AGENDA #12

AGENDA #12

on: Thursday, March 18, 2021
at: 5:00 p.m. - Executive Session
6:00 p.m. - Regular Session
Virtually in: Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER
   INVOCATION
   PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
   NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL
   Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #1-6 - Administration
(March 8, 2021)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, February 25, 2021.

aor #1-7 - Administration
(March 8, 2021)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Friday, February 26, 2021.

aor #1-8 - Administration
(March 8, 2021)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Monday, March 1, 2021.

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.
III.  **APPROVAL OF RECORDS** (continued)

    **aor #1-9** - Administration  
    (March 8, 2021)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, March 4, 2021.

IV.  **MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION** - NONE

V.  **IMMEDIATE ACTION**

    **gb #1-78** - Administration  
    (March 8, 2021)

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

VI.  **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

    **ros #1-5** - Administration  
    (March 8, 2021)

CULTURAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

VII.  **COMMUNICATION AND PETITION**

    **c&p #1-3** - Clerk  
    (March 4, 2021)

To consider a communication from the EAW regarding hybrid learning.

VIII. **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE** -NONE

IX.  **PERSONNEL**

    1-9  The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person 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 #321-009, effective as shown:

        Espinoza, John 3/8/2021

    1-10 The Superintendent has 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:

        Garcia, Kenneth 2/22/2021  
        Mastrototaro, Michael 2/22/2021

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was approved

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was filed

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was accepted and filed (See notes)

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was filed (See notes)

On a roll call of 7-0, personnel items 1-9 through 1-13 were filed
IX. PERSONNEL (continued)

1-11 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RESIGNATION of the person named below:

Townsend, Anne, Teacher, Woodland Academy, Special Education, Speech, effective March 5, 2021

1-12 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENTS of the TEACHERS named below:

Gerard, Rachel, Teacher, Special Education, Systemwide, MA, Step 1, effective February 22, 2021.

Kolodziejczak, Jordan, Teacher, Guidance, Worcester Technical High School, MA, Step 1, effective March 1, 2021.

Magwire, Sean, School Adjustment Counselor, Systemwide, CAGS/2M, Step 5, effective March 1, 2021.

Matovina, Carolyn, Teacher, Special Education, Systemwide, BA+15, Step 3, effective March 1, 2021.

Resnick, Kimberley, School Adjustment Counselor, Systemwide, MA, Step 2, effective March 1, 2021.

1-13 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RETIREMENT of the person named below:

Schmidt, Kandi, Teacher, Thorndyke Road, Special Education, Moderate Special Needs/Inclusion, effective February 16, 2021

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #1-14.1 -Administration/Ms. McCullough/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick
(March 9, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report back by March on plans for senior recognitions, yearbooks, graduations and other pertinent events.

gb #1-54.1 -Administration/Miss Biancheria/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(March 9, 2021)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on the number of participants in each approved sport by school site and coach’s name.
X. **GENERAL BUSINESS** (continued)

**gb #1-79** - Administration  
(March 1, 2021)

To accept the Growing Literacy Equity Across Massachusetts (GLEAM) Grant in the amount of $8,000.

**gb #1-80** - Administration  
(March 1, 2021)

To consider approval of a revolving account for the Culinary Program at South High Community School for the collection of fees and to fund costs associated with the program.

**gb #1-81** - Mr. Monfredo  
(March 5, 2021)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the Group C opening and indicate whether any modifications should be considered.

**gb #1-82** - Mr. Monfredo  
(March 5, 2021)

Request that the Administration, in their readiness testing of kindergarten students this Spring, and the testing of kindergarten students who did not enroll this school year and remained at home consider a kindergarten 2 class for those students not ready for grade1 and provide an update in the first week in May.

**gb #1-83** - Administration  
(March 8, 2021)

To approve the following donations:

- $401.36 from School Specialty to Tatnuck Magnet School
- $1,500 from a donor to the Give Gratitude Program to Belmont Street Community School

**gb #1-84** - Administration  
(March 9, 2021)

To approve a School Committee meeting date change from Thursday July 15, 2021 to Thursday, July 22, 2021.

**ACTION**

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was approved

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was approved

On a roll call of 7-0, the item filed (See notes)

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Administration

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was approved
GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #1-85 - Administration
(March 9, 2021)

To set a date to recognize Nhi Huynh, a junior at North High School, for being selected as a City of Worcester 2021 Young Women of Consequence recipient and for having a photograph selected to be included in the 2021 Massachusetts Amazing Emerging Artists High School Recognitions Exhibit.

gb #1-86 - Administration
(March 9, 2021)

To consider approval of the following courses:

• US History Survey
• Foundations of Modern Biotechnology
• Applications of Modern Biotechnology

gb #1-87 - Miss Biancheria
(March 9, 2021)

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the move of facilities and transportation to the former Allegro building located at 115 North East Cutoff.

gb #1-88 - Miss Biancheria
(March 9, 2021)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the reopening of our schools to include cleaning, transportation, social distancing and ventilation.

gb #1-89 - Miss Biancheria
(March 9, 2021)

Request that the Administration provide an update on Fire Drills as required by the Fire Department.

gb #1-90 - Miss Biancheria
(March 9, 2021)

Request that the Administration discuss the plans regarding the reimbursement from federal COVID funding and determine the degree of flexibility to provide services to staff and students.
GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #1-91 - Miss Biancheria  
(March 10, 2021)

Request that the Administration review the impact of the closing of Becker College on the WPS and its various collaborative efforts which include volunteers, internships and AVID.

gb #1-92 - Mr. Monfredo  
(March 10, 2021)

Request that the Administration establish an advisory committee to include personnel, community representatives and experts in the field of student health to discuss a later starting time for secondary students, or move the time forward by 30 minutes for everyone.

gb #1-93 - Miss Biancheria  
(March 10, 2021)

Request that the Administration discuss the policies regarding course failures due to absenteeism, which results in the inability to participate in school sports.

gb #1-94 - Administration  
(March 10, 2021)

Request that the School Committee APPROVE the APPOINTMENT of the following provisional civil service employee as School Nurse effective as shown:

O’Leary, Maria, Quinsigamond Elementary School, Bachelors, Step 1, $48,310.00, effective March 5, 2021. License Pending: School Nurse All Levels

ACTIONS

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Administration

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. Novick due to connectivity issues), the item was referred to the Standing Committee on School and Student Supports

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. Novick due to connectivity issues), the item was approved
XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Coronavirus/COVID-19 Related Issues – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators); Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Instructional Assistants; Parent Liaisons; Tutors; and Therapy Assistants.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8221, Bargaining Regarding Reopening.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8368, Interactive Process and Requests for Workplace Accommodations.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester vs. Worcester Public Schools, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, MCAD Docket No. 20WEM02609 and EEOC Docket No. 16C-2021-00275.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Successor Contract Negotiations – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators).

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Helen A. Friel, Ed.D.
Clerk of the School Committee
The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, March 18, 2021
at: 5:00 p.m. – Executive Session
     6:00 p.m. – Regular Session
Virtually in: Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR MEETING
   INVOCATION
   PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/NATIONAL ANTHEM
II. ROLL CALL
III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS – NONE
IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION – NONE
V. IMMEDIATE ACTION – NONE
VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – NONE
V. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION – NONE
VIII. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES – NONE
IX. PERSONNEL – NONE
X. GENERAL BUSINESS

   gb#1-96 – Administration
          (March 16, 2021)

   To consider approval of a waiver to be forwarded to the
   Commissioner of Education requesting a delay of in-person learning
   until May 3, 2021.

*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, 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.
The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 5:04 p.m. in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

There were present at the Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo and Ms. Novick

There was absent: Mayor Petty

Vice-Chairman Foley stated that the School Committee would recess into Executive Session to discuss the following items:

gb #1-95—Administration
(March 10, 2021)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Coronavirus/COVID-19 Related Issues – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators); Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Instructional Assistants; Parent Liaisons; Tutors; and Therapy Assistants.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8221, Bargaining Regarding Reopening.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester and Worcester School Committee, Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations, MUP-20-8368, Interactive Process and Requests for Workplace Accommodations.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Educational Association of Worcester vs. Worcester Public Schools, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, MCAD Docket No. 20WEM02609 and EEOC Docket No. 16C-2021-00275.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Successor Contract Negotiations – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators).
On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mayor Petty), it was moved to recess to Executive Session.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 5:05 p.m. to 6:25 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:27 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mrs. Clancey, Mr. Foley, Ms. McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick and Mayor Petty

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to suspend the rules to take the following item out of order:

**IMMEDIATE ACTION**

c&p #1-3

Melinda Martin, Keri Boisclair, Melissa Verdier and Liz Joyal spoke to the issue of returning to hybrid learning.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

ros #1-5

A PowerPoint presentation entitled “Afterschool and Fun Friday Program Collaboration with Cultural Institutions” was introduced by Superintendent Binienda. Representatives from local institutions spoke to the work that has been done during remote learning. Presenters were:

- Darcy Schwartz, Creative Program Director of Art Reach
- Meghan Monater, Director of Education of the Hanover Theater
- Lisa Carlin, Camp Director, Mass Audubon at Broadmeadow Brook
- Anh Vu Sawyer, Executive Director of the Southeast Asian Coalition
- Sid Nordstrom, Director of Youth Education at Technocopia
- Marissa Gallant, Manager of Youth Education at Tower Hill
- Marnie Weir, Director of Education and Experience, Worcester Art Museum
- Elaine McKenna-Yeaw, Executive Director of Worcester Center for Crafts

Dr. O’Neil presented on behalf of Rachel Quimby, Public Programs Coordinator at the Ecotarium in her absence.
GENERAL BUSINESS

Mayor Petty moved to suspend the rules to take the following items together.

   gb#1-96, gb #1-81 and gb #1-88

Superintendent Binienda provided an update on the return to in-person learning for Group C. She stated that she and the District Leadership Team visited every school and were pleased with how the students were acclimating themselves back into the classroom setting. All staff will be returning on March 22\textsuperscript{nd} and the remaining students return on March 29\textsuperscript{th}.

She also said that the School Committee toured Forest Grove Middle, Grafton Street Elementary and Burncoat High schools to observe the workings of the ionization units.

The Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has asked for students to return to full in-person learning on April 5, 2021. Superintendent Binienda penned a waiver letter to the Commissioner asking to delay the return of full in-person learning for grades K-8 until May 3, 2021. She stated that the reasons for the request to delay the date is due to the following:

- staff and students traveling over the April school vacation possibly needing to quarantining for 2 weeks
- the lack of substitute teachers
- transportation and distancing issues
- teachers requesting leaves of absences
- some virus indicators still in the red and
- concern for possible variant strains

In order not to cause any confusion, the waiver request also included permission to send out another survey to families during the week of April 5th to gather data on the number of students interested in returning to full time learning in grades K-8.

Mayor Petty asked for clarification on the Commissioner’s start dates. Superintendent Binienda stated that for grades K-5, the start date would be April 5\textsuperscript{th}, Grades 6 through 8 would be April 28\textsuperscript{th}. The Commissioner has not yet provided the start dates for high schools. The Mayor also asked for updated PPE information and Mr. Pezzella stated that PPE was plentiful for the return of Group C students, but a request has been made for more PPE in anticipation of the March 22\textsuperscript{nd} return of staff and March 29\textsuperscript{th} for hybrid classes.

Ms. McCullough asked for the procedure for staff to get the proper amount of PPE. Superintendent Binienda stated that staff should alert the principal, the COVID lead, Mr. Pezzella or send the request to the WPS COVID website. Mr. Pezzella stated that staff members who are asking for special PPE and medical
accommodations for their classroom will need to notify the Human Resources Department.

Mrs. Clancey asked if there was any information on how the Health Portal worked this week and Superintendent Binienda stated that due to the small number of families that signed in to the Health Portal, a separate health survey will be going out on Monday for parents to fill out each morning before school that will go directly to the principal and the nurse at the school.

Mayor Petty requested that the School Committee approve the waiver to be sent to the Commissioner requesting a delay of in person learning until May 3, 2021.

**gb #1-14.1**

Superintendent Binienda informed the Committee that there would be a surprise announcement for seniors on Friday, March 19th at 9:30 am.

**gb #1-54.1**

Ms. Novick asked for clarification on locker room protocol and Superintendent Binienda stated that students who are in remote learning need to come dressed to practice/events and those who are in school hybrid learning will be allowed to use the locker rooms to change, but are limited to just 10 students at a time.

**OTHER**

Mayor Petty read a Resolution passed by the City Council in support of the Asian-American community.

On a roll call of 7-0, the resolution was supported.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Ms. Novick due to connectivity issues), it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8 49 p.m.

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