AGENDA #15

on: Thursday, September 5, 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 Torkum Chorbajian
                 Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church

   PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

   NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

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

   There were absent: Mr. Comparetto, Mayor Petty

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

   aor #9-16 - Clerk
               (August 28, 2019)

   To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting
   of Thursday, August 15, 2019.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

   gb #9-225.1 - Administration/Miss McCullough/
                  Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo/
                  Mr. O’Connell/Mayor Petty
                  (August 16, 2019)

   To recognize Ann Ruchala, a teacher at Jacob Hiatt Magnet School,
   as the recipient of the Community Person of the Year from the
   Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS).

The Worcester Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/Educational Institution and does not discriminate regardless of race, color, ancestry, sex, gender, age, religion, national origin, gender identity or expression, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy or a related condition, veteran status 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 (continued)

gb #9-253.1 - Administration/Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/
Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty
(August 16, 2019)

To recognize Sarah Kyriazis, Manager of Instructional Technology and
Digital Learning, on her selection as recipient of the 2019 Administrator
Award from MassCUE (Massachusetts Computer Using Educators).

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - NONE
VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS - NONE
VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

IX. PERSONNEL

9-33 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the persons named below to the position
of Cafeteria Substitute Helper, permanent/intermittent at a salary of $14.00
per hour, from Civil Service List #319-022, effective as shown:

Krauss, Jillian 8/22/19
Rivera, Claribel 8/22/19

9-34 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below
to the position of Junior Custodian, permanent/fulltime at a salary of $16.54
(minimum) to $21.05 (maximum), per hour, effective as shown:

Collins, Sumo 7/22/19
Zwicker, Thomas 8/12/19

9-35 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the persons named below to the position
of Driver Full Size School Bus, permanent/fulltime at a salary of $22.66 per
hour, from Civil Service List #319-028, effective as follows:

Arsenault, Jayne 8/19/19
Cullen, John 7/2/19
Pyram, Kettelie 6/25/19

9-36 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position
of Aide to the Physically Handicapped, permanent/fulltime at a salary of
$17.04 (minimum) to $21.00 (maximum) per hour, from Civil Service List
#319-042, effective as follows:

Abban, Eric 8/26/19
Celestin, Ronald 8/2/19

9-37 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position
of School Bus Attendant, permanent at a salary of $16.23 minimum per hour
to $18.08 maximum per hour, from Civil Service List #319-029, effective as
follows:

English, Shyla 8/22/19
Khoury, Tom 7/1/19
Lopez Abimael 7/1/19

Held for the meeting on September 19,
2019

Filed Personnel
items 9-33-9-37
X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #9-227.1 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough/Mr. O’Connell (August 28, 2019)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide an update on when cursive writing is taught in the district and include any changes forthcoming in the future.

gb #9-259 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. O’Connell/Mayor Petty (August 12, 2019)

To set a date to recognize the Worcester Bravehearts, as Champions of the Future Collegiate Baseball League and for its community service activities in the Worcester Public Schools and in the community.

gb #9-260 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. O’Connell (August 13, 2019)

Request that the Administration update the School Committee on the mold problem at Columbus Park Preparatory Academy and indicate whether or not the City Health Department has provided any recommendations for remediation of this problem.

gb #9-261 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. O’Connell (August 16, 2019)

Request that the Administration inform schools and parents about the free “Family Fest Day” on September 11, 2019 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the John Binienda Memorial Beach at Coes Reservoir on Mill Street.

gb #9-262 - Administration (August 20, 2019)

To accept the Safer Schools Technology Grant in the amount of $80,000.00.

gb #9-263 - Administration (August 20, 2019)

To accept the High Quality College and Career Pathway Grant in the amount of $28,683.00.

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty) the item was approved (See notes)

On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty) the item was approved (See notes)
GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #9-264  - Administration
   (August 20, 2019)

To accept the 21st Century Community Learning Centers-Exemplary Programs Grant in the amount of $116,250.00.

gb #9-265  - Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/
   Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O’Connell
   (August 21, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the number of students who attended the Jump Start programs at the secondary schools in August 2019.

gb #9-266  - Administration
   (August 21, 2019)

To review the status of the FY20 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

gb #9-267  - Administration
   (August 21, 2019)

To review the annual audit and agreed upon procedures report on compliance and internal controls for the City of Worcester, including the Worcester Public Schools, for the year that ended on June 30, 2019 which included the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) A-133 Reports and the Management Letter.

gb #9-268  - Administration
   (August 21, 2019)

To review the annual audit and agreed upon procedures on the Independent Accountant’s Report on Applying Agreed Upon Procedures for Student Activity Fund Testing for fiscal year 2019.

gb #9-269  - Administration
   (August 21, 2019)


On a roll call of 5-0-2 (absent Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty) the item was approved

Referred to the Administration as amended
(See notes)

Referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations

Referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations

Referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations
GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #9-270  -  Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. O’Connell
(August 21, 2019)

Request that the Administration consider offering half day professional
development for staff in light of the training provided to principals that
dealt with SEL, the impact of homelessness and foster children and on
disciplinary alternatives.

gb #9-271  -  Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. O’Connell
(August 21, 2019)

Request that the Administration continue its collaborative work with
various agencies in dealing with the needs of homeless and foster
children and consider reviewing the Cincinnati model entitled “Kids in
School Rule.”

gb #9-272  -  Administration
(August 23, 2019)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of $2,323.00 to
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP for the FY17 and FY18 combined Student
Activity Account Agreed Upon Procedures Review.

gb #9-273  -  Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo
(August 23, 2019)

To review the newly established policy and practice of San Mateo
(California) High School, based on a successful pilot project, of
prohibiting use of cellphones in school by students during the academic
day.

gb #9-274  -  Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo
(August 23, 2019)

To review the newly established policy and practice of the Crestwood
(Ohio) Local School District which prohibits use of cellphones in schools
by students except before and after school, at extracurricular activities
and at school-related lunches.

ACTION

Referred to the
Administration
(See notes)

Referred to the
Administration
(See notes)

On a roll call of
5-0-2 (absent
Mr. Comparetto and
Mayor Petty) the
item was approved

Referred to the
Standing Committee
on Governance and
Employee Issues

Referred to the
Standing Committee
on Governance and
Employee Issues
GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #9-275  -  Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty  
(August 26, 2019)

Request that the Administration forward a letter of congratulations to Michael P. Lyons, on being selected for the Worcester State University Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community.

gb #9-276  -  Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. O’Connell/Mayor Petty  
(August 26, 2019)

To set a date to recognize Darya Kuruna, an art teacher at Canterbury Street Magnet Computer-Based School, for the creative painting of 30 murals at her school.

gb #9-277  -  Administration  
(August 27, 2019)

To consider approval of the following donations:

- $67.55 from a donor to the Worcester Public Schools
- $100.00 from a donor to the Patricia Falcone Memorial Scholarship
- $3,820.00 from Worcester Area Mission Society for the Summer Cubs Program held at Woodland Academy

gb #9-278  -  Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(August 27, 2019)

To review the Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation, Superintendent and District Administrator Rubric, as updated during July 2019, and to determine whether it requires, or makes advisable, any change in the current process utilized by the School Committee to evaluate the Superintendent, and by the Superintendent to evaluate other district administrators.

gb #9-279  -  Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. O’Connell/Mayor Petty  
(August 27, 2019)

To congratulate the Administration for the 4th annual kickoff of school opening for the entire staff at the DCU Center.

ACTION

Forward letter

Set the date of Thursday, October 3, 2019

Referred to the Administration

Congratulated the Administration
GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

**gb #9-280** - Administration
(August 28, 2019)

To accept the Comprehensive School Health Services (CSHS) Grant in the amount of $28,683.00.

**gb #9-281** - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley/
Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(August 28, 2019)

To consider establishing goals for the School Committee for 2019-20.

**gb #9-282** - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(August 28, 2019)

To determine the most appropriate manner to review all plans for the siting and construction of the replacement Doherty Memorial High School, in light of Section 4-1 (d) (5) of the Worcester Home Rule Charter, which provides that “No site for a school building shall be acquired by the city unless the approval of the site by the School Committee is first obtained. No plans for the construction of or alterations, with the exception of ordinary repairs, in a school building shall be accepted, and no such work shall be commenced on the construction or alteration of a school building unless the approval of the School Committee and the City Manager shall have first been obtained.”

**gb #9-283** - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(August 28, 2019)

To review the pilot program of the Elkhart Indiana Community Schools, which, in conjunction with Cultivate, a nonprofit food rescue organization, repurposes surplus cafeteria food into frozen meals and distributes them to needy families.

**gb #9-284** - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/
Mr. Monfredo
(August 28, 2019)

To review the schedule of dates and times of the first meetings of the school site councils, which, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 59C, shall take place “no later than forty days after the first day of school.”
GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

**gb #9-285** - Mr. O’Connell/Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/ Mr. Monfredo
(August 28, 2019)

To verify full compliance of the Worcester Public Schools with the provisions of 527 CMR 1.00, Section 20.2.4.2.1.4, which require that the first fire drill of the year occurs within three days of the start of school.

**gb #9-286** - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo
(August 28, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide an update regarding ongoing student transportation issues.

**gb #9-287** - Administration
(August 28, 2019)

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the amount of $5,252.25 to Harbor Networks.

**gb #9-288** - Mr. Comparetto/Mr. Foley/Miss McCullough/ Mr. Monfredo
(August 28, 2019)

Request the establishment of an inclusive and transparent process for selecting and implementing a comprehensive Sex Education Curriculum that is age-appropriate, evidence-based, medically-accurate and LGBTQ inclusive in the Worcester Public Schools.

**gb #9-289** - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/ Mr. O’Connell
(August 28, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report of the number of students who applied to Worcester Technical High School and the number of students who are now enrolled.

**gb #9-290** - Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mr. Monfredo/ Mr. O’Connell
(August 28, 2019)

Request that the Administration provide a report listing the Chapter 74 courses in all schools and the number of students enrolled in each of these courses.
Request that the Administration provide the following information regarding AP courses:

- the number of courses by titles and school sites
- the number of students who took the courses by titles and school sites and
- the student results by course titles and school sites

Request that the Administration provide a report on the way in which the Worcester Public Schools is highlighting its successes in the STEM/STEAM Programs during the week of Oct. 21-25, 2019.

To approve a prior fiscal year payment in the total amount of $7,800.00 to school nurses for longevity rates.

Request that the Administration prepare a plan by January 2020 that will provide a link on the website and a connection to the landing page in order to provide access to student/families to the calendar of events in all schools as well as to the teachers e-mail addresses, forms and supply lists for each grade.
XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #9-295 (Administration) (August 28, 2019)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Plumbers and Steamfitters, 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 Tradesmen, 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 Aides to the Physically Handicapped and Bus Monitors, 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 litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, Case No. CAS-19-7323.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Worcester School Committee v. International Union of Public Employees, Tradesmen, Local – 135 and International Union of Public Employees, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local – 125, Worcester Superior Court Civil Action No. 1885CV01520.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares - Jennifer Foley v. City of Worcester School Department, U.S. District Court Civil Action No. 4:19-CV-40109-TSH.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Plumbers and Steamfitters, 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 Tradesmen, 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 Aides to the Physically Handicapped and Bus Monitors, 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 litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the School Committee and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, Case No. CAS-19-7323.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares – Worcester School Committee v. International Union of Public Employees, Tradesmen, Local – 135 and International Union of Public Employees, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local – 125, Worcester Superior Court Civil Action No. 1885CV01520.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares – Jennifer Foley v. City of Worcester School Department, U.S. District Court Civil Action No. 4:19-CV-40109-TSH.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mayor Petty) the motion was approved.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

There were absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty
The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:05 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

There were absent: Mr. Comparetto and Mayor Petty

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #9-227.1

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report at the first meeting in October on the system’s plan to teach cursive writing in Grades 2-5.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Foley stated that it is not necessary to teach cursive but rather teach the students the methodology of using cursive for certain purposes.

gb #9-260

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an update at the first meeting in October on the environmental problems at Columbus Park Preparatory Academy.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #9-262

Mr. Foley made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a list of the schools that will be receiving the locks and cameras from the Safer Schools Technology Grant.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.
NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday letter, a list of the schools that will benefit from the High Quality College and Career Pathway Grant.

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday letter, the response regarding possible union involvement as part of this grant.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Miss McCullough made the following amendment to the item:

Request that the Administration include in the report the activities that took place and the number of students who participated in the Jump Start programs at the secondary schools in August 2019.

On a voice vote, the item as amended was approved.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a response in October 2019 to the item regarding the offering of half day professional development.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a Report of the Superintendent in December on how the Worcester Public Schools are dealing with the needs of the homeless and foster children and review the Cincinnati model on this topic.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.
Mr. O’Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration establish goals for the School Committee by the end of the school year.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. O’Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration review the process of determining the siting of a new school building and make certain that the School Committee has the final approval on the proposed site.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss McCullough made the following amendment the item:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the parent and student feedback regarding AP courses.

On a voice vote, the item as amended was approved.