

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, April 25, 2024**
 at: 5:00 p.m. Executive Session
 5:30 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

B. Call to Order

C. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem-sung by the Rice Square School Chorus

D. Roll Call

M. Student Advisory Committee Items

sa 4-5 Student Advisory Committee

(April 25, 2024)

To enhance the role of guidance counselors by giving them opportunities to engage one on one with their students and prepare each individual for their plans beyond high school, whether it be through a college or another path. Allowing students to connect more with their guidance counselors will prevent bias or negativity between staff and students and overall benefit the school environment.

E. Consent Agenda

i. Approval of Minutes

[To consider approval of the minutes from the School Committee meeting held on April 4, 2024.](#)

ii. Notification of Personnel Records

The Superintendent has approved the personnel records provided in backup.

[New Hire Non-Instructional Staff](#)
[Staff Resignations/Retirements](#)

Notices of Interest to the District or to the Public

F. Item for Reconsideration

G. Held Items

H. RecognitionsMcCullough

(March 21, 2024)

To recognize the 365Z Foundation for their support in providing a NEADS service dog that is being utilized at South High Community School. Honey's handler, Kristen Ford, is an educator at South and her family members are founding members of the 365Z Foundation.

McCullough

(March 21, 2024)

To recognize the Worcester Tech/North boys team for being Division 3 Indoor State Championship Runner up.

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 Petitionc&p 4-3 Public Petition

Avital Grunwald, Lorelai LeClaire, Avery Corey, and Eijra Xhengo

(April 25, 2024)

[To discuss concerns over the WPS School Lunch Program](#)

K. Report of the Superintendentros 4-7 Administration

(April 25, 2024)

[Climate and Culture Inclusivity: A Breakthrough](#)

L. Reports of the Standing Committees

[April 1, 2024 Finance, Operations, and Governance](#)

N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items

To consider a prior year payment for ACCEPT Education Collaborative in the amount of \$326.00 for tuition for a special education student.

[To consider approval of a grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(DESE\) for FY25 FC215a Genocide Education Grant in the amount of \\$50,000.](#)

[To consider approval of a grant from DESE FY24 FC209 Improving Ventilation & Air Quality in Public School Buildings Grant for the window replacement project at Worcester East Middle School in the amount of \\$7,185,226.](#)

To consider approval of a grant from DESE FY24 FC212 Emergency Management Planning Grant Round 2 for Worcester Public Schools District Emergency Management Planning in the amount of \$19,435.

To consider approval of a grant from DESE English as a Second Language (ESL) Certification Grant in the amount of \$12,426.

To consider approval of the Appleseeds Materials and Professional Development Grant from DESE in the amount of \$125,782.00.

To consider approval of a grant from DATTCO, Inc. d/b/a DeVivo Bus Sales was awarded the EPA Clean School Bus grant to provide electric school buses to 5 school districts throughout Massachusetts, including WPS, in the amount of \$5,892,610.

To consider approval of a grant from Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. This grant is designed to supplement the EPA Clean School Bus Program to provide school districts with additional funding and support for their new electric school buses. This funding will be used to purchase charging stations and provide the necessary infrastructure for WPS to house electric buses in the amount of \$750,000.

To consider approval of a grant from DESE for Afghan Refugee Support for Schools. The goal of this grant initiative is to enhance LEA capacity to promote the academic performance and successful integration of Afghan newcomer students. Grant activities will provide funding for services that lead to the effective integration and education of eligible Afghan children and youth in the amount of \$447,857.

O. General Business

3-262 (Kamara)

(November 29, 2023)

Response from Administration

To share any discussion on Worcester's evaluation of our gifted program and what plans are in place to develop a fully functional program for gifted students.

Recommendation of Administration: Accept and File

4-18 Binienda

(February 1, 2024)

Response from Administration

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 Administration: Accept and File

4-19 McCullough

(February 15, 2024)

Response from Administration

To get a presentation on the modern classrooms project including teacher and student feedback from those participating.

Recommendation of Administration: Accept and File4-36 Binienda

(March 7, 2024)

Response from Administration

To request administration provide the cost for the hiring of all culture and climate specialists, the number in each school, and the training provided.

Recommendation of Administration: Accept and File4-39 Mailman

(April 25, 2024)

To provide data on all application programs and schools, as information is known. For example, for middle, secondary, and 6th grade programs provide sending school data - for applications; for "lottery/accepted" students; and actual enrollment for Sept 2024 class; for elementary programs/ schools provide zip code data - for applications; for "lottery/accepted" students and actual enrollment for Sept 2024 class; For same programs, please include zip code or sending school data and low income, English language and special Ed - accepted students Sept 2024, 2023 and 2022.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration4-40 Binenda

(April 25, 2024)

To consider approval of adding the following to the agreement on Chapter 74 Programs: instructors hired for Chapter 74 Programs in Comprehensive High Schools will have the same requirements as staff hired for Worcester Tech Vocational Programs.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration4-41 Binenda

(April 25, 2024)

[To discuss the possible impact on FY25 cuts in reference to the current House Budget.](#)

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Budget4-42 Roy

(April 25, 2024)

To request that school committee members refrain from any use of social media during school committee meetings, via cell phone or tablet, including texting or email use.

Recommendation of Maker: Approve and File4-43 Biancheria

(April 25, 2024)

Request that the administration provide the number of employees on paid administrative leave this school year, as well as the title and dollar amount.

4-44 Biancheria

(April 25, 2024)

Request administration provides a communication (email/text/phone call) when altercations occur in our schools providing a location of school sites and summary of altercation.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration

4-45 Administration

(April 25, 2024)

To review and make necessary changes to the 2024-2025 WPS Student Handbook.

Recommendation: Refer to Finance, Operations, and Governance Standing Committee

P. AnnouncementsMeeting Dates:

School Committee Meetings:

- April 29, 2024, 4:45 p.m., Standing Committee on Finance, Operations, and Governance, Room 410, Durkin Administration Building, 20 Irving Street
- May 2, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Regular Session, Esther Howland Chamber, Worcester City Hall
- May 16, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Regular Session, Esther Howland Chamber, Worcester City Hall
- May 22, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Success, Room 410, Durkin Administration Building, 20 Irving Street

Q. Adjournment

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