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

AGENDA #10

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, May 16, 2019
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 Richard Trainor
Blessed Sacrament Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #9-8  - Clerk
(May 9, 2019)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 25, 2019.

aor #9-9  - Clerk
(May 9, 2019)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, May 2, 2019.

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 #9-167.1 - Administration/Miss McCullough/Miss Blancheria/
Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty
(May 6, 2019)

To recognize the winners of student awards for exemplifying behaviors
that meet the Core Values at the Goddard School of Science and
Technology as part of their turnaround process.

gb #9-182 - Administration
(May 6, 2019)

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

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #9-8 - Administration
(May 8, 2019)

A. THE SOUTH HIGH COMMUNITY SCHOOL’S STUDENT DESIGN CLUB

B. ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

  Gregg Bares  Manager of Grant Resources
  Magdalena Ganias, Ed.D.  Manager of Curriculum and
                         Professional Learning
  Laurie Kuczka  Director of Head Start

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS - NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

IX. PERSONNEL

9-23 The Superintendent has ACCEPTED the RESIGNATION of the person
named below:

  Civello, Jean, Teacher, Special Education, Roosevelt, effective April 26,
  2019.

  Pacheco, Vanessa, Nurse, Quinsigamond, effective April 26, 2019.

9-24 The Superintendent has ACCEPTED the RESIGNATION for Purposes of
RETIREMENT of the person named below:

  Quitten, Mary, Teacher, Elementary, Jacob Hiatt, effective April 30,
  2019.
X. GENERAL BUSINESS

**gb #9-139** - Mr. Comparetto  
(March 27, 2019)

Request that the Administration consider a moratorium on high stakes standardized testing.

**gb #9-183** - Administration  
(April 30, 2019)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the total amount of $18,358.66 to Leicester Public Schools for services rendered to Instructional Aides in the Worcester Public Schools.

**gb #9-184** - Administration  
(April 30, 2019)

To set a date to recognize the following student winners of the Worcester Regional Middle School (grades 6-8) Science and Engineering Contest at WPI:

- **Grand Prize**  
  Maya Sushkin  
  Nelson Place School

- **Second Place**  
  Anh Tran  
  Forest Grove Middle School

- **Third Place**  
  Carolyn Somers  
  Thorndyke Road School  
  Isabella Prodromidis  
  West Tatnuck School  
  Casey Coyle  
  Midland Street School

- **Honorable Mention**  
  Anya Geist  
  Sullivan Middle School  
  Natalie Boucher  
  Sullivan Middle School

**gb #9-185** - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/  
Mr. O’Connell  
(May 1, 2019)

To support the Proclamation declaring the week of June 9th as "Reading In our City Week" and also support summer reading activities in the schools.

ACTION

Filed

(See notes)

Set the date of Thursday, June 6, 2019

Mayor Petty read the proclamation  
(See notes)
GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #9-186  -  Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty  
(May 6, 2019)

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the staff members who assisted in the Annual Arts Festival.

gb #9-187  -  Mr. O'Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/ 
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(May 6, 2019)

To forward a letter to the Worcester Legislative Delegation in opposition to the charter reimbursement formula change as contained in House Bills 70 and 3800 (House Ways and Means Committee) which would reduce reimbursement to the City of Worcester by approximately $1,500,000 (43% reduction statewide).

gb #9-188  -  Administration  
(May 6, 2019)

To consider approval of the Job Description for the Chief Diversity Officer.

gb #9-189  -  Administration  
(May 6, 2019)

To consider approval of an updated Due Process Policy for the Student Handbook.

gb #9-190  -  Administration  
(May 8, 2019)

To consider approval of a donation in the total amount of $685.00 to the Worcester Public Schools' Transition Program from various donors through fundraising efforts.

gb #9-191  -  Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/ 
Mr. O'Connell  
(May 8, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report to be prepared by the Facilities Department of the projects both in the schools and on the grounds surrounding them for the Summer of 2019.
GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

**gb #9-192** - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell
(May 8, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide the report on bullying, to
include a description of the BRACE Project, that was presented at North
High School by Robert Pezzella, Safety Director and Joseph Early, Jr.,
District Attorney.

**gb #9-193** - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell
(May 8, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a summary of the funding
proposed in the City’s Budget for the Worcester Public Schools and
indicate the way in which this funding, if approved, can enhance
programs in the Worcester Public Schools.

**gb #9-194** - Administration
(May 8, 2019)

To set a date to recognize the Worcester public school seniors who
received diplomas with the Seal of Biliteracy from the State.

**gb #9-195** - Administration
(May 8, 2019)

To set the dates for the FY20 Budget Hearings.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**gb #9-196** - (Administration)
(May 8, 2019)

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 governmental body, to conduct strategy
sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, to
conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with
nonunion personnel.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

There were present at the Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mr. Comparetto, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell and Mayor Petty

Miss McCullough left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #9-8

An excellent PowerPoint, as contained in the backup, was presented by the following students from the new South High Community School's Student Design Club:

- Gianna Caforio presented the section on the Visual School Entrance Display
- Julie Do, Tia Tomco and Miles Appleton presented the sections on the History Wall and the Lobby Mural Wall
- Iteolawakissi Talabi presented the section of the Digital Wall and
- Eliama Lamptey presented the section of the Word Wall.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Gregg Bares, Manager of Grant Resources, spoke about the many State, Federal and private sector grants. He also stated that the Head Start Program grant which services the most vulnerable population, is the only such program of its type in Massachusetts that is operated by a public school system.

Magdalena Ganias, Ed.D., Manager of Curriculum and Professional Learning, spoke about her department's Table of Organization, which includes 8 liaisons, one coach and one Avid Specialist. These individuals have made more than 1,500 visits to the 52 schools and to date, have conducted 473 workshops. She also spoke about the many training programs for all teachers in various subjects.

Laurie Kuczka, Director of Head Start, addressed the comprehensive team approach to servicing students and families in the Head Start program by providing them with health, nutrition, mental health family services and engagement, disabilities and early childhood education.

Miss Biancheria requested that the notes from the three speakers be provided to the Clerk of the School Committee to be disseminated to the School Committee.
Mayor Petty stated that he could provide names of doctors in Boston, who are part of a non-profit organization, which provides help with eye exams and glasses for students.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**gb #9-183**

Mrs. Seale stated that the payment amount was incorrect and should have been $4,394.06 to be paid to Leicester Public Schools for services rendered from May 2018 to June 2018 for Instructional Aides.

Mr. O'Connell requested that the item be amended to reflect the corrected amount as follows:

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the total amount of $4,394.06 to Leicester Public Schools for services rendered for Instructional Aides in the Worcester Public Schools.

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

**gb #9-185**

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Administration promote summer reading by:
- putting posters at stores and social agencies
- doing weekly ConnectEd messages in June, July and August
- contacting Interfaith and Community Agencies about the summer reading list and
- forwarding math activities for the summer months

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report at the June 6th School Committee Meeting as to what is being done to promote math and reading for the summer months.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

**FILED**

**gb #9-187**

Mayor Petty stated that the Senate version of the budget maintains the charter school reimbursement which would result in no loss of funds. Therefore, an alternative to the letter of opposition would be a letter of support for the Senate version of the Bill.
GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #9-187 (continued)

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that a letter be forwarded to the local Legislative Delegation urging the members to support the provision of the Senate version of the Budget with regards to the charter school reimbursement funding.

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

gb #9-188

Mayor Petty suggested that the Chief Diversity Officer for the City of Worcester review the job description and suggest possible edits.

gb #9-191

Mr. O'Connell made the following amendment to Miss Biancheria’s item:

Request that the Administration provide a report to be prepared by the Facilities Department of the projects both in the schools and on the grounds surrounding them for the Summer of 2019 and indicate the action plan regarding the following ongoing issues:

- the wall adjacent to Lake View School
- repairs to the wall on the Westside of Tatnuck Magnet School and
- plans in connection with installation of a pathway from Flagg Street School to St. Paul Drive.

On a voice vote, the amendment was approved.

gb #9-192

Miss Biancheria requested that a presentation be provided at a School Committee meeting by Robert Pezzella, Safety Director and, if possible, include Joseph Early, Jr., District Attorney regarding the bullying program to include the BRACE Project.