

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

AGENDA #5

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, February 1, 2018
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

7:17 p.m.

INVOCATION – Reverend Kevin L. Downer
Greendale People’s Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Petty was absent

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #8-4 - Clerk
(January 24, 2018)

Approved

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee
Meeting of Thursday, January 18, 2018.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION – NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #8 25 - Administration
(January 22, 2018)

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

ACTION

Discussed at the meeting and filed

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #8-2 - Administration
(January 24, 2018)

FY19 PRELIMINARY BUDGET ESTIMATES

Accepted and filed
(See notes)

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS - NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

IX. PERSONNEL

ACTION

Filed Personnel items
8-07 - 8-13

8-07 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the person named below:

Gibree, Rene, Teacher, Special Education, North, MA, Step 6, \$65,665*, effective January 16, 2018. License pending: Severe Disabilities All Levels.

8-08 The Superintendent has ACCEPTED the RESIGNATION of the person named below:

Peck, Jason, Psychologist, Systemwide, effective January 19, 2018.

8-09 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RETIREMENT of the following person named below:

Crosby, Janet, Teacher, Elementary, Belmont, effective January 22, 2018.

8-10 The Superintendent has APPROVED the LEAVE OF ABSENCE of the person named below:

Rocheleau-Demers, Marie, Teacher, Vocational, Worcester Technical, effective January 16, 2018 – March 9, 2018.

8-11 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Cafeteria Substitute Helper, permanent/intermittent at a salary of \$13.20 per hour, from Civil Service List #317-050, effective as shown:

Molina, Maria 01/16/18

8-12 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Word Processor, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$18.09 (minimum) to \$22.38 per hour (maximum) effective as shown:

Carlson, Deanna 01/16/18

8-13 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Principal Clerk, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$20.39 per hour (minimum) to \$25.10 per hour (maximum) effective as shown:

Hathaway, Haley 01/16/18

**prorated*

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

ACTION

gb #7-392.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio/Mayor Petty
(January 12, 2018)

Accepted and filed

Response of the Administration to the request to apply for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Emergency Support Grant (Fund Code 313) offered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to school districts enrolling 50 or more students "who lost their housing in Puerto Rico due to Hurricane Maria."

gb #8-22.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/
Mr. Monfredo
(January 24, 2018)

Referred to the
Standing Committee on
Governance and
Employee Issues

Response of the Administration to the request to provide the following information relative to the process for DCF referrals to include:

- the timeframe for a principal to make a call to DCF, when needed
- the individuals who are notified of the phone call and
- the follow-up regarding the incident

gb #8-26 - Administration
(January 11, 2018)

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

To consider approval of the following donations:

- \$250 from Walmart to Woodland Academy
- \$286.80 from Box Tops for Education to Tatnuck Magnet School

gb #8-27 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough
(January 15, 2018)

Filed based on the
answer provided at the
meeting

Request that the Administration encourage schools to participate in February's "Love a Book Month" initiated by Worcester: the City that Reads with meaningful reading activities in school and at home as a way of focusing on the importance of reading within the community.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #8-28 - Administration
(January 16, 2018)

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

To accept the Unum Strong Schools Grant in the amount of \$20,000.

gb #8-29 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough
(January 16, 2018)

(Considered with
gb #8-45)
Referred to the
Standing Committee on
Teaching, Learning and
Student Supports

To engage in a comprehensive plan in an effort to have children read on grade level by the end of grade three.

gb #8-30 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough
(January 19, 2018)

Filed based on the
answer provided at the
meeting

Request that the Administration provide an update on the district's indoor recess policy.

gb #8-31 - Miss McCullough/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Comparetto/
Miss McCullough
(January 19, 2018)

(Considered with
gb #8-32)
Referred to the
Standing Committee on
Governance and
Employee Issues

Request that the Administration provide an update on the Attendance Policy currently in place and provide an:

- explanation of excused vs unexcused absences and
- the impact that the letters that are going home for chronic absenteeism are having on students and families.

gb #8-32 - Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough
(January 19, 2018)

(Considered with
gb #8-31)
Referred to the
Standing Committee on
Governance and
Employee Issues

Request that the Administration review the policy regarding absences of students from school and consider distinguishing in their student records unexcused absences from excused absences due to documented illnesses or religious holidays.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #8-33 - Administration
(January 19, 2018)

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

To review the reports on compliance and internal controls for the City of Worcester, including the Worcester Public Schools, from the Certified Public Accounting Firm of CliftonLarsenAllen, LLP for the year that ended on June 30, 2017 which included the GAO and OMB A-133 Reports and the Management Letter and 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 2016-17, prepared by Robert C. Alario, CPA, P.C.

gb #8-34 - Administration
(January 19, 2018)

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

To consider approval of the 2018-19 Policies Handbook of the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #8-35 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty
(January 22, 2018)

Forward letters

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the students who participated in the Model United Nations Competition and the following advisers for having these students participate in this outstanding "Future Leaders Conference," which was held at Clark University:

- Patricia Peters - Doherty Memorial High School
- Dave Crompton - Goddard at Sullivan Middle School
- Max Stern and Cecelia Spencer - University Park Campus School
- Daniel Makela - Worcester East Middle School
- Brian Cormier - South High Community School

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #8-36 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty
(January 22, 2018)

To forward letters to the following Worcester public schools' students who were honored as winners of the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Breakfast Poetry competition:

Grade 8 - Lloydia Agyemang – Sullivan Middle School Goddard Scholars
Madeline Zafon-Whalen – Forest Grove Middle School
Elvin Sanchez – Worcester East Middle School
Zoanjeliz Jimenez – Burncoat Middle School
Jaylen Remillard – Burncoat Middle School

Grade 10 - Antonia Amonu McCarthy – South High Community School
Gianna Castro – South High Community School
Kados Rashid – Caradonio New Citizens Center
Hawa Zuo – Worcester Technical High School
Noorhan Alzuhair – North High School
Deborah Doku – North High School

Grade 11 - Magdalene Agyemang – South High Community School
John Pena – North High School

Grade 12 - Ukamaka Asia – Burncoat High School
Mariangeli Hermans – North High School
Rose Vu – North High School
James Vega – North High School

gb #8-37 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty
(January 22, 2018)

To forward a letter of congratulations to Anthony Matimu, an eighth grade student at the Sullivan Middle School Goddard Scholars program, who has been honored as a winner of the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Essay competition, for his paper on "How can you be the best of whatever you are to make our community a better place?" - the question raised by Dr. King in a 1967 speech to Philadelphia junior high school students.

ACTION

(Considered with
gb#8-37 and gb#8-38)
Forward letters

(Considered with
gb#8-36 and gb#8-38)
Forward letter

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #8-38 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty
(January 22, 2018)

(Considered with
gb#8-36 and gb#8-37)
Forward letters

To forward letters of congratulations to the following Worcester public schools' students who have been honored as winners of the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Art competition, for their artistic renditions inspired by the question originally raised by Dr. King in a 1967 speech to Philadelphia junior high school students: "How can you be the best of whatever you are to make our community a better place?":

Individual WinnersFrist Place

Noah Mietla - May Street School
Annabelle Monero - Chandler
Elementary School
Glendy Lopez Castillo - McGrath
Elementary School

Third Place

Oscar D. Hernandez Molina
Hamza Al Sayed Hassan
McGrath Elementary School

Second Place

Ava Davis - Worcester Arts Magnet
School
Sofia Raya
Heard Street Discovery Academy

Honorable Mention

Carmela Cifredo
Elaina Ocasio
Belmont Street School
Angelina Lam
Linda Nguyen
Canterbury Street School

Group Winners:First Place

Flagg Street School, grade 4
Charlotte Martin, Matthew Lefebvre, and Aeden Wetherbee
Worcester Arts Magnet School, grade 5
Bodhi Parks, and Joshua Richard
McGrath Elementary School, grade 6
Yan C. Miguel, Kennedy Nkrumah, and Gabriel Lucas S. Timoteo

Second Place

Heard Street School, grade 5
Nehemiah Zoller, Nevaeh Gaudette, Joshua Juica and
Brandon Humphrey

Third Place

Flagg Street School, grade 4
Bridgid Trainor, Arianna Erlich, Jessica Hanna, Lily Coughlin, and
Kylie Abdulky
McGrath Elementary School, grade 6
Maya Luna, Melanie Romer, Genesis Centeno and Jordy Jarama
Castillo

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #8-39 - Administration
(January 23, 2018)

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

To consider an amendment to the Innovation Plan for Worcester East Middle School which will eliminate the admission of 6th grade students commencing in the 2018-19 academic school year in order to prepare a proposed Citywide Health and Science Gifted Academy for 7th and 8th grade students for the 2019-20 academic school year.

gb #8-40 - Administration
(January 23, 2018)

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

To approve prior fiscal year payments in the total amount of \$7,324.23 reflecting adjustments to Minimum Instructor Pay (MIP) rate increases for Air Force JOTC instructors.

gb #8-41 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Miss McCullough
(January 23, 2018)

Forward the backup to the City Manager and the item was filed (See notes)

Request that the School Committee keep the City Manager apprised regarding the purchases that will be made as a result of additional monies from the Health Insurance Trust Fund.

gb #8-42 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough
(January 23, 2018)

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

Request that the Administration study the feasibility of involving students in community service projects at the Senior Center.

gb #8-43 - Mayor Petty/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough
(January 24, 2018)

Held

Request that the Superintendent create an updated Health and Wellness Curriculum for middle and high school students.

gb #8-44 - Administration
(January 24, 2018)

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

To consider approval of funds for the most updated version of the AP texts and Grade 8 Science texts as a continuation of the current, approved Grade 7 series.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #8-45 - Administration
(January 24, 2018)

To consider approval of the Read Side by Side reading program to be implemented in grades 3-6 and also for the Fountas & Pinnell Classroom to be implemented in grades K-2.

gb #8-46 - Administration
(January 24, 2018)

Request that the Administration approve a transfer of funds resulting from excess funds in the Health Insurance Trust Fund to be used to make one-time investments in textbooks, educational materials, technology, school safety, and maintenance.

gb #8-47 - Administration
(January 24, 2018)

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

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

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for J. Perez vs Worcester School Committee et al. if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

ACTION

(Considered with
gb #8-29)
Referred to the
Standing Committee on
Teaching, Learning and
Student Supports

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

Held from 6:05 p.m. to
7:00 p.m.

(See Other)

Filed

Filed

9:10 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 Instructional Assistants, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

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

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation for J. Perez vs Worcester School Committee et al. if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

On a roll call of 5-2, the motion was approved.

Mr. O’Connell arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:15 pm.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:02 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:17 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

Mayor Petty was absent.

Vice-chairman Foley chaired the meeting.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #8-2

Mr. Allen made an excellent PowerPoint presentation, which is contained in Annex A of the backup, on the FY19 Preliminary Budget Estimates.

NOTES (continued)

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

ROS #8-2 (continued)

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward a letter to the State’s Joint Committee on Education regarding the preliminary Budget before Monday.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #8-39

Mr. Foley suggested to all School Committee members to forward any questions relative to this item to the Superintendent before the meeting of the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports so that they can be discussed at the meeting.

gb #8-41

Mr. O’Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report in Executive Session on the deployment of security devices at South High Community, Forest Grove Middle, Doherty Memorial High, Worcester East Middle schools and Woodland and Claremont Academies.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #8-44

Mr. O’Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward in a Friday Letter a list of the textbooks that will be purchased indicating the cost for each one.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

O T H E R

A Moment of Silence was offered in memory of Dennis Ferrante, Patricia Gaudette, Todd Williams and Patricia Ganius.

Vice-chairman Foley made an announcement that the School Committee meetings on February 15th and March 1st will be televised on Channel 192, the Government Channel, not Channel 191, the Education Channel.

gb #8-47 - Executive Session Item

Miss Biancheria requested that she be recused from all votes relative to the Instructional Assistants contract due to a conflict of interest.

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017.

On a roll call of 5-0-1 (absent-Mayor Petty), the motion was approved.

It was moved to suspend the Rules of the School Committee to reconsider the motion ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017.

On a roll call of 5-0-1 (absent-Mayor Petty), the motion was approved.

It was moved to reconsider the motion to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017.

On a roll call of 0 (yeas)-5(nays)-1 (absent-Mayor Petty), the motion to reconsider was defeated.

O T H E R (continued)

gb #8-47 - Executive Session Item (continued)

Pursuant to action taken in Executive Session, it was moved to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020.

On a roll call of 5-0-1 (absent-Mayor Petty), the motion was approved.

It was moved to suspend the Rules of the School Committee to reconsider the motion ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020.

On a roll call of 5-0-1 (absent-Mayor Petty), the motion was approved.

It was moved to reconsider the motion to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement referenced therein between the Worcester School Committee and the Educational Association of Worcester for and on behalf of the Instructional Assistants, effective September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020.

On a roll call of 0 (yeas)-5(nays)-1 (absent-Mayor Petty), the motion to reconsider was defeated.