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

AGENDA #26

The School Committee will virtually hold a special meeting:

on: Wednesday, August 5, 2020

at: 5:00 p.m. – Regular Session

in: Room 410, Durkin Administration Building

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR MEETING

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #0-27 - Clerk
(July 29 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, July 16, 2020.

aor #0-28 - Clerk
(July 29 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Monday, July 20, 2020.

APPROVAL OF RECORDS (continued)

ACTION

aor #0-29 - Clerk
(July 29 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

aor #0-30 - Clerk
(July 29 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #0-238 - Administration
(July 28, 2020)

To consider the End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation of the Superintendent by the School Committee.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met virtually on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 3:07 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE

IX. PERSONNEL - NONE

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-239 - Administration
(July 24, 2020)

To accept a donation of warehouse space for the storage of personal protective equipment (PPE) from Chacharone Properties for use by the district for the 2020-21 school year.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #0-240 - Administration
(July 24, 2020)

To consider approval a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$29.00, made payable to Language Testing International.

gb #0-241 - Administration
(July 24, 2020)

To accept the MA Libraries CARES Act Grant in the amount of \$3,500.00.

gb #0-242 - Administration
(July 28, 2020)

To authorize the Administration to enter into an agreement for the lease of space for five-years for the creation of a Dual Language School.

gb #0-243 - Administration
(July 28, 2020)

To consider approval of the updated 2020-21 School Calendar.

gb #0-244 - Administration
(July 28, 2020)

To consider approval of a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$874.00 for double honor cords, made payable to Jostens.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS
Clerk
(July 29 2020)

ITEM - aor #0-27
S.C. MEETING - 8-5-20

ITEM:

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, July 16, 2020.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (24 pages) contains a copy of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, July 16, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Thursday, July 16, 2020
Agenda #22

In order to participate in all future public meetings in the Esther Howland Chamber, please call 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 735751404) to participate.

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 4:02 p.m. in the Esther Howland Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, July 16, 2020.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

Miss Biancheria was absent.

1. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #0-25 - Clerk Minutes/approval of
(July 8, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, June 18, 2020.

aor #0-26 - Clerk Minutes/approval of
(July 8, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, July 2, 2020.

(These items are considered together.)

On a roll call, the vote to accept and file the items collectively were 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.

2. IMMEDIATE ACTION

Recognition/
Mark Berthiaume

gb #0-199 - Administration
(June 8, 2020)

To recognize Mark Berthiaume, Student Assignment Officer, for his 43 years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

On a roll call, the vote to hold the item 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.

3. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent's
Summative
Evaluation

ros #0-7 - Administration
(July 8, 2020)

SUPERINTENDENT'S SUMMATIVE EVALUATION

Superintendent Binienda presented a PowerPoint relative to her End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation Report based on her Goals.

Assess Progress Toward the Goals

Superintendent Binienda rated herself as follows:
Professional Practice Goals - Met
Student Learning Goals - Significant Progress
District Improvement Goal - Significant Progress

Assess Performance on Standards

Superintendent Binienda rated herself as follows:
Instructional Leadership - Proficient
Management & Operations - Proficient
Family & Community Engagement - Proficient
Professional Culture - Proficient

Superintendent Binienda gave herself Proficient on the Overall Summative rating.

Mayor Petty held this item to allow the following item to be discussed.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

c&p #0-12 - Clerk
(June 21, 2020)

Worcester Voter
Registration Initiative

To consider a communication from Kwaku Nyarko relative to the Worcester Voter Registration Initiative partnering with the Worcester Public Schools to increase voter turnout in the city through community engagement, workshops, and civics lessons catered towards the youth.

Kwaku Nyarko and Kenneth Amoah both spoke about the Voter Registration Initiative and wanted to collaborate with the Worcester Public Schools to discuss with students the importance of voting and civics engagement throughout the community.

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

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

6. Mayor Petty suspended rules to allow the public to speak regarding the Fourteen Action Steps on the Supplemental Agenda which is not connected to the Superintendents contact or evaluation.

Isabel Gonzalez-Webster discussed her concerns regarding the Superintendent’s Fourteen Action Steps and her evaluation. She stated that the recommendation to have students shadowed who were suspended is unacceptable and considered this to be racial profiling. She was glad to see the discipline numbers going down but would like to see the in-house suspensions decrease also. She stated that she was surprised to hear that the Diversity Advisory Committee was created and asked why community members were not consulted or even asked to be part of this committee. She would like to know who is on the committee. She further questioned how many people of the 22 individuals in Educator Licensure Program are of color. She would also like to see the Data Agreement with Worcester State University be made public and asked if assessments have been done regarding Chapter 222.

Superintendent Binienda stated she agrees with Ms. Gonzalez that it is not appropriate for students to be shadowed and the WPS does not do this.

7. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent’s
Summative
Evaluation

ros #0-7 - Administration
(July 8, 2020)

SUPERINTENDENT’S SUMMATIVE EVALUATION

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

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

Mayor Petty took gb #9-327.1 and gb #0-234 out of order.

8. gb #9-327.1 - Administration/Mayor Petty (July 14, 2020) Fourteen Action Steps

To provide an update on the fourteen Action Steps made by Mayor Petty and approved by the School Committee:

1. School Department to create clear and transparent process to provide the necessary, student-sensitive data needed to do a thorough review of the suspension rates in our Worcester Public Schools. This should include the last 7 years of data.
2. Worcester State University to re-engage with our school department regarding the 2014 report, "Suspension in Worcester: A Continuing Conversation.
3. Incorporate comprehensive training practices focused on understanding cultural differences, unconscious bias, understanding racial disparities, and trauma informed care for all staff. Included in this training is MGL c222. For all staff including School Committee.
4. Review of the state's school discipline statute, MGL c222, to ensure the city is in complete compliance with the law and make any necessary changes to our policies and procedures.
5. Continue to maintain an English Language Learner Parent Advisory Council that includes Community Based Organizations and Community Partners in compliance with law, which will work with both the Director of English Language Learners and the Chief Diversify Officer.
6. Review the practice of out of school suspension for students in K-2 grade and work with community partners and internal staff to create an in-school program to provide counselling and assessment services for these students, contingent on proper funding and in-kind services.

7. Create an Affirmative Action Advisory Committee that would work with the Human Resource Department and the Chief Diversity Officer. Provide a semiannual report to the School Committee, with the Human Resources Department and the Chief Diversity Officer, as to progress.
8. Create a Superintendents Latino Advisory Committee
9. Quarterly/biannual reports on the progress of the Strategic Plan
10. Review and maintain the existing suspension hearing and appeal practices so that the same WPS person is not allowed to do both hearings and appeals.
11. Hiring a Chief Diversity Officer who shall report to the Superintendent and who shall work collaboratively with the Department of Human Resources of the Worcester Public Schools.
12. Review and assist a comprehensive plan with college presidents to do focused recruitment and retention plans to hire diverse teachers and support staff.
13. Provide a semi-annual report on the work of the English Language Learner Department and programs to the School Committee on compliance with best practices and Federal DOE guidelines.
14. Work with the School Committee to consider and implement recommendations of the Mayors Commission where appropriate. Work with the Commission to benchmark projects.

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

9. gb #0-234 - Administration
(July 7, 2020)

Remote Learning/
lessons learned

To consider the lessons learned from the Worcester Public Schools' remote learning.

Ms. Kuriacose provided a summary of accomplishment during the month of June to reflect on remote learning experiences. She also discussed the three surveys that were administered to students, parents/guardians and staff to gather information on the experiences that people had regarding remote learning.

The students survey was administered between June 18th through June 19th after most of the Chromebooks were distributed but only about 800 students responded which is a lower rate than most years. She stated that she believed that this was due to an overrepresentation of students who are comfortable with technology and internet access and an underrepresentation of students who became disengaged at some point during the school closure period. A majority of students reported that they didn't need adult technology help or academic help on a majority of assignments. Forty percent of students felt the workload was neutral, forty-one percent felt that it was manageable and eighteen percent said it was not. There was a discrepancy between the experiences of students in secondary grades and elementary grades. Many students commented specifically on math and the difficulty they had in learning math remotely.

The parent/guardian survey was administered between June 14th through July 5th which had a much higher response rate than usual and was a good representation across the district schools and grades. Forty-seven percent of the respondents were identified as white. Two out of the three parents who had at least one student reported that they had to help their child/ren with half or more of their assignments. Three out of four parents who had at least one student with a disability reported that they had to help their child/ren with half of the assignments. Fifty percent of them thought the workload was manageable and twenty-six percent were neutral.

Parents felt overwhelmed by the number of resources that were in the plans and the different places they had to go to engage in learning and also it was difficult to understand all the pedagogical terms.

The staff survey was administered between June 8th through June 19th and there were 1,082 responses, which is slightly lower than most years. A majority of educators said that they felt like they gained confidence as a virtual or remote educator. Sixty-four percent of educators said that they prefer blended models for professional learning. Forty-four percent of staff said that they were in communication with parents/guardians multiple times a week where twenty-two percent said they were in touch daily. Some teachers stated that there was a lot of disengagement due to the fact that there was no accountability, no grades and some families couldn't put the time into their child/ren's work. There was a lot of concerns about the effectiveness of remote learning plans for students who might need more of a hands-on approach. A lot of staff said that students really struggled with unstructured time and all of the self-management that was asked of them. Many staff felt that the amount of communication expected felt intrusive, overwhelming and not authentic. The lack of grading policy is something that they attributed as the reason for low participation rate. They really struggled with finding that balance between their personal and work lives.

Some of the district reflections are that:

- Google classrooms were being used actively.
- Teachers took advantage of trainings.
- There were opportunities for teachers and other educators to get the support through tutorial videos and professional learning communities.
- Only 66 percent of students had both a device and the internet.
- The use of technology needs to be expand.
- It needs to increase the connections with families and listen to their needs.

- It needs to build some consistency across schools and grade.
- It need support students and families with accessing technology with a device or a hotspot.
- It needs to have more structured synchronous and asynchronous remote learning.

Mr. Foley requested that the Administration administer another survey to parents/guardians, students and teachers after the Summer School Programs are complete and provide the responses to the School Committee in September. He stated that he would like to see the online learning more be more challenging and rigorous. He asked if the Google platform was the best platform to use and wanted to receive the costs of the Google contract. He also stated that the district needs to let the teachers teach.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report in August on the technology the district is using for remote and online learning, the additional cost associated with it and what the future fiscal year estimate cost would look like.

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

Mrs. Kyriazis stated that the system does not pay for a Google contract but not using Microsoft saved the district a significant amount of money. However, there are supplemental options from Google that can be purchased like Google Voice and Google Meet, which is less expensive than Zoom.

Mr. Monfredo stated that one of his concerns is the interaction with kindergarten students meeting their teachers for the first time and the interaction with the families as well.

Ms. Novick stated that the elementary school experience is one of her most grave concerns, both retrospectively and prospectively in terms of student engagement. Students at that grade level can't learn on their own. She also stated that the system needs to let teachers assign the work to the students.

She also felt that the notion of saying that families were disengaged means they don't support their child's education. Educators need to know that is not the case for many parents and that they may be going through a lot of turmoil during the pandemic.

Ms. Novick asked if the student district data for student engagement were the actual scores that teachers gave for the fourth quarter grading.

Superintendent Binienda stated that is what the teachers reported that they gave to each student.

Mrs. Clancey stated that a family or student who was disengaged doesn't mean that they were disengaged in their education. It just means there might be something going on in home that doesn't allow them to be engaged. She asked if there were only one thousand active weekly teachers.

Mrs. Kyriazis stated that there were one thousand seventy actively weekly teachers and also a significant amount of co-teachers. This number does not include the pre-K and Headstart Program teachers. She also stated that more teachers started to use Google Meet which is better on the Chromebooks. Zoom takes up a lot of bandwidth which bogs down the internet connection.

Superintendent Binienda explained that remote learning is not considered homeschooling. Homeschooling means that you don't receive any resources from the district. Parents submit a lesson plan at the beginning of the school year and a progress report at the end of the school year. Remote learning is offered by WPS and students can access all its resources. If a parent is afraid to send their child/ren to school due to the virus a rigorous remote learning platform will be offered to those students.

Ms. Novick requested that the Administration keep the School Committee apprised of any and all updates regarding the remote learning platforms.

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

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

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved to recess to Executive Session and Mayor Petty stated they would not be coming back out to the floor.

gb #0-235 - Administration
(July 8, 2020)

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 –
Coronavirus/COVID-19 Related Issues –
Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators); Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Instructional Assistants; Parent Liaisons; Tutors; and Therapy Assistants.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Contractual Arbitration –
Instructional Assistant/Educational Association of Worcester and Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination Litigation – Instructional Assistant.

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 – All Worcester Public Schools Bargaining Units (**Educational Association of Worcester** – Units A/B; Instructional Assistants; Parent Liaisons; Therapy Assistants; Tutors; Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; **NAGE** – 52 Week Administrative Secretaries; Cafeteria Workers; **IUPE** – Plumbers and Steamfitters; Tradesmen; **Massachusetts Laborers’ District Council** – Custodians; Computer Technicians; Educational Secretaries; and **Massachusetts Nurses Association** – Nurses).

On a roll call, the vote was follows:

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

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:21 p.m. to 7:25 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mayor Petty took the following items out of order:

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

Dress Code Policy

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

Mayor Petty allowed the following individuals to speak to the item.

Antonia McCarthy and Lashonda Beard spoke to the issue of students not being allowed to wear durags in school. They stated that wearing them is part of their culture and should not be associated with gangs. They would like the stigma of durags and gangs changed and people to know that they should not be profiled because of wearing them.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Dress Code Policy was discussed with the Diversity Committee which included the Chief Diversity Officer, Administration and student representatives. She stated that the Student Handbook does have to go out for print and be translated into many languages but is willing to put in an insert, if necessary.

Ms. McCullough asked if a meeting of the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues was held next week to discuss the two items and the Action Sheet was provided at the School Committee meeting on Aug 5th, would the printing still be done in a timely manner?

Dr. O'Neil stated that the RFP will have to go out and the amendments would have to translated into multiple languages and hopefully, the handbook will be ready prior to the opening of school.

Ms. Novick stated that the process for approving the Student Handbook should be started in March, not in July. It is the job of the School Committee to approve policies and she wants the public to have input in reviewing the amendments to the Handbook. She stated that the individuals that are most impacted by these policies are families and students and they should be invited to speak to them.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that (gb #0-230), the Student Handbook, item also be referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

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

Superintendent Binienda stated that she agrees with Ms. Novick on starting the process for approval earlier and suggested starting in February. She would like Antonia McCarthy and Lashonda Beard to be invited to the Standing Committee meeting.

Ms. Novick requested that the student body also be invited to the meeting.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the item be referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues with a request to invite the student body to the meeting.

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

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

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

Against the motion:	<u>0</u>
	7

The motion carried.

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

2020-21 Student
Handbook

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

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

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

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

The motion carried.

13. gb #0-138.3 - Administration/Ms. Novick/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley
(July 6, 2020) FY21 Budget/school
nurses/hiring of

Response of the Administration to the motions from the FY21 Budget:

500-91133 Nursing and Clinical Care

Salaries

Request that the Administration report publicly on the difficulties in hiring school nurses.

Request that the Administration provide a list of the schools that have nurses to include the hours that they are on site and the gaps and the challenges relative to hiring school nurses.

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Mrs. Clancey (connectivity issues) $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

Books on
Loan/ConnectEd
message to
parents

14. gb #0-177.2 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo
(June 24, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the request to send out a ConnectEd message in June, July and August alerting parents of the opportunity to pick up books on loan from the Worcester Public Library.

Mr. Monfredo questioned if summer math activities were sent out to students and Superintendent Binienda responded that they were.

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

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

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

The motion carried.

Reopening of
Schools/
responses to
motions

15. gb #0-218.1 - Administration/Mayor Petty/
Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick
(July 8, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the following motions that the Administration:

- partner with neighborhood centers in order to get the information out to parents.
- provide an update on the Chromebook funding and distribution.
- survey parents in order to assess their level of comfort with computers when helping their child/ren.

- consider the hours of teaching in order to provide evening and afterschool classes to those at-risk students who work during school time.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the item be held to receive more information at the end of August.

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

On a roll call, the vote to hold the item for a report at the end of August 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.

16. gb #0-221 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/ Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/ Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick (June 21, 2020) IEP Students

Request that the Administration provide an update on the number of IEP students that:

- have extended school year services
- receive remote services at school or at home during the summer

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, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick,
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

- 18. gb #0-224 - Administration
(July 6, 2020)

Grant/Coronavirus Aid,
Relief, and Economic
Security Act (CARES
Act) ESSER

To accept the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
Economic Security Act (CARES Act) ESSER -
Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency
Relief Grant in the amount of \$9,463,606.

Mrs. Kyriazis stated that the hotspots that the system purchased were more than it needed. Sometimes, a family broadband isn't enough for multiple users on at the same time which the district anticipated. The district would be able to provide the family with a hotspot to help with this problem and if it district does not use them, they can turn them off after three months.

Ms. Novick asked if the four additional staff members hired under grant funding will be added into the FY22 general funds.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the intention is to keep the four new hires on as permanent staff members.

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

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

- 19. gb #0-225 - Mrs. Clancey/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick
(July 1, 2020)

Chromebook
Distribution

Request that the Administration provide a report on Chromebook distribution indicating how many more are needed with hot spots in order to accommodate all students in the Worcester Public Schools and include a plan for the distribution of these devices.

Mrs. Clancey made the following amendment to her item:

Request that the Administration provide an update on the distribution of Chromebooks, hotspots and iPads and indicate how they will be distributed.

On a roll call of 7-0, the item as amended was approved.

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, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:	$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

Google
Classroom
Training/parents-
guardians

20. gb #0-226 - Mrs. Clancey/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick
(July 1, 2020)

Request that the Administration study the feasibility of implementing Google Classroom Trainings for parents/guardians prior to the start of the school year.

Superintendent Binienda stated that there are enough Chromebooks for every student.

Mrs. Kyriazis stated that the Administration established a committee which met for the first time on July 16, 2020. The committee members will establish ways in which to help parents out and is working closely with the Health Department. Training will start once a plan is in place and family members are notified. It will continue throughout the year, if needed.

Miss Biancheria suggested that the CPPAC be involved with this effort.

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, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick,
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

21. gb #0-227 - Mrs. Clancey/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick
(July 1, 2020) Kindergarten
Screening/update on

Request that the Administration provide an update on the district's plans to conduct kindergarten screening for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Mrs. Clancey stated that it will be a very anxious time, during the COVID-19 pandemic, for parents whose child will be attending school for the first time and would like to know what is being done to ease the parents' concerns.

Mr. Monfredo asked if the Administration reached out to social agencies and interfaith groups asking them to reach out to parents about signing up for kindergarten.

Dr. O'Neil stated that the Administration will provide a report on the plans, how many students are signed up to start kindergarten and the response from the community groups. She also stated that Mrs. Melendez and community groups will provide information to parents about the online registration for their child.

Mr. Foley asked if the Administration has reaching out to parents regarding signing their child/ren up for preschool.

Superintendent Binienda stated the Administration is meeting with Ms. Kuczka and that due to the pandemic, parents are not sending their child/ren to preschool resulting in a drop in attendance.

Miss Biancheria stated that the Administration can advertise for student to attend preschools knowing that the parents are reluctant to send their child/ren to preschool during the pandemic.

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, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick,
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

Innovation
Schools Annual
Evaluations

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

To consider review of the following Innovation Schools Annual Evaluations:

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

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item to the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance was as follows:

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

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

The motion carried.

23. gb #0-229 -Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick
(July 6, 2020) Summer School
Learning

Request that the Administration provide an update on summer school learning and include the grade levels with the content covered and the number of students who participated.

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item to the Administration for a report on August 27, 2020 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.

24. gb #0-231 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(July 7, 2020) COVID-19/air
circulation guidance

Request administration consider the World Health Organization's review of evidence of airborne transmission of COVID-19 and ASHRAE [American Society for Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers] guidance and resources regarding air circulation in planning for the 2020-21 school year.

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, Ms. McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick,
Mayor Petty 7

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

The motion carried.

"Broadening
Broadband"

25. gb #0-232 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(July 7, 2020)

To consider the Worcester Regional Research
Bureau's July 2020 report "[Broadening
Broadband](#)".

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item to the
Standing Committee on School and Student
Performance was as follows:

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

Against the motion: 0

Absent: Miss Biancheria (connectivity issues) $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

Anti-Racism
Resolution

26. gb #0-233 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/
Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(July 7, 2020)

To adopt the MASC Anti-Racism Resolution.

On a roll call, the vote to refer the item to 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 (connectivity issues) $\frac{1}{7}$

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

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

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS
Clerk
(July 29 2020)

ITEM - aor #0-28
S.C. MEETING - 8-5-20

ITEM:

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Monday, July 20, 2020.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (6 pages) contains a copy of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Monday, July 20, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 Worcester, Massachusetts
 Monday, July 20, 2020
 Agenda #23

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 5:32 p.m. virtually in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Monday, July 20, 2020.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Ms. McCullough

Mr. Foley left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. | <u>gb #0-236</u> - Administration
(July 15, 2020) | School Reopening/
Update on |
|----|--|--------------------------------|

To consider an update on school reopening.

Mayor Petty began by stating that the purpose of this special meeting was to present a preliminary overview of the plans for the reopening of school. He said there would be a presentation followed by questions and that the meeting was being streamed on Facebook and You Tube.

Brian Allen, Chief Financial and Operations Officer of the Worcester Public Schools provided an analysis regarding facilities and transportation. He outlined the classroom capacities using both the six and three feet social distancing models. Although guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is still unavailable, Mr. Allen presented transportation parameters which included large and mid-size buses along with wheelchair buses.

Dr. Mary Meade-Montaque, Secondary Schools Manager and Dr. Marie Morse, Elementary School Manager both spoke to two return to school models. The first would have students attend school in-person fifty percent of the time, and another that would have them attend one third of the time. The fifty percent model is based on three feet spacing between students and would include two in-person days each week.

The one third model is based on the six feet spacing between students and would include one day of in-person learning per week. Both options allow for the fact that students who need more in-person support, like English language learners and SPED students, would attend in-person school more often than other students. If full remote learning becomes necessary, the hybrid models presented would allow for easier conversion to full remote learning.

Sarah Kyriazis, Instructional Technology and Digital Learning Manager stated that every student will be provided with a device and hotspots, if needed. Chromebooks will be provided to staff including Instructional Assistants.

Robert Pezzella, School Safety Director outlined the protocol for PPE, cleaning and disinfecting. Temperatures will not be taken upon arrival and COVID-19 testing will not be performed. The district will notify the parents and the Department of Public Health if there is a positive case. Parents should monitor their child's health and employees should be cognizant of any symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home if they are sick.

Mayor Petty opened up the meeting to allow attendees to ask questions or provide comments. Some of the questions and concerns put forth by parents, students and employees were:

Questions

1. Who decides 3 or 6 feet separation of students?
2. Why is Friday an off day?
3. Is 100% remote an option?
4. How will SPED students not fall behind?
5. What is the cleaning protocol on the buses?
6. What about loud sounds for autistic children?
7. Why are temperatures not being taken?

8. If the schools don't test daily for the virus, how do you prevent students from passing the virus back and forth to each other, especially in the high risk Latino community?
9. What provisions will be taken to limit amount of screen time for kindergarten students?
10. How will junior and high school students be expected to maintain social distancing?
11. What about Early College?
12. What about children who are carriers and show no symptoms?
13. Can remote learning be done any time of day?
14. Are there plans to improve communication with refugee families and those who are not technology savvy?
15. How are IEP's being managed?
16. Will students be allowed to remove masks while in the cafeteria?
17. Who developed the models?
18. Will teachers be paid double salary for Zoom meetings?
19. What steps will be taken for the students with behavioral and speech therapy who are not able to wear masks?
20. Who will be there to support the students who have anxiety due to COVID-19 concerns?
21. Will the bathrooms be cleaned more than they are currently being cleaned?
22. Will every student receive a Chromebook?
23. What about MCAS?
24. Who pays for a broken Chromebook?
25. Are the hand sanitizers being checked for methanol?
26. Why are parents not allowed to see other learners?
27. How is absenteeism going to be addressed?

28. If a vaccine is created, would all students go back to in person learning?
29. Do teachers need a doctor's note if found to be positive?
30. What is the plan when teachers call out sick?
31. Can the school day be extended to accommodate working parents?
32. Could a child in Group A be moved to Group B?
33. What about WTHS shop weeks?
34. Will there be extra tutors for inclusion classrooms?
35. What about child care for parents who work?
36. What about the learning gap from the spring?
37. What about teachers with underlying conditions? Is a doctor's note sufficient to teach from home?
38. Will there be a video presented on what to expect if you do choose the hybrid model?
39. What about the Arts, especially for SPED students?
40. What if schools have to be totally shut down again?
41. Does a child lose their place in the lottery if they choose remote learning?
42. Can parents supplement curriculum with their own?
43. How are classrooms being cleaned?
44. What about SPED students who have a nurse or monitor on the bus?
45. Will there be plexiglass barriers for compromised employees?
46. What about food?
47. Will the city provide enough wi-fi coverage?
48. Will there be virtual dual language courses for families who do not speak Spanish?
49. What about hands on equipment for IEP students?

50. Are fans allowed?
51. How will testing on each subject be done?
52. Will WTHS students be doing their co-op's?
53. Who will be making the final decision among the three plans?
54. Are you addressing Zoom etiquette?
55. Can you ensure that students are given work to meet their academic levels?
56. If I choose the hybrid model, but find that I would prefer 100% remote, can I switch?
57. Will I lose my football eligibility if the sports season is cancelled?
58. Can lessons be accessed in Day Care?

Comments

1. I don't feel comfortable sending my child back to school.
2. It may be beneficial to look at how universities factored in parametrics.
3. This virus is airborne, children will be carriers.
4. If the School Committee is still doing virtual meetings, children should not be going back to school.
5. I have many concerns about safety and feel it is unwise to move forward. Our children should not be sacrificial lambs to an economic recovery.
6. Some schools are too old and poorly ventilated.
7. Teachers are scared to go back without testing in the building.
8. We had continuous communication with my child's teachers.
9. Parents currently send sick children to school.
10. Our family had a great summer school experience.
11. I believe that safety should trump everything.
12. DESE guidelines are not really created with what is best for public health.

13. Students miss their teachers and classmates.
14. It may be wise to start a routine now to prepare your child for the fall.
15. Disappointed by the lack of discussion of teacher safety.
16. Teachers have been wonderful during the shutdown.
17. I am happy with the flexibility offered.
18. It is disrespectful to staff that there was no teacher meeting.
19. Huge difference between initial remote learning and summer school learning.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mr. Foley) the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

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

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS
Clerk
(July 29 2020)

ITEM - aor #0-29
S.C. MEETING - 8-5-20

ITEM:

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (8 pages) contains a copy of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 Worcester, Massachusetts
 Wednesday, July 22, 2020
 Agenda #24

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 5:37 p.m. virtually in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

Ms. McCullough was absent.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. gb #0-236.1 - Administration School Reopening/
update on
 (July 17, 2020)

To consider an update on school reopening.

Mayor Petty began by stating that the purpose of this special meeting was to present a preliminary overview of the plans for the reopening of school. He said there would be a presentation followed by questions and that the meeting was being streamed on Facebook and You Tube.

Brian Allen, Chief Financial and Operations Officer of the Worcester Public Schools provided an analysis regarding facilities and transportation. He outlined the classroom capacities using both the six and three feet social distancing models. Although guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is still unavailable, Mr. Allen presented transportation parameters which included large and mid-size buses along with wheelchair buses.

Dr. Mary Meade-Montaque, Secondary Schools Manager and Dr. Marie Morse, Elementary School Manager both spoke to two return to school models. The first would have students attend school in-person fifty percent of the time, and another that would have them attend one third of the time. The fifty percent model is based on three feet spacing between students and would include two in-person days each week.

The one third model is based on the six feet spacing between students and would include one day of in-person learning per week. Both options allow for the fact that students who need more in-person support, like English language learners and SPED students, would attend in-person school more often than other students. If full remote learning becomes necessary, the hybrid models presented would allow for easier conversion to full remote learning.

Sarah Kyriazis, Instructional Technology and Digital Learning Manager stated that every student will be provided with a device and hotspots, if needed. Chromebooks will be provided to staff including Instructional Assistants.

Robert Pezzella, School Safety Director outlined the protocol for PPE, cleaning and disinfecting. Temperatures will not be taken upon arrival and COVID-19 testing will not be performed. The district will notify the parents and the Department of Public Health if there is a positive case parents should monitor their child's health and employees should be cognizant of any symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home if they are sick.

Superintendent Binienda commented that there will be a meeting with the medical professionals within the next week and stated that a ConnectEd message will go out to parents with instructions how to forward your questions to them. There will be a panel that will be able to answer the questions with the most updated COVID-19 guidance on the virus and how it affects children and adults.

Mayor Petty opened up the meeting to allow attendees to ask questions or provide comments. Some of the questions and concerns put forth by parents, students and employees were:

Questions

1. Are students going to be disciplined if they refuse to wear the masks in school, and if so, what will the protocol be?
2. Can a doctor's note be provided for a student to not wear a mask in school?
3. What is the district going to do to keep the kids safe?

4. Whom can I call when a child is not following the rules regarding masks?
5. Are the doctors that the district getting their input from a group of pediatricians or do we have immunologists for people that are dealing with auto immune issues?
6. Are there infectious disease doctors involved with making the decisions both for Worcester and for DESE?
7. Have the HVAC systems in the school buildings been addressed?
8. How are students categorized in the A, B and C group model?
9. Are students on an IEP automatically in group C?
10. Why is Friday's not a school day?
11. Can students remove their masks at their desk if they are 6 feet apart?
12. Are students going to be taught proper hygiene to help spread of the virus?
13. Why are teachers not having 100% interaction with the students?
14. If a student is sent home sick, who is responsible to take them home?
15. How is the system going to support the teachers, are they going to hire more?
16. Why can't the classroom be live streamed?
17. What will the impact be on the MCAS tests?
18. If one of the models does not work for a student can the parent switch them to the other model?
19. If a student or staff member is tested positive for COVID-19, will the individuals that were in contact with them be quarantined?
20. What has the district done to ask for more funding from the state?

21. When will parents receive information on their child/ren returning to Worcester Technical High School?
22. When will the classes be disinfected?
23. Is the district going to survey all parents to see who wants to keep their child/ren home or who wants to send their child to school full time?
24. What is the timeline for the final plan for students to go back to work?
25. What is the criteria or metric for full remote and the hybrid?
26. Is there something proactive that can be done to periodically check in with students so that they can be transparent to share their concerns?
27. Are parents going to have support for them if they choose to keep their child home?
28. Are the afterschool programs going to be held?
29. How is the district going to protect the bus drivers and how are they going to mandate students to wear their masks on the bus?
30. What will be the teacher/student ratio?
31. Is there going to be lessons for parents to help their child with their classwork?
32. How will parents be notified if someone in their child's school is tested positive?
33. How are the students going to be monitored in the hallways?
34. How do I vote for the hybrid model?
35. Is the system going to receive the SOA money?
36. Is there going to be help for daycare for at risk parents?
37. Is the WRTA going to provide free fair for students.
38. How are teacher specialists going to work remotely?
39. Are there going to be support for the nurses in schools?

40. How is the isolation room going to be set up?
41. How is the system dealing with parents with children starting Kindergarten?
42. How are the social emotional learning needs of the students going to be addressed, particularly the younger grades?
43. Is the School Committee or the School Leadership team ready to deviate from any of the guidelines from DESE if they feel that those guidelines are less than appropriate, for example, K, pre-K and first graders not wearing masks?
44. Would School Committee members be willing to go into a classroom as required by teachers?
45. How do we ensure that students are really participating in the remote learning?
46. Are the PPE materials that were ordered a guaranteed delivery?
47. Are children going to be learning the same materials remotely and online?
48. Who will pay for the COVID-19 test?
49. Are there any other alternative for school than sending my child back to the WPS?
50. Do we know when the notification of the other Chromebook coming out so we can get the second one?
51. Can you detail the steps that you are taking to prepare teachers to not just teach online, but also to deal with adapting to a new system of electronic teaching?
52. Will the teacher for my children possibly change based on whether I chose the remote learning or the hybrid learning?
53. How will electives like music, art and especially gym be taught virtually?
54. Who do we contact when our child has Chromebook issues?

55. Are there any plans to increase textbooks access for upper level students for novels that aren't in the public domain for either a hybrid or the online learning?
56. Who is going to cover a teacher's class is he/she is out sick?
57. What is the teachers schedule going to look like and how are they going to support students that are at home?
58. How are pod classrooms going to be divided?
59. How is absenteeism going to be addressed?
60. What would the breakfasts and lunches be like in school?
61. When will students be able to participate in school sports?
62. What will AP classes look like?
63. Are teachers getting a pay raise?
64. What will the effect of this be on the music, art and gym teachers?

Comments

1. Parents needs to realize that the districts remote learning that happened in the spring was an emergency crisis situation and teachers did the best they could.
2. All teachers should be involved in the decisions of the district regarding the remote and online learning.
3. I don't feel reopening schools is a good idea.
4. I feel that reopening schools will put teachers at risk.
5. I feel that it should be a teacher's choice if they want to return to the School Building.
6. I feel that that students should go back to school full time.

7. Teaching our child/ren the safety procedure regarding COVID-19 should not be the burden of the teachers and staff, it needs to start at home first.
8. I am afraid of sending the child back to school because the other students may not follow the rules.
9. I feel that it is very important that my child has interaction with their teacher every day.
10. I am terrified to send my child back to school who is in life skill classes.
11. I feel that students will have a hard time learning if they keep switching from the hybrid model to the full online learning.
12. I want to state that teachers have been overworked and it will be increasing once the schools either open or a full online model is in place.
13. I am a students and I would not mind having my temperature taken every day before entering into school.
14. I feel that the masked don't work. Therefore, I am not sending my child to school.
15. I would like to see more interaction between my child and the teacher during the week.
16. I am happy to know that parents have a choice between hybrid and remote learning.
17. I think the system is making a mistake by sending children to school. Schools are like a petri-dish.
18. I discussed the decision regarding going back to school with my child and against my wishes they want to go back.
19. The online work and the teachers trying to communicate with the kids one day a week, I don't feel is really enough.
20. I strongly urge you to ultimately choose fully remote until there is a vaccine.

21. I'm much more reassured about the upcoming model because I do know that teachers take it upon themselves to take advantage of a lot of the opportunities that the district was offering for different types of technology immersion.
22. I'm also deeply worried about the health of my colleagues, about students, the parents and grandparents of those students who so often are providing care.
23. I miss my students horribly and I want to get back to school.
24. I really hope that we're not pressing to go back because so many people have this overwhelming desire to be able to have their kids watched so they can earn money.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough) it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 p.m.

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

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS
Clerk
(July 29 2020)

ITEM - aor #0-30
S.C. MEETING - 8-5-20

ITEM:

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (10 pages) contains a copy of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 Worcester, Massachusetts
 Wednesday, July 29, 2020
 Agenda #25

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 5:30 p.m. virtually in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There were absent: Mr. Foley and Mayor Petty

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Monfredo chaired the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. | <u>gb #0-237</u> - Administration
(July 17, 2020) | School Reopening/
Medical Forum |
|----|--|------------------------------------|

To conduct a forum with doctors and medical professionals to respond to pre-submitted questions relative to the COVID-19 virus and its impact on the reopening of schools.

Superintendent Binienda opened the meeting by stating that the purpose of the meeting is to respond to pre-submitted questions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the reopening of schools. She thanked the physicians for their passion in caring for the health of Worcester Public School students and for participating in the meeting.

Dr. Lynda Young acted as the facilitator of the meeting and began by stating that not all questions that were submitted would be included in the forum. Questions regarding the hybrid model and class design would be addressed by the Administration and the district would be following the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines regarding cleaning, HVAC and ventilation issues. She began by introducing the panelists:

Lynda Young, MD

Mary Beth Miotto, MD, MPH

Michael Hirsh, MD

Beverly Nazarian, MD

Lloyd Fisher, MD

Christina Hermos, MD

Dr. Young introduced Dr. Beverly Nazarian. have students attend school in-person fifty percent of the time, and another that would have them attend one third of the time. The fifty percent model is based on three feet spacing between students and would include two in-person days each week.

Dr. Nazarian responded to the following questions:

- Why don't we just start completely remote?
- Why bother with a hybrid, why not just go back to school?
- What would you do with your child?

She stated that as a group, the physicians would recommend that the ideal would be to send all children back to school. However, the emphasis is on safety. With the low infection rate in Massachusetts, masking, smaller cohorts, extra handwashing and social distancing, it is possible for a safe return to school. As for the model, there are limited factors including how many students can fit in small classrooms and spacing on the bus. Looking at it from a parent's perspective, if she had the choice for in-person learning for her child, she would feel confident. If there happened to be an increase in infection, the district has the ability to go to remote learning. She stated that this is based on what it currently known, but there is new information daily. Dr. Nazarian introduced Dr. Lloyd Fisher to address the following questions:

- Why are we able to open schools now when we closed them in March?
- Is it safe to reopen if there is an increase in cases?

Dr. Fisher stated that in March, there was very little known about COVID-19 and the concern was having enough capacity in the ICU's. There was not enough information on how the virus was spread from one person to another. At this time, there is a better understanding of treatment, who is at risk for developing complications and who is more likely to spread the virus. He stated that multiple studies have shown that children are less impacted. There is better testing and PPE has been shown to slow the spread of the disease. He stated that the total number of cases has decreased dramatically over the past few months. Public health officials will continue to monitor cases and may recommend a change to the model if there is a significant uptick of cases. He reminded everyone to continue to practice social distancing and follow the rules outside of schools to prevent the spread inside of school. Dr. Fisher introduced Dr. Christina Hermos to talk about questions that were submitted regarding the transmission of COVID-19.

Dr. Hermos responded to questions about research studies on school transmission and transmission by children in general. She stated that the data she is citing is from contact tracing studies where it was found that children under the age of 18 are less likely to get sick, between one-third and one-half are likely to get sick compared to adults. In the United States, children under 18 years of age represent twenty-two percent of the population and account for two percent of all cases. She explained that this is different from other respiratory illnesses that spread between children. Dr. Hermos shared 3 examples on studies that were performed on transmission.

Australia

Eighteen individuals (students and staff high school or lower) were positive in April, before PPE and handwashing mandates. The study showed that of all the high school contacts (695) only one contracted the virus. And in the lower elementary schools, only one in one hundred and sixty-eight which amounts to a 0.3% chance of spread. She said that the data showed

that children were not spreading the virus to their classmates.

Finland and Sweden

These countries, which abut each other, had drastically different policies. Finland shut down the schools and Sweden did not. Although Sweden had five times more cases than Finland, the incidences of children under nineteen were no higher than Finland. There were also no increases in the number of cases with teachers.

United States Emergency Child Care Centers

Forty thousand children were studied across the country and there was no reported outbreak or clusters.

She stated that she is not saying that an outbreak won't happen, but that is less likely if proper PPE and social distancing is practiced. She said that adults are a bigger risk to spread the virus to each other.

Dr. Hermos addressed a question regarding a New York Times article on July 19th containing the headline "Children over 10 years old are just as likely to transmit COVID-19 as adults". She explained that the study came from South Korea where they looked at the children who tested positive (120) and tested household members and found that 18% of the household members of children between 10 and 19 years old did test positive. She stated that the study had no proof as to which direction the virus went, nor is there any indication as to what age children become spreaders. She said that it appears that the elementary and middle school students are less likely to be spreaders and as students transition into adulthood, it may be more likely that they spread the virus.

Dr. Young introduced Dr. Mary Beth Miotto to speak to questions regarding masks.

- What is reasonable for wearing masks?
- How will younger children keep their masks on while riding the bus?
- How will elementary students tolerate mask wearing all day?

Dr. Miotto stated that children Grade 2 and older will be wearing masks all day in school and to some extent on the buses. She offered practical tips for parents regarding mask use by suggesting that parents start preparing their child/ren now instead of the first day of school. Start slowly, wear your own mask, introduce patterns and colors for the masks and make wearing it part of everyday life. She suggests not worrying about keeping the mask on, the child/ren will get used to it. The district realizes that the child/ren will not keep them on all day, but the teachers and school nurses will be assisting in that.

-What is the best mask to use?

The type of mask does not matter as much as the time that the child is wearing the mask.

-Are there conditions which are dangerous and mask should be discouraged?

Children with asthma will do better wearing a mask by allowing the cohort to stay healthy. She suggested that if a parent has questions about their child/ren with asthma or other underlying conditions, they should speak with their own pediatrician or family doctor.

-What happens if my child's mask gets wet from sneezing too much or gets dirty, falls down or strap breaks?

-If a mask needs to be replaced, the school will have a supply of extra masks.

Dr. Miotto stated that Special Education teachers and nurses will be working on masking with students with behavioral learning and medical needs. For those who cannot wear masks, Dr. Lloyd Fisher will address distancing questions.

-Why are we discussing 3ft if we are told that 6ft is the minimum?

Dr. Fisher stated the goal is to maintain 6ft if possible, but studies have shown that is not a significant difference between 3 and 6ft. The 6ft guidelines were developed for clinical settings and contact with patients who are really sick. In a school setting, there is not much benefit for maintaining 6ft. If you can't be

masked, then the 6ft distance should be adhered to. The district is providing multiple layers of protection (wearing masks, handwashing and distancing). He reminded parents to keep their child/ren home if they are sick.

-How is lunch going to work?

During lunch, the masks will come off and a distance of 6ft will be maintained. He cited data from the World Health Organization which showed no increase in transmission at 3ft

-How do we maintain distance on buses?

All children including pre-school will be required to wear masks while riding the bus and face forward. The buses will be configured so that there will only be one child per seat.

Dr. Nazarian explained that questions were asked regarding the fact that pre-school, kindergarten and first grade students are not required to wear masks in school, but they are required on the bus. She stated that it is more challenging in that age group but that parents should encourage them to wear masks for the extra layer of protection. She spoke to the following questions that teachers and staff had in order to be safe

-Can I walk around the room?

-Can I tie a child's shoe?-Can I reassure a child when they are scared?

Dr. Nazarian said that the answer to all those questions is yes. The transmission happens when you are up close for a long period of time without a mask, but the teachers and student will be wearing masks. Special Education teachers may need to increase their layers. She reiterated that the importance of the adults wearing the masks at all time to decrease the change of transmission. If you have any symptoms, it is important to stay home.

Dr. Miotto addressed questions regarding keeping children at home.

-How do we lower the community transmission of COVID-19?

If everyone follows the guidelines regarding crowds, the rates in Worcester should stay low.

-Do we send our child to school if they are complaining of a stomachache or have a fever?

If your child has a fever, runny nose, cough, headache, etc., you should keep them at home. No matter what model is chosen, maximizing the time the child is in school is important. Handwashing is paramount for the family when the child is home sick.

Dr. Michael Hirsh spoke to the problems that the medical community will be facing in the late fall and early winter with the arrival of the flu season. He asked for all parents and their children to be vaccinated against the flu. The anticipated timeframe for a COVID-19 vaccine is early 2021. The city is preparing for emergency distribution once that vaccine is available.

Dr. Fisher spoke to questions regarding screening.

-Why are temperatures not being taken?

He stated that temperature screening has not been shown to be an effective method in determining who has COVID-19. Most children who have COVID-19 do not have a fever and the majority of children who do have a fever have something else. He also stated that the taking the time each day would cut into learning time.

-Should there be a daily questionnaire for parents to fill out?

Dr. Fisher said that would not be feasible and does not justify the time or effort it would take.

-What happens when a child develops symptoms while in school?

Dr. Nazarian stated that the school nurses in conjunction with the Administration have been planning for this and if a child is symptomatic, they will be brought to a medical waiting room and the parents will be called.

Regarding the protocol for sick children, Dr. Hermos outlined the DESE guidelines as follows:

1. Testing. Have the child tested for the virus.
2. If the test is positive, the child is to remain out of school for a minimum of 10 days. Three of those days need to be fever free.
3. If no test is administered, the child is to remain out of school for 14 days.
4. If the test is negative, the child is to remain out of school for 24 hours fever free.
5. If positive, contact tracing will begin.
6. Testing will be done 5 days later after exposure, and if negative, the child may return to school.

She explained how the test are administered and how the results are obtained. There is "sensitivity testing" which is when a swab is inserted into the child's nose or the child spits into a cup. This has been shown to be 70-95% sensitive depending on the timing of the test. If the child is sick, the test is more likely to pick up the virus.

-If my child has a negative test, how likely is it that the result is actually negative?

That depends on the quality of the test and what was the likelihood that your child actually had COVID. "When the community rates are low, and your child tests negative, it can be very believable and we can put a lot of weight on that.

-Won't my child be home all winter if they have a cough, sneezing and flu-like symptoms?

Dr. Nazarian stated that while many of these symptoms are not COVID related, they have to be treated like they are. When a high incident of sick children occurs, the district may have to resort to remote learning.

-How many cases of COVID need to be reported before the school closes?

-What if 70% of the students and staff are out sick?

Dr. Hirsh stated that the State defines a "cluster" of COVID outbreak as two positive cases. If two students contract COVID, an extensive contact tracing effort will begin. He believes that the model for having cohorts or "pods" will assist in limiting the number of those exposed. If there is a COVID positive student identified, the family will be notified and contact tracing will begin. Dr. Hirsh asked all community members to answer calls from the contact tracing unit in order to help stop the spread.

-Sometimes my child has a cough for weeks after recuperating from a cold, will they be kept out of school all that time?

Dr. Miotto stated that children and adults can still have a lingering cough after a cold has passed. She suggested speaking with a health professional or school based health center for guidance.

-What if a teacher or my child has asthma?

She suggested speaking with the primary physician or pediatrician to try and control the asthma before the beginning of school and the flu season. If the school nurse knows that a child has asthma, they can work together with the parent.

-Would it be more traumatic or anxiety provoking for children to go back to school with worries about COVID?

-Would my child be better off at home with structure and routine?

Dr. Nazarian believes that the trauma for some students might be staying at home. Most children need the structure and socialization of school and there will be teachers, school nurses, adjustment counselors and school psychologists there to provide help to anxious students.

Dr. Young closed the panelist portion of the meeting by stating that the group will continue to work with Superintendent Binienda and if there is a need from the School Committee or the community for have more forums, they will be willing to oblige.

Mr. Monfredo stated that if there is more medical information regarding the virus, then another forum will be scheduled

Ms. Novick stated that this panel is only one of the many groups of experts that the district will be listening to.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mayor Petty) the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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

X. GENERAL BUSINESS
Administration
(July 28, 2020)

ITEM - gb #0-238
S.C. MEETING - 8-5-20

ITEM:

To consider the End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation of the Superintendent by the School Committee.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Accept and file.

Committee Members

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

AGENDA #2
G/EI
7-22-20
Page 1

A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met virtually at 3:07 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

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

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

Others in attendance: B. Walton


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.

Vice-Chairman Monfredo stated that he is in favor of a gender neutral Dress Code Policy for students.

Ms. Novick stated that it was a step forward to include durags, but felt that due to the current climate in which we are living, the proposed policy is a waste of the teacher's time. She referenced the Seattle Public Schools' Dress Code as being one of the most inclusive and free of bias policies. (See Attached). She shared and read the policy which she felt was more appropriate. She said that one of the issues she heard most from students and family members was the amount of time and attention spent on policing students.

Ms. Novick proposed striking everything in the proposed WPS Dress Code Policy beginning with "The District's core values" and replacing it with the following:

 <p>SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS</p>	STUDENT DRESS	Policy No. 3224 July 10, 2019 Page 1 of 3
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It is the policy of the Seattle School Board that the student and their parent/guardian hold the primary responsibility in determining the student's personal attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items (e.g. backpacks, book bags). Schools are responsible for assuring that student attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items do not interfere with the health or safety of any student and do not contribute to a hostile or intimidating environment for any student.

Core Values

In relation to student dress, the district's core values are the following:

Students should be able to dress and style their hair for school in a manner that expresses their individuality without fear of unnecessary discipline or body shaming;

Students have the right to be treated equitably. Dress code enforcement will not create disparities, reinforce or increase marginalization of any group, nor will it be more strictly enforced against students because of racial identity, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, gender nonconformity, sexual orientation, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity;

Students and staff are responsible for managing their personal distractions;
and

Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance.

Universal Dress Code

Students must wear:

Top (shirt, blouse, sweater, sweatshirt, tank, etc.);
Bottom (pants, shorts, skirt, dress, etc.);
and Footwear.

This policy permits additional student attire requirements when necessary to ensure safety in certain academic settings (e.g. physical activity, science or CTE courses). Additionally, this policy allows for reasonable variation in required student attire for participation in activities such as swimming or gymnastics.

Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, or personal items that:

Are pornographic, contain threats, or that promote illegal or violent conduct such as the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia;

Demonstrate hate group association/affiliation and/or use hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or other protected groups;

Intentionally show private parts (nipples, genitals, buttocks). Clothing must cover private parts in opaque (not able to be seen-through) material;

Cover the student's face to the extent that the student is not identifiable (except clothing/headgear worn for a religious or medical purpose); or

Demonstrate gang association/affiliation.

Attire worn in observance of a student's religion are not subject to this policy.

This policy permits schools with a uniform policy to continue having a uniform policy provided that it is gender neutral and inclusive of attire worn for a religious reason.

Enforcement

Principals are required to ensure that all staff are aware of and understand the guidelines of this policy.

Staff will use reasonable efforts to avoid dress-coding students in front of other students.

Students shall not be disciplined or removed from class as a consequence for wearing attire in violation of this policy unless the attire creates a substantial disruption to the educational environment, poses a hazard to the health or safety of others, or factors into a student behavior rule violation such as malicious harassment or the prohibition on harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Further, no student shall be referred to as “a distraction” due to their appearance or attire.

Typical consequences for a violation of this policy include parent/guardian contact or conference and the directive to cover, change, or remove the noncomplying attire. A student may be instructed to leave their classroom briefly to change clothes. The Principal or their designee should notify a student’s parent/guardian of the school’s response to violations of the student dress policy.

The Superintendent or their designee is authorized to develop procedures in order to implement this policy if needed.

Adopted: July 2019 Revised:

Cross Reference: Policy Nos. 3200; 3207; 3433 Related

Superintendent Procedure:

Previous Policies:

Legal References: RCW 28A.320.140 Schools with Special Standards – Dress Codes

Management Resources: Oregon National Organization for Women Model Dress Code

Vice-Chairman Monfredo voiced his concern that this was the first time that the Seattle policy was seen and that the special subcommittee had already submitted their proposed policy with which to go forward. He proposed that the current policy be voted on and the Seattle policy be taken to back to the special subcommittee for discussion.

Chairman Clancey stated that she has also researched other school district’s policies and was concerned about the section in the WPS policy that states the school principals have the discretion to render judgment, possibly creating reason for conflict and that it may not be consistent across the district. She agreed with Vice-Chairman Monfredo that others should weigh in on this before making a decision.

Chairman Clancey opened the meeting to the public for comment. Betzabe Vasquez, Antonia Amouna-McCarthy, Helen Kennedy, Molly Roach and Diana spoke to their concerns with the current policy which included, but was not limited to, durags, hoods, victim blaming, racial profiling and religious headwear.

Superintendent Binienda made it clear that principals should be in charge of their buildings. The issue with students wearing hoods is the inability for the principals to recognize who is in the building.

Ms. Novick suggested inviting the members of the subcommittee to the next meeting and also invite students, parents and staff to be part of the discussion.

Chairman Clancey made the following motion:

To approve the proposed Dress Code Policy.

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

Chairman Clancey made the following motion:

To hold the item and bring the proposed Seattle Dress Code Policy and any other policies back to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues for discussion.

On a roll call of 3-0, 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.

Chairman Clancey read each proposed change to the Student Handbook and amendments were made to the proposed changes and other sections of the Handbook.

- **i** (School Committee) change Laura **Clancy** to Laura **Clancey**
- **v** (COVID-19 PANDEMIC) add "**Under Massachusetts State guidance, all families have the option for on-line learning during the COVID-19 pandemic**" at the end of Remote Learning
- Page 1 (Registration) place the following proposed change into the Parent Information Box at the top of the page **Please note that in the event of extended school closure, online registration is available at <https://worcesterschools.org/enroll/>**
- Pages 45 (Extra-Curricular Activity) and 50 (Reasonable Conduct) delete the words "**negative attitude**"
- Page 54 (School Health Advisory Council) provide the **link for the WPS Nursing and Health website** in the last paragraph
- Page 57 (Riding School Buses) that the word "vape" be added to item 7 to read "**Smoke or vape** "
- Page 77 (Advanced Placement Exams) delete the **last two sentences**

- Page 81 (Parents and Community) amend the language of the CPPAC to read "**Meetings are held every other month.**"
- Page 85 (Parents Volunteers who bring Children) remove paragraph beginning with "**Many parent groups...**"

Ms. Novick suggested that the following proposed amendments be discussed with the Legal Department:

Number 2 on Page 5 (Voluntary Transfer Information) needs to be deleted.

Insert the Code of Conduct section (pages 38-48) before the Legal Policies section (Page 16).

New guidance for Title IX and the reporting of sexual harassment and other Title IX infractions.

It should be noted that if the Legal Department approves the above three issues, then they can be deleted from the Handbook.

Chairman Clancey asked the following questions:

If the words "certified mail" should be removed throughout the entire Handbook and not just on page 20.

If a child is suspended for 10 days, is the Manifestation Determination meeting held within the 10 days or after the suspension is over?

Ms. Novick suggested that there be a place in the Handbook informing students what to do in order to change their name and gender identification. She recommended that the following language be added to Page 36 (Student Records) line 5. Amending Student Records:

In accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's "[Assigning State Assigned Student Identifiers to Massachusetts Public School Students.](#)" district and school records are to reflect a student's stated name and pronouns. Nothing more formal than usage is required, consistent with the statutory standard.

Ms. Novick requested that the word "expulsion" be stricken throughout the Handbook. Also, Under Code of Conduct, Ms. Novick believes that Rule 19 (Extracurricular Activity) Page 45 should be moved to the top of the next section (Athletes and Participants in School-Related Activities). Page 48.

Ms. Novick asked if the district is still using Carnegie Units. (Athletes and Participants in School-Related Activities). Page 48.

Ms. Novick stated that the descriptions of SEPAC and ELPAC are not reflective of Massachusetts General Law Chapters 71A and B.

For the SEPAC, she suggests quoting the following (citing MGL Ch. 71B sec.3):
The parent advisory council duties shall include but not be limited to:
advising the school committee in matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school committee's special education programs.

For the ELPAC, quoting the following (citing MGL Ch. 71A, sec. 6A):
The duties of the council shall include but not be limited to (i) advising the school district, school committee and board of trustees on matters that pertain to English learners; (ii) meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning and development of programs designed to improve educational opportunities for English learners; and (iii) participating in the review of school improvement plans

Chairman Clancey made the following motion:

To approve the amendments to the 2020-21 Student Handbook.

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

Chairman Clancey made the following motion:

To approve the 2020-21 Student Handbook as amended.

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

On a roll call of 3-0, the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

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

X. GENERAL BUSINESS
Administration
(July 24, 2020)

ITEM - gb #0-239
S.C. MEETING - 8-5-20

ITEM:

To accept a donation of warehouse space for the storage of personal protective equipment (PPE) from Chacharone Properties for use by the district for the 2020-21 school year.

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.

July 22, 2020

Brian E. Allen
Worcester Public Schools
Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building
20 Irving Street
Worcester, MA 01609-2493

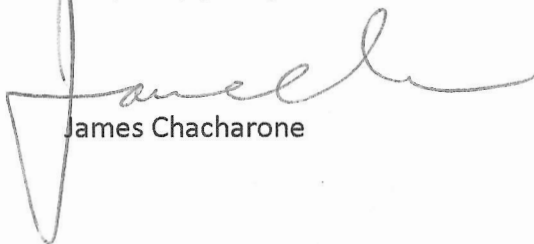
Dear Brian;

Chacharone Properties is pleased to offer to the Worcester Public Schools, at no cost, the use of Building 2A at 115 Northeast Cutoff.

This building is approximately 8,000 sq ft with a ceiling height of 14 ft., and will be heated to 60 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
(July 24, 2020)

ITEM - gb #0-240
S.C. MEETING - 8-5-20

ITEM:

To consider approval a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$29.00, made payable to Language Testing International.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

The invoice was not received until July 8, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS
Administration
(July 24, 2020)

ITEM - gb #0-241
S.C. MEETING - 8-5-20

ITEM:

To accept the MA Libraries CARES Act Grant in the amount of \$3,500.00.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP: The purpose of this grant is to support library participation in the statewide summer reading program.

Annex A (6 pages) contains a copy of the Grant Acceptance Form.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

*Worcester Public Schools
Office of Grants Management*

Grant Acceptance Form

Name of Grant: MA Libraries CARES Act

Type of Funder: Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Awarded Amount: \$3,500.00

Grant Funding Period: August 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Project title: MA Libraries CARES Act

Program coordinator: Sarah Connell/O'Neil

Purpose: To support library participation in the statewide summer reading program

Description of the program: To forge a partnership between Burncoat Middle School within the Worcester Public School District and the Ecotarium, Museum of Science and Nature in Worcester in an effort to formulate strong connections between the Next Generation Science standards and the natural world for our students while fostering their social and emotional needs.

Program location: Burncoat Middle School

Outcomes and Measures: By encouraging students to take learning outdoors, even while learning virtually, to support not only their academic development, but also their social and emotional development.

Overview

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) continues to evaluate how to best use CARES Act funding to support Massachusetts libraries and the people they serve. These grant opportunities represent the first phase of how funds will be used.

Since the shut down due to COVID-19, the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) has conducted weekly check-ins with hundreds of young adult (YA) and children's public librarians and school librarians. *While the grant programs are based on the needs expressed during the check-ins, they are grants for all age groups and are not limited to YA or children.*

Available Grant Programs

Summer Software Grant

Virtual Programming for Distance Learning

Mental Health and Self-Care

Summer Software Grant

The MBLC is offering Summer Software Grants to support library participation in the statewide summer reading program. While these are called "summer" grants, our hope is that libraries will use the software to support year-round library programming.

Virtual Programming for Distance Learning

Massachusetts continues to be hard hit by COVID-19. Virtual Programming for Distance Learning will remain a valuable way to provide services well into the summer and beyond.

Libraries may use Virtual Programming for Distance Learning grants to support increased public access to library virtual programs. ***Programming for all ages should be considered.*** Libraries are strongly encouraged to work with local museums and local cultural institutions to enhance virtual programming.

Funds may be used for:

Equipment such as, tripods, green screens, recording equipment, access to software or online subscriptions to create videos, promotions, print and digital materials (canva, stopmotion apps, screencast services, trivia and other remote games, etc.) ***[Funds may be used to purchase computers/laptops, tablets, and WI-FI hotspots if a library can certify that it complies with the Children's Internet Protection Action (CIPA), or will undertake actions to come into compliance within one year. For more information on CIPA, please contact Paul Kissman.]***

Virtual performers may be paid with grant funds. Must be educational in nature, not entertainment

Materials for developing remote learning kits (for example) that can be distributed to patrons for curbside pickup or at locations outside the library, such as grocery stores, school meal sites, little free libraries, post offices. Funds may not be used to purchase prizes/rewards.

Supplies may be purchased for storywalks and virtual storytimes (for example) things like books, felt board, puppets.

If these sessions are recorded, they will be uploaded to the statewide video library. All virtual events will be included in the statewide calendar to help increase awareness and participation.

Amount

\$1000 - \$3500

Eligibility

Any library that is a member of MLS can apply. Public libraries must be certified in state aid.

Timeline

Round One:

Application opens - June 1, 2020

Applications due - June 19, 2020

Round Two:

TBD

Application

Our project aims to forge a partnership between Burncoat Middle School within the Worcester Public School District in Worcester, Massachusetts with the Ecotarium, Museum of Science and Nature in Worcester, Massachusetts in an effort to formulate strong connections between the Next Generation Science Standards and the natural world for our students while fostering their social and emotional needs. Virtual programs offered by the EcoTarium will include Animal Adaptations where students will analyze questions such as what structures and behaviors do animals exhibit that help them survive, as well as compare the adaptations of a live animal to the observed adaptations of bio-facts such as bones and animal pelts and draw conclusions about how structure and function influence evolutionary success. In addition, the EcoTarium will offer Animal Encounters where students will be able to virtually interact with animals such as a red-fronted macaw, chicken, red fox, turkey vulture, chinchilla, porcupine, toads, reptiles-turtles. EcoTarium virtual program costs includes \$495 for the Animal Adaptations program, and \$750 for the Animal Encounters program for a total of \$1,245.

Explain why you would like to offer these specific programs to your community.

Dr. Elisabeth Stoddard teaches environmental studies at Worcester Polytechnic Institute where she analyzes the intersection of nature, society, and social justice. Her research examines the shifting culture that has led students to spend upwards of 10 hours a day on screens as opposed to the 2-3 hours commonly recommended by physicians. She has found that this change leads young people to spend less time outside, thus increasing rates of ADHD and childhood depression. As Burncoat Middle School serves a high number of Grade 7-8 students with ADHD and those that experience childhood depression, we will utilize this opportunity to encourage students to take learning outdoors, even while learning virtually, to support not only their academic development, but also their social and emotional development.

Budget

MBLC Grant for BMS Library

Virtual Animal Adaptations with the Ecotarium
<https://ecotarium.org/virtual-programs-offerings/>
\$165 x3 sessions = \$495

Virtual Animal Encounters with the Ecotarium
\$75 x10 = \$750

Zoom H4N Portable Podcasting Recorder
\$199.99 x10 = \$1,999.90

Libsyn Podcast Hosting Subscription
\$180 (1 year)

Incidentals (charging cord replacements, memory card, etc.) \$75.10

Total: \$3,500

X. GENERAL BUSINESS
Administration
(July 28, 2020)

ITEM - gb #0-242
S.C. MEETING - 8-5-20

ITEM:

To authorize the Administration to enter into an agreement for the lease of space for five-years for the creation of a Dual Language School.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS
Administration
(July 28, 2020)

ITEM - gb #0-243
S.C. MEETING - 8-5-20

ITEM:

To consider approval of the updated 2020-21 School Calendar.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 page) contains a copy of the proposed updated 2020-21 School Calendar.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.

Worcester Public Schools Calendar 2020-2021

AUGUST 2020							SEPTEMBER 2020							OCTOBER 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31																			
NOVEMBER 2020							DECEMBER 2020							JANUARY 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						
FEBRUARY 2021							MARCH 2021							APRIL 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
MAY 2021							JUNE 2021							JULY 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31																			

2020		2021	
August 27 - September 14:	Teacher/Staff Reporting	January 1:	New Year's Day
September 7:	Labor Day	January 18:	Martin Luther King
September 15:	First Day of School	February 15:	Presidents' Day
September 17:	First day of school for PreK-K	February 16 - February 19:	Winter Vacation
October 9:	Staff Development	April 2:	Non-School Day
October 12:	Columbus Day	April 19:	Patriots' Day
November 11:	Veterans' Day	April 20 - April 23:	Spring Vacation
November 25 - November 27:	Thanksgiving	May 28:	Last day of school for seniors
December 24 - December 31:	Holiday Vacation	May 31:	Memorial Day
		*June 15:	Last day of School
□ = DAYS WHEN SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION FOR STUDENTS *Last day of school may change in response to the number of snow days used during the school year			
End of Marking Quarters:	November 13, 2020	January 22, 2021	April 12, 2021
		June 15, 2021	or last day of school

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, 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 Human Resource Manager, 20 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01609, 508-799-3020.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS
Administration
(July 28, 2020)

ITEM - gb #0-244
S.C. MEETING - 8-5-20

ITEM:

To consider approval of a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$874.00 for double honor cords, made payable to Jostens.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

The invoice was not received until the week of July 20, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approve on a roll call.