0-223 - Administration (July 6, 2020)

To consider amendments to the current Student Dress Code Policy to be included in the Student Handbook and the Policy Manual.

Mr. Monfredo stated that the Dress Code policy that was created by the Dress Code committee, which consisted of Administration, lawyers and principals, has already been approved and that there shouldn't be micromanaging of the policy.

Mrs. Clancey requested the following amendment to the Dress Code Policy:

**Clothing should include:**

**Top (shirt, blouse, sweater, tank etc.)**

**Bottom (pants shorts, skirt, dress etc.)**

**Footwear (suggested safe footwear must be worn in the school building)**

Ms. Novick proposed amending the current first paragraph which states:

The district's core values, in relation to student dress, are that appropriate dress and attire contribute to a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment. The emphasis of this policy is on equitable treatment of students and regulation of student dress must be free from bias. While students have a right to self-expression by the dress and hair style of their own choosing, their clothing shall not disrupt the school's educational process. In addition, students are expected to wear garments that meet acceptable standards of health, safety and cleanliness.

The proposed amended wording is as follows:

**It is the policy of the Worcester Public Schools that the student and their parent/guardian hold the primary responsibility in determining the student's personal attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items. The district's interest in student dress is to ensure that it contributes to a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment. The Worcester School Committee in its efforts to treat students equitably intends for the regulation of student dress to be free from bias.**

Chairman Clancey stated that she researched the authority that school principals have in regards to the dress code policy and she stated that they have the right to discipline students if they are in violation of the Code of Conduct policy. She stated that if a student wore something that triggered potential emotional distress to another student, principals would be within their right to discipline the student as it would be in violation of the Code of Conduct policy.

Chairman Clancey requested a legal opinion before making any proposed changes regarding the referencing of the Code of Conduct policy, in order to be sure that no authority is being taken away from the principals. She stated that the item should be held until the legal opinion is received.

Chairman Clancey proposed to delete the following paragraph:

The School principal has the discretion to render judgements regarding what is and what is not appropriate based upon the recognition that students have the right to freedom of expression for their clothing and hair so long as their choices do not cause disorder or disruption to the educational process. The principal will determine what consequences should follow when a student does not comply with the policy.

The proposed amended wording is as follows:

**Students shall not be disciplined or removed from class as a consequence for a violation of the dress code policy. The School principal or his/her designee will determine consequences if the students attire is a direct violation of the Worcester Public Schools Code of Conduct.**

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

On a roll call of 3-0, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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

Committee Members

John L. Foley, Chairman  
Molly McCullough, Vice-chairman  
Dianna Biancheria

City Council Members

Morris Bergman, Chairman  
Khrystian King  
Gary Rosen

A C T I O N S

The Joint Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education met virtually at 5:09 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, 2021 in the Levi Lincoln Room at City Hall.

There were present:

Standing Committee on Finance and Operations

Miss Biancheria, Ms. McCullough and Chairman Foley

City Council's Standing Committee on Education

Mr. Rosen, Mr. King and Chairman Bergman

Representing Administration were: Mr. Allen, Superintendent Binienda and Dr. Friel

c&p #2-19 - Clerk (December 12, 2012)

To consider a communication from the City Clerk regarding the City Council's Standing Committee on Education and the School Committee's Standing Committee on Finance and Operations.

To consider meeting jointly on a regular basis throughout the year concerning issues of overlapping interest.

Mr. Allen presented the Worcester Public Schools' FY22 Preliminary Budget Estimates. He and Superintendent Binienda answered questions from City Council and School Committee members regarding the budget.

Councilor Rosen asked if the Worcester Public Schools participates in School Choice and Mr. Allen stated that there are approximately one hundred students across all grade levels. Mr. Rosen suggested trying to recruit more Pre K and kindergarten students from surrounding towns.

Councilor Rosen asked if enrollment numbers increase due to the fact that there are a number of new apartment buildings being built in the city and Mr. Allen stated that the enrollment projections are based on birthrates and new construction.



Councilor King requested an update on the Hold Harmless legislation. Mr. Allen stated that it was not included in the House Budget, but he hopes the Senate version of the Budget will include Hold Harmless.

Councilor King asked if there were any other resources for COVID reimbursement and Mr. Allen stated that ESSER funding is to be used for COVID related issues.

Miss Biancheria requested information of the timeline for the Dual Language and Remote Academy.

Superintendent Binienda stated that they will be open in August of 2021.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a full detailed report in July on the Dual Language and Remote Academy to include programs offered and student enrollment numbers.

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

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

motion gb #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 presented the District's Transition to In-Person Learning Plan. She stated that 69% of students in Pre K-Grade 8 will be returning full time on Monday, May 3, 2021. She believes that the success of hybrid learning has been one of the factors in families choosing to send their children back full time.

Councilor Rosen asked how the teachers were instructed to handle the return to in-person learning.

Superintendent Binienda stated that there has been Professional Development every Friday and the staff is very well prepared to return.

Councilor Bergman asked if the remote learning and technology advancements could impact snow days this winter.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Commissioner has not given approval for that yet.

Binienda stated that the high schools would be holding their graduations at Polar Park and the middle schools would be having their graduations at Foley Stadium.

Councilor Bergman asked for an update on the Adult Learning Program.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Fanning Building has been holding virtual classes all year and ESL classes currently have a waiting list of 200. She also stated that Night Life classes will be expanding.

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

The City Council called to order their portion of the meeting by welcoming calls from the public. Item 4B on the Council agenda was addressed by all the callers who unanimously spoke to the need for more wraparound coordinators, trained mental health counselors and school adjustment counselors.

Jason Homer, Executive Director of the Worcester Public Library spoke to item 3A on the Council agenda.

Item 4A on the Council agenda provided Councilor King the opportunity to ask Superintendent Binienda her opinion on how the city can do better with ESL.

Superintendent Binienda stated that WPS provides interpreters at public forums and translates information in 8 languages. She suggested that making Broadband available to all residents of Worcester would allow for better communication to keep families more informed.

Councilor King asked if the WPS has had any positives from the year of remote learning.

Superintendent Binienda stated some positives were:

- all families receiving Chromebooks
- more communication with families
- family members at home learning alongside students
- involvement with cultural agencies

Councilor King addressed item 4B on the Council agenda by asking Superintendent Binienda to assess the efficacy of School Resource Officers.

Superintendent Binienda stated that with SRO's in the buildings, there is less violence and fewer arrests are being made.

Councilor Bergman took item 4C on the Council agenda to request ways that the WPS could encourage more students to become involved in civic engagement.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires students in grades 8 and 9 to do civic engagement projects. She stated that there have been Government Days held and student representatives take part in School Committee meetings.

On a roll call of 3-0 the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

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

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration/Mayor Petty/  
Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/  
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick  
(April 28, 2021)

CURRENT ITEM - gb #0-286.9  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

1ST ITEM	gb #286	S.C.MTG. 9-17-20
2ND ITEM	gb #286.1	S.C.MTG. 10-1-20
3RD ITEM	gb #0-286.2	S.C.MTG. 10-15-20
4TH ITEM	gb #0-286.3	S.C.MTG. 11-5-20
5TH ITEM	gb #0-286.4	S.C.MTG. 12-3-20
6 TH ITEM	gb #0-286.5	S.C.MTG. 2-4-21
7 TH ITEM	gb #0-286.6	S. C.MTG 3-4-21
8TH ITEM	gb #0-286.7	S.C.MTG. 4-8-21
9TH ITEM	gb #0-286.8	S.C.MTG. 4-15-21
10 <sup>TH</sup> ITEM	gb #0-286.9	S.C.MTG. 5-6-21

ITEM:

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

ORIGINAL ITEM: Mayor Petty/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick (September 8,2020)

To provide a brief update on COVID-19 and remote learning and file all other outstanding items pertaining to these topics.

PRIOR ACTION:

4-15-21 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Superintendent Binienda provided an update by stating that hybrid learning has been successful. More than seventy percent of students will be returning full time on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and she attributes that to the success of hybrid learning. She reported that there has been an increase in COVID cases from last week's report.

**(Continued on page 2.)**

BACKUP:

The Administration will be prepared to speak to the item.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Discuss and hold the item.

PRIOR ACTION (continued)

4-15-21 - Last week's **staff** numbers  
10 (1 remote and 9 within buildings)  
15 quarantined  
This week's **staff** numbers  
7 (all within buildings)  
13 quarantined  
Last week's **student** numbers  
40 (13 remote and 27 within buildings)  
6 quarantined  
This week's **student** numbers  
60 (25 remote and 35 within buildings)  
4 quarantined

Superintendent Binienda also provided information on hotpots that have been overheating. She provided the Verizon phone number to call (1-800-540-4263) regarding this issue and stated that the information will be posted on the website along with the CDC Guidelines for April school vacation travel.

Ms. Novick asked whether Night Life programs will be happening this Spring. Superintendent Binienda stated that there are some limited programs that will be conducted virtually.

Ms. McCullough asked if there is plan to inform families about the process for returning to school fulltime. After much discussion, it was decided to hold a Public Forum on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was held for updates.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration/Mr. Monfredo/  
Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick  
(April 27, 2021)

CURRENT ITEM - gb #0-304.1  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

1ST ITEM gb #0-304 S.C.MTG. 10-1-20  
2ND ITEM gb #0-304.1 S.C.MTG. 5-6-21

ITEM:

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on the distribution of Chromebooks and iPads and indicate whether additional equipment will be needed in the near future.

ORIGINAL ITEM: Mr. Monfredo/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick  
(September 21, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the distribution of Chromebooks and iPads and indicate whether additional equipment will be needed in the near future.

PRIOR ACTION:

10-1-20 - On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Administration.

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 page) contains a copy of the Administration's response to the items.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Accept and file.

Currently all staff and students who need a Chromebook or iPad have been provided one.

The district currently leases 16,000 Chromebooks for staff and students. These leases have varying lengths and will need to be renewed at the end of each lease. These funds are currently in the operating budget.

During the pandemic the district purchased outright the following items. These items will need to be budgeted for replacement with outright purchases or new leases.

<b>Device</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Lifespan</b>	<b>Replacement date</b>
iPads	3,500	\$1,150,000	4 years	9/2024
Student Chromebooks	4,109	\$1,060,000	4 years	5/2024
Student Chromebooks	5,500	\$1,440,000	4 years	9/2024
Staff Chromebooks	880	\$295,000	4 years	9/2024
Staff MacBook Airs	2,715	\$3,020,000	5 years	5/2026

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration/Mrs. Clancey/  
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick  
(April 28, 2021)

CURRENT ITEM - gb #0-315.1  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

1ST ITEM gb #0-315 S.C.MTG. 10-1-20  
2ND ITEM gb #0-315.1 S.C.MTG. 5-6-21

ITEM:

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on the timeline of when a student received an IEP and when he or she receive assistance with it.

ORIGINAL ITEM: Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick  
(September 23, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide a report to contain the number of Spring IEP meetings that need to be scheduled and indicate the way in which the Administration is scheduling these meetings as well as the Fall IEP meetings.

PRIOR ACTION:

10-1-20 - Mrs. Seale stated that there were over two thousand overdue meetings at the end of the 2019-20 school year. There have been 24 evaluation team chairs that have been working to address this issue. To date, 732 IEP meetings have been held, over 600 IEP meetings have been scheduled and there is a process in place to reach out to parents by email and phone calls. If a parent requests an in-person meeting, they will be conducted in a safe manor.  
Mayor Petty made the following motion:  
Request that the Administration provide an updated report in November regarding the IEP meetings.  
On a roll call of 7-0, the motion was approved.  
Ms. Novick requested that the Administration provide a report on the timeline of when a student received an IEP and when they receive assistance with it.  
Mrs. Seale indicated that Dr. O'Neil had a work group for coordinating these evaluations.  
On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Administration.

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 page) contains a copy of the Administration's response to the item.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Accept and file.



### **Meetings Held (March 20, 2021 - April 27, 2021)**

- Annual Reviews: 224
- Re-Evaluations: 211
- Initial Meetings: 141
- Early Childhood (Not Mutually Exclusive): 90
- Miscellaneous (Progress, Extended Evaluations, Amendments): 114
- **Total Number of IEP Meetings Held = 690**

### **Meetings Needed**

- Annual Reviews: 283 (Annuals and Re-Evaluations)
- Re-Evaluations: 322
- Initial Meetings: 226
- Early Childhood (Not Mutually Exclusive): 78
- **Total Number of IEP Meetings Needed Through April 27, 2021 = 831**

**Unsigned IEPs as of April 27, 2021 = 1,619**

### **How are ETCs prioritizing meetings?**

- Scheduling initials for students with completed evaluations
- Scheduling re-evaluations for students with completed evaluations
- Scheduling overdue annuals and annuals for IEPs expiring
- Scheduling meetings to discuss students' access to remote learning and COVID Compensatory Services per DESE guidance

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration/Ms. Novick/  
Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(April 27, 2021)

CURRENT ITEM - gb #1-19.1  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

1ST ITEM gb #1-19 S.C.MTG. 1-21-21  
2ND ITEM gb #1-19.1 S.C.MTG. 5-6-21

ITEM:

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on current efforts to expand internet access in the City of Worcester.

ORIGINAL ITEM: Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(January 13, 2021)

Request Administration update on current efforts to expand internet access in the City of Worcester.

PRIOR ACTION:

1-21-21 - Superintendent Binienda stated that the district received a Verizon Innovation Grant in order to provide more hotspots to all students for up to four years and also provide training for staff.  
Mayor Petty made the following motion:  
Request that the Superintendent provide, in a Report of the Superintendent, updates on internet access issues to include Grant opportunities, hotspot distribution and a breakdown of any key issues that students encountered accessing the internet over the last several months.  
On a collective roll call of 7-0, the motion was approved and the item was referred to the Administration.

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Accept and file.

## **Current State**

Currently the district is employing two types of internet access for students (a) hotspots and (b) Spectrum. This following will illustrate the progress with each:

- a) Hotspots: There have been 5020 hotspots distributed. As previously stated, the hotspots were recalled and the district is working with Verizon on replacing them. Verizon has issued a firmware update that mitigates the risks associated with the hotspots and has set up a call-in line for families to replace hotspots and is currently coordinating in-person days for parents to swap out hotspots. While Verizon generally has excellent coverage in Worcester, the district supplemented Verizon hotspots with T-Mobile hotspots where Verizon coverage was poor.
- b) Spectrum: There have been 177 addresses that have applied to the Spectrum Single Payer program with a total of 35 families approved and 32 families ultimately accepted. Accepted families have received a self-installation kit with a modem and router for their household. We have been reaching out to families at the school level, where a point of contact, usually an assistant principal or school adjustment counselor, uploads info to a spreadsheet. Eddie Chen compiles the information and submits it to Spectrum on a weekly basis and follows up with families as needed. For the families that have not been accepted, we have been doing outreach to families and school building contacts with next steps for families to follow up with Spectrum in order to reapply again.

## **In Progress**

WPS is working with DESE on submitting all of the addresses to Education Superhighway which will give a report to DESE and back to the district on broadband access which will inform future planning.

## **Fall 2021**

- The district has been awarded a Digital Promise Grant for middle and high school students that will provide Internet hotspots to students in need.
- ESSA funds have been identified continue the Verizon hotspots for PreK-6
- ESSA funds have been identified to continue with Spectrum connections

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration/Miss Biancheria/  
Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(April 27, 2021)

CURRENT ITEM - gb #1-52.1  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

1ST ITEM gb #1-52 S.C.MTG. 2-25-21  
2ND ITEM gb #1-52.1 S.C.MTG. 5-6-21

ITEM:

Response of the Administration to the request to review the Public Safety Program, offered through career development, for high school juniors and seniors.

ORIGINAL ITEM: Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(February 9, 2021)

Request that the Administration review the Public Safety Program, offered through career development, for high school juniors and seniors.

PRIOR ACTION:

2-25-21 - Miss Biancheria stated that she would forward the Public Safety Program to the Clerk to be disseminated to the School Committee.  
On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Administration.

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 pages) contains a copy of the Administration's response of the item.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Accept and file.

Public Safety Training for students in Chapter 74 Programs at Doherty Memorial High School, North High School and South High Community School in Grades 11 and 12.

Students in all Chapter 74 programs begin their training in grade 9 with an emphasis on Safety. All Chapter 74 students are required to take and achieve 100% on a general safety test. Remediation and retakes occur until every grade 9 student achieves the 100% score.

Every lesson embeds safety training activities and objectives and students are assessed using a variety of formative methods (bell ringers, exit tickets, games, quizzes)

Students are required to take written and practical tests prior to performing tasks using power operated tools and equipment. Tests are securely maintained by instructors.

All grade 10 students are required to take and pass (80% minimum score) the OSHA 10-hour Safety and Health Training Course, which is administered using Career Safe Online training. Students achieve the OSHA 10-hour Safety and Health Certification Card. This certification is required for all students to participate in an unpaid internship or Cooperative Education work experience in the community.

### **Grade 11 and Grade 12:**

The Chapter 74 Curriculum Framework Standards include General and Specific Industry Safety standards and performance indicators, including standards required to participate in community based or in-house services. Specifically, students in grades 11 and 12 are instructed in all safety and health protocols in the workplace, as stated and explained in the Chapter 74 Cooperative Education Manual.

COVID -19 Specific Training for Grades 11 and 12:

Students in grades 11 and 12 have taken the WPS COVID-19 Sector Workplace Safety Training and associated quiz. The COVID -19 Sector Safety Training was developed to align with the Massachusetts Sector Workplace guidelines and recommendations.

Students have demonstrated knowledge of the Safety standards in the workplace through performance-based projects (EEC and Culinary Arts examples attached)

Students practice all workplace protocols in their specific shop areas to prepare for community internships.

Each high school Co-op and Internship Liaison works closely with students, their families and employers to review the COVID-19 Safety Plan at the specific workplace, perform an on-site visit to each site to ensure all safety and health protocols are in compliance with state mandates, and require parents/caregivers and students to read and sign documents prior to the student beginning Co-op or internship experience.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Ms. McCullough  
(April 11, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-125  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

To review the feasibility of including a position in the FY22 Budget for a Director of Communications and Community Engagement.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Refer to the Budget.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration  
(April 12, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-126  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

To accept the FY21 DLCS Student Learning Devices Grant in the amount of \$2,028 for Burncoat Middle School.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP: The purpose of this competitive Digital Literacy and Computer Sciences Learning Devices grant is to support Massachusetts public schools in purchasing devices for student use in learning 21st Century Digital Literacy and Computer Science skills.

Annex A (10 pages) contains a copy of the Grant report.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

### Grant Acceptance Form

**Name of Grant:** FY 21 DLCS Student Learning Devices

**Type of Funder:** MA DESE

**Awarded Amount:** \$2,028.00

**Grant Funding Period:** March 30, 2021 through June 30, 2021

**Project title:** Digital Literacy and Computer Sciences Learning Devices

**Program coordinator:** O'Neil/Scully

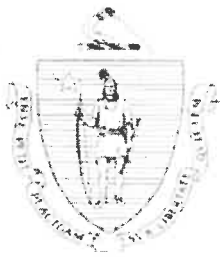
**Purpose:** The purpose of this competitive Digital Literacy and Computer Sciences Learning Devices grant is to support Massachusetts public schools in purchasing devices for student use in learning 21<sup>st</sup> Century Digital Literacy and Computer Science skills.

**Description of the program:** Technology purchased will be used by a DLSC teacher/students in their coursework.

**Program location:** Burncoat Middle School

**Outcomes and Measures:** Through the use of this equipment, students will be supported in learning Digital Literacy and Computer Science skills.





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133  
(617) 725-4000

**CHARLES D. BAKER**  
GOVERNOR

**KARYN E. POLITO**  
LEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 31, 2021

Dear Gregory Bares,

Congratulations! We are pleased to notify you that Worcester Public Schools has been awarded a Digital Literacy and Computer Science Student Learning Devices Grant of \$2,028.00. The following teacher in your district has been awarded a grant:

Stephanie Potito      \$1,988.00

We want to thank you for your commitment to providing students with engaging DLCS education through the use of student learning devices. Through this funding and your continued support, we hope to expand access to great educational opportunities in the Commonwealth.

You will be receiving further instructions from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on next steps, and please feel free to contact Gail Castle at [Gail.A.Castle@mass.gov](mailto:Gail.A.Castle@mass.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles Baker".

Governor Charles D. Baker

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karyn E. Polito".

Lt. Governor Karyn E. Polito


**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
STANDARD CONTRACT FORM AND APPLICATION FOR PROGRAM GRANTS**

**PART I – GENERAL**

<b>A. APPLICANT:</b> Worcester Public Schools	<b>District Code:</b>	0	3	4	8
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 20 Irving Street					
Worcester, MA 01609					
<b>TELEPHONE:</b> (        )					

<b>B. APPLICATION FOR PROGRAM FUNDING</b>				
<b>FUND CODE</b>	<b>PROGRAM NAME</b>	<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>		<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>
		<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	
FY2021	<b>STATE – COMPETITIVE administered by the CENTER FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE</b>			<b>\$2,028</b>
134	DLCS Student Learning Devices	Upon Approval	6/30/2021	

**C. I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS APPLICATION IS CORRECT AND COMPLETE; THAT THE APPLICANT AGENCY HAS AUTHORIZED ME, AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE, TO FILE THIS APPLICATION; AND THAT I UNDERSTAND THAT FOR ANY FUNDS RECEIVED THROUGH THIS APPLICATION THE AGENCY AGREES TO COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT REQUIREMENTS COVERING BOTH THE PROGRAMMATIC AND FISCAL ADMINISTRATION OF GRANT FUNDS.**

<b>AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY:</b> 	<b>TITLE:</b> Superintendent
<b>TYPED NAME:</b> Maureen F. Binlenda	<b>DATE:</b> February 17, 2021

**DATE DUE: Friday February 19, 2021**

**Proposals must be received at the Department by 5:00 p.m. on the date due.**

Applicant Agency: Worcester Public Schools

Applicant Number: 348

Fiscal Year: 2021

Fund Code: 134

Fill in section 7 "Supplies and Materials"

Program Name: FY2021 DLCS Student Learning Devices

Budget Line Item Category					Amount	
<b>1 ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES:</b>	# of staff	FTE	MTRS		<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ -	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>					\$ -	
<b>2 INSTRUCTIONAL/PROF STAFF SALARIES:</b>	# of staff	FTE	MTRS		<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
			<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ -	
			<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ -	
					\$ -	
					\$ -	
					\$ -	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>					\$ -	
<b>3 SUPPORT STAFF SALARIES:</b>	# of staff	FTE	MTRS		<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
			<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ -	
					\$ -	
					\$ -	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>					\$ -	
<b>4 STIPENDS:</b>	# of Staff	Rate	Rate Type	MTRS	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ -	
					\$ -	
					\$ -	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>					\$ -	
<b>5 FRINGE BENEFITS:</b>					<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>5-a MTRS</b> (automatically calculates if MTRS box is checked)					\$ -	
<b>5-b Other</b>					\$ -	
Health Insurance					\$ -	
Other Retirement Systems					\$ -	
Federal Insurance Contributions (FICA)					\$ -	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>					\$ -	

**Applicant Agency:** Worcester Public Schools

**Applicant Number:** 348

**Fiscal Year:** 2021

**Fund Code:** 134

Fill in section 7 "Supplies and Materials"

6 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:		Rate	Rate Type	Total Amount	COMMENTS
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>				\$ -	
7 SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS:				Total Amount	COMMENTS
Instructional Technology				\$ 1,988	Supplies needed for program
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>				\$ 1,988	
8 TRAVEL:				Total Amount	COMMENTS
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>				\$ -	
9 OTHER COSTS:				Total Amount	COMMENTS
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>				\$ -	
10 INDIRECT COSTS (use indirect costs calculator)		enter rate %			COMMENTS
		2.00%		\$40	At agreed upon rate
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>				\$ -	
11 EQUIPMENT:				Total Amount	COMMENTS
Items costing \$5,000+ per unit & having a useful life 1+ years				\$ -	
				\$ -	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>				\$ -	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED</b>				<b>\$ 2,028</b>	

**Name of Grant Program:** DLCS Student Learning Devices  
**Fund Code:** 134

### Part III - Required Program Information

#### General Information

<b>District Name:</b>	Worcester Public Schools
<b>School Name:</b>	Burncoat Middle School
<b>Grantee Contact Information</b>	
Provide the name and contact information for the person at the school who would manage the administrative aspects of the grant (e.g., entering into EdGrants).	
<b>Name</b>	Gregory Bares
<b>Role</b>	Manager of Grants
<b>E-mail address</b>	BaresG@worcesterschools.net
<b>Phone Number:</b>	508-799-3108
<b>Teacher Information</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Stephanie Potito
<b>Title:</b>	Instructional Technology Specialist
<b>MEPID:</b>	52733982
<b>E-mail address:</b>	potitos@worcesterschools.net
<b>Principal Information</b>	
<b>Principal Name:</b>	Mary Scully
<b>Principal E-mail address:</b>	scullym@worcesterschools.net

#### Teacher and Course Information

This grant is open for any Massachusetts public school teacher who has taught a DLCS course using the proposed device in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year and will be teaching a DLCS course using this device in 2021-2022. Or a Massachusetts public school teacher who would like to expand their current DLCS course in 2021-2022 by adding the use of a student learning device.

**Grade(s) taught:** 7-8

Provide information on the DLCS course(s) you teach for which you will be purchasing devices:

Course Name	Course Code	Curriculum Used	Device Used	Required / elective / other ?
Computer Science and Digital Literacy		DLCS	Chromebooks	Elective
Media Arts		DLCS	Chomebooks	Elective

Media Arts		DLCS	Chromebooks	Elective
Media Arts		DLCS	Chromebooks	Elective

Answer the following questions only for the DLCS course(s) listed above

<b>Course length (yearlong, semester, trimester, etc.)</b>	Half year for Computer Science and year for Media Arts
--	--

	2019-2020	2020-2021
<b>How many sections of these courses did you teach:</b>	7	6

<b>Minimum number of students in your DLCS course(s):</b>	19
<b>Maximum number of students in your DLCS course(s):</b>	24

**If your DLCS course(s) are elective courses, estimate how many underrepresented students are enrolled:**

<b>English Language Learners:</b>	8
<b>Special Education:</b>	17
<b>Female</b>	50
<b>Underrepresented Minorities:</b>	80
<b>Students designated as economically disadvantaged (if you have this information):</b>	65

**For any elective DLCS course(s), describe your efforts to recruit underrepresented students for your course:**

I put a heavy emphasis on the contributions of women and minorities in the various fields that contain DLCS standards. I believe it is important for students to have a framework of curriculum from whatever lens they relate to.

### Device Information

There is a maximum of \$2,000 per grant per teacher to be used for expanding (adding new sections), enriching courses, or replacing damaged devices/accessories.

- Your largest class size: 24
- Whether you are using multiple students per device (pair-programming) or one student per device: Students will work in small groups while using these devices. I am requesting Sphero Coding mats to go with the Sphero robots that I have in my classroom. Although my students are in middle school, they've had virtually no exposure to computer science by the time they get into my class. These mats will help them to visualize computer

	Number of Items in Each Unit	Name of Unit (Device, Kit, Accessory)	Cost per Unit	Number of Units	Total Cost	Total Devices / Accessories
Amazon	1	Cannon EOS M50 Mirrorless V	\$699.99	2	\$1,400	2
Amazon	1	Amazon Basics 60" Tripod	\$27.99	2	\$56	2
Amazon	1	EMart Green Screen	\$135.99	2	\$272	2
Amazon	1	Neewer Light Kit	\$89.99	2	\$180	2
Amazon	1	Lavalier Microphone	\$39.93	2	\$80	2
<b>Total:</b>					<b>\$1,988</b>	

**Example:**

Provider	Number of Items in Each Unit	Name of Unit (Device, Kit, Accessory)	Cost per Unit	Number of Units	Total Cost	Total Devices / Accessories
ex. Adafruit	15	Circuit Playground Educator pack	\$350.00	4	\$1,400	60
ex. Adafruit	1	Circuit Playground cover	\$4.50	32	\$144	32
<b>Total:</b>					<b>\$1,544</b>	

# FY2021: Digital Literacy and Computer Science Student Learning Devices

Fund Code: 134

## Purpose:

The purpose of this competitive Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DLCS) Student Learning Devices grant is to support Massachusetts public schools in purchasing devices (e.g. circuit boards, robots, tablets) for students to use in learning 21<sup>st</sup> Century Digital Literacy and Computer Science skills. Funds under this grant may be used to purchase devices and accessories associated with a curriculum aligned with the Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards.

## Priorities:

Massachusetts public schools whose DLCS students are from the most underserved populations (including but not limited to students designated as economically disadvantaged, English language learners, special education, underrepresented minorities, and living in rural areas).

## Eligibility:

Massachusetts public school (including Regional and Charter districts) that:

- Is teaching/has taught a DLCS course using the proposed device(s) in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year *and* will be teaching a DLCS course using this device in 2021-2022: or
- would like to enrich their current DLCS course(s) in 2021-2022 by adding the use of student devices.

The Department reserves the right to consider additional factors such as geographic distribution and diversity of applicant type in making final award decisions.

## Funding Type:

State

## Funding:

Approximately \$72,000 is available to support grant awards up to \$2,000 per teacher.

Funding is contingent upon availability. All dollar amounts listed are estimated/approximate and are subject to change. If more funding becomes available, it will be distributed under the same guidelines that appear in this RFP document.

## Fund Use:

DLCS Student Learning Devices **must** be used by teachers for DLCS courses taught at the school listed in the grant during school hours. The devices **may** additionally be used during after-school or summer activities at the school. Ownership of the devices belongs to the school.

Funds may also be used for accessories for the devices such as, but not restricted to, alligator clips, LED lights, protective cases, locked storage.

## Project Duration:

Upon Approval – 6/30/2021

## Program Unit:

Center for Instructional Support Office/STEM

## Contact:

Paula Moore

## Date Due:

Friday, February 19, 2021

**Proposals must be received at the Department by 5:00 p.m. on the date due.**



## Required Forms:



Part I — General — Program Unit Signature Page — (Standard Contract Form and Application for Program Grants)



Part II — Budget Details



Part III — Required Program Information

## Additional Information:

Due to the competitive nature of this grant program, all questions about the Funding Opportunity documents and process will be addressed on our website. Any questions must be emailed to [paula.b.moore@mass.gov](mailto:paula.b.moore@mass.gov) (with the subject: "CS Student Learning Devices grant question"). Questions and Answers will be posted at [STEM Grant Opportunities](#).

## Submission

### Instructions:

Email one (1) complete set of all required documents to [paula.b.moore@mass.gov](mailto:paula.b.moore@mass.gov) with "CS Student Learning Devices Application" in the subject line; and submit one (1) complete set of all required documents with original signatures on Part I to:

**Paula Moore**  
**Science, Technology/Engineering, and Mathematics**  
**Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**  
**75 Pleasant Street**  
**Malden, MA 02148-4906**

Applicants will receive a confirmation when the materials are received. **Early submission is strongly encouraged** to ensure the complete application is received and confirmed by 5:00 pm on the due date.

Upon award, recipients will be required to enter the approved budget in EdGrants and upload required documents. Once selected, grant recipients will be contacted with further instructions on the process.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration  
(April 12, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-127  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

To accept a donation of warehouse space for the storage of personal protective equipment (PPE) from Chacharone Properties for use by the district.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 pages) contains a copy of information regarding the item.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

CHACHARONE  
P R O P E R T I E S

April 12, 2021

Brian E. Allen  
Worcester Public Schools  
Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building  
20 Irving Street  
Worcester, MA 01609-2493

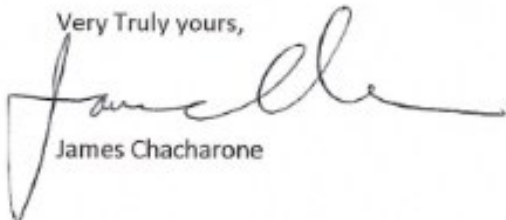
Dear Brian;

Chacharone Properties is once again, pleased to offer warehouse space to the Worcester Public Schools, at no cost; the space is located at 220 Barber Ave, Worcester.

This space is approximately 6,000 sq ft with a ceiling height of 14 ft., and will be heated to 50 degrees. It is our understanding that this property will be used for the storage of PPE supplies during these unprecedented times.

If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly yours,



James Chacharone

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration  
(April 14, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-128  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

To accept the Teaching Gardens Network Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP: The purpose of this grant is to promote increased fruit and vegetable intake among children. Once committed to the program, a school-wide planting day is scheduled. AHA provides the materials for planting day, garden beds, organic soil, seedlings and plants, cooking demonstrations, and other fun activities.

Annex A (9 pages) contains a copy of the Grant report.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

*Worcester Public  
Schools  
Office of Grants  
Management*

**Grant Acceptance Form**

**Name of Grant:** Teaching Gardens Network

**Type of Funder:** American Heart Association

**Awarded Amount:** \$5,000.00

**Grant Funding  
Period:** January 01, 2021– December 31, 2021

**Project title:** Teaching Gardens Network

**Program  
coordinator:** Bersin/Ganias

**Purpose:** To promote increased fruit and vegetable intake among children.

**Description of the  
program:** Once committed to the program, a school-wide planting day is scheduled. AHA provides the materials for planting day, garden beds, organic soil, seedlings and plants, cooking demonstrations and other fun activities.

**Program location:** Worcester Public Schools

**Outcomes and  
Measures:** To dramatically change the way America thinks about and consumes food.

# Teaching Gardens®



**T**he American Heart Association is calling all schools and educational facilities interested in connecting children to gardens, addressing food access concerns in their neighborhoods, supporting health, nutrition, and environmental stewardship to be a part of our mission by joining our new Teaching Gardens Network.

10 years ago, the American Heart Association teamed up with noted child-nutrition activist and philanthropist, Kelly Meyer, to create the American Heart Association Teaching Gardens® program. Over the last decade, the American Heart Association Teaching Gardens program has launched over 500 Teaching Gardens nationwide.

One third of U.S. children are overweight or obese putting them at higher risk of heart disease and stroke.



## Exposing Students to Fruits and Vegetables

Teaching Gardens address the healthy eating challenges that are facing our nation's children and families by supporting school and community gardens. This successful approach to engaging youth makes healthy foods fun, and provides opportunities for children to not only grow, but understand and



enjoy the benefit of eating healthy foods. The American Heart Association is empowering students to become champions of change and promote healthier lifestyles to their families and school communities.

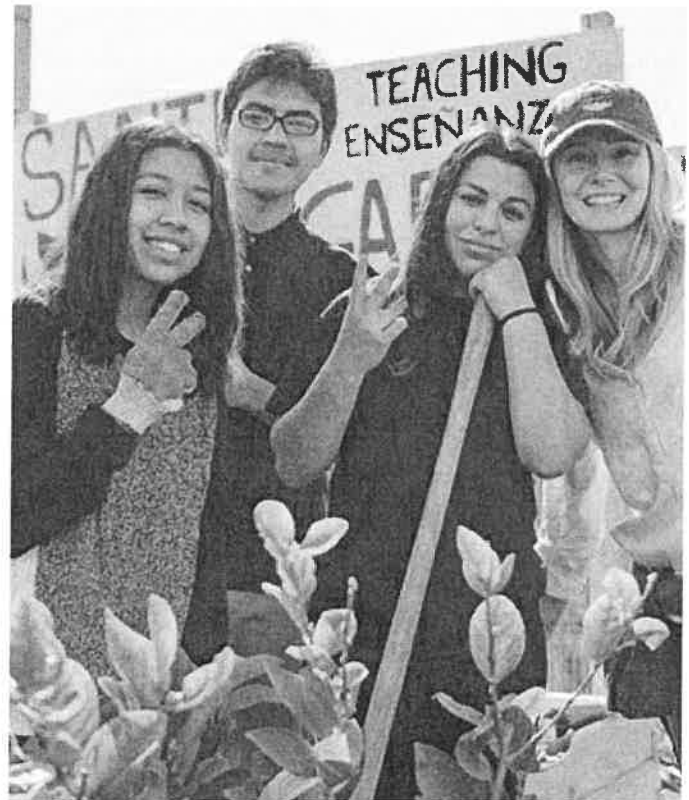
## Get Involved

The Teaching Gardens Network is a one stop shop for everything schools will need to start or enhance a school garden.

By joining the network you gain access to:

- Grant opportunities for funding your garden.
- Free gardening materials and resources.
- Digital cross-curricular, standards-based gardening and nutrition education curriculum.
- Downloadable Teaching Gardens Network certificate.
- Recognition on our website.

[Join the Teaching Gardens Network](#)



## Teaching Gardens Grants

The American Heart Association Teaching Gardens Network is currently reviewing applications from network members to support gardens for the 2020-2021 school year! Applications have closed.

Join the Network today for an opportunity to apply for the 2021-2022 grant cycle!

The Teaching Gardens Network Grant program is made possible by the support of CAULIPOWER.

## Additional Resources

[Join the Teaching Gardens Network](#)

>

[Teaching Gardens Network Grant Program](#)

>

[Teaching Gardens Network Members](#)

>

[Teaching Gardens Network Grant Recipients](#)

## Nationally Sponsored by

CAULIPOWER is a proud sponsor  
of the American Heart  
Association's Teaching Gardens  
Network

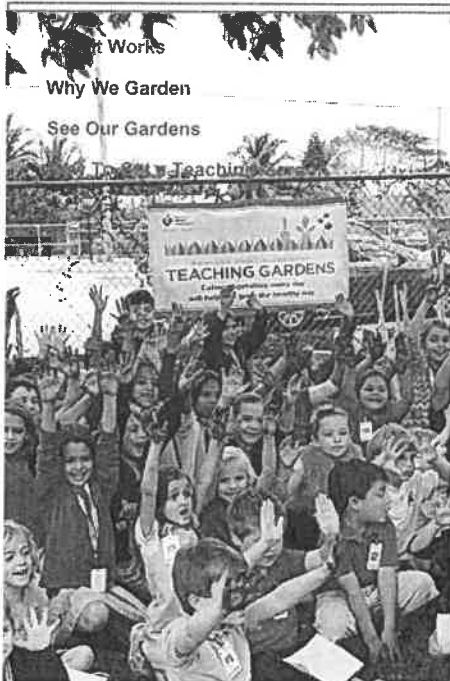
**CAULIPOWER**

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Search

Teaching Gardens About Teaching Gardens Photos/Blogs Donate Our Supporters Recognition Program



## HOW IT WORKS

The American Heart Association works closely with each school to assess its ability to successfully benefit from an American Heart Association Teaching Garden. The program is a functional addition to schools and can be as unique as the community it serves.

Once a school commits to the program, a school-wide planting day is scheduled.

The American Heart Association provides the materials for planting day, garden beds, organic soil, seedlings and plants, cooking demonstrations and other fun activities.

Schools receive an American Heart Association Teaching Garden Tool Kit with useful information including a school garden manual, lesson plans, school activation ideas, and parent and community resources.

With oversight from American Heart Association staff, the Teaching Gardens program provides volunteer opportunities for the community.

The American Heart Association measures program success with annual tracking reports.



There are many ways to support the American Heart Association. Your donation will support programs, tools and resources to drive healthy eating habits.



### GET THE LATEST NEWS AND BLOG UPDATES FROM AHA TEACHING GARDENS

CHECK IT OUT



**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Join our Teaching Gardens online community to see more, make friends and learn more about our many exciting and educational activities.



\*All health/medical information on this website has been reviewed and approved by the American Heart Association, based on scientific research and American Heart Association guidelines. Use this link for more information on our content editorial process.

<p><b>About Us</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About the AHA/ASA</li> <li>2016-17 Annual Report</li> <li>AHA Financial Information</li> <li>Careers</li> <li>SHOP</li> <li>Latest Heart and Stroke News</li> </ul>	<p><b>Our Causes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go Red For Women</li> <li>Go Red Por Tu Corazón</li> <li>Healthy Living</li> <li>EmPOWERED to Serve</li> </ul> <p><b>The Warning Signs</b></p>	<p><b>Our Sites</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American Heart Association</li> <li>American Stroke Association</li> <li>My Life Check</li> <li>Professional Heart Daily</li> <li>Scientific Sessions</li> <li>Stroke Conference</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contact Us</b></p> <p><b>Address</b></p> <p>7272 Greenville Ave. Dallas, TX 75231</p> <p><b>Customer Service</b></p> <p>1-800-AHA-USA-1 1-800-242-8721</p>
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Search



## CURRICULUM

The following activities are examples of how the American Heart Association is engaging students in fun, educational, hands-on investigations of nutritious fruits and vegetables in and out of the garden.

American Heart Association Teaching Gardens can be as simple or as elaborate as you choose, and the scale of your program will depend on your time, experience, resources and preferences. The full Teaching Gardens curriculum includes a wide variety of activities, from simple matching games and scavenger hunts to more elaborate planting and cooking projects.

If this is your first experience with a school garden, we suggest that you start small. Enjoy some successful garden experiences as you establish clear expectations with your students around the space, then branch into some of the more elaborate lessons when you are ready.

Click to try a few of the activities that support the Teaching Gardens experience.

### Pre-K Activities:

1. What's for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner?
2. Did You Ever Mix a Salad? Song Activity
3. What's a Snack?
4. Choose a Heart Healthy Snack Coloring Sheet

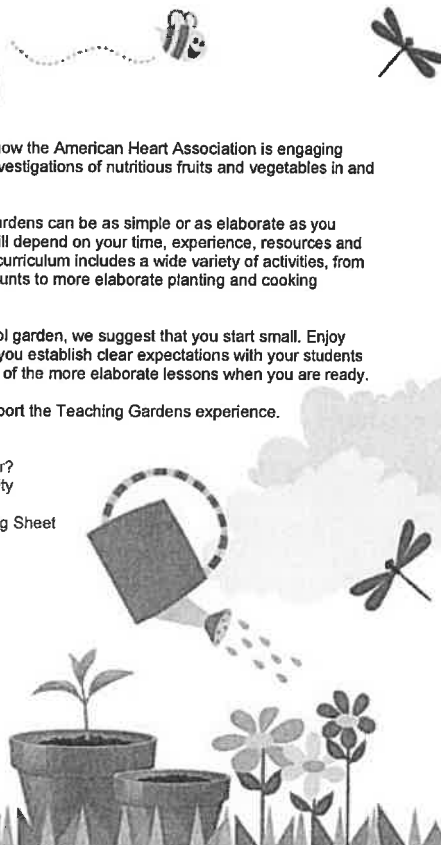
### K-2nd Grade Activities:

1. Why Do We Eat?
2. What Foods Do You Need?
3. Making Healthful Choices

### Grades 3-5 Activities:

1. Heart-Y Lunch
2. Heart Healthy Menus
3. What's in Foods?
4. Rate that Snack

[NUTRITIONAL GUIDELINES](#)



There are many ways to support the American Heart Association. Your donation will support programs, tools and resources to drive healthy eating habits.



## GET THE LATEST NEWS AND BLOG UPDATES FROM AHA TEACHING GARDENS

[CHECK IT OUT](#)



### SOCIAL MEDIA

Join our Teaching Gardens online community to see more, make friends and learn more about our many exciting and educational activities.



Search

Teaching Gardens About Teaching Gardens Photos/Blogs Donate Our Supporters Recognition Program



## WHY WE GARDEN

Here's food for thought:

- One in three American children are overweight or obese.
- Fewer than one in 10 high school students receive the recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables daily.
- French fries are the most common source of vegetables consumed by children and make up one-fourth of their vegetable intake.

Garden-based nutrition intervention programs can promote increased fruit and vegetable intake among children.

Moreover, studies show that healthy behavior positively impacts learning. And when healthy students make better students, we all win.

Rooted in American Heart Association's dietary recommendations for children, we have developed a curriculum full of garden themed lessons teaching nutrition, math, science and other subjects. Take a look at our nutritional guidelines and some examples of exciting activities kids are experiencing in the classroom.

[NUTRITIONAL GUIDELINES](#)

[CURRICULUM](#)



There are many ways to support the American Heart Association. Your donation will support programs, tools and resources to drive healthy eating habits.



### GET THE LATEST NEWS AND BLOG UPDATES FROM AHA TEACHING GARDENS

CHECK IT OUT



#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Join our Teaching Gardens online community to see more, make friends and learn more about our many exciting and educational activities.



\*All health/medical information on this website has been reviewed and approved by the American Heart Association, based on scientific research and American Heart Association guidelines. Use this link for more information on our content editorial process.

#### About Us

- About the AHA/ASA
- 2016-17 Annual Report
- AHA Financial Information
- Careers
- SHOP

#### Our Causes

- Go Red For Women
- Go Red Por Tu Corazón
- Healthy Living
- EmPOWERED to Serve

#### Our Sites

- American Heart Association
- American Stroke Association
- My Life Check
- Professional Heart Daily
- Scientific Sessions

#### Contact Us

- Address
- 7272 Greenville Ave.
- Dallas, TX 75231
- Customer Service
- 1-800-AHA-USA-1

## Teaching Gardens Network

Lines	Items to be purchased	Purpose	Budget Amount
1	Compose bin tools		120.00
2	Wheelbarrow to move compost		120.00
3	Supplies	To make posters and label garden items	100.00
4	Materials	To cover and remove poison ivy and other invasive plants	1,000.00
5	Mulch	To lessen the need to water and limit weed maintenance	200.00
6	Hoses	Replace leaking and damaged hoses	100.00
7	Blueberry bushes		100.00
8	signage	Prevent staff/guests from blocking access to gardens	200.00
9	Raised bed farmstead kits	Safe. Stack 2	656.00
9	Ground prep	Drainage stone, plastic/landscape fabric	150.00
10	Covered trash cans to keep area clean		200.00
			100.00
11	Push broom for clean-ups		1,954.00
12	Materials/supplies for cooking and other fun activities		
			5,000.00

## ATTACHMENT A

### **Activities of GRANTEE:**

#### **Use of Funds:**

Grant funds may be used for direct expenses associated with your school's garden project that will help children engage with fresh fruits and vegetables, such as: garden beds, tools, plants, compost bins, irrigation, water collection, storage sheds.

#### **Funds may not be used for:**

- Salary or contract services
- General operating expenses
- Travel/Field Trips
- Continuing education for teachers and staff
- Sponsorship of fundraising events
- Promotional items such as t-shirts, flyers, etc.

#### **Reporting Required:**

School will provide initial report on use of the funds by June 30, 2021 and a final report on November 30, 2021.

### **Use of Grant Funds/Payment Schedule:**

**The total grant of \$5,000 will be paid to GRANTEE upon the schedule set out below.**

Payment Date: By February 28, 2021

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration  
(April 15, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-129  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

To authorize the Administration to resubmit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for Burncoat High School (district priority project) for major renovation or replacement for 2021.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (2 pages) contains a copy of the letter from MSBA on Burncoat High School 2020 submission.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call and submit to the Worcester City Council for approval.



# Massachusetts School Building Authority

**Deborah B. Goldberg**  
*Chairman, State Treasurer*

**James A. MacDonald**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**John K. McCarthy**  
*Executive Director / Deputy CEO*

April 14, 2021

Mr. Edward M. Augustus, Jr., City Manager  
City of Worcester  
Worcester City Hall, Room 306  
455 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608

Re: City of Worcester 2020 Statement of Interest Status

Dear Manager Augustus:

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") would like to thank the City of Worcester (the "District") for expressing an interest in the MSBA's program for school building construction, renovation, and repair grants through the 2020 Statement of Interest (the "SOI") process. The MSBA acknowledges and understands the challenges that each City, Town, and Regional School District within the Commonwealth has faced over the past year because of COVID-19. We appreciate the work that you have done and will continue to do in support of your community and thank you for your ongoing collaboration with the MSBA during the due diligence process especially during this challenging period.

Overall, the MSBA received 71 SOIs from 52 different school districts for consideration in 2020. In reviewing SOIs, the MSBA identifies the school facilities that have the greatest and most urgent need based on an assessment of the entire cohort of SOIs that are received for consideration each year.

Based upon the MSBA's review and due diligence process, it has been determined that the Burncoat Senior High School SOI will not be invited into the MSBA's Eligibility Period at this time. If the District would like this school to be considered for future collaboration with the MSBA, the District should file an SOI in an upcoming year. The MSBA will begin accepting SOIs for consideration in 2021 starting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Please see the information below regarding the process as well as on the MSBA's website.

If the District is planning to submit an SOI in 2021, consider notifying local governing boards of your intentions, as local governing bodies will have to vote to approve submission of an SOI prior to the following closing dates:

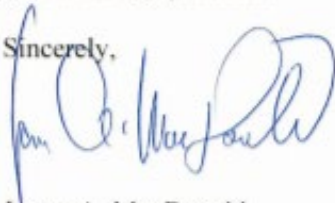
- The SOI closing date for Districts submitting under the Accelerated Repair Program, which is primarily for the repair and/or replacement of windows, roofs, and/or boilers in an otherwise structurally sound facility, will be Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

- The SOI closing date for Districts submitting under the Core Program, which is primarily for projects beyond the scope of Accelerated Repair, including extensive repairs, renovations, addition/renovations, and new school construction will be Friday, June 25, 2021.

The MSBA is proud to be collaborating with the City of Worcester on multiple school projects and remains committed to partnering with the District to better understand any other school facility issues. The MSBA will be sending detailed information regarding the 2021 SOI process in the coming weeks.

Please feel free to contact Katie DeCristofaro, Capital Program Manager at (617) 720-4466 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James A. MacDonald  
Chief Executive Office



John K. McCarthy  
Executive Director/Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Legislative Delegation  
The Honorable Joseph M. Petty, Mayor, City of Worcester  
Donna M Colorio, Vice Chair, Worcester City Council  
John L. Foley, Vice Chair, Worcester School Committee  
Maureen F. Binienda, Superintendent, Worcester Public Schools



X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Mr. Monfredo  
(April 16, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-130  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

Request that the Administration forward an email to the school nurses in recognition of their dedication during the celebration of School Nurse Appreciation Week (May 6 to the 12<sup>th</sup>).

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

Refer to the Administration for implementation.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Forward email.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Mr. Monfredo  
(April 16, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-131  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

Request that the Administration forward an email to the teaching staff (including IA's) in the celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2-8<sup>th</sup>) to thank them for their dedication and hard work, especially during this year of the pandemic.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

Refer to the Administration for implementation.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Forward email.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Mr. Monfredo  
(April 20, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-132  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

Request that the Administration update the Family Handbook prior to the end of the school year and share the document with the Citywide Parent Planning Advisory Council.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Refer to the Administration.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration  
(April 26, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-133  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

To accept a donation of a 2015 Ford Transit 12 Passenger Van to South High Community School from Andy's Attic Inc.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 page) contains a copy of information regarding the item.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

# andys attic.org



Located at South High Community School, 170 Apricot Street, Worcester, MA 01603  
Christine Foley (President) FoleyC@worc.k12.ma.us or contact@andysattic.org 508-735-8507

April 22, 2021

Maureen Binienda  
Superintendent of Worcester Public Schools  
Durkin Administration Building  
20 Irving Street  
Worcester MA 01609

Dear Mrs. Binienda:

Please accept for donation to the South High Community School/Worcester Public Schools from Andy's Attic Inc., 170 Apricot Street, Worcester MA 01603, the following:

2015 Ford Transit 12 Passenger Van VIN# 1FBZX2ZM4FKA42614

Both The President and Treasurer of Andy's Attic Inc. are in agreement to donate this Van to the school system named above.

Sincerely,



Christine Foley  
President  
Andy's Attic Inc.



Paul Burgess  
Treasurer  
Andy's Attic Treasurer

CC: Andy's Attic Board of Directors

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Mayor Petty  
(April 26, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-134  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

To consider approval of naming the auditorium at South High Community School as the Brian A. O'Connell Memorial Auditorium.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration  
(April 26, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-135  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

Request that the School Committee waive the Retention and/or loss of Credit policy for the 20-21 school year.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Administration  
(April 26, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-136  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

Request that the School Committee change the requirement for eligibility for summer school to a final grade of 45-64 for the 20-21 school year

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.



X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Ms. Novick  
(April 28, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-137  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

Request legal counsel report on the authority to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for the 2021-22 school year, as provided under state law, for:

1. Worcester Public Schools' employees.
2. Worcester Public Schools' students.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

Refer to legal counsel

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

The Administration concurs with the maker.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS  
Ms. Novick  
(April 28, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-138  
S.C. MEETING - 5-6-21

ITEM:

Request administration update on transportation extending to high school five days a week at the May 20 meeting

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

Refer to the Administration for a report back on May 20, 2021

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

The Administration concurs with the maker.

XI. EXECUTIVE ITEM  
Administration  
(April 28, 2021)

ITEM - gb #1-139  
S.C. MEETING - 4-15-21

ITEM:

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker's Compensation- Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor, 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- Instructional Aide, 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 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); Educational Association of Worcester, Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Educational Association of Worcester, Instructional Assistants; Educational Association of Worcester, Parent Liaisons; Educational Association of Worcester, Tutors; and Educational Association of Worcester, Therapy Assistants.

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

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8368, Interactive Process and Requests for Workplace Accommodations.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester vs. Worcester Public Schools, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, MCAD Docket No. 20WEM02609 and EEOC Docket No. 16C-2021-00275.

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); Educational Association of Worcester, Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Educational Association of Worcester, Instructional Assistants; Educational Association of Worcester, Parent Liaisons; Educational Association of Worcester, Tutors; and Educational Association of Worcester, Therapy Assistants; NAGE R1-156, 52 Week Secretaries; NAGE R1-16, Cafeteria Workers; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176, Custodians; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176, Educational Secretaries; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176/Unit D, Computer Technicians; IUPE Local - 125 Plumbers and Steamfitters; IUPE Local -135, Tradesmen; Massachusetts Nurses Association, Worcester School Nurses.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Discuss.