

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

AGENDA #31

on: Thursday September 3, 2020
at: 7:00 p.m. – Regular Session
6:00 p.m. - Executive Session
Virtually in: Room 410, at the Durkin Administration Building

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

- I. CALL TO ORDER
INVOCATION
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
NATIONAL ANTHEM
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS - NONE
- IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION – NONE
- V. IMMEDIATE ACTION - NONE
- VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - NONE
- VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE
- VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE
- IX. PERSONNEL -NONE

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-275 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. McCullough
(August 25, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide monthly updates on the air quality and HVAC work being done in the schools beginning September 17, 2020.

gb #0-276 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(August 25, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide a report on diocesan student transportation under the agreements and requirements set by the state to include the number of buses needed, the number of staff and the safety precautions provided due to COVID 19.

**On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was
referred to the
Administration
(See notes)**

**On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was
referred to the
Administration**

ACTION

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-277 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(August 25, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the role of nurses during the remote learning time to include a current list and their assignments.

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Administration (See notes)

gb #0-278 - Administration
(August 26, 2020)

To approve prior fiscal year payments in the total amount of \$8,400 to Instructional Assistants who served as substitute teachers.

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

gb #0-279 - Administration
(August 27, 2020)

To approve prior fiscal year payments in the total amount of \$4,370 to two retired WPS teachers.

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

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #0-280 - Administration
(August 27, 2020)

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.

Held from 6:03 p.m. to 7:10 p.m.

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 – NAGE R1-16 Cafeteria Workers.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

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WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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AGENDA #31A

SUPPLEMENTAL

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, September 3, 2020

at: 6:00 p.m. – Executive Session

7:00 p.m. – Regular Session

virtually in: Room 410 in the 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 #0-35 - Clerk
(August 31, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2020.

**On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was
approved**

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION - NONE

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - NONE

VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE

VIII. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES - NONE

IX. PERSONNEL - NONE

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-273.1 - Administration/Administration
(August 31, 2020)

To discuss the updates/challenges on athletic guidance from the MIAA.

gb #0-281 - Administration
(August 31, 2020)

To accept the Remote Learning Technology Essentials Grant in the amount of \$2,253,313.

**On a roll call of 6-1
(nay Ms. Novick)
the item was
approved
(See notes)**

**On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was
approved
(See notes)**

N O T E S

The School Committee convened in Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

It was moved to recess to Executive Session from 6:03 p.m. to 7:10 p.m. to discuss the following items:

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 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 – NAGE R1-16 Cafeteria Workers.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-275

Mr. Monfredo stated that he would like the Administration to continue to keep the teachers and parents informed of the work being done with the HVAC systems in the schools.

Ms. Novick questioned what the timeline is for the completion of the work on the HVAC systems to which Mr. Allen stated that it is scheduled to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

gb #0-277

Superintendent Binienda stated that the nurses will collect the students' medical forms and log them into the system for the first two weeks of the school year. On September 21st, September 23rd and October 2nd, the nurses and the Department of Public Health will be providing families and staff members flu shots and COVID-19 testing at Burncoat Middle School and at the field near Worcester East Middle School. It will be a requirement for students to have a flu shot by December 2020.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #0-277- (continued)

Miss Biancheria asked if nurses will have the option to work from home and are they informed of any health issues that a teacher might have. She also asked if the previous open positions for the nurses were filled.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the nurses will have the option to work from home after the first few weeks of school and they are not informed of any teacher's health issues. They are there if a teacher does need their help. She also stated that three nurses were interviewed for the open positions but due to students not being in school and Budget constraints, the Administration delayed hiring them until after the first quarter.

gb #0-273.1

Superintendent Binienda provided an overview of the updates on the new MIAA requirements for fall sports and stated that:

- Boys and girls soccer, field hockey, cross country and golf can be competitive sports.
- Football, volleyball and cheerleading can only be practices.
- Fifty fans will be allowed at each event.
- An onsite administrator will be hired to supervise the fans.

Mr. Shea, Athletic Director, stated that the information he received from the Central Massachusetts Athletic Directors Association was that Abby Kelley Foster Charter School has opted not to participate in Cross-country or Soccer until the Fall phase two. Under the EEA guidelines, the allotment of 50 fans at each game was discussed with other athletic directors. They considered whether to have either a pass or a lanyard designated to players from each team, in order to have one family member to attend a game. He also stated that the coaches' contract is being discussed and that they would get paid for their in-season practices and games. Anything that is outside the season would be on a voluntary basis and they would have to sign the volunteer form.

Mayor Petty commended Mr. Shea and the Superintendent for all their hard work to make sports possible and believed that it is very important for students to play sports.

Ms. Novick stated that given both the rates of infection in the City and what is still being researched about the long term impact of COVID-19, she is not in favor of students' participation in athletics.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #0-273.1 (continued)

Miss Biancheria asked what training was provided to the coaches to deal with a student or coach who tested positive for COVID-19.

Mr. Shea stated that the he, the Superintendent and Mr. Pezzella will have protocols developed prior to September 18th. Mr. Pezzella and Mr. Bedard are the two COVID-19 Administrators for the district who will be providing information to the students and coaches.

Miss Biancheria questioned whether the PPE equipment would be included in the discussions with the coaches and students.

Mr. Shea stated that the coaches are able to obtain any type of PPE, hand sanitizer and/or wipes from the custodial crew at each of the high schools.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an update in December on the successes and challenges that took place during the Fall Sports Season.

On a roll call of 6-1 (nay Ms. Novick) the motion was approved.

The motion carried.

gb #0-281

Ms. Novick asked for an update on the arrival time of the iPads that are on order and if the students in preschool and kindergarten will all have one.

Mrs. Kyriazis stated that 770 iPads were shipped early and will arrive on September 4th and the others will be shipped by September 16th. There were currently enough old iPads for each student to receive one until the new ones arrive and can be swapped out.

Miss Biancheria asked if the IAs have or will receive Chromebooks.

Mr. Walton stated that a survey went out to the 600 IAs asking if they were in need of a device or whether or not they could wait until the Chromebook order arrives. Thirty-five percent stated that they were in need of a device. There are 350 laptops on order, 120 laptops in the system and donors provided Chromebooks which will all be provided to the IAs.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #0-281 (continued)

Mayor Petty stated that he had already asked the Superintendent to provide a report at the first meeting of each month regarding the pandemic and remote learning and invite teachers, parents and students to attend. He requested that the Administration provide a brief update at the meeting of September 17th.

O T H E R

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session on August 27, 2020, it was moved to deny Grievance #19/20-23.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to deny Grievance #19/20-23.

Mayor Petty presented Mr. Mark Berthiaume and Dr. Mary Meade-Montaque with Keys to the City. He spoke to the accomplishments of each by stating that:

- Mr. Berthiaume has dedicated 43 years to the Worcester Public Schools' students, staff and families. He began his career as a Special Needs educator at Doherty Memorial High School and later worked with intermediate grade students with Special Needs at Gates Lane and Union Hill schools. He received the Worcester Public School Administrator of the Year Award in 2005 and was the district's first Communication and School Support Coordinator.
- Dr. Mary Meade-Montaque's has dedicated 30 years of service to the Worcester Public Schools. She has received the Young Careerist Award from the Worcester County Business Association. The NAACP and the City of Worcester have recognized her as a pioneer in education for being the first African-American elementary principal in the city. She also received one of America's highest awards presented to educators, the prestigious Milken Educator Award.