

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

AGENDA #19

on: Thursday, May 6, 2021
at: 5:00 p.m. - Executive Session
6:00 p.m. - Regular Session
Virtually in: Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

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

Miss Biancheria left at 9:20 p.m. to 9:37 p.m.

Ms. McCullough left from 10:12 p.m. to 10:14 p.m.

Mayor Petty left the meeting from 9:51 p.m. to 9:54 p.m.

Vice-chairman Foley chaired the meeting from 9:51 p.m. to 9:54 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #1-13 - Administration
(April 21, 2021)

**(Considered with aor
1-14 and aor 1-15)
On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was approved**

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 8, 2021.

aor #1-14 - Administration
(April 21, 2021)

**(Considered with aor
1-13 and aor 1-15)
On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was approved**

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 15, 2021.

aor #1-15 - Administration
(April 21, 2021)

**(Considered with aor
1-13 and aor 1-14)
On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was approved**

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION – NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #1-103.1 - Administration/Ms. McCullough/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Monfredo/
Ms. Novick/Mayor Petty
(April 16, 2021)

To recognize the following staff, teachers and administrators of the Worcester UNITES program:

Coaches

Burncoat High School

Isabella Montalvo
Elijah Villanueva
Riley West
Scott Zalomis

Worcester Technical High School

Vera Kacevich

North High School

Raven Falcon
Rafael Magalhaes Santos Dorneles

Teachers

Burncoat High School

Jeff Conner

North High School

Jacob Gross
Jeremy Zglobicki

Lincoln Street School

Joanne Daly

Administrators

Burncoat Middle School

Margarita Baez

North High School

Mike Cardin

Program Manager - Lisa Leach

gb #1-124 - Administration
(April 28, 2021)

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

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #1-8 - Administration
(April 22, 2021)

FINAL SUMMARY OF THE HEARS GRANT

VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE

VIII. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met virtually on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5:34 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met virtually on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 4:36 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

The Joint Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council’s Standing Committee on Education met virtually on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 5:09 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

ACTION

The staff, teacher and Administrators were recognized and the item filed (See notes)

Filed

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

On a roll call of 7-0, the action sheet was approved as amended (see notes)

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Miss Biancheria, the action sheet was approved as amended (see notes)

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Miss Biancheria), the action sheet was approved as stated

IX. PERSONNELACTION

- 1-15 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RESIGNATIONS of the persons named below:

Chittim, Annamaria, Roosevelt, Teacher, Special Education, Resigned, Behavior Specialist, effective April 2, 2021.
Januszewski, Helen, WTHS, Teacher, Vocational Education, Resigned, Veterinary Tech effective April 16, 2021
Schneider, Susannah, Midland Street, Teacher, Elementary, Resigned, Primary, effective April 26, 2021

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Miss Biancheria), it was moved to File Personnel Items 1-15 to 1-20

- 1-16 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the person named below:

Lindquist-Grady, Jean, Systemwide Psychologist, Acting - 1 Year, PHD, 9, effective April 26, 2021

- 1-17 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Aide to the Physically Handicapped, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$17.04 (minimum) to \$21.00 (maximum) per hour, from Civil Service List #321-008, effective as follows:

Domenech, Suelaine 4/6/2021

- 1-18 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Driver Full Size School Bus, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$22.66 per hour, from Civil Service List #321-009, effective as follows:

Luna, Genaro 3/29/2021

- 1-19 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of School Bus Attendant, permanent at a salary of \$16.23 minimum per hour to \$18.08 maximum per hour, from Civil Service List #321-010, effective as follows:

Warren, Adrilla 3/29/2020

- 1-20 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Word Processor, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$20.31 (minimum) to \$24.52 per hour (maximum) effective as shown:

Hernandez, Maria 3/15/2021
Padeni, Patricia 3/29/2021

X. GENERAL BUSINESSACTION

gb #0-286.9 - Administration/Mayor Petty/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick
(April 28, 2021)

**On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was
discussed and held
(see notes)**

To provide a brief update on COVID-19 and remote learning.

gb #0-304.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Ms. Novick
(April 27, 2021)

**On a roll call of 6-0-
1 (absent Mayor
Petty) the item was
filed
(See notes)**

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on the distribution of Chromebooks and iPads and indicate whether additional equipment will be needed in the near future.

gb #0-315.1 - Administration/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick
(April 28, 2021)

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

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on the timeline of when a student received an IEP and when he or she receive assistance with it.

gb #1-19.1 - Administration/Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(April 27, 2021)

**On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was held
for further updates
(See notes)**

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on current efforts to expand internet access in the City of Worcester.

gb #1-52.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(April 27, 2021)

**On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was
accepted and filed**

Response of the Administration to the request to review the Public Safety Program, offered through career development, for high school juniors and seniors.

gb #1-125 - Ms. McCullough
(April 11, 2021)

**On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was
referred to the
Standing Committee
on Finance and
Operations**

To review the feasibility of including a position in the FY22 Budget for a Director of Communications and Community Engagement.

gb #1-126 - Administration
(April 12, 2021)

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

To accept the FY21 DLCS Student Learning Devices Grant in the amount of \$2,028 for Burncoat Middle School.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #1-127 - Administration
(April 12, 2021)

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

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

gb #1-128 - Administration
(April 14, 2021)

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

To accept the Teaching Gardens Network Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

gb #1-129 - Administration
(April 15, 2021)

**On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was
approved and to be
submitted to the
City Council for its
approval**

To authorize the Administration to resubmit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for Burncoat High School (district priority project) for major renovation or replacement for 2021.

gb #1-130 - Mr. Monfredo
(April 16, 2021)

**(Consider with 1-131)
On a roll call of 7-0, it
was moved to forward
email**

Request that the Administration forward an email to the school nurses in recognition of their dedication during the celebration of School Nurse Appreciation Week (May 6 to the 12th).

gb #1-131 - Mr. Monfredo
(April 16, 2021)

**(Consider with 1-130)
On a roll call of 7-0, it
was moved to forward
email**

Request that the Administration forward an email to the teaching staff (including IA's) in the celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2-8th) to thank them for their dedication and hard work, especially during this year of the pandemic.

gb #1-132 - Mr. Monfredo
(April 20, 2021)

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

Request that the Administration update the Family Handbook prior to the end of the school year and share the document with the Citywide Parent Planning Advisory Council.

gb #1-133 - Administration
(April 26, 2021)

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

To accept a donation of a 2015 Ford Transit 12 Passenger Van to South High Community School from Andy's Attic Inc.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #1-134 - Mayor Petty
(April 26, 2021)

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

To consider approval of naming the auditorium at South High Community School as the Brian A. O'Connell Memorial Auditorium.

gb #1-135 - Administration
(April 26, 2021)

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. McCullough), the item was approved (See notes)

Request that the School Committee waive the Retention and/or loss of Credit policy for the 20-21 school year.

gb #1-136 - Administration
(April 26, 2021)

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

Request that the School Committee change the requirement for eligibility for summer school to a final grade of 45-64 for the 20-21 school year

gb #1-137 - Ms. Novick
(April 28, 2021)

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

Request legal counsel report on the authority to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for the 2021-22 school year, as provided under state law, for:

1. Worcester Public Schools' employees.
2. Worcester Public Schools' students.

gb #1-138 - Ms. Novick
(April 28, 2021)

**On a roll call of 7-0,
the item was
referred to the
Administration for a
report back on May
20, 2021**

Request administration update on transportation extending to high school five days a week at the May 20 meeting.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #1-138 - Administration
(April 28, 2021)

**Held from 5:06 p.m.
to 6:20 p.m.**

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker's Compensation- Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker's Compensation- Instructional Aide, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

(Continued on next pages.)

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (continued)

ACTION

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); Educational Association of Worcester, Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Educational Association of Worcester, Instructional Assistants; Educational Association of Worcester, Parent Liaisons; Educational Association of Worcester, Tutors; and Educational Association of Worcester, Therapy Assistants.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8221, Bargaining Regarding Reopening.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8368, Interactive Process and Requests for Workplace Accommodations.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester vs. Worcester Public Schools, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, MCAD Docket No. 20WEM02609 and EEOC Docket No. 16C-2021-00275.

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 – Educational Association of Worcester Units A & B (Educators/ Administrators); Educational Association of Worcester, Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Educational Association of Worcester, Instructional Assistants; Educational Association of Worcester, Parent Liaisons; Educational Association of Worcester, Tutors; and Educational Association of Worcester, Therapy Assistants; NAGE R1-156, 52 Week Secretaries; NAGE R1-16, Cafeteria Workers; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176, Custodians; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176, Educational Secretaries; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176/Unit D, Computer Technicians; IUPE Local - 125 Plumbers and Steamfitters; IUPE Local -135, Tradesmen; Massachusetts Nurses Association, Worcester School Nurses.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

**Held from 5:06 p.m.
to 6:20 p.m.**

N O T E S

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 5:00 p.m. in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Thursday, May 6, 2021.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

Mayor Petty stated that the School Committee would recess into Executive Session to discuss the following items:

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker’s Compensation- Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for Worker’s Compensation- Instructional Aide, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

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); Educational Association of Worcester, Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Educational Association of Worcester, Instructional Assistants; Educational Association of Worcester, Parent Liaisons; Educational Association of Worcester, Tutors; and Educational Association of Worcester, Therapy Assistants.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8221, Bargaining Regarding Reopening.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8368, Interactive Process and Requests for Workplace Accommodations.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester vs. Worcester Public Schools, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, MCAD Docket No. 20WEM02609 and EEOC Docket No. 16C-2021-00275.

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 – Educational Association of Worcester Units A & B (Educators/ Administrators); Educational Association of Worcester, Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Educational Association of Worcester, Instructional Assistants; Educational Association of Worcester, Parent Liaisons; Educational Association of Worcester, Tutors; and Educational Association of Worcester, Therapy Assistants; NAGE R1-156, 52 Week Secretaries; NAGE R1-16, Cafeteria Workers; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176, Custodians; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176, Educational Secretaries; Massachusetts Laborers District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 176/Unit D, Computer Technicians; IUPE Local - 125 Plumbers and Steamfitters; IUPE Local -135, Tradesmen; Massachusetts Nurses Association, Worcester School Nurses.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to recess to Executive Session.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 5:06 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:22 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #1-103.1

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Burncoat UNITES Program was established in 2015 and became the Worcester UNITES Program in 2021. The Worcester UNITES Program unifies new instrumentalists through El Sistema where students develop a new awareness of their own potential and their responsibility to the community make social change.

Mrs. Leach, Performing Arts Curriculum Liaison, outlined the accomplishments of the Worcester UNITES Program. She stated that it is a student led program. Clinicians and teachers practice whisper coaching where they support the student coaches in making good decisions in leading young students.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Support is here to annexed as Annex A and was approved as amended:

gb #1-106

On a roll call of 7-0, the item, that was previous approved, was filed.

gb #9-288

gb #9-416

gb #0-31

You can access the full meeting by clicking the following link:

<https://view.earthchannel.com/PlayerController.aspx?&PGD=worceschma&eID=825>

Ms. McCullough stated that, over the past four to five years, a tremendous amount of work has gone into selecting a new sexual education component of the health curriculum. Properly educating students with medically accurate, inclusive and consent based information helps to support students with healthy decision making and relationships. Factual information is also crucial when dealing with situations where a child may be facing an issue related to sexual abuse. There is a total of ten lessons that parents can opt their child(ren) out of in grades K-6. Parents can also opt their child(ren) out of the sexual education lessons in middle and high school. They will receive information to opt their child(ren) out of the class prior to the beginning of the classes.

Ms. McCullough requested that health education teachers, who will be teaching the Rights, Respect, Responsibility Curriculum, consider teaching the sixth grader "SexEd Slueth" lesson in middle school instead.

Mr. Monfredo stated that he's is opposed to the Rights, Respect, Responsibility Curriculum. He would like the committee, administration and community members to work together to develop an age-appropriate sex education program because the community is very divided on this subject. He also stated the he believes that this curriculum will encourage promiscuity among teenagers.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration allow the health teachers to develop their own sex education curriculum based on the knowledge of what they have learned from their research of other programs and share their results with School Committee and parents.

Request that the Administration not implement any sexual education program until a transparent session takes place with parents on the program selected which will allow parents the opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Monfredo stated that he would like these motions voted separately.

Mr. Foley stated that discussions have taken place over the past three years to adopt an evidenced based, inclusive and medically accurate K-12 health curriculum. Health teachers, the Public Health Commissioner, the Wish Task Force and professionals from the City have recommended the Rights, Respect, Responsibility Curriculum. He fully supports the recommendation they have given.

Mrs. Clancey stated that she was in favor of the Rights, Respect, Responsibility Curriculum. She also stated that no matter how much a parent tries to keep children away from the television and social media, they will find a way to learn information about sex. Teaching children how to respect their bodies and learn what a healthy relationship should look like could potentially help them protect themselves from sexual abuse, STDs and unwanted pregnancies.

Miss Biancheria stated that she is opposed to the Rights, Respect, Responsibility Curriculum because she feels that it is not age appropriate. She also stated that the Administration has had many opportunities over the last few years to putting a curriculum together but failed to do so.

Ms. Novick stated that the Standing Committee members have ensured that there was a clear public process which allowed many opportunities for public comments. Many professional staff members reviewed different curricula and ranked Rights, Respect, Responsibility as one of the top evidence-based, age appropriate and inclusive program. She also stated that Right, Respect, Responsibility can be accessed online and parents can read and review it.

Mayor Petty stated that it was not just the School Committee who selected the Rights, Respect, Responsibility Curriculum but also the health teachers in the schools. Students need an accurate, evidence based and medically accurate health curriculum to help them make healthy decisions in their lives. He also stated that due to social media, google and cell phones, students have more access to sexual content.

Ms. McCullough stated that the 10 lessons that will be taught to students in grades K through 6 will cover anatomy, puberty, relationships and consent. Parents can opt their child(ren) out of these lessons and also the specific sexual education components for middle and high school students.

Ms. McCullough made the following amendment to Mr. Foley's motion:

To adopt Rights, Respect, Responsibility as a sexuality and health education curriculum for grades K-12 using health and sexual education lessons from the 3Rs, along with additional health lessons on social emotional wellness, physical wellness, nutrition, alcohol, drugs and tobacco, safety and media/tech literacy.

On a roll call of 5-2 (nays Miss Biancheria, Mr. Monfredo), the amended motion was approved.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Commit to hiring additional health and wellness teachers and budgeting for those positions in FY22.

On a roll call of 5-2 (nays Miss Biancheria, Mr. Monfredo), the motion was approved.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

In addition to all students at the middle school level currently taking the equivalent of a quarter year of health, work on scheduling options to provide similar opportunities for health at the high school level.

On a roll call of 5-2 (nays Miss Biancheria, Mr. Monfredo), the motion was approved.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration communicate well and engage with parents about this curriculum.

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

Mayor Petty stated that Mr. Monfredo's two motions do not have to be voted on, due to the above motions that were approved.

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on **Governance and Employee Issues** is here to annexed as Annex B and was approved as amended:

c&p1-4

Mrs. Clancey made the following amendment to her motion:

Request that the staff member be granted the sick time from the faculty of Quinsigamond School **through the duration of the approved medical leave for** the 2021 school year.

c&p #1-5

Mrs. Clancey made the following amendment to her motion:

Request that the staff member be granted the sick time from the faculty of North High School **for the duration of the approved medical leave for** the 2021 school year.

c&p #1-6

Mrs. Clancey made the following amendment to her motion:

Request that the staff member be granted the sick time from the faculty of City View School **for the duration of the approved medical leave for** the 2021 school year.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Miss Biancheria), the motions as amended were collectively approved.

The Action Sheet for the Joint Standing Committee on **Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education** Standing is here to annexed as Annex C and was approved as stated.

GENERAL BUSINESS**gb #0-286.9**

Superintendent Binienda provided an update by stating that staff and students are happy to be back in the buildings and the transition to in-person learning is going smoothly. She stated that South High Community School's J.V. Baseball team could not play this week due to two students that tested positive for COVID-19. There have been no COVID-19 cases in adults this week. The following are the COVID-19 numbers:

Last week's **staff** numbers
 0 tested positive, 3 quarantined
 This week's **staff** numbers
 0 tested positive, 5 quarantined
 Last week's **student** numbers
 65 (57 remote and 8 within the buildings), 3 quarantined
 This week's **student** numbers
 38 (22 remote and 16 within the buildings), 6 quarantined

The following are the number of students who have responded that they either want to return to in-person learning or stay remote:

School	In-person Learning	Remote
Burncoat High School	480	384
Claremont Academy	88	100
Creamer Center	12	62
Doherty Memorial High School	625	408
New Citizen Center for young adults	16	3
New Citizen Center, secondary	28	8
North High School	456	403
REACH Academy	23	7
South High Community School	358	287
University Park Campus School	53	32
Worcester Technical High School	872	491

The bussing schedules will be readjusted this week for the students who will be returning on May 17th to full in-person learning. Parents are asked to frequently check their portal because the bus schedules have changed to accommodate all the students. Durham School Services has 10 drivers coming from New Orleans and 2 from New York to fill the positions needed for transporting students to and from schools.

gb #0-304.1

Ms. Clancey asked if students would be able to keep their Chromebooks as well as the hotspots through the summer.

Mrs. Kyriazis stated that students will be able to keep their Chromebooks except for seniors.

Ms. Novick asked if it was the intention of the Administration to be adding the replacement cycle of the Chromebooks into the Capital Budget.

Mr. Allen stated that the current plan would be to transition all replacement Chromebooks over to a leased cycle.

gb #0-315.1

Ms. Clancey acknowledged the Special Education Department for all their hard work and their accomplishments during the pandemic.

Mrs. Seale stated that at the beginning of the year the Special Education Department was in noncompliance with over 2,000 meetings and as of April 27th there has been a total of 5,760 team meetings. She also stated that this could not have been done if it were not for the help of the families, principals and the Special Education Evaluation Team Chairs.

gb #1-19.1

Ms. Novick suggested that the item be held for further updates.

Mr. Walton stated that Verizon had recalled hotspots due to overheating issues and will replace them with updated ones. A ConnectEd message will be going out explaining the process for these hotspots.

gb #1-126

Ms. Novick requested that information be forwarded in an email on what will be purchased with the DLCS Student Learning Devices Grant.

gb #1-127

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee forward a letter of appreciation to individuals from Chacharone Properties for their generous donation.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration make sure the heat is on in the warehouse space when staff members are picking up PPEs.

On a collective roll call of 7-0, the two motions were approved.

gb #1-130

gb #1-131

Ms. Novick requested that the Administration forward an email to the nutrition personnel in recognition of school lunch hero day on Friday, May 7, 2021.

gb #1-133

Ms. Novick asked how Andy's Attic purchased the van and how will the upkeep of it will be paid for.

Superintendent Binienda stated that Andy's Attic was able to purchase the van due to a personal donation of \$1,500. The van will be registered by the Worcester Public Schools and the new auto diesel shop at South High Community School will repair and maintain it.

gb #1-134

Mayor Petty stated that Brian O'Connell served the community for most of his life and this is a well-deserved memorial for him.

gb #1-135

Superintendent Binienda stated that the policy states that if a student has more than 14 days absent in a school year, he or she will receive no credit for their courses. The Administration would like to waive this policy due to the pandemic.

gb #1-136

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Administration would like to provide summer school options for students with final grades between 45 and 64.

O T H E R

It was moved to suspend rules to allow the following individuals to speak of their approval or disapproval of the proposed K to 12 Sex Education section in the Health Curriculum of the WPS:

S. Suzy, L. Divoll, D. D. Blaze, Councilor King, M. Ostrow, M. Siegler, R. Kennedy, State Representative O'Day, J. dasilva, Z. DeJesus, J. Croke, J. Trobough, Reverend R. Reidy, C. Berg Powers, K. Pare, A. Harris, Reverend A. Payson, R. Frazier, J. Pack, M. Sanchez, L. Evans Wong, O. Mathot, I. Rivera, K. Espinoza, M. Bell, K. Santiago, M. Islam, S. Allen, E. Sanchez, K. Wallace, O. Nguyen, J. Rodriguez, M. Rollo, M. King, V. Nguyen, S. Rose, E. Gonzalis, G. Rodriguez, Reverend N. Rivera, N. Bell, Reverend C. Tally, D. Nguyen, T. Neslusan, J. Tran, A. Ojeda, E. Lopez, D. Tedeschi, P. McDonald and M. Nguyen

Committee Members
Molly McCullough, Chairman
John F. Monfredo, Vice-Chairman
Jack Foley

AGENDA #2
TLSS
4-26-21
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A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 5:34 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2021 at the Durkin Administration Building in Room 410.

There were present: Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo and Chairman McCullough

Mrs. Clancey and Ms. Novick were also in attendance.

Representing Administration were: Dr. O’Neil, Superintendent Binienda and Dr. Friel

Others in Attendance: Dr. Castiel and Dr. Ross

(Consider gb #9-288, gb #9-416 and gb #0-31 together.)

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 #9-416 - 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.

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, evidence-based sexual and health curriculum and an appropriate level of increased classroom time for health education to the school committee for the FY21 budget.

Dr. Castiel stated that a Comprehensive Sex Education Curriculum plays a key role in addressing health disparities for Black, Latino and LGBTQ youth, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on Adolescent Health Care. Studies have demonstrated that comprehensive sexual education programs reduce the rates of sexual activity, sexual risk behaviors, sexually transmitted infections and adolescent pregnancies. It also provides youths with the tools they need to identify and delay risky behaviors while keeping themselves safe and healthy.

Dr. Ross stated that, when reviewing the Sexual Education Curriculum, the Wish Task Force focused on fifteen criteria:

- accuracy of information
- clear outcomes
- a positive approach to human sexuality and relationships
- culturally sensitive curriculum
- inclusion of LGBTQ students
- trauma informed
- developmentally appropriate for intended age and ability
- parental involvement
- proven effective
- emphasized skill building based on sound education methodology
- teacher friendly
- resource quality
- access to quality resources
- resources for evaluation and
- resources for teacher training

Chairman McCullough stated that what is being discussed is the implementation of a K-12 comprehensive health curriculum with the sexual education section for the middle and high school levels. The sexual education section of the curriculum is not mandatory and parents will have the option to opt their child(ren) out of it.

The following individuals spoke to their approval or disapproval of the proposed Sex Education section in the Health Curriculum of the WPS:

M. Rollo, M. Siegler, L. Kuykendall, Reverend A. Payson, M. King, M. McDonald, Reverend R. Reidy, J. Desilva, D. Smolkin, E. Rays, R. Kennedy, J. Trobough, C. Berg Powers, H. Ramirez, C. Chan, A. Zamarro, M. Nguyen, M. Bell, E. Sanchez, E. Lopez, E. Dowd, S. Crawford, V. Angelico, M. Pandada, M. Desai, A. Kaplan, A. Harris, S. Suzy, E. Valez, R. Araujo, J. Perry, J. Palmer, T. Nguyen, S. Rodman, N. Rivera, G. Ryan, L. Divoll, P. Nguyen, D. Nguyen, L. Brown-Noguera, R. Mensah Essien, P. Emanuel and J. Cosgrove

You can access the full meeting by clicking the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X16OFMQ14B0>

Mr. Foley made the following four motions:

1. a. Adopt Rights, Respect and Responsibility as a Comprehensive K to 12 Health Curriculum for the 2021-22 school year and implement it with fidelity.
 - b. Utilize a sexual education curriculum for middle and high school levels.
 - c. Provide the necessary training for the teachers.
2. Commit to hiring additional health and wellness teachers and budgeting for those positions in FY22.

3. In addition to all students at the middle school level currently taking the equivalent of a quarter year of health, work on scheduling options to provide similar opportunities for health at the high school level.
4. Request that the Administration communicate well and engage with parents about this curriculum.

On a roll call of 2-1 (nay Mr. Monfredo), the motions were approved.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration not implement any sexual education program until a transparent session takes place with parents on the program selected which will allow parents the opportunity to ask questions.

On a roll call of 1-2 (yea Mr. Monfredo), the motion was defeated.

Chairman McCullough stated that the School Committee and Administration will continue the effort to improve the communication with parents. The Superintendent will make certain that parents receive the opt-out information in advance of the teaching of the sexual education component of the health curriculum.

Chairman McCullough made the following motion:

Request that gb #9-288, gb #9-416 and gb #0-31 be approved and filed.

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

gb #1-106 - Administration (March 25, 2021)

To consider approval of the following courses:

Introduction to Gender Studies	Computer Science for Innovators and Makers
Freshman Advancement and Success Tools 1-4	Latin American Studies
Music Production & Engineering	Intro to Dance Non-Magnet
Integrated Theater	Performing Arts Teaching Assistant
Peace Building	Computer Science for Innovators and Makers
Introduction to Materials Science	Spanish Language & Literature Level 3

On a roll call of 3-0, the item, that was previously approved, was filed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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

Committee Members
Laura Clancey, Chairman
John Monfredo, Vice-chairman
Tracy O’Connell-Novick

AGENDA #2
G/EI
4-27-21
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A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met virtually at 4:36 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

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

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

Others in attendance: R. Nugent

gb #9-350 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo (October 14, 2019)

Request that the School Committee work with the Clerk of the School Committee to determine 3 or 4 dates in 2020 for policy forums/conversations that will be open to the community.

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was filed.

gb #0-28 - Mayor Petty/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick (January 8, 2020)

To create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Worcester School Committee to consider changes to the school committee rules, meetings and agendas to make the work of the School Committee and our meetings more effective and better aligned with the focus on the strategic direction of the district. These changes should reflect best practices and address the recommendations included in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s report from 2017.

Chairman Clancey stated that she would like to hold this item in order to allow all School Committee members the opportunity to provide their recommendations and any proposed changes to the Rules of the School Committee.

Ms. Novick requested that the School Committee also submit any proposed recommendations to the norms.

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was held in order for all members to submit their proposed changes to the rules and norms of the School Committee.

c&p #1-4 - Clerk (March 24, 2021)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of Quinsigamond School's faculty and staff to donate sick days to a colleague.

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the staff member be granted the sick time through the remainder of the 2021 school year from the faculty of Quinsigamond School.

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

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was filed.

c&p #1-5 - Clerk (March 31, 2021)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of North High School's faculty and staff to donate sick days to a colleague.

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the staff member be granted the sick time through the remainder of the 2021 school year from the faculty of North High School.

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

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was filed.

c&p #1-6 - Clerk (March 31, 2021)

To consider a communication from the EAW to allow members of City View School's faculty and staff to donate sick days to a colleague.

Mrs. Clancey made the following motion:

Request that the staff member be granted the sick time through the remainder of the 2021 school year from the faculty of City View School.

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

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was filed.

gb #1-35 - Administration (January 25, 2021)

To consider approval of the proposed 2021-22 Student Handbook of the Worcester Public Schools.

Legal Policies

Notice for Out-of-School Suspensions

Ms. Novick asked if it would be possible to consider a policy that would state that students who are Grade 3 and under would not be given an out of school suspension, but rather an in school suspension. She asked that the Administration recommend providing additional resources to assist in this when considering the Budget.

Superintendent Binienda stated the law is clear when it comes to principals having the authority to suspend and she does not want to take that responsibility away from them. She also stated that even with additional resources, the out of school suspension is a last resort for principals when it becomes a safety issue for the other students.

Ms. Novick stated that the Boston Public Schools policy states that K-3 students are not given out of school suspensions and requested that the Administration seek a legal opinion regarding the jurisdiction of principals.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report describing what would be needed in order to eliminate out of school suspensions for K-3 students and solicit recommendations from principals on what their school would need to make that happen.

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

Legal Policies

Superintendent's Appeal Hearings

Ms. Novick requested that the Clerk of the School Committee include on the next Executive Session agenda the item that pertains to this policy.

Procedures for Suspension(s) Exceeding 10 School Days

Page 53- Do **not** delete the word "agree" after the words special circumstances or parent.

Chairman Clancey requested that the word SAGE be replaced with Student Information System throughout the entire Handbook.

On a roll call of 3-0, pages 26 through 54 of the Student Handbook were approved as amended.

(gb #0-59 and gb #0-223 were considered together.)

gb #0-59 - Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Foley (January 29, 2020)

To rewrite the Worcester Public Schools' Student Dress Code.

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.

Mr. Monfredo stated that the Dress Code policy that was created by the Dress Code committee, which consisted of Administration, lawyers and principals, has already been approved and that there shouldn't be micromanaging of the policy.

Mrs. Clancey requested the following amendment be made to the Dress Code Policy:

Clothing should include:

Top (shirt, blouse, sweater, tank etc.)

Bottom (pants shorts, skirt, dress etc.)

Footwear (suggested safe footwear must be worn in the school building)

Ms. Novick proposed amending the current first paragraph which states:

The district's core values, in relation to student dress, are that appropriate dress and attire contribute to a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment. The emphasis of this policy is on equitable treatment of students and regulation of student dress must be free from bias. While students have a right to self-expression by the dress and hair style of their own choosing, their clothing shall not disrupt the school's educational process. In addition, students are expected to wear garments that meet acceptable standards of health, safety and cleanliness.

The proposed amended wording is as follows:

It is the policy of the Worcester Public Schools that the student and their parent/guardian hold the primary responsibility in determining the student's personal attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items. The district's interest in student dress is to ensure that it contributes to a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment. The Worcester School Committee in its efforts to treat students equitably intends for the regulation of student dress to be free from bias.

Chairman Clancey proposed to delete the following paragraph:

The School principal has the discretion to render judgements regarding what is and what is not appropriate based upon the recognition that students have the right to freedom of expression for their clothing and hair so long as their choices do not cause disorder or disruption to the educational process. The principal will determine what consequences should follow when a student does not comply with the policy.

The proposed amended wording is as follows:

Students shall not be disciplined or removed from class as a consequence for a violation of the dress code policy. The School principal or his/her designee will determine consequences if the students attire is a direct violation of the Worcester Public Schools Code of Conduct.

On a roll call of 3-0, the Dress Code Policy as amended was approved.

Chairman Clancey requested a legal opinion before making any proposed changes regarding the referencing of the Code of Conduct policy in order to be sure that no authority is being taken away from the principals. She stated that the item should be held until the legal opinion is received.

On a roll call of 3-0, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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

Committee Members

John L. Foley, Chairman
Molly McCullough, Vice-chairman
Dianna Biancheria

City Council Members

Morris Bergman, Chairman
Khrystian King
Gary Rosen

A C T I O N S

The Joint Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education met virtually at 5:09 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, 2021 in the Levi Lincoln Room at City Hall.

There were present:

Standing Committee on Finance and Operations

Miss Biancheria, Ms. McCullough and Chairman Foley

City Council's Standing Committee on Education

Mr. Rosen, Mr. King and Chairman Bergman

Representing Administration were: Mr. Allen, Superintendent Binienda and Dr. Friel

c&p #2-19 - Clerk (December 12, 2012)

To consider a communication from the City Clerk regarding the City Council's Standing Committee on Education and the School Committee's Standing Committee on Finance and Operations.

To consider meeting jointly on a regular basis throughout the year concerning issues of overlapping interest.

Mr. Allen presented the Worcester Public Schools' FY22 Preliminary Budget Estimates. He and Superintendent Binienda answered questions from City Council and School Committee members regarding the budget.

Councilor Rosen asked if the Worcester Public Schools participates in School Choice and Mr. Allen stated that there are approximately one hundred students across all grade levels. Mr. Rosen suggested trying to recruit more Pre K and kindergarten students from surrounding towns.

Councilor Rosen asked if enrollment numbers increase due to the fact that there are a number of new apartment buildings being built in the city and Mr. Allen stated that the enrollment projections are based on birthrates and new construction.

Councilor King requested an update on the Hold Harmless legislation. Mr. Allen stated that it was not included in the House Budget, but he hopes the Senate version of the Budget will include Hold Harmless.

Councilor King asked if there were any other resources for COVID reimbursement and Mr. Allen stated that ESSER funding is to be used for COVID related issues.

Miss Biancheria requested information of the timeline for the Dual Language and Remote Academy.

Superintendent Binienda stated that they will be open in August of 2021.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a full detailed report in July on the Dual Language and Remote Academy to include programs offered and student enrollment numbers.

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

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was held.

motion gb #0-246 - Mayor Petty (August 13, 2020)

Request that the 2020-21 Educational Plan entitled Fall 2020 - Return to School Guidance be forwarded to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education for a joint meeting.

Superintendent Binienda presented the District's Transition to In-Person Learning Plan. She stated that 69% of students in Pre K-Grade 8 will be returning full time on Monday, May 3, 2021. She believes that the success of hybrid learning has been one of the factors in families choosing to send their children back full time.

Councilor Rosen asked how the teachers were instructed to handle the return to in-person learning.

Superintendent Binienda stated that there has been Professional Development every Friday and the staff is very well prepared to return.

Councilor Bergman asked if the remote learning and technology advancements could impact snow days this winter.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Commissioner has not given approval for that yet.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the high schools would be holding their graduations at Polar Park and the middle schools would be having their graduations at Foley Stadium.

Councilor Bergman asked for an update on the Adult Learning Program.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Fanning Building has been holding virtual classes all year and ESL classes currently have a waiting list of 200. She also stated that Night Life classes will be expanding.

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was filed.

The City Council called to order their portion of the meeting by welcoming calls from the public. Item 4B on the Council agenda was addressed by all the callers who unanimously spoke to the need for more wraparound coordinators, trained mental health counselors and school adjustment counselors.

Jason Homer, Executive Director of the Worcester Public Library spoke to item 3A on the Council agenda.

Item 4A on the Council agenda provided Councilor King the opportunity to ask Superintendent Binienda her opinion on how the city can do better with ESL.

Superintendent Binienda stated that WPS provides interpreters at public forums and translates information in 8 languages. She suggested that making Broadband available to all residents of Worcester would allow for better communication to keep families more informed.

Councilor King asked if the WPS has had any positives from the year of remote learning.

Superintendent Binienda stated some positives were:

- all families receiving Chromebooks
- more communication with families
- family members at home learning alongside students
- involvement with cultural agencies

Councilor King addressed item 4B on the Council agenda by asking Superintendent Binienda to assess the efficacy of School Resource Officers.

Superintendent Binienda stated that with SRO's in the buildings, there is less violence and fewer arrests are being made.

Councilor Bergman took item 4C on the Council agenda to request ways that the WPS could encourage more students to become involved in civic engagement.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires students in grades 8 and 9 to do civic engagement projects. She stated that there have been Government Days held and student representatives take part in School Committee meetings.

On a roll call of 3-0 the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

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