

Committee Members
Molly McCullough, Chair
Susan Mailman, Vice-Chair
Jermoh Kamara

Administrative Representative
Marie Morse, EdD.

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

AGENDA #11

The Standing Committee on TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS will hold a virtual and/or in-person meeting:

on: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

at: 4:00 p.m.

in: Room 410, Durkin Administration Building or online at the link [HERE](#) or below:

<https://worcesterschools.zoom.us/j/85472166668?pwd=anJDWkE4b0tJZ2lSNzFoR3pBYzcxQT09>

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. GENERAL BUSINESS

c&p 0-13.1 Clerk

(August 19, 2020)

To consider a communication from the Racism Free Worcester Public School Group regarding nine areas of concerns.

2-94.3 Johnson/Clancey/Mailman/Kamara/McCullough

(March 9, 2022)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the Worcester Public School's opt-in and opt-out options regarding the sex education curriculum and provide the full scope of program per grade level and information regarding the hiring of staff.

gb 3-242.1 McCullough

(October 27, 2023)

Request an update from Administration regarding after-school programming at the elementary level throughout the district and plans for growth and expansion.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

ITEM: Clerk (August 18, 2020)

To consider a communication from the Racism Free Worcester Public School Group regarding nine areas of concerns.

PRIOR ACTION:

8-27-20 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Mayor Petty stated that a number of WPS students would be allowed to speak to the petition put forward by the Racism Free Worcester Public School Group. Callers were in support of the demands put forward with Restorative Justice, Health, Consent and Ethnic Studies Curriculums and Diversity Counselors among the majority of the topics being supported by the callers.

On a roll call of 7-0, Mayor Petty sent the list of demands to the following Standing Committees:

1. Cop Free Schools to Governance and Employee Issues
2. Restorative Justice for Disciplined Students to Governance and Employee Issues
3. Inclusive Dress Policy to Governance and Employee Issues
4. Mandatory Health and Consent Classes to Teaching, Learning and Student Supports
5. Cultural Competency Training for Faculty and Staff to Teaching, Learning and Student Supports
6. Mental Health Competency Training for Faculty and Staff to Teaching, Learning and Student Supports
7. Ethnic Studies Curriculum to Teaching, Learning and Student Supports
8. Diversity Counselors to Teaching, Learning and Student Supports
9. Environmental Action and Transparency to Finance and Operations

PRIOR ACTION (continued)

- 4-12-22 - STANDING COMMITTEE ON TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS
On a roll call of 3-0, the item was held until the petitioners are able to attend a meeting.
- 5-5-22 - The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 page) contains a response from the Administration.



Office of the Assistant
Superintendent
Dr. Marie Morse
Assistant Superintendent

P 508-799-3644
F 508-799-3100
E morsemd@worcesterschools.net

Dr. John E. Durkin
Administration Building
20 Irving Street
Worcester, MA 01609-2493

Administrator: Marie D. Morse Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Date: December 7, 2023

Item Number: c&p 0-13

Item: To consider a communication from the Racism Free Worcester Public School Group regarding nine areas of concerns.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Monárrez since 2022, Worcester Public Schools have undertaken significant strides in addressing the concerns raised by Racism Free Worcester. Each issue presented by the organization has been given high priority, forming the cornerstone of our efforts to foster a more inclusive educational system.

Our Strategic Plan delineates key priorities over the next five years, emphasizing equitable learning opportunities, community engagement, cultural climate, talent retention, facility modernization, and health and wellness. Within each of these focal areas, we have intricately woven the concerns highlighted by Racism Free Worcester.

Our commitment to these aims was articulated in our response to TLSS last year, and since then, we have diligently worked to tangibly realize these objectives through our Strategic Plan process.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our dedication to these critical matters and are committed to continued transparency and progress in fostering an environment where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: December 12, 2023

ITEM: Kamara/Clancey/Johnson/McCullough/Mailman (March 9, 2022)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the Worcester Public School's opt-in and opt-out options regarding the sex education curriculum and provide the full scope of program per grade level and information regarding the hiring of staff.

PRIOR ACTION:

3-17 22 - Superintendent Binienda stated that the sex education curriculum and opt out information is contained on the WPS website. Member McCullough requested that the Administration provide an update at the end of the school year to include feedback from staff. It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

6-22-22 Mr. Bersin stated that caregivers can opt out their students out of the three hour lessons at any time and that 15.4% of students have opted out. The main challenge has been misinformation regarding the curriculum.

Chair McCullough asked if new teachers are trained on this curriculum and Mr. Bersin stated that there were five additional health teachers added in secondary schools and two were hired for grades K-3 and they all received training.

Member Kamara requested a report on the number of students that opted out per school to include feedback from students and families. Mr. Bersin stated he would provide that information.

On a roll call of 3-0, the item was held.

BACKUP:

Annex A (2 pages) contains a response from Administration.



Office of the Assistant
Superintendent
Dr. Marie Morse
Assistant Superintendent

P 508-799-3644
F 508-799-3100
E morsemd@worcesterschools.net

Dr. John E. Durkin
Administration Building
20 Irving Street
Worcester, MA 01609-2493

Administrator: Marie D. Morse Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Date: December 7, 2023

Item Number: gb 2-94

Item: Request that the Administration provide an update on the Worcester Public Schools opt-in and opt-out options regarding the sex education curriculum and provide the full scope of program per grade level and information regarding the hiring of staff.

Below please find the number of opt outs per school for the current school year as well as the last two.

Location	SY 23-24	SY 22-23	SY 21-22
Academic Center for Transition	7	6	3
Alternative School - St Casimir	1	0	0
Belmont Street Community School	111	128	166
Burncoat Middle School	140	154	91
Burncoat Senior High School	87	48	85
Burncoat Street Preparatory School	71	69	46
Canterbury Street Magnet School	37	28	14
Challenge & Reach Academy	4	8	3
Chandler Elementary Community School	58	54	10
Chandler Magnet School	97	88	88
City View Discovery School	85	111	146
Claremont Academy	49	40	23
Clark Street Community School	73	86	61
Columbus Park Preparatory Academy	108	138	147
Doherty Memorial High School	105	50	14
Dr. Arthur F. Sullivan Middle School	173	142	127
Elm Park Community School	59	63	23
Flagg Street School	119	123	101
Forest Grove Middle School	140	183	184
Francis J. Mcgrath Elementary School	28	36	65
Gates Lane School	130	146	128
Gerald Creamer Center	7	3	2
Goddard School Of Science & Technology	72	85	85
Grafton Street School	95	110	110

Heard Street Discovery Academy	33	35	26
Jacob Hiatt Magnet School	77	97	111
La Familia Dual Language School	N/A	35	26
Lake View School	82	103	94
Lincoln Street School	43	56	33
May Street School	61	55	70
Midland Street School	20	20	47
Nelson Place School	64	59	66
New Citizens Center	4	1	5
Norrback Avenue School	169	192	193
North High School	86	50	21
Quinsigamond School	127	156	180
Rice Square School	126	144	109
Roosevelt School	124	122	106
South High Community School	109	39	1
Tatnuck Magnet School	75	82	109
Thorndyke Road School	38	49	134
Union Hill School	95	111	110
University Park Campus School	25	8	0
Vernon Hill School	72	97	107
Wawecus Road School	25	29	30
West Tatnuck School	53	57	58
Woodland Academy	77	77	2
Worcester Arts Magnet School	46	49	47
Worcester East Middle School	173	127	85
Worcester Technical High School	112	46	33

Are we fully staffed for health teachers? We are fully staffed for health however a few schools are missing health class due to staff absence.

Do all students have access to health? All current students have access to health. However, if all students were enrolled, we would need to hire additional teachers.

O. General Business
McCullough
(October 27, 2023)

ITEM: gb 3-242.1
S.C. MEETING: 12-12-23

ITEM:

Request an update from Administration regarding after-school programming at the elementary level throughout the district and plans for growth and expansion.

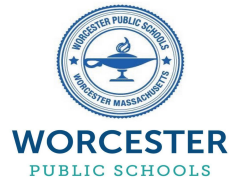
PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

Annex a (2 pages) contains a response from the Administration.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION:



Office of the Assistant
Superintendent
Dr. Marie Morse
Assistant Superintendent

P 508-799-3644
F 508-799-3100
E morsemd@worcesterschools.net

Dr. John E. Durkin
Administration Building
20 Irving Street
Worcester, MA 01609-2493

Administrator: Ellen Kelley, Executive Director

Department: Office of Instruction and School Leadership

Date: December 4, 2023

Item Number: gb #3-242

Item: To provide an update from Administration regarding after-school programming at the elementary level throughout the district and plans for growth and expansion

Overview of Elementary Afterschool Programs

This year's elementary afterschool programming is dedicated to closing the achievement gap. Our priority objective is to increase the percentage of students reading at their grade level. In its third year of funding, ESSR3 comes with stringent restrictions and guidelines. The primary allocation from ESSR3 is designated for compensating teachers and support staff.

Our focus is on engaging students who require the utmost support to achieve academic progress. Each school-based plan incorporates small group academic instruction blocks and whole group enrichment activities. Collaboration between special education, ESL teachers, and general education teachers ensures deliberate and targeted support.

To tailor our programs effectively, every school-based team analyzed Beginning-of-Year (BOY) Dibels and Star data. This year's afterschool programs will be conducted in two sessions. The first session, spanning from October 9 to December 15, 2023, involved teachers monitoring their students' progress. In early January, school teams will comprehensively review all data, assessing both strengths and challenges encountered during the first session. Based on this evaluation, teams will modify their school-based programs as necessary for the second session.

Logistical Information: (Below are some resources being used in our Elementary Afterschool programs, but not limited to)

Sites	31 Elementary Schools
Data Sources	DIBELS, STAR, Common Assessments for Comprehension, Math common assessments
Academic Resources	Instructional Framework, Priority Standards, CKLA Materials, Boost, Readers' Theatre, Grade Level Writing Standards, Catapult Virtual Tutoring, Heggerty, Foundations, Generation Genius, Project Based Learning, STEM, Robotics
Enrichment Activities	Art, Gym, Technology, Team Building Activities, Team Games, Cooking with Fractions, Yoga, Mindfulness Activities, CASEL Framework, Author's Tea, Newspaper Club, LEGO Creativity Club, Walking Club, Board Games, Chess Club, Financial Literacy Club, Student Council

Plans for Expansion

All school-based teams will analyze the Mid-Year (MOY) data alongside afterschool program data to identify students who may be falling behind during this school year. Registration for Session 2 of afterschool programs will be reopened to further support student progress.

Utilizing Title 3 funding, schools will offer targeted programming for our Multilingual students. These programs will emphasize preparation for upcoming ACCESS state assessments, aiming for their success. Our objective is to initiate the planning for summer school in January. Building on a year of implementing CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts), we will persist in our commitment to ensuring Reading on Grade Level. By continuing the use of CKLA, we will develop a robust and challenging curriculum for the summer program.