

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

AGENDA #15

on: Thursday, September 5, 2019  
at: 6:00 p.m. – Executive Session  
7:00 p.m. – Regular Session  
in: Esther Howland South Chamber, City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER

**Convened in Open  
Session at 7:00 p.m.**

INVOCATION – Reverend Torkum Chorbajian  
Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

**Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo  
and Mr. O’Connell**

**There were absent: Mr. Comparetto, Mayor Petty**

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #9-16 - Clerk  
(August 28, 2019)

**Approved**

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting  
of Thursday, August 15, 2019.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #9-225.1 - Administration/Miss McCullough/  
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/  
Mr. O’Connell/Mayor Petty  
(August 16, 2019)

**Certificate  
presented**

To recognize Ann Ruchala, a teacher at Jacob Hiatt Magnet School,  
as the recipient of the Community Person of the Year from the  
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS).

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION (continued)ACTION

gb #9-253.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty  
(August 16, 2019)

**Held for the meeting  
on September 19,  
2019**

To recognize Sarah Kyriazis, Manager of Instructional Technology and Digital Learning, on her selection as recipient of the 2019 Administrator Award from MassCUE (Massachusetts Computer Using Educators).

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - NONEVII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS -NONEVIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE - NONEIX. PERSONNEL

9-33 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Cafeteria Substitute Helper, permanent/intermittent at a salary of \$14.00 per hour, from Civil Service List #319-022, effective as shown:

**Filed Personnel  
items 9-33-9-37**

Krauss, Jillian	8/22/19
Rivera, Claribel	8/22/19

9-34 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Junior Custodian, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$16.54 (minimum) to \$21.05 (maximum), per hour, effective as shown:

Collins, Sumo	7/22/19
Zwicker, Thomas	8/12/19

9-35 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the persons 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 #319-028, effective as follows:

Arsenault, Jayne	8/19/19
Cullen, John	7/2/19
Pyram, Kettelie	6/25/19

9-36 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 #319-042, effective as follows:

Abban, Eric	8/26/19
Celestin, Ronald	8/2/19

9-37 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 #319-029, effective as follows:

English, Shyla	8/22/19
Khoury, Tom	7/1/19
Lopez Abimael	7/1/19

X. GENERAL BUSINESSACTION

gb #9-227.1 -Administration/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. O’Connell  
(August 28, 2019)

**Referred to the  
Administration for a  
response  
(See notes)**

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on when cursive writing is taught in the district and include any changes forthcoming in the future.

gb #9-259 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. O’Connell/Mayor Petty  
(August 12, 2019)

**Set the date of  
Thursday,  
September 19, 2019**

To set a date to recognize the Worcester Bravehearts, as Champions of the Future Collegiate Baseball League and for its community service activities in the Worcester Public Schools and in the community.

gb #9-260 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. O’Connell  
(August 13, 2019)

**Referred to the  
Administration  
(See notes)**

Request that the Administration update the School Committee on the mold problem at Columbus Park Preparatory Academy and indicate whether or not the City Health Department has provided any recommendations for remediation of this problem.

gb #9-261 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. O’Connell  
(August 16, 2019)

**Filed**

Request that the Administration inform schools and parents about the free “Family Fest Day” on September 11, 2019 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the John Binienda Memorial Beach at Coes Reservoir on Mill Street.

gb #9-262 - Administration  
(August 20, 2019)

**On a roll call of  
5-0-2 (absent  
Mr. Comparetto and  
Mayor Petty) the  
item was approved  
(See notes)**

To accept the Safer Schools Technology Grant in the amount of \$80,000.00.

gb #9-263 - Administration  
(August 20, 2019)

**On a roll call of  
5-0-2 (absent  
Mr. Comparetto and  
Mayor Petty) the  
item was approved  
(See notes)**

To accept the High Quality College and Career Pathway Grant in the amount of \$28,683.00.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #9-264 - Administration  
(August 20, 2019)

To accept the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers-Exemplary Programs Grant in the amount of \$116,250.00.

**On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty) the item was approved**

gb #9-265 - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(August 21, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the number of students who attended the Jump Start programs at the secondary schools in August 2019.

**Referred to the Administration as amended (See notes)**

gb #9-266 - Administration  
(August 21, 2019)

To review the status of the FY20 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

**Referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations**

gb #9-267 - Administration  
(August 21, 2019)

To review the annual audit and agreed upon procedures report on compliance and internal controls for the City of Worcester, including the Worcester Public Schools, for the year that ended on June 30, 2019 which included the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) A-133 Reports and the Management Letter.

**Referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations**

gb #9-268 - Administration  
(August 21, 2019)

To review the annual audit and agreed upon procedures on the Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed Upon Procedures for Student Activity Fund Testing for fiscal year 2019.

**Referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations**

gb #9-269 - Administration  
(August 21, 2019)

To review the annual audit and agreed upon procedures on the Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed Upon Procedures for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education End of Year Financial Report for fiscal year 2018-19.

**Referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations**

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #9-270 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell  
(August 21, 2019)

**Referred to the  
Administration  
(See notes)**

Request that the Administration consider offering half day professional development for staff in light of the training provided to principals that dealt with SEL, the impact of homelessness and foster children and on disciplinary alternatives.

gb #9-271 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. O'Connell  
(August 21, 2019)

**Referred to the  
Administration  
(See notes)**

Request that the Administration continue its collaborative work with various agencies in dealing with the needs of homeless and foster children and consider reviewing the Cincinnati model entitled "Kids in School Rule."

gb #9-272 - Administration  
(August 23, 2019)

**On a roll call of  
5-0-2 (absent  
Mr. Comparetto and  
Mayor Petty) the  
item was approved**

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$2,323.00 to CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP for the FY17 and FY18 combined Student Activity Account Agreed Upon Procedures Review.

gb #9-273 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo  
(August 23, 2019)

**Referred to the  
Standing Committee  
on Governance and  
Employee Issues**

To review the newly established policy and practice of San Mateo (California) High School, based on a successful pilot project, of prohibiting use of cellphones in school by students during the academic day.

gb #9-274 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo  
(August 23, 2019)

**Referred to the  
Standing Committee  
on Governance and  
Employee Issues**

To review the newly established policy and practice of the Crestwood (Ohio) Local School District which prohibits use of cellphones in schools by students except before and after school, at extracurricular activities and at school-related lunches.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #9-275 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty  
(August 26, 2019)

**Forward letter**

Request that the Administration forward a letter of congratulations to Michael P. Lyons, on being selected for the Worcester State University Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community.

gb #9-276 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty  
(August 26, 2019)

**Set the date of  
Thursday, October  
3, 2019**

To set a date to recognize Darya Kuruna, an art teacher at Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School, for the creative painting of 30 murals at her school.

gb #9-277 - Administration  
(August 27, 2019)

**On a roll call of  
5-0-2 (absent  
Mr. Comparetto and  
Mayor Petty) the  
item was approved**

To consider approval of the following donations:

- \$67.55 from a donor to the Worcester Public Schools
- \$100.00 from a donor to the Patricia Falcone Memorial Scholarship
- \$3,820.00 from Worcester Area Mission Society for the Summer Cubs Program held at Woodland Academy

gb #9-278 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(August 27, 2019)

**Referred to the  
Administration**

To review the Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation, Superintendent and District Administrator Rubric, as updated during July 2019, and to determine whether it requires, or makes advisable, any change in the current process utilized by the School Committee to evaluate the Superintendent, and by the Superintendent to evaluate other district administrators.

gb #9-279 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty  
(August 27, 2019)

**Congratulated the  
Administration**

To congratulate the Administration for the 4th annual kickoff of school opening for the entire staff at the DCU Center.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #9-280 - Administration  
(August 28, 2019)

To accept the Comprehensive School Health Services (CSHS) Grant in the amount of \$28,683.00.

**On a roll call of 4-0-3(absent Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley and Mayor Petty) the item was approved**

gb #9-281 - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(August 28, 2019)

To consider establishing goals for the School Committee for 2019-20.

**Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports (See notes)**

gb #9-282 - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(August 28, 2019)

**Referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations (See notes)**

To determine the most appropriate manner to review all plans for the siting and construction of the replacement Doherty Memorial High School, in light of Section 4-1 (d) (5) of the Worcester Home Rule Charter, which provides that “No site for a school building shall be acquired by the city unless the approval of the site by the School Committee is first obtained. No plans for the construction of or alterations, with the exception of ordinary repairs, in a school building shall be accepted, and no such work shall be commenced on the construction or alteration of a school building unless the approval of the School Committee and the City Manager shall have first been obtained.”

gb #9-283 - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(August 28, 2019)

**Referred to the Administration**

To review the pilot program of the Elkhart Indiana Community Schools, which, in conjunction with Cultivate, a nonprofit food rescue organization, repurposes surplus cafeteria food into frozen meals and distributes them to needy families.

gb #9-284 - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(August 28, 2019)

**Referred to the Administration (See notes)**

To review the schedule of dates and times of the first meetings of the school site councils, which, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 59C, shall take place “no later than forty days after the first day of school.”

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #9-285 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(August 28, 2019)

To verify full compliance of the Worcester Public Schools with the provisions of 527 CMR 1.00, Section 20.2.4.2.1.4, which require that the first fire drill of the year occurs within three days of the start of school.

gb #9-286 - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo  
(August 28, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide an update regarding ongoing student transportation issues.

gb #9-287 - Administration  
(August 28, 2019)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$5,252.25 to Harbor Networks.

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 #9-289 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/  
Mr. O'Connell  
(August 28, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report of the number of students who applied to Worcester Technical High School and the number of students who are now enrolled.

gb #9-290 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/  
Mr. O'Connell  
(August 28, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report listing the Chapter 74 courses in all schools and the number of students enrolled in each of these courses.

ACTION

**Referred to the  
Administration**

**Held for the meeting  
on September 19,  
2019**

**On a roll call of  
5-0-2 (absent  
Mr. Comparetto and  
Mayor Petty) the  
item was approved**

**Held for the meeting  
on September 19,  
2019**

**Referred to the  
Administration for a  
response in a Friday  
letter**

**Referred to the  
Administration**



GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #9-291 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/  
Mr. O'Connell  
(August 28, 2019)

**Referred to the  
Administration as  
amended for a  
report in a Friday  
letter  
(See notes)**

Request that the Administration provide the following information regarding AP courses:

- the number of courses by titles and school sites
- the number of students who took the courses by titles and school sites and
- the student results by course titles and school sites

gb #9-292 - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/  
Mr. O'Connell  
(August 28, 2019)

**Referred to the  
Standing Committee  
on Teaching,  
Learning and  
Student Supports**

Request that the Administration provide a report on the way in which the Worcester Public Schools is highlighting its successes in the STEM/STEAM Programs during the week of Oct. 21-25, 2019.

gb #9-293 - Administration  
(August 28, 2019)

**Held for meeting on  
September 19, 2019**

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the total amount of \$7,800.00 to school nurses for longevity rates.

gb #9-294 - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(August 28, 2019)

**Referred to the  
Administration**

Request that the Administration prepare a plan by January 2020 that will provide a link on the website and a connection to the landing page in order to provide access to student/families to the calendar of events in all schools as well as to the teachers e-mail addresses, forms and supply lists for each grade.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #9-295 - (Administration)  
(August 28, 2019)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Plumbers and Steamfitters, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

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

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Aides to the Physically Handicapped and Bus Monitors, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, Case No. CAS-19-7323.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Worcester School Committee v. International Union of Public Employees, Tradesmen, Local - 135 and International Union of Public Employees, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local - 125, Worcester Superior Court Civil Action No. 1885CV01520.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Jennifer Foley v. City of Worcester School Department, U.S. District Court Civil Action No. 4:19-CV-40109-TSH.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

ACTION

**Held from 6:05 pm  
to 7:00**

**8:20 p.m.**

N O T E S

It was moved to recess to Executive Session to discuss the following items:

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Plumbers and Steamfitters, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

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

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Aides to the Physically Handicapped and Bus Monitors, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, Case No. CAS-19-7323.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Worcester School Committee v. International Union of Public Employees, Tradesmen, Local - 135 and International Union of Public Employees, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local - 125, Worcester Superior Court Civil Action No. 1885CV01520.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Jennifer Foley v. City of Worcester School Department, U.S. District Court Civil Action No. 4:19-CV-40109-TSH.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mayor Petty) the motion was approved.

There were present at the Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo and Mr. O'Connell

There were absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:05 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo and Mr. O’Connell

There were absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #9-227.1

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report at the first meeting in October on the system’s plan to teach cursive writing in Grades 2-5.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Foley stated that it is not necessary to teach cursive but rather teach the students the methodology of using cursive for certain purposes.

gb #9-260

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an update at the first meeting in October on the environmental problems at Columbus Park Preparatory Academy.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #9-262

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a list of the schools that will be receiving the locks and cameras from the Safer Schools Technology Grant.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #9-263

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday letter, a list of the schools that will benefit from the High Quality College and Career Pathway Grant.

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday letter, the response regarding possible union involvement as part of this grant.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

gb #9-265

Miss McCullough made the following amendment to the item:

Request that the Administration include in the report the activities that took place and the number of students who participated in the Jump Start programs at the secondary schools in August 2019.

On a voice vote, the item as amended was approved.

gb #9-270

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a response in October 2019 to the item regarding the offering of half day professional development.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #9-271

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a Report of the Superintendent in December on how the Worcester Public Schools are dealing with the needs of the homeless and foster children and review the Cincinnati model on this topic.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #9-281

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration establish goals for the School Committee by the end of the school year.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #9-282

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration review the process of determining the siting of a new school building and make certain that the School Committee has the final approval on the proposed site.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #9-284

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide the dates and times of each school's first Site Council meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #9-291

Miss McCullough made the following amendment the item:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the parent and student feedback regarding AP courses.

On a voice vote, the item as amended was approved.