

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

AGENDA #6

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, March 2, 2017  
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

INVOCATION – Reverend Robert H. Jackson  
First Congregational Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM - Norrback Avenue School's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Chorus

II. ROLL CALL

**Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo,  
Mr. O'Connell and Mayor Petty**

**There was absent: Miss Biancheria**

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #7-6 - Clerk  
(February 22, 2017)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting  
of Thursday, February 16, 2017.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION – NONE

**Convened in Open  
Session at 6:00 p.m.  
See notes**

**Approved**

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

ACTION

gb #7-56.1 - Administration/Administration  
(February 21, 2017)

**Certificate  
presented**

To recognize Saul Ramos, a paraprofessional, who was named the  
2016 MTA Education Support Professional of the Year.

gb #7-70 - Administration  
(February 21, 2017)

**Filed**

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

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - NONE

VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

IX. PERSONNEL - NONE

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

ACTION

gb #7-71 - Miss McCullough/Mr. O’Connell/Ms. Colorio/  
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty  
(February 13, 2017)

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

Request that the Administration study the feasibility and cost of implementing a bus tracking system similar to the one used by the Boston Public Schools.

gb #7-72 - Administration  
(February 14, 2017)

**Set the date of  
Thursday, March 16,  
2017  
See notes**

To set a date to recognize the following students who won positions in the Central Massachusetts Festival Band, Orchestra and Chorus after competing with more than 800 musicians:

Burncoat Middle School  
Isabella Montalvo, Soprano

Sullivan Middle School  
Heather Bachand, Flute                      Alexandra Economou, Tuba  
Clarise Liu, Clarinet                         Eno Manu-Gyamfi, Alto  
Bao Han Ngo, Clarinet

Burncoat High School  
Valenia Bergier, Cello  
Aaron Balboa, Cello  
Madeline Rich, Soprano, All-State Recommendation  
Ryan McCarthy, Bass, All-State Recommendation

Doherty Memorial High School  
Maggie Hastings, Soprano, All-State Recommendation

South High Community School  
Alyssa Goins, Clarinet, All-State Recommendation and  
2017 All-State Music Festival  
Lillian Wright, Flute, All-State Recommendation  
Zachary Roy, Bass, All State Recommendation  
Oved Rico, French Horn

gb #7-73 - Mr. O’Connell/Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty  
(February 15, 2017)

**Forward letter of  
congratulations**

To congratulate the Burncoat Dance Team, its students, teachers and choreographers, on the honors, awards and recognitions they received at the MSSAA State Dance Team Tournament, and on qualifying for the Nationals to be held at Walt Disney World.

X. GENERAL BUSINESSACTION

gb #7-74 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/  
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty  
(February 16, 2017)

**Forward letters  
See notes**

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the following individuals from Worcester Arts Magnet School who received the Silver Medal Award at Shepherd Hill School's Annual Central Mass Show Choir Festival:

Chrysanthe Manuel, Music Teacher  
Cathy Taylor, Dance Instructor  
MetroGnomes, student performers

gb #7-75 - Administration  
(February 21, 2017)

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

To accept a donation in the amount of \$305.00 from the Tri State Truck Center, Inc. to the South High Community School's Diesel Technician Training Program for the cost of a bus for a field trip.

gb #7-76 - Mayor Petty/Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/  
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough  
(February 21, 2017)

**Held**

Request that the Superintendent consider the feasibility of establishing boys and girls soccer teams at Claremont Academy and University Park Campus School.

gb #7-77 - Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(February 22, 2017)

**Referred to the  
Administration**

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the number of students who participate in partial or full time on-line learning.

gb #7-78 - Ms. Colorio/Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Monfredo  
(February 22, 2017)

**Referred to the  
Administration  
See notes**

Request that the Administration provide a report by school regarding the number of teachers and staff that were on paid administrative leave for the school years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #7-79 - Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria/  
Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty  
(February 22, 2017)

**Set the date of  
Thursday, March 16,  
2017**

To set a date to recognize and to congratulate Margaret Sokolowski, Michaela Hannon-Curran, Christine Rovezzi and Susan Teixeira, librarians of the Worcester Public Schools, on each receiving \$1,000 awards from the National Education Association's Read Across America and the NEA Foundation for purchase of books for their school libraries, as part of the 2016 NEA Books Across America Library Books Award and to congratulate Ann Grilla on winning Round Two from the Foundation in the Award competition.

gb #7-80 - Administration  
(February 22, 2017)

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

To consider approval of the following new courses for the 2017 - 18 school year:

- English Composition & Literature I
- The Development of Early Civilizations
- Science Engineering & Technology I
- Advanced Seminar

gb #7-81 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty  
(February 23, 2017)

**Forward letter**

To forward a letter of congratulations to Mary Anne Dube on her selection as Grand Marshal of the 2017 St. Patrick's Parade.

gb #7-82 - Administration  
(February 23, 2016)

**Held from 6:01 p.m.  
to 7:00 p.m.**

Finding that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the School Committee, the committee votes to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation and strategy for collective bargaining for a denial of access.

c&p #6-9

To consider a communication from a citizen relative to a request that the School Committee drop its Court Appeal and allow for testing for PCBs at Burncoat High and Doherty Memorial High schools.

gb #6-332

Request that the Administration drop the appeal and allow PCB testing at Burncoat High School and Doherty Memorial High School this school year and do what is necessary to correct the problem.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #7-82 (continued)

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

To consider an International Union of Public Employees (I.U.P.E.) Grievance Complaint – HVAC Technician

X. ADJOURNMENT

7:45 p.m.

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

N O T E S

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

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c&p #6-9

To consider a communication from a citizen relative to a request that the School Committee drop its Court Appeal and allow for testing for PCBs at Burncoat High and Doherty Memorial High schools.

gb #6-332

Request that the Administration drop the appeal and allow PCB testing at Burncoat High School and Doherty Memorial High School this school year and do what is necessary to correct the problem.

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

To consider an International Union of Public Employees (I.U.P.E.) Grievance Complaint – HVAC Technician

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent-Miss Biancheria), the motion was approved.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:01 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:15 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:07 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Miss McCullough, Mr. O'Connell and Mayor Petty

Miss Biancheria chaired the meeting from 7:15 p.m. to 7:24 p.m.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #7-71

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration determine if our routing software system is able to incorporate the content in the item as part of its system.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #7-72

Mayor Petty suggested that some of the members of this recognition sing the National Anthem.

gb #7-74

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the MetroGnomes attend the School Committee Meeting on April 27, 2017 to sing the National Anthem and perform two of their winning numbers.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #7-78

Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the paid administrative leaves by school, length of leave and whether the individual returned to the same school or whether he/she was dismissed.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.



O T H E R

It was moved and voice voted to suspend the rules to allow Roger Nugent, President of the EAW to address the School Committee relative to concerns of the EAW regarding PCBs.

In response to the EAW's concerns, Mayor Petty stated that:

- The Administration has worked with the EPA for the past six years and will be testing for PCBs on:
  - April 3, 2017 at Burncoat High School
  - April 24, 2017 at Doherty Memorial High School
- The EAW will receive the results of these PCB tests at the same time as the Administration receives them.
- The Administration will continue to follow the Best Management Practices of the EPA.
- The Mayor, the Administration and the School Committee take the issue of the remediation of PCBs and the safety of students and staff in the schools as their highest priority and have dedicated monies to take care of this effort.

Mr. Allen stated that the actions, taken in accordance with EPA's Best Management Practices, included:

- identification of buildings that were built between 1958 – 1978
- replacement of all light ballasts
- improvement of HVAC systems at schools with a focus on Burncoat High School and Doherty Memorial High School
- vigorous cleaning procedures at Burncoat High School and Doherty Memorial High School
- engagement of DPH on air quality assessments
- visual inspection of all window caulk