

Virtual Attendee Call-In Information:

1. Log into Zoom via your computer (please make sure your computer has a microphone):
Traffic and Parking Committee Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92893960051>
2. Call into the meeting: Phone Number: (929) 205 6099 - Access Code: 928 9396 0051

Committee Members

Ms. Novick, Chair
Jermoh Kamara, Vice-chair
Susan Mailman

City Council Members

Thu Nguyen, Chair
Donnal Colorio, Vice-Chair
Kathleen Toomey

Representatives

Brian Allen

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

AGENDA #1

The Joint Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education will meet:

on: Monday, May 16, 2022
at: 5:00 p.m.
in: Esther Howland Chamber at City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. GENERAL BUSINESS

The following items will be discussed:

c&p #2-19 - Clerk (December 12, 2012)

To consider a communication from the City Clerk regarding the City Council's Standing Committee on Education and the School Committee's Standing Committee on Finance and Operations.

To consider meeting jointly on a regular basis throughout the year concerning issues of overlapping interest.

gb #1-343 - Administration (December 8, 2021)

To consider recommendations from the School Safety Task Force on the removal of the School Resource Officers.

gb #2-60 - Mailman/Kamara/McCullough (February 9, 2022)

Request that the Administration evaluate and update compensation practices whereby school committee members are compensated at 50% of city council level.

gb #2-115 - Novick (March 31, 2022)

To request City Council ensure City Council and School Committee districts are parallel, so as to ensure public clarity.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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

ITEM: c&p #2-19

STANDING COMMITTEE: **JOINT MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE AND OPERATIONS AND THE CITY
COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, May 16, 2022

ITEM: Clerk (December 12, 2012)

To consider a communication from the City Clerk regarding the City Council's Standing Committee on Education and the School Committee's Standing Committee on Finance and Operations.

To consider meeting jointly on a regular basis throughout the year concerning issues of overlapping interest.

PRIOR ACTION:

BACKUP:

STANDING COMMITTEE: **JOINT MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE AND OPERATIONS AND THE CITY
COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, May 16, 2022

ITEM: Administration (December 8, 2021)

To consider recommendations from the School Safety Task Force on the removal of the School Resource Officers.

PRIOR ACTION:

- 12-16-21 - Mayor Petty stated that he and the City Manager created the School Safety Task Force which included Superintendent Binienda, staff members, students, parents, community members and other organizations. He introduced Eric Batista and Robert Pezzella who discussed the findings of the Task Force.
- Mr. Batista discussed the School Safety Task Force's research relative to the school resource officers (SROs) and the different models that other districts use throughout the state and nation. He stated that the School Safety Task Force:
- conducted focus group meetings with students and parents
 - provided a survey to task force members, students and parents
 - analyzed what was happening across the state with SROs
 - selected a school liaison model
 - discussed how school climate plays a big role in the safety of students and facilities and
 - researched and analyzed the data points and the difference in response time between the SRO in a school and the SLO in the community.
- (Continued on page 2.)**

BACKUP:

PRIOR ACTION - (continued)

12-16-21 - Mr. Batista stated that the Task Force members recommended the School Liaison Officer (SLO) model. After this model is in place, the Task Force will monitor and evaluate the progress for six months. Then it will reevaluate and make any necessary changes to the SLO model for the following school year. A survey on the SLO model will be provided, on a regular basis, to teachers, students and faculty for their feedback. He recommended that the item be referred to a subcommittee for further discussion and to allow for public input

Mayor Petty recommended that the item be referred to a joint meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education.

Mr. Monfredo stated that he feels that it is a mistake to remove the SROs from the schools but likes the idea of evaluating the new model in six months. He would like to see better relationships built between the police and the students.

Ms. McCullough asked if the SLO model will allow the police officers to be available to other schools within the quadrants.

Mr. Pezzella stated that the designated police officers will be available to all schools.

Mrs. Clancey asked if the SLO model will be implemented in January.

Mr. Pezzella stated that the Mass Training Center start in mid to late January.

Ms. Clancey asked if the School Committee will be responsible to allocate the \$727,000 for the SLO Budget.

Mr. Batista stated that the School Committee will not be responsible to allocate the \$724,000 for the salaries of the officers but will be responsible to allocate funds for the extra Wraparound Coordinators or any additional staff.

Ms. Novick stated that her concerns were the lack of:

- postings for the meetings of the Task Force
- involvement of the school district and the decision-making process and
- sufficient input at the four focus groups.

Ms. Novick stated that she was unhappy that the recommendation came from the City Manager's Office not from the School Committee. She asked if the SLO model counted toward the net school spending.

Mr. Batista stated that it did count for net school spending.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Worcester and the School Committee be provided to the School Committee prior to implementation.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

PRIOR ACTION - (continued)

- 12-16-21 - Mr. Pezzella stated that providing school safety is very complex and the School Liaisons are involved in the schools every day. They respond to a number of non-emergency issues, but they are also in the neighborhoods and homes of families to follow up on certain issues. The Administration is working on finding grant monies to help fund additional positions, if needed.
- Superintendent Binienda stated that the Task Force Committee did not have the authority to add additional positions in the Worcester Public schools. Therefore, these positions were added in the report for discussion by the School Committee. Additional funding would have to be allocated in order to add more support positions.
- Mayor Petty stated that there were no Open Meeting Law violations with the meetings of the Task force and that the City Manager is the person responsible for public safety in the City of Worcester and the police are under his authority. He also stated that the MOU will be brought forward to the School Committee once the draft is finalized.
- On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to a joint meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education.

STANDING COMMITTEE: **JOINT MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND OPERATIONS AND THE CITY COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, May 16, 2022

ITEM: Mailman/Kamara/McCullough (February 9, 2022)

Request that the Administration evaluate and update compensation practices whereby school committee members are compensated at 50% of city council level.

PRIOR ACTION:

2-17-22 - School Committee Member Mailman stated that, with the addition of district counselors or at large counselors, the compensation practice should be updated. Mayor Petty suggested that the item be sent to Attorney Traynor for an update regarding how changes in compensation for School Committee members can be proposed and indicate whether it is by way of the Charter. On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Standing Joint Committee on Education and Finance and Operations and Attorney Traynor.

BACKUP:

STANDING COMMITTEE: **JOINT MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND OPERATIONS AND THE CITY COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, May 16, 2022

ITEM: Novick (March 31, 2022)

To request City Council ensure City Council and School Committee districts are parallel, so as to ensure public clarity.

PRIOR ACTION:

4-7-22 - On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to a Joint Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations and the City Council's Standing Committee on Education.

BACKUP: