

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

The School Committee will hold an in-person meeting with a virtual option*:

on: **Thursday, December 5, 2024**

at: 5:00 p.m. Executive Session; 5:30 p.m. Open Session

in: Esther Howland Chamber, City Hall

Virtual:

<https://worcesterschools.zoom.us/j/82746440670?pwd=dmp4TnIxYThBdnhkZWQ1bm1hMjFFZz09>

Also accessible by telephone, to dial in call: +1 301-715-8592 or +1 305-224-1968

**This meeting/hearing of the Worcester School Committee will be held in-person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and /or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person vs. virtual attendance accordingly.*

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. General Business Items taken in Executive Session

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct collective bargaining regarding Grievance 24/25-01CA.

B. Call to Order

C. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem

D. Roll Call

M. Student Advisory Committee Items

E. Consent Agenda

i. Approval of Minutes

To consider approval of the minutes from the School Committee meeting on November 14, 2024.

To consider approval of the minutes from the School Committee meeting on November 21, 2024.

To consider approval of the minutes from the Finance, Operations and Governance meeting on November 18, 2024.

To consider approval of the minutes from the Teaching, Learning and Student Success meeting on November 19, 2024.

ii. Approval of Donations

To consider approval of a \$100 donation from the Amosun Family for the Worcester Arts Magnet Special Chorus.

To consider approval of a \$500.00 donation from United AG & Turf for South High's Diesel Program.

To consider approval of a \$400.00 donation from Apple Trailer Rental Corp for South High's Diesel Program.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$114.92 from papa Gino's Pizzeria to Lincoln Street School.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Gomez Enterprise LLC to Lincoln Street School.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$120.00 from Jen Wynn for the Worcester Arts Magnet Special Chorus.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Interstate Specialty Products for a mural project at Columbus Park in remembrance of Zella Nunez.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Cornerstone Bank for a mural project at Columbus Park in remembrance of Zella Nunez.

iii. Notification of Personnel Records

[New Hires - Instructional](#)

[New Hires - Non-Instructional](#)

[Resignations and Retirements](#)

iv. Initial filing of Recognitionv. Notices of Interest to the District or to the Public**F. Item for Reconsideration****G. Held Items****H. Recognitions**

I. Public Comment-Any member of the public may address the Committee regarding any item before them for two (2) minutes. Those speaking will state their name, their residence, and the item on which they wish to speak for the record. Those speaking may do so in person or via remote participation. Those wishing to address the Committee in a language other than English are asked to notify the Clerk of the .Committee in advance, so the Committee may be provided with an interpreter.

Members of the Committee may not respond to the comments of the public at the meeting. [Click to view Policy BEDH-Public Comment](#)

J. Public Petition

K. Report of the Superintendent

ros 4-16 Administration

(December 5, 2024)

[From Here, Anywhere... Together: Superintendent Mid-Cycle Review 2024](#)

Recommendation of Maker: Approve

L. Reports of the Standing Committees

FOG 11/18/2024

The following five (5) items will be contained within item gb 4-73.

gb 4-73 Administration

(August 15, 2024)

Response from Administration

To review the status of the FY25 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

budget 500-2204 (Johnson)

(June 20, 2024)

Instructional Materials - Member Johnson made a motion to consider, during the 1st Quarter fiscal report in October, that if any surplus funds are available they be added to this account.

gb 4-78 Administration

(August 15, 2024)

To approve the second meal breakfast, lunch, snack, and adult meal prices for the 2024-25 school year. (To provide an update on the payment Biancheria)

sa 3-3 (Bitar)

(November 29, 2023)

To provide proper funding and resources to organizations/clubs held after school that offer opportunities to students and allow them to become more involved in their school community. Additionally, to promote and urge students and staff to become active participants in said organizations/clubs. (To provide a report on how many student clubs/organizations have been cut due to fiscal concerns in FY2025. (Request from Member Johnson)

ros 4-10 (Administration)

(July 18, 2024)

To receive details about the contract for tutoring services that includes the cost of services and data on the educational growth of students who utilize these services.

Member Johnson made a motion to receive a report back on the

structure references in the 500-91110 Administration Salaries line.

Vice Chair Biancheria made a motion to receive more detail on the three Perkins positions.

A motion to hold item gb 4-73, file items: budget 500-2204, gb 4-78, sa 3-3 and ros 4-10, and receive the motions from Vice Chair Biancheria and Member Johnson in the What's Happening newsletter. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

gb 4-100 (McCullough)
(October 24, 2024)

[Prior Action Sheet](#)

[Response from Administration](#)

To get an update on the Versatrans MyStop App and its functionality.

Member Biancheira made a motion to receive the migration cost to the new system and information on the amount of times the App was not functioning properly as well as how long it takes to repair.

Member Roy made a motion to receive the number of caregivers who use the App to track where their students are when on the bus.

Member McCullough made a motion to get a report back in June on any new updates on software and the Apps functionality as well as receive Member Biancheria and Member Roy motions in the What's Happening newsletter. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

gb 4-101 (McCullough)
(October 24, 2024)

[Response from Administration](#)

To begin discussions around the potential impact on the inflation rate for next year's budget.

A motion was made to file this item. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

gb 3-240 Clancey
(October 23, 2023)

Response from Administration

Request the administration to review and update if needed in the District's search policy.

A motion was made to file this item. On a roll call: Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

gb 3-243 Mailman

(November 4, 2023)

Response from Administration

Request the Administration report, generally, how it responds to the concerns of a student alleging abuse or about whom a MGL Ch 119, s51a report is filed.

Vice Chair Biancheria made a motion to get a report back on the anti-bullying program.

Chairperson McCullough made a motion to hold this item for a report back in March that includes Vice Chair Biancherias motion. Vice Chair Biancheria, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Roy, yes; Chairperson McCullough, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

TLSS 11/19/2024

gb 4-39A (Biancheria)

(March 21, 2024)

Response from Administration

To request the administration, provide a report in reference to home schooling, including number of participants and grade levels.

Member Mailman made a motion to receive more information on other specialty programs in other districts from an equity standpoint and some challenges they've experienced.

Chairperson Guardiola made a motion to file this item, Member Binienda seconded the motion. On a roll call vote: Vice Chair Alvarez, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Chairperson Guardiola, yes; the motion passed 4-0.

gb 3-253 (McCullough)

(November 27, 2023)

Response from Administration

To provide an update to the School Committee about the Doherty Biomedical Academy program.

Chairperson Guardiola made a motion to hold this item to receive a report back on Member Mailmans motion. Vice Chair Alvarez seconded the motion. On a roll call vote: Vice Chair Alvarez, yes; Member

Binienda, no; Member Mailman, yes; Chairperson Guardiola, yes; the motion passed 3-1.

N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items

To consider acceptance of a DESE grant in the amount of \$49,980 to Worcester Technical High School for Innovation Career Pathways Implementation and Support.

To consider acceptance of a MA Cultural Council grant in the amount of \$25,000 for the Worcester Public Schools Creative Projects for Schools Initiative.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$724.68 for unused vacation days.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$4,470.48 for unused vacation days.

O. General Business

gb 4-49 (Johnson)

(May 2, 2024)

Response from Administration

To provide an update of the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum after the first year.

Recommendation: File

Consent agenda - Personnel Records

(November 14, 2024)

Response from Administration

Member Binienda asked how the administration is ensuring students continue to receive services when several Speech and Language Pathologists have resigned. Assistant Superintendent of Personnel, Engagement and Equity, Yeu Kue, Ed.D. responded that the district is advertising for those vacant positions. Member Binienda asked for exit interviews for those positions. Dr. Kue responded that they would be provided to the committee.

Recommendation: File

gb 4-108 (Binienda)

(November 14, 2024)

Response from Administration

To provide a detailed plan to improve teaching and learning in the 14 schools selected by DESE as needing intervention /improvement.

Recommendation: File

gb 4-110 (Roy)

(November 14, 2024)

Response from Administration

To request administration to give information on the alternative drug and intervention program(s) provided to our students (grades 7 -12) in lieu of the Turn It Around Drug Program that was reduced due to budget cuts by the administration.

Recommendation of Maker: File

gb 4-112 (Guardiola)
(November 21, 2024)

Response from Administration

Request the number of employees currently on paid medical leave and average length of time of said paid leave.

Recommendation : File

gb 4-113 (Guardiola)
(November 21, 2024)

Response from Administration

Request the number of employees currently on unpaid leave and average length of time of said unpaid leave.

Recommendation of Maker: File

gb 4-116 (Biancheria)
(December 5, 2024)

Request administration, review the protocol and policies in reference to incidents and accidents concerning WPS buses, including transportation for students under WPS schools or outside of our schools such as private or charter.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to FOG

gb 4-117 (Mailman)
(December 5, 2024)

To create a policy for "time on screen" for one to one devices in the classroom across grade levels.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration

gb 4-118 (Mailman)
(December 5, 2024)

To provide an update to the school committee on various reorganization strategies employed in special education and other departments that were created to better serve our students but were also necessary due to the inability of the state to address the correction of poor inflation policy impacts to budget.

Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration

P. Announcements**Meeting Dates:****School Committee Meetings:**

- December 16, 2024 5:00 p.m. Standing Committee on Finance, Operations, and Governance, Room 410, Durkin Administration Building, 20 Irving Street.
- December 12, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning, and Student Success, Room 410, Durkin Administration Building, 20 Irving Street.
- December 19, 2024 School Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m. Executive Session, 6:00 p.m. Open Session, Esther Howland Chamber, Worcester City Hall, 455 Main Street.

Q. Adjournment

Kristi Turgeon,
Clerk of the School Committee