

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

AGENDA #20

on: Thursday, November 21, 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

**7:00 p.m.**

INVOCATION – Pastor Steven Barrett  
Christ the Rock Fellowship Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM - Rice Square School's Chorus

II. ROLL CALL

**Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley,  
Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo and Mayor Petty**

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #9-23 - Clerk  
(October 29, 2019)

**Approved**

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting  
of Thursday, November 7, 2019.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

ACTION

gb #9-328.1 - Administration/Administration  
(November 13, 2019)

**Gift presented**

To recognize Cheryl DelSignore, former Staffing/Mentoring Coordinator, for her 28 years of dedication to the Worcester Public Schools

gb #9-347.1 - Administration/Administration  
(November 12, 2019)

**Certificate presented**

To recognize Steven and Andrew Levy for their generous donation to the new Rice Square School library in memory of their mother, Seena Levy who taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade reading there for 28 years.

gb #9-374 - Administration  
(November 6, 2019)

**Filed**

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

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #9-14 - Administration  
(November 13, 2019)

**Accepted and filed ROS#9-14 and held gb #8-153.5 for the third quarterly report (See notes)**

STRATEGIC PLAN – SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS –NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee on Finance and Operations met on Monday, November 18, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

**Approved as amended**

IX. PERSONNEL - NONE

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #8-250.1 - Administration/Mr. O’Connell/Mr. Foley/  
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough  
(November 8, 2019)

**Accepted and filed  
the item and  
motions**

Response of the Administration to the following motions regarding  
homeschooling:

- Request that the Administration provide an update in the summer  
of 2019 indicating:
  - resolutions of issues from the previous year
  - improvements to the current Homeschool Policy and
  - provision of any proposed changes earlier in the year
- Mr. Foley suggested that the language in the letter about  
homeschooling be refined.
- Request that the Administration contact other communities  
regarding the manner in which:
  - clear communication is provided
  - resolution of different situations is handled and
  - an explanation of the requirement of a progress report

gb #9-290.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O’Connell  
(November 6, 2019)

**Accepted and filed**

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

gb #9-344.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo  
(November 12, 2019)

**Accepted and filed**

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report to  
contain the after school and evening courses offered at Worcester  
Technical High School.

gb #9-375 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria  
(November 4, 2019)

**Forward letter of  
support**

Request that the Administration and the School Committee support the  
initiative led by Lt. Governor Polito and supported by the MASC for  
increased support for awareness and prevention efforts for young ages  
12 to 18 to help reduce the number of individuals who experience  
sexual and domestic violence in their lives.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #9-376 - Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty  
(November 4, 2019)

**Set the date of  
Thursday, December  
5, 2019**

To set a date to recognize John Hennessey, Transportation Director, for being awarded the 2019 Administrator of the Year by School Bus Fleet Magazine.

gb #9-377 - Administration  
(November 7, 2019)

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

To consider approval of the following MASC Policies:

- JB – Equal Educational Opportunities
- JFABD - Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights And Services
- JFABE - Educational Opportunities For Military Children
- JFABF - Educational Opportunities For Children In Foster Care

gb #9-378 - Administration  
(November 12, 2019)

**Accepted and filed  
the list of  
outstanding General  
Business items or  
motions**

To consider filing a list of outstanding General Business items or motions.

gb #9-379 - Administration  
(November 12, 2019)

**On a roll call of 6-0-  
1 (absent Mr.  
Comparetto), the  
item was approved**

To consider approval of the following donations:

- \$400.00 from a donor to Claremont Academy to be used as a scholarship for Latino female of Latina who plans to attend college.
- \$84.60 from Box Tops for Education to Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School
- \$225.00 from the Digital Federal Credit Union to McGrath Elementary School
- \$500.00 from the District Attorney's Community Reinvestment and Crime Prevention Program to Forest Grove Middle School to assist with their bullying campaign.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #9-380 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo  
(November 12, 2019)

**Referred to the Administration**

Request that the Administration provide background information on the following Vocational Educational Pathways which include three new ones proposed for the future Doherty High School:

- Engineering technology
- Construction craft labor
- Management marketing and finance
- Programming and web development.

gb #9-381 - Administration  
(November 13, 2019)

**On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mr. Comparetto), the item was approved**

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$308.79 to Airgas.

gb #9-382 - Mr. Comparetto  
(November 13, 2019)

**On a roll call of 5-2 (nays Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty), the item was filed (See notes)**

Request that the Mayor consider alternative methods to electing and appointing School Committee members that includes, but is not limited to, district School Committee seats.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

gb #9-390 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo  
(November 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the construction time-table of the new South High Community School.

gb #9-391 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo  
(November 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday Letter, the recess policy and any updates in reference to recess time during the Winter months to include indoor activities for the students.

gb #9-392 - Administration  
(November 13, 2019)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of \$1,484.10 to Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP for services performed at Burncoat High School.

ACTION

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

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**Referred to the Administration**

**Referred to the Administration for a report in a Friday Letter**

**On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mr. Comparetto), the item was approved**

ACTION

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #9-393 -Administration  
(November 13, 2019)

**Held from 6:10 p.m.  
to 6:50 p.m.**

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Arbitration - Nurse/Massachusetts Nurses Association.

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 – Janie Lanza Vowles, Personal Representative Estate of Suzanne F. Miville v. Worcester Public Schools, MCAD Docket No. 1785CV00162.

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 - Massachusetts Laborers' District Council for and in behalf of Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 272 of the Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO, Unit D, Computer Technicians.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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:

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares - Arbitration - Nurse/Massachusetts Nurses Association.

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 - Janie Lanza Vowles, Personal Representative Estate of Suzanne F. Miville v. Worcester Public Schools, MCAD Docket No. 1785CV00162.

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 - Massachusetts Laborers' District Council for and in behalf of Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 272 of the Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO, Unit D, Computer Technicians.

There were present at the Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough and Mr. Monfredo

There were absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty

Mayor Petty arrived at 6:35 p.m.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:10 p.m. to 6:50 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. Comparetto, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough Mr. Monfredo and Mayor Petty

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #9-14

Superintendent Binienda presented a PowerPoint highlighting the achievements during the second quarter report on the Strategic Plan. She indicated that chronic absenteeism and student discipline rates have been reduced and that the system has hired 25.3% new diverse staff. Superintendent Binienda further stated that 2 new Job Descriptions are being drafted for the system to hire five Mental Health Counselors and one Guidance Counselor for College and Career Readiness.



NOTES (continued)

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Mr. Foley suggested that the Strategic Plan be reported out in sections.

Mr. Foley made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the projected financial impact of the additional monies, if passed, from the State.

Request that the Administration provide on-going reports on the success and data trends of the new reading and math programs.

Request that the Administration provide a report on the 25.3% new hires to include their positions and location.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a report, in a Friday Letter, on the cost to provide wireless access in all the schools.

Request that the Administration provide a report, in a Friday Letter, on the colleges that participate with the Worcester Public Schools in dual enrollment courses.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Mayor Petty suspended the rules to allow the following individuals to speak to items gb #9-382 to gb #9-389:

Rhonda Wahya Hicks spoke to items gb #9-386 and gb #9-387 regarding Restorative Justice and suspending students in grades K-2 and stated that she believes that the system needs to rethink suspending young children.

Em Quiles, founder of Pa'Lante Latinx Moving Forward, spoke to item gb #9-394 regarding Latino students and stated that the system need to hire more diverse teachers.

Michael Crompton from Greater Worcester Our Resolutions (GWOR) spoke to items gb #9-382 through gb #9-395 regarding students of color and stated that he is in favor of creating district seats for School Committee members.

NOTES (continued)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee on Finance and Operations met on Monday, November 18, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations is hereto annexed as Annex A and was approved as amended.

gb #9-198

Miss Biancheria requested that the Administration provide an updated report, in a Friday Letter, in March 2020 regarding the construction of the new pathway at Flagg Street School.

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

It was moved to approve the following transfers:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From Account</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>To Account</u>	<u>Account Title</u>
\$500,000	500-91111	Teacher Salaries	500-92204	Instructional Materials
\$184,150	500-91110	Administration Salaries	500130-92000	Personal Services

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mayor Petty suspended rules to take items gb #9-382 through gb #9-389 out of order and consider them together.

gb #9-382

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee file the item.

On a roll call of 5-2 (nays Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty), the item was filed.

Mayor Petty suspended rules to allow Wanda Alvarado Eaton to speak regarding her perception of inequity in the Worcester Public schools.

Mr. Comparetto left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

## O T H E R

Mayor Petty requested a Moment of Silence in memory of Fire Lieutenant Jason Menard, a 1999 graduate of Doherty Memorial High School who was assigned to Ladder 5, at the McKeon Road Fire Station. He was a real hero who laid down his life to save two of his fellow firefighters.

Committee Members  
John Foley, Chairman  
Molly McCullough, Vice Chairman  
Dante Comparetto

AGENDA #5  
F/O  
11-18-19  
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A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Finance and Operations met at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2019 at the Durkin Administration Building in Room 410.

There were present: Miss McCullough and Chairman Foley

There was absent: Mr. Comparetto

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

Others in Attendance: S. Ansaldi, J. Bedard, S. Burke, L. Cahill, S. Consalvo, A. Dennehy, F. Dennehy, T. Novick, M. Richards, M. Sacksteder

gb #9-198 - Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell  
(May 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration consider the proposal by the parents and neighbors of Flagg Street School to construct a pathway from St. Paul Drive to Flagg Street School.

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration approve the recommendation to construct a pathway from St. Paul Drive to Flagg Street School by the Summer of 2020 and interact with the Worcester DPW, prior to construction, to ensure that the project will not negatively impact the surrounding area.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

On a roll call of 2-0-1 (absent Mr. Comparetto) the motion was approved.

gb #8-233 - Administration (July 18, 2018)

To review the status of the FY19 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

It was moved and voice voted to accept and file the item.

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

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

Mr. Allen provided an update on the First Quarter Report for the FY20 Budget.

It was moved to approve the following transfers:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From Account</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>To Account</u>	<u>Account Title</u>
\$500,000	500-91111	Teacher Salaries	500-92204	Instructional Materials
\$184,150	500-91110	Administration Salaries	500130-92000	Personal Services

On a roll call of 2-0-1 (absent Mr. Comparetto), the motion was approved.

Hold for the Second Quarter Report.

motion gb #9-195.6 - Miss Biancheria (October 23, 2019)**500152-92000 - Facilities Department Non-Salary**

Request that the Administration provide a report as to the increase in testing and indicate what was done in the schools, as contained in line F Environmental Management Systems.  
Miss Biancheria

Miss McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the Administration place the backup to this item onto the WPS website.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voted to accept and file the motion from the FY20 Budget relative to the Environmental Management Systems.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

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