

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

AGENDA #12

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, May 4, 2017
at: 6:00 p.m. - Executive Session
7:00 p.m. – Regular Session
in: Esther Howland South Chamber, City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION – Reverend Richard Trainor
Blessed Sacrament Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS - NONE

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #7-151.1 - Administration/Administration
(April 28, 2017)

To recognize Brian Allen for having received for the 4th time, the Meritorious Budget Award for excellence in preparation and issuance of its budget for the Fiscal Year 2016-17 from the Association of the School Business Officials International (ASBO).

The Worcester Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/Educational Institution and does not discriminate regardless of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness. The Worcester Public Schools provides equal access to employment and the full range of general, occupational and vocational education programs. For more information relating to Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action contact the Human Resource Manager, 20 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01609, 508-799-3020.

IMMEDIATE ACTION (continued)ACTION

gb #7-165.1 - Administration/Administration
(April 28, 2017)

To recognize the following schools for having received the Eos Foundation and Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge Award:

Schools	Principals	Nutrition People
Belmont Street Community School	Sue Hodgkins	Debora Gonyea
Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School	Mary Sealey	Rosina Brindisi
Chandler at the Y	Jessica Boss	Jillian Stapleton
Elm Park Community School	Joany Santa	Linda Vivlamore
Lincoln Street School	Martha Dewar	Cheryl Burke
Francis J McGrath Elementary School	Paula Gibb-Severin	Michelle Cantwell
Union Hill School	Ishmael Tabales	Theresa Zarr
Vernon Hill School	Corenza Jackson	Jayne Troy
Wawecus Road School	Joanna Loftus	Kathleen Senior
Woodland Academy	Patricia Padilla	Lynne Stewart

gb #7-174 - Administration
(April 28, 2017)

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

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #7-8 - Administration
(April 26, 2017)

RECENT INITIATIVES IN THE NUTRITION DEPARTMENT OF THE WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS - NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

IX. PERSONNEL

7-12 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the person named below effective as shown:

Belsito, Joseph, Teacher, Worcester Technical, Vocational, BA, Step 1, \$45,064 effective April 24, 2017. Waiver: Painting & Design 9-14.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #6-308.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/
Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria
(April 28, 2017)

To discuss the impact of radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation from wifi and cellular towers on students and staff in schools, potentially including neurologic impairment and malignancy, and to consider means of minimizing any such risk within the Worcester Public Schools by changes as to practice and policy.

gb #7-159.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/
Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria
(April 6, 2017)

To select a voting delegate and an alternate voting delegate for the Annual Business Meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, scheduled for November 1, 2017.

gb #7-168.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/
Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria
(April 28, 2017)

Request that the School Committee consider revisions to the proposed resolutions regarding the need to fund the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

gb #7-175 - Mr. Monfredo
(April 20, 2017)

Request that the Administration, on behalf of the School Committee, forward e-mails to all teachers and nurses in the Worcester Public Schools during National Teacher's Week May 8 – 12 and Nurses' Appreciation Week May 6-12 in appreciation for their efforts for the students in the Worcester Public Schools.

ACTION

Annex A (1 page)

GENERAL BUSINESS

ACTION

gb #7-176 - Administration
(April 25, 2017)

To accept a donation from the Eos Foundation in the amount of \$500 each to the following schools for their commitment to support universal free, after the bell, breakfast in the classroom (BIC) as a powerful tool to fight childhood hunger and boost academic achievement:

- Belmont Street Community School
- Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School
- Chandler Elementary Community School
- Elm Park Community School
- Lincoln Street School
- Francis J. McGrath Elementary School
- Union Hill School
- Vernon Hill School
- Wawecus Road School
- Woodland Academy

gb #7-177 - Miss Biancheria
(April 26, 2017)

Request that the Administration review the precautionary measures and safety features under the safety regulations of the bus contracts for both the Worcester Public Schools and Durham School Services.

gb #7-178 - Administration
(April 26, 2017)

To consider approval of the new 7th grade science textbook published by McGraw Hill, Inc.

gb #7-179 - Administration
(April 26, 2017)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Teachers and Unit A/B, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares

To consider an International Union of Public Employees (I.U.P.E.) Grievance Complaint – HVAC Technician

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

It is the Administration's view that existing government regulating agencies should be setting proper exposure levels and offering best practices, such as the EPA and FCC. While neither agency has established a link between mobile devices and cancer, they do offer some suggestions for those that are concerned about Radio Frequency (RF) exposure.

FCC:

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/wireless-devices-and-health-concerns>

Some measures to reduce your RF exposure include:

- Use a speakerphone, earpiece or headset to reduce proximity to the head (and thus exposure). While wired earpieces may conduct some energy to the head and wireless earpieces also emit a small amount of RF energy, both wired and wireless earpieces remove the greatest source of RF energy (the cell phone) from proximity to the head and thus can greatly reduce total exposure to the head.
- Increase the distance between wireless devices and your body.
- Consider texting rather than talking - **but don't text while you are driving.**

EPA:

<https://www3.epa.gov/radtown/wireless-technology.html>

Scientists continue to study the effects of long-term exposure to low levels of RF. If you are concerned, you can take these simple steps to reduce exposure to RF radiation:

- **Limit use** - Reduce the number and length of your calls or time spent on a wireless device.
- **Use hands-free devices** - Using hands-free devices keeps mobile phones away from your head.
- **Increase distance** between the wireless device and your body.

Based on the guidance from these agencies, the Administration proposes the following:

If you are concerned about radiation or heat from electronic devices, follow these guidelines:

- Consider increasing the distance between electronic devices and your body
- Consider keeping your cellphone, tablet, or laptop in your purse, backpack, or briefcase case instead of keeping it on or close to your body
- If talking on a cellphone, consider using speakerphone or a hands free headset or reduce the number or length of calls
- When not using wireless or Bluetooth, consider shutting off these services on the device or put the device in Airplane mode
- Consider not placing the device directly on your lap. Instead consider placing it on a hard surface such as a desk or book