

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 following items will be discussed at a virtual meeting of the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the Esther Howland Chamber at City Hall:

gb #9-313 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria /Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell (September 17, 2019)

Request that the Administration establish a committee by November to include early learning teachers to review the two year kindergarten 1 program for students who are four years old and lack the necessary readiness skills for school success.

gb #9-334 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Monfredo (October 9, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report on school health clinics to include the current number of schools and the kind of services that are available to students.

gb #9-383 - Mr. Comparetto (November 13, 2019)

Request that the Mayor and School Committee establish Worcester Public Schools' Safe Zones.

gb #9-385 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley (November 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration incorporate best practices for creating a diverse workforce.

gb #9-387 - Mr. Comparetto (November 13, 2019)

Request a moratorium on suspending K-2 students for non-violent offenses.

gb #9-408 - Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough (November 26, 2019)

Request that the Administration consider incorporating real American history into the curriculum.

gb #9-409 - Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough (November 26, 2019)

Request that the Administration review recommendations made by the organization Teaching Tolerance for culturally appropriate Thanksgiving programming.

gb #0-35 Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/ Ms. Novick (January 8, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the Dual Language expansion initiative made possible through grants awarded to the Worcester Public Schools.

Dr. O'Neil recommended that the following items be held:

gb #9-384 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley (November 13, 2019)

Request that the Superintendent present an annual report on the status of education for Latino students.

(Continued on page 2)

gb #9-386 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley (November 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide an update on current restorative justice practices.

gb #9-388 - Mr. Comparetto (November 13, 2019)

Request an "equity audit" of the Worcester Public Schools in accordance to best practices.

gb #0-101 - Mr. Monfredo (March 5, 2020)

Request that the Administration work with the City Administration to see if there is a building available for the expansion of a full-day pre-school program.

motion (gb #9-195.2) Mr. O'Connell (June 20, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the funding that the Worcester Public Schools receives through Education Access Channel 11 revenues, and provide information on the four positions and refer the report to the Standing Committee on Teaching Learning and Student Supports for discussion with gb #9-207.

motion (gb #9-195.2) Mr. O'Connell (June 20, 2019)

Request that the Various Grant Program section of the Budget be referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

Committee Members

Molly O. McCullough, Chairman
John F. Monfredo, Vice-Chairman
John L. Foley

Administrative
Representative
Susan O'Neil, Ph.D.

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

AGENDA #3

The Standing Committee on TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS
will hold a meeting:

on: Tuesday, June 9, 2020
at: 3:00 p.m.
in: the Esther Howland Chamber at City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #8-356.1 - Administration/Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Mayor Petty (February 13, 2019)

Response of the Administration to the requests to:

- explore the feasibility of implementing the Orton-Gillingham model for dyslexic students for those students in need of specific services.
- provide a summary of the Orton-Gillingham model program.
- study the feasibility of implementing the cost of this program in the FY20 Budget
- study the feasibility of including students from outside the district, on a tuition basis, if a proposed program is established in the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #9-288 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo (August 28, 2019)

Request the establishment of an inclusive and transparent process for selecting and implementing a comprehensive Sex Education Curriculum that is age-appropriate, evidence-based, medically-accurate and LGBTQ inclusive in the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #9-313 -Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria /Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell
(September 17, 2019)

Request that the Administration establish a committee by November to include early learning teachers to review the two year kindergarten 1 program for students who are four years old and lack the necessary readiness skills for school success.

gb #9-327 -Administration (October 7, 2019)

To consider answers to 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.

gb #9-334 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Monfredo (October 9, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report on school health clinics to include the current number of schools and the kind of services that are available to students.

gb #9-349 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo (October 14, 2019)

Request that the Administration invite educators who currently teach or train NoticeAbility Curriculum and consider implementing it for students with dyslexia.

gb #9-383 - Mr. Comparetto (November 13, 2019)

Request that the Mayor and School Committee establish Worcester Public Schools' Safe Zones.

gb #9-384 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley (November 13, 2019)

Request that the Superintendent present an annual report on the status of education for Latino students.

gb #9-385 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley (November 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration incorporate best practices for creating a diverse workforce.

gb #9-386 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley (November 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide an update on current restorative justice practices.

gb #9-387 - Mr. Comparetto (November 13, 2019)

Request a moratorium on suspending K-2 students for non-violent offenses.

gb #9-388 - Mr. Comparetto (November 13, 2019)

Request an "equity audit" of the Worcester Public Schools in accordance to best practices.

gb #9-389 - Mr. Comparetto (November 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the efforts of the Administration to create ethnic studies programming.

gb #9-408 - Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough (November 26, 2019)

Request that the Administration consider incorporating real American history into the curriculum.

gb #9-409 - Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough (November 26, 2019)

Request that the Administration review recommendations made by the organization Teaching Tolerance for culturally appropriate Thanksgiving programming.

gb #9-416 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo (December 4, 2019)

Request that the Administration consider incorporating the campaign entitled "RESPECTfully" when the Sex Ed Curriculum is established.

c&p #0-2 -Clerk (January 2, 2020)

To consider a communication from Gordon T. Davis, Chair of the Education Committee, Worcester Branch NAACP, relative to a uniform districtwide policy on age appropriate touching.

gb #0-31 - Mayor Petty/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick (January 8, 2020)

Request that the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports recommend a comprehensive, inclusive, evidenced-based sexual and health curriculum and an appropriate level of increased classroom time for health education to the school committee for the FY21 budget.

gb #0-35 Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick (January 8, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the Dual Language expansion initiative made possible through grants awarded to the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #0-101 - Mr. Monfredo (March 5, 2020)

Request that the Administration work with the City Administration to see if there is a building available for the expansion of a full-day pre-school program.

gb #0-125.1 - Administration/Mr. Foley (April 8, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the request to present comprehensive data showing the test scores for all student subgroups since these initiatives started. This data should show changes over the years, with a particular emphasis upon the WPS student subgroups targeted through SOA funding (Hispanic students, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities).

otion (gb #9-195.2) Mr. O'Connell (June 20, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the funding that the Worcester Public Schools receives through Education Access Channel 11 revenues, and provide information on the four positions and refer the report to the Standing Committee on Teaching Learning and Student Supports for discussion with gb #9-207.

motion (gb #9-195.2) Mr. O'Connell (June 20, 2019)

Request that the Various Grant Program section of the Budget be referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

ITEM: Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell
(September 17, 2019)

Request that the Administration establish a committee by November to include early learning teachers to review the two year kindergarten 1 program for students who are four years old and lack the necessary readiness skills for school success.

PRIOR ACTION:

- 10-3-19 - Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:
Request that the Administration form a committee by November to study the feasibility of establishing a two year kindergarten 1 program.
Request that the Administration consider revising the date of eligibility to start kindergarten.
On a voice vote, the motions were approved.
Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.
- 1-29-20 - **STANDING COMMITTEE ON TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**
Mr. Monfredo stated that the Worcester Public Schools is the only system in the state that has the entrance date of December 31st.

BACKUP:

The District has been challenged with finding space in our elementary schools for additional classrooms in general education, special education and integrated preschool classrooms. A next step might be to determine if a site and the necessary funding for an early childhood center can be explored with the two year kindergarten program as part of this structure.

PRIOR ACTION (continued)

- 1-29-20 - Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:
(continued) Request that the Administration establish a committee comprised of early learning teachers and administrators and report back to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports in May 2020 to consider the following:
- establishment of a two year kindergarten 1 program for four year old students
 - involvement of parent groups in meaningful workshops
 - change the entry date for kindergarten from December 31 to November 1 and at a later date from November 1 to September 1
 - provision of a report to the full School Committee in May 2020
- Request that the Administration forward a letter to the Local Delegation requesting additional funding for full day preschool programs.
On a roll call of 3-0, the motions were approved.
Mr. Foley suggested adding more teachers in the K-1 Program to address class size and the Superintendent stated that space limits the possibility to implement that suggestion.
A question was posed relative to a possible correlation between early date of birth and disciplinary issues. The Superintendent indicated that there is no correlation between the two.
- 2-6-20 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING - The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

ITEM: Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Monfredo (October 9, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report on school health clinics to include the current number of schools and the kind of services that are available to students.

PRIOR ACTION

10-17-19 - Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

BACKUP:

School-based Health Centers operate in 10 schools throughout the district. These schools include: Burncoat Middle and High, Claremont and Woodland Academies, Doherty High, Elm Park, Goddard Memorial, North High, South High, Sullivan Middle, Worcester East Middle, and Worcester Technical High. They are serviced with a Nurse Practitioner and a Navigator or other office staff member who supports the nursing staff in their daily work. The majority are open to students from 8:00 am- 3:00 pm; with variations depending on the school hours.

Nurse Practitioners provide sick student assessment if referred from the School Nurse including such visits as asthma exacerbation, strep throat, ear infections, etc. They also provide student health physicals and vaccines to students who are enrolled in the health centers. Nurse Practitioners are able to provide limited reproductive and gynecological services to students as needed/requested.

ITEM: gb #9-383

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

ITEM: Mr. Comparetto (November 13, 2019)

Request that the Mayor and School Committee establish Worcester Public Schools' Safe Zones.

PRIOR ACTION:

11-21-19 - Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

BACKUP:

The Administration recommends that this item be filed.

ITEM: gb #9-385

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

ITEM: Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley (November 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration incorporate best practices for creating a diverse workforce.

PRIOR ACTION:

11-21-19 - Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

BACKUP:

The Administration recommends that this item be filed.

ITEM: gb #9-387

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

ITEM: Mr. Comparetto (November 13, 2019)

Request a moratorium on suspending K-2 students for non-violent offenses.

PRIOR ACTION:

11-21-19 - Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

BACKUP:

The Administration recommends that this item be filed.

ITEM: gb #9-408

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

ITEM: Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough (November 26, 2019)

Request that the Administration consider incorporating real American history into the curriculum.

PRIOR ACTION:

12-5-19 - Miss Colorio made the following motion:
Request that items gb #9-408 and #9-409 be filed.
On a roll call of 3-4 (yeas Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Monfredo) the motion to file was denied.
Dr. Karrie Allen, Principal of Goddard School of Science and Technology, spoke on behalf of the staff and students regarding the successful Thanksgiving activities at the school.
Kwaku Nyarko, Ex-Officio of the School Committee, requested a copy of the State standards for the teaching of American History. Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

BACKUP:

The Administration recommends that this item be filed.

ITEM: gb #9-409

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

ITEM: Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough (November 26, 2019)

Request that the Administration review recommendations made by the organization Teaching Tolerance for culturally appropriate Thanksgiving programming.

PRIOR ACTION:

12-5-19 - Miss Colorio made the following motion:
Request that items gb #9-408 and #9-409 be filed.
On a roll call of 3-4 (yeas Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Monfredo) the motion to file was denied.
Dr. Karrie Allen, Principal of Goddard School of Science and Technology, spoke on behalf of the staff and students regarding the successful Thanksgiving activities at the school.
Kwaku Nyarko, Ex-Officio of the School Committee, requested a copy of the State standards for the teaching of American History. Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

BACKUP:

The Administration recommends that this item be filed.

ITEM: gb #0-35

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

ITEM: Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/
Ms. Novick (December 4, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the Dual Language expansion initiative made possible through grants awarded to the Worcester Public Schools.

PRIOR ACTION:

1-16-20 - Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

BACKUP: The Administration will be prepared to speak to the item.

Annex A (2 pages) contains a copy of the Administration's response to the item.

In early 2020, the Worcester Public Schools was awarded two significant grants from DESE to support the continuation of evaluation, expansion, and alignment of our dual language programming that began in spring 2019 in collaboration from Dr. Patrick Proctor from Boston College. This work has continued with the added support of Phyllis Hardy, Executive Director of the Multistate Association for Bilingual Education and Dr. Laura Schall-Leckrone from Lesley University. This work has continued to focus on evaluating, expanding, and aligning our programs with the well-established Guiding Principles of Dual Language Education (Center for Applied Linguistics, 2018). The two major strategies to align our programs with the guiding principles include the creation of a bilingual hub and the in-depth evaluation and expansion work. These strategies are described below. In addition, you will find more details on the work to date in the attached presentation.

Bilingual Education Hub

With support from the state, we have advanced our work to develop Worcester as a bilingual education hub. The development of this hub is multipronged to both increase the number of qualified bilingual education teachers and administrators and to enhance the professional knowledge and skills of our bilingual educators. A cornerstone of this work is our partnership with Dr. Patrick Proctor at Boston College to launch Worcester's first cohort of educators in BC's Bilingual Education Certificate (BEC) Program. This cohort program officially started the BEC program on May 19th with 30 educators participating. Four of these educators come from Milford, our partner district in the grant, and the remaining 26 educators are WPS teachers and administrators. This course is the first of a four course sequence course that will conclude in June 2021. By completing this course, participating in a field experience in a bilingual setting, and demonstrating Spanish proficiency, our educators can earn the Bilingual Endorsement. Please find attached our [informational flyer on the Bilingual Education Endorsement Program](#) with links to BC's BEC program website.

In addition to our participation in the BEC program, we have provided our current bilingual educators with a range of professional development opportunities to enhance their professional knowledge and skills. Thirteen WPS educators attended the NABE conference in Las Vegas in February. Several WPS educators will attend MABE's Summer Institute (which has been moved to virtual format) in August and MABE's Annual Conference in September.

Bilingual Programs Committee

With support from the grants, our Bilingual Programs Committee resumed regular meetings in March 2020. This committee is open to all bilingual program educators including teachers, specialists, instructional coaches, and administrators. The committee also includes parents and community members as well as Dr. Patrick Proctor from Boston College, Phyllis Hardy from the

Multistate Association for Bilingual Education, and Dr. Elena Esposito from Clark University. Since March, we have held three full committee meetings and plan to hold one more next week on June 10th. These full committee meetings are an opportunity to gather feedback from all stakeholders and to share out important updates. In addition to the full committee work, we have six subcommittees meeting regularly with particular goals related to the evaluation and expansion of our bilingual programs. Please find below a summary of our subcommittees:

Subcommittee	Primary Goals
Program Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate current program structure and make recommendations for changes to ensure alignment with guiding principles
Curriculum and Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate curricular pilot materials and make recommendations for adoption Develop instructional framework to define effective practices across programs
Assessment and Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design assessment system to guide school and classroom level instructional decisions and to evaluate program outcome over time
Staff Quality and Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create professional development plan for bilingual programs Design and plan for first Worcester Bilingual Conference
Family and Community / Support and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop tools to enhance communication about bilingual programs with families and the community Plan open houses for elementary and secondary students entering dual language
Transitional Bilingual Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate current TBE program and make recommendations for change to align with current research on bilingualism and biliteracy

In the [attached presentation](#), you will find more details about the work accomplished by each of these subcommittees and the collaboration with educators, families, community members, and consultants to support the success of this work.

Finally, attached are a few examples of our new weekly newsletter issues of **AVANCE**, where we update administrators and teachers of the work we are doing, resources and news.

[April 6th](#)
[April 13th](#)