AGENDA #7

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, March 16, 2017
at: 6:00 p.m. - Executive Session
    7:00 p.m. – Regular Session
in: Esther Howland South Chamber, City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION – Reverend Carla Dietz
Greendale People’s Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM – Central Massachusetts Festival Band,
Orchestra and Chorus

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo,
Mr. O’Connell and Mayor Petty

There was absent: Miss Biancheria

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #7-7 - Clerk
(March 8, 2017)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting
of Thursday, March 2, 2017.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION – NONE

The Worcester Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/Educational Institution and does not discriminate regardless of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness. The Worcester Public Schools provides equal access to employment and the full range of general, occupational and vocational education programs. For more information relating to Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action contact the Human Resource Manager, 20 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01609, 508-799-3020.
V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

**gb #7-72.1** - Administration/Administration
(March 6, 2017)

To recognize the following students who won positions in the Central Massachusetts Festival Band, Orchestra and Chorus after competing with more than 800 musicians:

**Burncoat Middle School**
Isabella Montalvo, Soprano

**Sullivan Middle School**
Heather Bachand, Flute
Alexandra Economou, Tuba
Clarise Liu, Clarinet
Eno Manu-Gyamfi, Alto
Bao Han Ngo, Clarinet

**Burncoat High School**
Valenia Bergier, Cello
Aaron Balboa, Cello
Madelyn Rich, Soprano, All-State Recommendation
Ryan McCarthy, Bass, All-State Recommendation

**Doherty Memorial High School**
Maggie Hastings, Soprano, All-State Recommendation

**South High Community School**
Alyssa Goins, Clarinet, All-State Recommendation and 2017 All-State Music Festival
Lillian Wright, Flute, All-State Recommendation
Zachary Roy, Bass, All State Recommendation
Oved Rico, French Horn

**gb #7-79.1** - Administration/Mr. O’Connell/Ms. Colorio/
Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough/
Mayor Petty
(March 6, 2017)

To recognize and to congratulate Margaret Sokolowski, Michaela Hannon-Curran, Christine Rovezzi and Susan Teixeira, librarians of the Worcester Public Schools, on each receiving $1,000 awards from the National Education Association’s Read Across America and the NEA Foundation for purchase of books for their school libraries, as part of the 2016 NEA Books Across America Library Books Award and to congratulate Ann Grilla on winning Round Two from the Foundation in the Award competition.
IMMEDIATE ACTION (continued)

gb #7-83 - Administration  
(March 6, 2017)

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

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #7-5 - Administration  
(March 8, 2017)

UPDATE ON THE DRINKING WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE

VIII. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 5:43 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2017 in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

IX. PERSONNEL - NONE
X. GENERAL BUSINESS

**gb #7-44.1** - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Ms. Colorio
(March 8, 2017)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on the Dual Enrollment Program and indicate any plans for expansion.

**gb #7-76.1** - Administration/Mayor Petty/Mr. Foley/Mr. O’Connell/Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough
(March 6, 2017)

Request that the Superintendent consider the feasibility of establishing boys and girls soccer teams at Claremont Academy and University Park Campus School.

**gb #7-84** - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O’Connell/Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty
(February 27, 2017)

To forward a letter to North High School’s basketball team to congratulate them on winning the T&G Home Team Tournament.

**gb #7-85** - Mr. O’Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty
(March 1, 2017)

To congratulate Worcester Technical High School on the success of its indoor track team at the 2017 Eastern States Indoor Track and Field Championships, in the New Balance Armory, New York City, including Adja Sackor, who placed 2nd in the Triple Jump and 4th in the Long Jump, and the Girls 4x200 Relay Team of Leilani Torres, Denise Hoxha, Bernice Mensah, and Adja Sackor, who finished 26th overall with their 2nd fastest time of the season, only 0.53 seconds off their school record time.

**gb #7-86** - Mr. O’Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria
(March 3, 2017)

To request a report on steps taken to address the presence of lead in the water of Worcester Technical High School, as detected through tests taken under the Massachusetts Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water, conducted by the Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection.
X. GENERAL BUSINESS

**gb #7-87** - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O’Connell/Ms. Colorio/ Miss Biancheria  
(March 6, 2017)

Request that the Administration encourage schools to celebrate the week of April 9th as “Library Week” in the community and engage in meaningful activities with the students.

**gb #7-88** - Administration  
(March 6, 2017)

To accept the STARS Residencies FY17 Elm Park Community School Grant in the amount of $4,400.00.

**gb #7-89** - Administration  
(March 6, 2017)

To accept the MA Commendation Schools Grant in the amount of $37,292.00.

**gb #7-90** - Administration  
(March 7, 2017)

To accept a donation in the amount of $20.00 from Jeffrey Metzger to Tatnuck Magnet School.

**gb #7-91** - Administration  
(March 7, 2017)

To authorize the Administration to submit Statements of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the following projects for major renovation or replacement for 2017:

- Burncoat High School (district priority project)  
- Worcester East Middle School

**gb #7-92** - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O’Connell/Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/ Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty  
(March 8, 2017)

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to Burncoat High School Senior Rodney Agyare–May on becoming the New England 600 meter champion at the New England Indoor Track Championship this month and to Worcester Technical High School Senior Adja Sackor on repeating as New England Long Jump Champion.
GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #7-93  - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O’Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo  (March 8, 2017)

Request that the Administration provide the enrollment figures for all the Worcester Public Schools to include the alternative programs.

gb #7-94  - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O’Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo  (March 8, 2017)

Request that the Administration provide a progress report in June 2017 on the Career and Technical Education Partnership Implementation Grant which provides students opportunities to participate in manufacturing and other career pathways at Worcester Technical High School.

gb #7-95  - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O’Connell/Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/ Mr. Monfredo  (March 8, 2017)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the status of the 2017 Summer School Programs.

gb #7-96  - Administration  (March 8, 2017)

To consider approval of Superintendent Binienda’s Goals for 2016-17, based on the schedule of the new Superintendent’s Induction Program.

gb #7-97  - Administration  (March 8, 2017)

To consider approval of the amendments to the Agreement of the Central Massachusetts Special Education Collaborative to include a change in the title to the Central Massachusetts Collaborative, along with other amendments as noted in Annex A of the backup.

gb #7-98  - Administration  (March 8, 2017)

To accept a donation in the amount of $2,940.23 from Lake View School’s parents, students, friends and relatives to support a Spell-A-Thon.
GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #7-99  - Administration  
(March 8, 2017)

To consider the approval of the AP Capstone Program in the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #7-100  - Administration  
(February 23, 2016)

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

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


X. ADJOURNMENT

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

ACTION

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

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

9:50 p.m.
NOTES

It was moved to recess to Executive Session to discuss the following items:

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

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

To consider an International Union of Public Employees (I.U.P.E.) Grievance Complaint – HVAC Technician

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent-Miss Biancheria), the motion was approved.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:05 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:15 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:10 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Miss McCullough, Mr. O’Connell and Mayor Petty

Miss Biancheria chaired the meeting from 8:30 p.m. to 8:35 p.m. and from 9:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Miss McCullough left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports is hereto annexed as Annex A and was approved as stated.

Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues is hereto annexed as Annex B and was approved as stated.
Mr. Allen provided an update on the Drinking Water Quality Program.

Valerie Tillinghast, Consultant, O’Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates, provided a presentation on PCBs.

The following individuals offered testimony relative to PCBs:

- Raymond Mariano
- Timmary Harrity
- Roger Nugent
- Michael Sireci
- Johnny Robinson
- Richard Shea
- Nick Wurst
- Zach Peloquin
- Janice Nazarowitz

Mayor Petty stated that the system has been involved with the EPA since 2010.

Mr. Allen indicated there were annual meetings regarding progress made each year. As part of the last report to the EPA, it was agreed that any sampling analysis such as air testing will be shared with the EPA.

Mayor Petty indicated that the system is following the best practices set forth by the EPA.

Mayor Petty said that he would meet with Roger Nugent to work together collaboratively on the PCB issue.

Mr. O’Connell indicated that he filed an item for the April 6, 2017 School Committee meeting as follows:

To consider recommending that the City Manager and City Council initiate a bond issue to permit completion of facilities work on school buildings which does not qualify for Massachusetts School Building Authority funding, or which would be completed much more rapidly through bond proceeds, prioritizing work which is particularly beneficial to the health, welfare and well-being of staff and students.
NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #7-44.1

Dr. Ganias provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Dual Enrollment Program.

Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Superintendent investigate the feasibility of participating in the Dual Enrollment Program by taking a course on-line and provide a response in a Friday Letter.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #7-76.1

It was moved and voice voted to suspend rules to allow Peter Weyler, a teacher at Claremont Academy to speak in support of establishing boys and girls soccer teams at Claremont Academy and University Park Campus School.

gb #7-96

Mr. Foley suggested that the School Committee work with the Superintendent to develop more measureable and more outcome measures within the different goals.

gb #7-97

Mr. O’Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a revised current version of the agreement as backup for the item.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #7-98

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward a thank you letter, on behalf of the School Committee, to the PTO at Lake View School.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.
A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 5:43 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Miss McCullough and Mr. Monfredo

There was absent: Mr. O’Connell

Representing Administration were: Dr. Rodrigues and Dr. Friel

Others in Attendance: C. Bethea, D. Crompton, L. Houlihan, Dr. Meade-Montaque and S. O’Connell

gb #2-139 - Mr. O’Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio (April 11, 2012)

To consider development of a partnership with the Boston Debate League to support academic debate teams in high schools in Worcester.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the item be held for an update in May 2017.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #4-259 - Mr. O’Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (September 17, 2014)

To initiate a course in Mandarin Chinese at the Advanced Placement level, offered either in a customary classroom setting or through Virtual High School.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report in May 2017 which would contain the names of the course available by grade levels and also indicate the way in which the Administration will keep the parents apprised of how they can help their children with academic pursuits at home.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.
gb #6-128 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O’Connell/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough (March 21, 2016)

Request that the Administration consider implementing an advanced academy, based on the Goddard Academy model, at Burncoat Middle School for grade 7 students in either the 2016-17 or 2017-18 academic year which can be expanded to grade 8.

ACCEPT AND FILE.

gb #6-212 - Mr. O’Connell/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (May 25, 2016)

To consider amending the 2017 summer reading list by adding to it certain works of literature which appeared on previous summer reading lists, and which are widely recognized as classics and as key elements of a well-rounded elementary or secondary school educational experience.

Mr. O’Connell provided the following proposed amendments to the 2017 Summer Reading List as contained in Annex C:

1. Include the “Suggested Summer Elementary Reading List” for students entering Preschool and Kindergarten, 2010-2013 as contained in Annex D.

2. Add the following books to the list for Grades 1 and 2, under “Informational Text” (all were on the 2015 list for these grades):

   - The Beetle Book, by Jenkins
   - Bird Talk, by Judge
   - Seeing Symmetry, by Leedy
   - Astronaut Handbook, by McCarthy
   - An Island Grows, by Schaefer
   - Penguins, by Simpn
   - Biblioburro, a True Story from Columbia, by Winter

3. Summer Reading List Grades 3-4, add to Folk Tales, Fairy Tales and Legends section:

   Her Stories, by Hamilton
gb #6-212 (continued)

4. Add to Summer Reading List Grades 7-8- “Historical Fiction” section:
   Johnny Tremain, by Esther Forbes

5. Grades 7 and 8 – swap “Summer Reading List” and Additional Summer Reading Suggestions”

6. Grades 9 - 12 – swap “Summer Reading List” and Additional Summer Reading Suggestions”

7. Grades 9-12: add the following books:

   Novels:
   • Lord of the Flies, by Golding
   • Huckleberry Finn, by Clemens
   • Tom Sawyer, by Clemens
   • Puddn’head Wilson, by Clemens
   • Ivanhoe, by Scott
   • Mackerel by Moonlight, by Weld
   • To Set a Watchman, by Lee
   • Hunt for Red October, by Clancy
   • Great Gatsby, by Fitzgerald
   • The Spy Who Came in from the Cold, by LeCarre
   • Mayor of Casterbridge, by Hardy
   • The Matchmaker, by Wilder
   • Our Town, by Wilder
   • The Last of the Mohicans, by Cooper

   Action History
   • Mutiny on the Bounty, by Nordhoff and Hall

   Biography and Other True Stories
   • Thousand Days, by Schlesinger
   • Killing Kennedy, by O’Reilly
   • Team of Rivals, by Goodwin
   • Outermost House, by Beston
   • Arctic Odyssey, by MacMillan
gb #6-212 (continued)

    Other Places, Other Times
    • Merchant of Venice, by Shakespeare
    • Romeo and Juliet, by Shakespeare
    • I Claudius, by Graves

It was moved and voice voted to approve the 2017 summer reading list as amended.

gb #7-80 - Administration (February 22, 2017)

To consider approval of the following new courses for the 2017 - 18 school year:

    English Composition & Literature I
    The Development of Early Civilizations
    Science Engineering & Technology I
    Advanced Seminar

It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Helen A. Friel, Ed.D.
Clerk of the School Committee
The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met at 6:06 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2017 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Mr. Foley and Chairman Monfredo

There was absent: Miss Biancheria

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:13 p.m.

Representing Administration: Ms. Boulais and Dr. Friel

Others in attendance: C. Collins, C. Kelly, T. Leary, C. Manning and J. Miller

gb #5-195 - Mr. O’Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (July 23, 2015)

To review the Worcester Public Schools’ Incident Report for the 2014-15 academic year.

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide the Incident Report for 2015-16 in a Friday Letter.

Request that the Administration provide the Incident Reports from September 2016 to March 2017 in a Friday Letter and monthly thereafter. She further requested to see the changes that have been made to the incident report document.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

FILE.
gb #5-246 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Ramirez/Mr. Foley/Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria (September 14, 2015)

Request that the School Committee support a bill, submitted by State Senator Jennifer Flanagan, that addresses ways of dealing with Opioid addiction such as school drug screening called “Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment” or SBIRT.

gb #6-144 - Mr. O’Connell/Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty (April 4, 2016)

To update Worcester Public Schools’ policies regarding substance abuse prevention and education, and to post the updated policies on the Worcester Public Schools website, in compliance with Chapter 71, Section 96 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

gb #6-276 - (July 28, 2016)

To consider necessary policy changes concerning the implementation of the recently enacted Bill relative to Substance Use, Treatment, Education and Prevention and review the policy developed by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

(These items were considered together.)

FILE gb #5-246, gb #6-144 and gb #6-276.

gb #5-291 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley (October 19, 2015)

Request that the School Committee review the policy on cell phones and gather information from all secondary principals.

Mr. Monfredo mentioned that the principals had responded that they were very happy with the current Cell Phone Policy.

Jordan Miller, a student at Worcester Technical High School spoke about concerns regarding the Cell Phone Policy.
Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley and Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the principals review the current Cell Phone Policy regarding use of the phones for after-school programs, in school and off site school events.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for additional principal feedback regarding the above mentioned motion prior to its insertion into the Policy Handbook with any possible amendments.

c&p #6-1 - Clerk (February 16, 2016)

To consider a communication from a citizen regarding a:

- request that Worcester’s public high schools host a contest for students to design a banner to mount on the telephone poles/street lights near their schools and

- request that the School Committee’s videos be archived on the City’s website

Miss Biancheria suggested that the Administration review the condition of the permanent school signs for possible repair rather than pursuing the banner project at this time due to the cost.

Mr. Monfredo suggested that the principals and staff may want to pursue the banner project with support from PTOs or corporate sponsors.

FILE.

c&p #6-7 - Clerk (August 24, 2016)

To consider a communication from a citizen expressing an interest in promoting civic engagement in the Worcester Public Schools by initiating a “Municipal Governance Day” which would give high school students an opportunity to learn how the municipal government works.
Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration consider scheduling a “Municipal Governance Day” in the Spring and have students assume the roles of School Committee and City Council.

Request that the Social Studies Liaison inform the Clerk of the School Committee of all civics activities taking place in the schools and provide that information to the local media.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item until April 2017.

To consider a communication from a citizen relative to the feasibility of holding an event annually with a guest speaker to encourage eligible students to register to vote.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Social Studies Liaison notify the Clerk of the School Committee when:

- voter registration takes place in the schools
- the Worcester Rising Civics Camp takes place and notify the media about the event

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.
Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Social Studies Liaison develop a flyer regarding voter registration to be distributed to all students and parents.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Administration provide the dates of voter registration to the media for publication.

To establish a Special Committee, consisting of at least three School Committee members, to continue the review of policies proposed for the Worcester Public Schools by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

Mr. Foley and Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward the Domestic Violence Leave Policy to the City Solicitor for review and possible abbreviated format prior to approving it for insertion into the Policy Manual.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to approve Section G – Personnel, as contained in Annex B, with the caveat that a Domestic Violence Leave Policy will be added to this section.

Request that the Administration consider including training in the Heimlich maneuver as part of the Compression CPR Program and review the Heimlich Heroes Program, which was created by Deaconess Associations, Inc. (DAI) with the support from the Heimlich Institute, for possible implementation in the Worcester Public Schools.
Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration approve implementation of the Heimlich Heroes Program and provide a report on its success at the various grade levels.

Request that the Administration inform the secondary school staff, especially the physical education teachers, about the approval of the Heimlich teaching technique in conjunction with CPR training during physical education classes.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item regarding the Heimlich Heroes Program until November 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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