

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

The School Committee will hold a virtual and/or in-person meeting:

on: **Thursday, February 1, 2024**  
 at: 5:00 p.m. Executive Session  
 6:00 p.m. Regular Session  
 in: Esther Howland Chamber, City Hall  
 virtual: [Click here to view the meeting on Zoom](#)  
 Also accessible by telephone, to dial in call: +1 301-715-8592 or +1 305-224-1968

ORDER OF BUSINESS

**A. General Business Items taken in Executive Session**

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 – NAGE R1-16 Cafeteria Workers.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Successor Contract Negotiations – Massachusetts Nurses Association for and on behalf of Worcester School Nurses.

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 – Initial Contract Negotiations - Teamsters Local Union 170 for and on behalf of the Worcester Public Schools Transportation Mechanics.

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 – Anna Karam v. Worcester Public Schools, et al., Worcester Superior Court, Civil Action No. 2185-CV-0048-D.

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 – American Arbitration Association No. 01-23-002-6196, Coordinator of School Nurses/Director of Nursing and Health Services and Worcester Public Schools.

**B. Call to Order**

**C. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem**

**D. Roll Call**

**E. Item for Reconsideration**gb 3-157.2 Clancey(June 1, 2023) To consider creating a policy regarding graduation ceremonies and student participation.**F. Consent Agenda**i. Approval of MinutesTo consider approval of the Minutes for the School Committee meeting held on January 18, 2024.ii. Approval of Donations

To consider approval of a donation for Worcester Technical High School from Joseph Freedman Co. Inc. in the amount of \$279.63.

To consider approval of a donation for Worcester Technical High School from the WTHS Early Childhood Club for the Early Childhood children's library to purchase furniture in the amount of \$527.53.

iii. Notification of Personnel Records

The Superintendent has approved the personnel records provided in backup.

New Hire Non-Instructional StaffNew Hire Instructional Staffiv. Initial Filing of Individual RecognitionsBinienda

(February 1, 2024)

To honor and thank President Barry Malone of Worcester State University and Laxmi Bissoondial, Director of Multicultural Affairs at Worcester State University for sponsoring and hosting the Martin Luther King Youth Breakfast. Worcester State University has hosted this breakfast for 30 years.Recommendation of Maker: To set a date to recognizeMcCullough

(February 1, 2024)

Congratulations to the Finance and Marketing DECA students at our DECA district competition this week. Bringing home 6 trophies and 6 additional state qualifications, advancing 21 students into state competition.Recommendation of Maker: Send LettersBiancheria

(February 1, 2024)

To recognize our school's participation and winners of the Worcester Historical Museum, located at 30 Elm Street, Valentine Contest being held on February 9th.

Recommendation of Maker: Send Lettersv. Notices of Interest to the District or to the Public

**G. Held Item**-None**H. Recognitions**-None**I. Public Comment**

Any member of the public may address the Committee regarding any item before them for two (2) minutes. Those speaking will state their name, their residence, and the item on which they wish to speak for the record. Those speaking may do so in person or via remote participation. Those wishing to address the Committee in a language other than English are asked to notify the Clerk of the Committee in advance, so the Committee may be provided with an interpreter. Members of the Committee may not respond to the comments of the public at the meeting.

**J. Public Petition**

c&p 4-1.1 Kamara

(January 18, 2024)

After appropriate community consultation, to redesign the Worcester East Middle School into a full service/ educational innovation Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering, and Math (STEM) school with components of the WPS Spark program that includes project-based learning.

**K. Report of the Superintendent**

ros 4-2 Administration

(February 1, 2024)

From Here, Anywhere... Together: FY25 Preliminary Budget Estimates & SC Priorities

**L. Reports of the Standing Committees**-None**M. Student Advisory Committee Items****N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items**

[To consider approval of the FY2024 Youth Reach Returning Grant from Mass Cultural Council in the amount of \\$22,000.00.](#)

[To consider approval of the Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant from the Commonwealth of MA Office of the State Treasury in the amount of \\$3,660.00.](#)

[To consider approval of the Peter R. Marsh Foundation Music Grant in the amount of \\$1,000.00 for Middle School Music Ensembles.](#)

[Click here to see the Grant Award.](#)

To consider approval of a prior year payment to Garden Fresh Catering in the amount of \$248.40 for invoices just received.

To consider approval of a prior year payment to the Crisis Prevention Institute in the amount of \$5,746.00.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$20,171.80 to CDW.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$6,238.00 to Clearwater Technologies.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount \$100.00 to Early's on Park Ave.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$1,822.98 to First Citizens Bank & Trust Company Konica Minolta Premier Finance.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$9,880.00 to Gustafson Plumbers, Inc.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$8,472.50 to RSC Transportation.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$57.00 to the State of New Hampshire EZ Pass.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$125.00 to a bus driver.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$810.94 to Visual Edge.

**O. General Business**

gb 3-257.1 O'Connell Novick

(November 28, 2023)

Response from administration on:

[To submit testimony in opposition to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's proposed increase in weight in the state accountability system for chronic absenteeism at the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's December meeting.](#)

***Recommendation of Maker: Approve and File***

4-13 Roy

(February 1, 2024)

Request administration to provide a status report on the "Turn It Around Drug Program" including the number of students referred to the program from 2022 / 2023 and the number of students referred from 8/23 to January 2024. This report needs to include the specifics as to why the students were referred.

***Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration***

4-14 Biancheria

(February 1, 2024)

Request the administration provide an update on the Safety Centers for elementary and secondary including the criteria for entry, number of students referred last year to this year.

***Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration*****4-16 Roy**

(February 1, 2024)

Request the administration to contact the Worcester Police Department Traffic Division to assess the traffic congestion at the arrival and dismissal times at Quinsigamond Elementary School including a plan to resolve the congestion.

***Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration*****4-17 Binienda**

(February 1, 2024)

To receive an update of the EMT Program at North High.

***Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration*****4-18 Binienda**

(February 1, 2024)

To request a report on the number of hearings for discipline policy violations and number of students placed in alternative settings (Woodward Day/ alternative programs/school).

***Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration*****qb 3-237.3 Administration**

(October 11, 2023)

To consider dedicating the auditorium at the Durkin Administration Building in honor of Dr. Helen Friel who dedicated her professional life to the Worcester Public Schools on February 16, 2024.

***Recommendation of Maker: Approve*****P. Announcements**

The Worcester Historical Museum, located at 30 Elm Street, is hosting the annual Valentine Contest on January 30th, winners to be announced on February 9th.

**Meeting Dates:****School Committee Meetings:**

- February 5, 2024, Finance, Operations, and Governance Standing Committee Meeting, 4:45 p.m., Durkin Administration Building
- February 15, 2024, Esther Howland Chamber, Worcester City Hall
- March 4, 2024 Finance, Operations, and Governance Standing Committee Meeting, 4:45 p.m., Durkin Administration Building
- March 7, 2024, Esther Howland Chamber, Worcester City Hall

**Q. Adjournment**

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