

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, February 6, 2025**  
at: 5:00 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**

**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 January 9, 2025.

To consider approval of the minutes from the School Committee meeting on January 16, 2025.

To consider approval of the minutes from the Teaching, Learning, and Student Supports meeting on January 23, 2025.

To consider approval of the minutes from the Finance, Operations, and Governance meeting on January 27, 2025.

ii. Approval of Donations

To consider approval of pickleball equipment (72 Wooden Paddles | 200 Pickleballs | 3 Portable Nets) from USA Pickleball Serves for the Worcester

Public Schools.

To consider approval of a donation from 4OthersInc. in conjunction with Hope & Comfort Hygiene Hub for 100 Hygiene Kits to be distributed to WPS families.

To consider approval of a donation of 200 boxes of tissues from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office to Worcester Technical High School.

- iii. Notification of Personnel Records  
Teacher and Administrator Resignations/Retirements  
New Hire - Instructional  
New Hire - Non-Instructional
- iv. Initial filing of Recognition
- v. Notices of Interest to the District or to the Public

#### **F. Item for Reconsideration**

#### **G. Held Items**

sa 5-3 (Student Advisory Council)  
(January 16, 2025)

To ensure all students have access to halal food options at lunch as it is essential for promoting inclusivity and meeting the dietary needs of Muslim students. The proposal would suggest partnering with certified halal vendors or training cafeteria staff to prepare halal meals, clearly labeling these options on menus, and conducting a survey to assess demand, which would help create a more equitable school environment by ensuring all students feel respected and included, regardless of their dietary or religious requirements.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration**

sa 5-1 (Student Advisory Council)  
(January 16, 2025)

To foster a more inclusive Worcester public school community, as it is crucial to ensure that all schools are equitably represented in academic recognition, which includes actively promoting awareness of available opportunities and academic excellence awards across all institutions. Furthermore, staff members should be encouraged to keep students well-informed about these opportunities, ensuring that all students, regardless of their school, have the resources and support necessary to pursue academic achievements and recognition.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration**

#### **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**

c&p 5-1 (Gibson)

(February 6, 2025)

[WPS Bus Drivers Honking for Parent/Guardian in Densely Settled Residential Neighborhoods.](#)

**Recommendation: Refer to Administration (or FOG?)**

**K. Report of the Superintendent**

ros 5-3 Administration

(February 6, 2025)

[From Here, Anywhere...Together: FY26 Preliminary Budget Estimates & SC Priorities](#)

**Recommendation of Maker: Approve**

**L. Reports of the Standing Committees**

**Teaching, Learning, and Student Supports-January 23, 2025**

2-61 Mailman/Clancey/Johnson/Kamara/McCullough/Novick

(February 7, 2022)

[Request that the Administration, before further expansion of pre k programming in WPS, include local non-profit early education and care partners in order to incorporate lessons learned and to avoid pitfalls of 20 years ago.](#)

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 2-61](#)

**Results: Filed with motion to provide an accounting of CPPI grant funding**

gb 2-56.6 Johnson/Clancey/Mailman/Kamara/McCullough/O'Connell Novick

(February 7, 2022)

[Request that the Administration provide an update on library programs and the use of librarians throughout the district.](#)

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 2-56.6](#)

**Results: Filed with request for bi-annual updates, to receive SORA data, and to consider 5th prep for library specials.**

**Finance, Operations, and Governance-January 27, 2025**

gb 2-92.14 – Clancey/McCullough/Johnson/Kamara/Mailman

(March 8, 2022)

**Quarterly Report**

Request that the Administration provide quarterly reports regarding building maintenance to include timeframes on when work will begin and be concluded.

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 2-92.14](#)

**Result: Accept and Hold**

gb 3-198 McCullough  
(August 4, 2023)

**Response from Administration**

To explore the utilization of student employees (age 16+) for Summer custodial needs and any other departments that could benefit from the additional seasonal help.

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 3-198](#)

***Result: Approve and file (send to budget)***

c&p 3-11 Hardy-Lavoie  
(October 17, 2023)

**Response from Administration**

To request the Worcester Public School Committee consider adapting all student bathrooms at North High School to be gender inclusive.

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item c&p 3-11](#)

***Result: File***

gb 3-48.2 McCullough  
(January 16, 2023)

**Response from Administration**

To consider exploring the hiring of athletic trainers for high school athletics.

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 3-48.2](#)

***Result: Approve and file (send to budget)***

gb 3-69.1 McCullough  
(February 7, 2023)

**Response from Administration**

To review and/or develop policies regarding public use of school playgrounds, adjoining playgrounds, and parks during school days/recess times.

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 3-69.1](#)

***Result: Approve and file***

gb 4-73 Administration)  
(August 15, 2024)

[To review the status of the FY25 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.](#)

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 4-73](#)

***Result: Approve Transfers***

***Result: File Item***

gb 4-102 (McCullough)  
(October 24, 2024)

**Response from Administration**

To review the school choice policy around out of district student eligibility into Chapter 74 programs.

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 4-102](#)

**Result:File**

gb 4-109 (Roy)

(November 14, 2024)

**Response from Administration**

Request Administration to consider a proposal prepared by students at Sullivan Middle School (Civics Action Projects class) to provide after school bus transportation for students who wish to participate in after school tutoring and activities who have no other means of transportation.

[Sullivan Middle School student letter supporting item gb 4-109.](#)

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 4-109](#)

**Result: File**

gb 4-116 (Biancheria)

(December 5, 2024)

**Response from Administration**

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.

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 4-116](#)

**Result: Hold until 3.3.2025**

gb 4-119 (McCullough)

(December 19, 2024)

To review the Head Start Program to ensure oversight, alignment with program goals, and compliance with federal performance standards.

[Head Start Focus Monitoring Review](#)

[Head Start Board Meeting Minutes 1.22.2025](#)

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 4-119](#)

**Result: Approve and File**

gb 4-122 (Administration)

(December 19, 2024)

[To review the proposed shifts to the 2024-2025 Student Handbook based on feedback from the DESE Integrated Progress Monitoring and Civil Rights Self Assessment document review.](#)

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 4-122](#)

**Result: Approve and File**

gb 5-8 (Clerk)

(January 16, 2025)

[To review and amend Policy BB as needed.](#)

[Click to view the prior action sheet for item gb 5-8](#)

**Result: Approve and File**

**N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items**

To consider approval of the FC189 Proficiency-based Outcomes in Languages Other than English Grant in the amount of \$23,645.00.

To consider approval of 3 prior year payments totaling \$1,781.75.

**O. General Business**

gb 4-91 (Mailman)

(October 10, 2024)

**Response from Administration**

To provide October 1 enrollment data by grade per school and by grade per quadrant.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

***Items sa 4-7 and sa 4-12 will be taken together*****Response from Administration**

sa 4-7 (Student Advisory Committee)

(October 21, 2024)

To create a Student Wellness form mandatory for all schools to provide so any student in need or in crisis is able to inform their teachers in a discrete manner - allowing for teachers/staff to help any student going through problems within school or outside of school through a program, which would allow for said students not to fall behind on their academics and continue their learning regardless of their circumstances.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

sa 4-12 (Student Advisory Committee)

(December 19, 2024)

To ensure that all High Schools offer the same or mostly similar mental health resources, which includes the wellness rooms offered in many but not all schools, where students can enter a comfortable space to relax and recharge, while using the help of staff to manage their strong emotions throughout the school day.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

sa 4-8 (Student Advisory Committee)

(October 24, 2024)

**Response from Administration**

To hold more community events providing a network between grade levels, teachers, parents, and school staff, which would allow for a stronger community in Worcester Public Schools and would create a positive mentorship between younger and older students, who would serve as role models and lay the path for students to come.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

gb 4-107 (Johnson)

(November 14, 2024)

**Response from Administration**

To address the issue of vaping within schools. Establish a clear and unified approach to vaping prevention and discipline with the support of the Superintendent and the School Committee, to protect student health and uphold the integrity of the school

environment.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

ros 4-15 (McCullough)

(November 21, 2024)

**Response from Administration**

Member McCullough asked for a report on how alternative programs are decided for students when it is determined they need additional support, what are the expectations for their return to a traditional classroom setting and how administrators are being supported when they have students who may need an alternative program.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

gb 4-114 (Guardiola)

**Response from Administration**

(November 21, 2024)

Request the number of employees that maxed sick leave in both the 2022 and 2023 years.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to FOG**

sa 4-10 (Student Advisory Committee)

(December 19, 2024)

**Response from Administration**

To review restroom policies throughout all WPS High schools and consider implementing an online sign-in for all schools, preventing students from missing class time and allowing teachers and staff to keep track of students who may be misusing the bathroom pass.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

sa 4-11 (Student Advisory Committee)

(December 19, 2024)

**Response from Administration**

To consider more environmentally friendly practices within all WPS schools, including the implementation of recycling bins at each printer within the school, which would have the benefits of reducing the volume of general waste while preventing the mix of recycle and trash, lowering waste disposal costs for schools, and most importantly, teaching students the importance of environmental stewardship, which aligns with Worcester's overall sustainability goals.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

sa 4-13 (Student Advisory Committee)

**Response from Administration**

(December 19, 2024)

To consider different and less formal strategies of gaining student opinion on relevant topics within the district, such as the amount of screen usage per day or Mental Health resources, by having open discussions throughout the day led by staff to prevent student ideas from being overlooked.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

ros 4-17 (Mailman)

(December 19, 2025)

**Response from Administration**

To receive data on tutoring what colleges/universities are offering tutoring through the AVID program.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

sa 5-2 (Student Advisory Council)

(January 16, 2025)

**Response from Administration**

To review content restrictions within the district as certain educational videos are being restricted under the school Wi-Fi, one example being, in African-American Studies classes, teachers have assigned videos that would be beneficial to the curriculum, but students are unable to access them due to restrictions. Furthermore, teachers have reviewed these videos at home and determined there's no valid reason for them to be blocked, meaning this issue hinders learning and prevents access to appropriate educational materials.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

gb 5-4 (Mailman)

(January 9, 2025)

**Response from Administration**

To receive a report outlining the plan for our graduating seniors that have not yet passed the MCAS. Please include how many students we need to assist with their competency determination and if our local graduation requirements take care of competency determinations.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

gb 5-6 (Biancheria)

(January 9, 2025)

**Response from Administration**

To provide a report that includes a description and process of the Safety Van visiting our schools, as well as the opt-out option.

**Recommendation of Maker: File**

gb 5-9 (Administration)

(February 6, 2025)

**To request changes to the Report of the Superintendent Schedule.**

Equitable Access for Enhancing FACE will be on March 6, 2025 and Equitable Access: Special Education Program Updates will be on March 20, 2025.

**Recommendation of Maker: Approve and file**

gb 5-10 (Mailman)

(February 6, 2025)

To propose the following resolution related to protection of LGBTQ+ and trans children and their families in the Worcester Public School system, despite the actions of the current President of the US and inaction of many other leaders.

**Worcester Public Schools Safe Schools Resolution**



**Recommendation of Maker: File**

gb 5-11 (Binienda)

(February 6, 2025)

To reconsider the policy on cell phones in schools in light of the Pew Institute's recent research and the MA AG new proposed legislation.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to FOG**

gb 5-12 (Binienda)

(February 6, 2025)

To request extra funds from second quarter savings and other funding sources be used to fund a non teaching position for UPCS, additional BCBA's for Gates Lane and autistic programs, and busing and the use of a gym for students at the Worcester Alternative School.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration**

gb 5-13 (Binienda)

(February 6, 2025)

To share the involvement of the WPS with the William Julius Wilson Institute and funding planning for the project in the WPS.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration**

gb 5-14 (Mailman)

(February 6, 2025)

To provide an update related to federal funding for school meals.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to Administration**

gb 5-15 (Alvarez)

(February 6, 2025)

To request for the administration to provide the criteria that warrants a 911 and the steps attempted prior to making this decision. Additionally, to provide the current plan of action to meet the needs of students after they have experienced the behavior episode and/or discharged.

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to TLSS**

gb 5-16 (Administration)

(February 6, 2025)

[To authorize the Administration to submit Statements of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the following Accelerated Repair Projects for 2025.](#)

**Recommendation of Maker: Approve and File**

gb 5-17 (Administration)

(February 6, 2025)

[To review and approve 2024-2025 Competency Determinations prescribed for graduation from Worcester Public Schools since the recent removal of the MCAS as a prerequisite for graduation.](#)

**Recommendation of Maker: Refer to TLSS**

**P. Announcements**

Meeting Dates:

School Committee Meetings:

- February 13, 2025, 5:00 p.m., Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning, and Student Success, Room 410, Durkin Administration Building, 20 Irving Street.
- February 27, 2025, 5:00 p.m., Esther Howland Chamber, Worcester City Hall, 355 Main Street.
- March 10, 2025, 5:00 p.m. Standing Committee on Finance, Operations, and Governance, Room 410, Durkin Administration Building, 20 Irving Street.

**Q. Adjournment**

Kristi Turgeon,  
Clerk of the School Committee