

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

AGENDA #12

on: Thursday, March 18, 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

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

6:27 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #1-6 - Administration
(March 8, 2021)

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

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of
Thursday, February 25, 2021.

aor #1-7 - Administration
(March 8, 2021)

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

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of
Friday, February 26, 2021.

aor #1-8 - Administration
(March 8, 2021)

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

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of
Monday, March 1, 2021.

IX. PERSONNEL (continued)

ACTION

1-11 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RESIGNATION of the person named below:

Townsend, Anne, Teacher, Woodland Academy, Special Education, Speech, effective March 5, 2021

1-12 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENTS of the TEACHERS named below:

Gerard, Rachel, Teacher, Special Education, Systemwide, MA, Step 1, effective February 22, 2021.

Kolodziejczak, Jordan, Teacher, Guidance, Worcester Technical High School, MA, Step 1, effective March 1, 2021.

Magwire, Sean, School Adjustment Counselor, Systemwide, CAGS/2M, Step 5, effective March 1, 2021.

Matovina, Carolyn, Teacher, Special Education, Systemwide, BA+15, Step 3, effective March 1, 2021.

Resnick, Kimberley, School Adjustment Counselor, Systemwide, MA, Step 2, effective March 1, 2021.

1-13 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RETIREMENT of the person named below:

Schmidt, Kandi, Teacher, Thorndyke Road, Special Education, Moderate Special Needs/Inclusion, effective February 16, 2021

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #1-14.1 -Administration/Ms. McCullough/Mrs. Clancey/
Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick
(March 9, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report back by March on plans for senior recognitions, yearbooks, graduations and other pertinent events.

gb #1-54.1 -Administration/Miss Biancheria/Ms. McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(March 9, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on the number of participants in each approved sport by school site and coach's name.

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

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

X. GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #1-79 - Administration
(March 1, 2021)

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

To accept the Growing Literacy Equity Across Massachusetts (GLEAM) Grant in the amount of \$8,000.

gb #1-80 - Administration
(March 1, 2021)

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

To consider approval of a revolving account for the Culinary Program at South High Community School for the collection of fees and to fund costs associated with the program.

gb #1-81 - Mr. Monfredo
(March 5, 2021)

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

Request that the Administration provide an update on the Group C opening and indicate whether any modifications should be considered.

gb #1-82 - Mr. Monfredo
(March 5, 2021)

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

Request that the Administration, in their readiness testing of kindergarten students this Spring, and the testing of kindergarten students who did not enroll this school year and remained at home consider a kindergarten 2 class for those students not ready for grade1 and provide an update in the first week in May.

gb #1-83 - Administration
(March 8, 2021)

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

To approve the following donations:

- \$401.36 from School Specialty to Tatnuck Magnet School
- \$1,500 from a donor to the Give Gratitude Program to Belmont Street Community School

gb #1-84 - Administration
(March 9, 2021)

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

To approve a School Committee meeting date change from Thursday July 15, 2021 to Thursday, July 22, 2021.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #1-85 - Administration
(March 9, 2021)

On a roll call of 7-0, the date was set for Thursday, April 1, 2021

To set a date to recognize Nhi Huynh, a junior at North High School, for being selected as a City of Worcester 2021 Young Women of Consequence recipient and for having a photograph selected to be included in the 2021 Massachusetts Amazing Emerging Artists High School Recognitions Exhibit.

gb #1-86 - Administration
(March 9, 2021)

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports

To consider approval of the following courses:

- US History Survey
- Foundations of Modern Biotechnology
- Applications of Modern Biotechnology

gb #1-87 - Miss Biancheria
(March 9, 2021)

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

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the move of facilities and transportation to the former Allegro building located at 115 North East Cutoff.

gb #1-88 - Miss Biancheria
(March 9, 2021)

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

Request that the Administration provide an update on the reopening of our schools to include cleaning, transportation, social distancing and ventilation.

gb #1-89 - Miss Biancheria
(March 9, 2021)

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

Request that the Administration provide an update on Fire Drills as required by the Fire Department.

gb #1-90 - Miss Biancheria
(March 9, 2021)

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

Request that the Administration discuss the plans regarding the reimbursement from federal COVID funding and determine the degree of flexibility to provide services to staff and students.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #1-91 - Miss Biancheria
(March 10, 2021)

Request that the Administration review the impact of the closing of Becker College on the WPS and its various collaborative efforts which include volunteers, internships and AVID.

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

gb #1-92 - Mr. Monfredo
(March 10, 2021)

Request that the Administration establish an advisory committee to include personnel, community representatives and experts in the field of student health to discuss a later starting time for secondary students, or move the time forward by 30 minutes for everyone.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. Novick due to connectivity issues), the item was referred to the Standing Committee on School and Student Supports

gb #1-93 - Miss Biancheria
(March 10, 2021)

Request that the Administration discuss the policies regarding course failures due to absenteeism, which results in the inability to participate in school sports.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. Novick due to connectivity issues), the item was referred to the Administration

gb #1-94 - Administration
(March 10, 2021)

Request that the School Committee APPROVE the APPOINTMENT of the following provisional civil service employee as School Nurse effective as shown:

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. Novick due to connectivity issues), the item was approved

O'Leary, Maria, Quinsigamond Elementary School, Bachelors, Step 1, \$48,310.00, effective March 5, 2021. License Pending: School Nurse All Levels

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION

gb #1-95 -Administration
(March 10, 2021)

**Held from
5:05 – 6:25 p.m.**

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); Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Instructional Assistants; Parent Liaisons; Tutors; and 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).

XII. ADJOURNMENT

8:49 p.m.

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

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

AGENDA #12A

SUPPLEMENTAL

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, March 18, 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 – REGULAR MEETING
INVOCATION
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/NATIONAL ANTHEM
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS - NONE
- IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE
- V. IMMEDIATE ACTION - NONE
- VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – NONE
- V. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE
- VIII. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES - NONE
- IX. PERSONNEL - NONE

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb#1-96 - Administration
(March 16, 2021)

To consider approval of a waiver to be forwarded to the Commissioner of Education requesting a delay of in-person learning until May 3, 2021.

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

N O T E S

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 5:04 p.m. in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There was absent: Mayor Petty

Vice-Chairman Foley stated that the School Committee would recess into Executive Session to discuss the following items:

gb #1-95 -Administration
(March 10, 2021)

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); Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Instructional Assistants; Parent Liaisons; Tutors; and 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).

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mayor Petty), it was moved to recess to Executive Session.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 5:05 p.m. to 6:25 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:27 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

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to suspend the rules to take the following item out of order:

IMMEDIATE ACTION

c&p #1-3

Melinda Martin, Keri Boisclair, Melissa Verdier and Liz Joyal spoke to the issue of returning to hybrid learning.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #1-5

A PowerPoint presentation entitled "Afterschool and Fun Friday Program Collaboration with Cultural Institutions" was introduced by Superintendent Binienda. Representatives from local institutions spoke to the work that has been done during remote learning. Presenters were:

- Darcy Schwartz, Creative Program Director of Art Reach
- Meghan Monater, Director of Education of the Hanover Theater
- Lisa Carlin, Camp Director, Mass Audubon at Broadmeadow Brook
- Anh Vu Sawyer, Executive Director of the Southeast Asian Coalition
- Sid Nordstrom, Director of Youth Education at Technocopia
- Marissa Gallant, Manager of Youth Education at Tower Hill
- Marnie Weir, Director of Education and Experience, Worcester Art Museum
- Elaine McKenna-Yeaw, Executive Director of Worcester Center for Crafts

Dr. O'Neil presented on behalf of Rachel Quimby, Public Programs Coordinator at the Ecotarium in her absence.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mayor Petty moved to suspend the rules to take the following items together.

gb#1-96, gb #1-81 and gb #1-88

Superintendent Binienda provided an update on the return to in-person learning for Group C. She stated that she and the District Leadership Team visited every school and were pleased with how the students were acclimating themselves back into the classroom setting. All staff will be returning on March 22nd and the remaining students return on March 29th.

She also said that the School Committee toured Forest Grove Middle, Grafton Street Elementary and Burncoat High schools to observe the workings of the ionization units.

The Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has asked for students to return to full in-person learning on April 5, 2021. Superintendent Binienda penned a waiver letter to the Commissioner asking to delay the return of full in-person learning for grades K-8 until May 3, 2021. She stated that the reasons for the request to delay the date is due to the following:

- staff and students traveling over the April school vacation possibly needing to quarantining for 2 weeks
- the lack of substitute teachers
- transportation and distancing issues
- teachers requesting leaves of absences
- some virus indicators still in the red and
- concern for possible variant strains

In order not to cause any confusion, the waiver request also included permission to send out another survey to families during the week of April 5th to gather data on the number of students interested in returning to full time learning in grades K-8.

Mayor Petty asked for clarification on the Commissioner's start dates.

Superintendent Binienda stated that for grades K-5, the start date would be April 5th, Grades 6 through 8 would be April 28th. The Commissioner has not yet provided the start dates for high schools. The Mayor also asked for updated PPE information and Mr. Pezzella stated that PPE was plentiful for the return of Group C students, but a request has been made for more PPE in anticipation of the March 22nd return of staff and March 29th for hybrid classes.

Ms. McCullough asked for the procedure for staff to get the proper amount of PPE. Superintendent Binienda stated that staff should alert the principal, the COVID lead, Mr. Pezzella or send the request to the WPS COVID website. Mr. Pezzella stated that staff members who are asking for special PPE and medical

accommodations for their classroom will need to notify the Human Resources Department.

Mrs. Clancey asked if there was any information on how the Health Portal worked this week and Superintendent Binienda stated that due to the small number of families that signed in to the Health Portal, a separate health survey will be going out on Monday for parents to fill out each morning before school that will go directly to the principal and the nurse at the school.

Mayor Petty requested that the School Committee approve the waiver to be sent to the Commissioner requesting a delay of in person learning until May 3, 2021.

gb #1-14.1

Superintendent Binienda informed the Committee that there would be a surprise announcement for seniors on Friday, March 19th at 9:30 am.

gb #1-54.1

Ms. Novick asked for clarification on locker room protocol and Superintendent Binienda stated that students who are in remote learning need to come dressed to practice/events and those who are in school hybrid learning will be allowed to use the locker rooms to change, but are limited to just 10 students at a time.

O T H E R

Mayor Petty read a Resolution passed by the City Council in support of the Asian-American community.

On a roll call of 7-0, the resolution was supported.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. Novick due to connectivity issues), it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8 49 p.m.

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