

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

AGENDA #5

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, January 21, 2016
at: 6:00 p.m. – Executive Session
7:00 p.m. – Regular Session
in: Esther Howland South Chamber, City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION Pastor Jay Tilley
Christ Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #6-1 - Clerk
(January 11, 2016)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, December 17, 2015.

aor #6-2 - Clerk
(January 11, 2016)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Monday, January 4, 2016.

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

ACTION

gb #5-285.1 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Ms. Novick/
Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Miss Ramirez/
Mr. Foley/Mayor Petty
(January 5, 2016)

To recognize the following individuals of the 365Z
Foundation for implementing their program of kindness in the
Worcester Public Schools:

Rosemary Ford, President
Paul LaCava, Co-founder
Ed Gardella, Co-founder

gb #6-6 - Administration
(January 11, 2016)

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

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - NONE

VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee on Finance and Operations met at
12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 28, 2015 in Room 410 at
the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

IX. PERSONNEL

ACTION

- 6-1 The Superintendent APPROVED the RETIREMENT of the persons named below:

Gribouski, Dolores, Manager, Quadrant, Durkin Administration Building, effective December 31, 2015.

Harrity, Paula, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, Systemwide, January 5, 2016.

- 6-2 The Superintendent ACKNOWLEDGES the RESIGNATION of the person named below:

Grady, Jean Lindquist, Psychologist, Systemwide, effective December 21, 2015.

- 6-3 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the persons named below:

Bland, Ricky, Teacher, ROTC, North, MIP, Step 5, \$62,066.16.

Davis, Karen, Special Education, Forest Grove, MA+30, Step 8, \$75,428 effective January 4, 2016. Licensed: Moderate Disabilities Prek-8.

Freud, Nancy, Teacher, English as a Second Language, Systemwide, MA+15, Step 6, \$65,689 effective December 9, 2015. Licensed: English as a Second Language Prek-6.

Morrow, Dannielle, Teacher, Science, Forest Grove, BA, Step 1, \$45,064 effective December 11, 2015. Licensed: General Science 5-8.

Moynagh, Jodi, School Adjustment Counselor, Systemwide, MA, Step 5, \$61,912 effective December 21, 2015. Licensed: School Social Worker/School Adjustment Counselor All Levels.

Silva, Ariel, Teacher, Special Education, Systemwide, MA, Step 1, \$50,978. License pending: Speech, Language, Hearing Disorder All Levels.

IX. PERSONNEL

ACTION

Silva, Katie, Liaison, English Language Arts, Durkin Administration Building, MA, Step 8, \$72,283 effective December 16, 2015. Licensed: English 5-12.

Spont, Anne, Teacher, Special Education, Systemwide, MA, Step 2, \$53,437 effective January 11, 2016. License pending: Speech, Language, Hearing Disorder All Levels.

Spratt, Jillian, Teacher, Special Education, Systemwide, CAGS/2MA, Step 2, \$58,555 effective January 6, 2016. License pending: Speech, Language, Hearing Disorder All Levels.

Torres, Michelle, School Adjustment Counselor, MA, Step 8, \$72,283 effective January 4, 2016. Licensed: School Social Worker/School Adjustment Counselor All Levels.

6-4 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Word Processor, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$17.74 (minimum) to \$21.58 per hour (maximum) effective as shown:

Foley, Jennifer	11/30/15
Nicolazzo, Amy	11/30/15
Ehnstrom, Jillian	1/6/16

6-5 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Junior Custodian, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$15.28 (minimum) to \$19.17 (maximum), per hour, effective as shown:

Blash, Aaron	12/14/15
Cobb, Duane	12/21/15

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

ACTION

gb #6-7 - Mr. O'Connell
(December 15, 2015)

Request that the Administration forward a letter of appreciation, on behalf of the School Committee, to State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg for her decision to implement "SeedMA" on a pilot program basis for the students of the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #6-8 - Mr. O'Connell
(December 15, 2015)

To set a date to recognize former City Councilors Frederick C. Rushton and Philip P. Palmieri for their years of dedication and support on behalf of the Worcester Public Schools and the children of Worcester.

gb #6-9 - Mr. O'Connell
(December 18, 2015)

To review, and to make recommendations to the Worcester legislative delegation regarding HD 4338, An Act to Modernize Municipal Finance and Government, as filed by Governor Baker.

gb #6-10 - Administration
(December 22, 2015)

To accept donations, in the amount of \$500.00 each, from Big Y Foods, Inc. for Heard Street, Jacob Hiatt Magnet, West Tatnuck and University Park Campus schools.

gb #6-11 - Administration
(December 22, 2015)

To accept a donation, in the amount of \$250.00, from Saint-Gobain Corporation Foundation as a matching gift by Susan Popinchalk for the Goddard Scholars Academy.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-12 - Mr. O'Connell
(December 22, 2015)

To set a date to recognize and to congratulate Paula Harrity, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, on the occasion of her retirement from the Worcester Public Schools, and to thank her for her decades of dedicated service to the children of Worcester.

gb #6-13 - Mr. O'Connell
(December 23, 2015)

To request a report from the Administration as to the success of the School Wraparound Program in meeting varied and extensive needs of students at Sullivan Middle School, Woodland Academy, Chandler Elementary Community School, Chandler Magnet School, Union Hill School, the University Park Campus School, and the Burncoat Preparatory Academy.

gb #6-14 - Mr. O'Connell
(December 23, 2015)

To set a date to recognize and to congratulate South High Community School teachers Erin Morrissey-Hendricks, Mary Sebring and Tara Vaidya on receiving the Mass Insight Partners in Excellence Advanced Placement Teacher Award, "for their demonstrated teaching excellence through student achievement and exemplary leadership in working with Mass Insight Education on the AP STEM program."

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-15 - Mr. O'Connell
(December 28, 2015)

To set a date to recognize and to congratulate the following recipients of the 2015 Posse Scholarships:

Burncoat High School

Alswell Tulasi, Denison University
Madelyn McKenney-Lyduck, Denison University

Doherty Memorial High School

Tavian Vassar, Bucknell University
D'mone Walker, Centre College

South High Community School

Ngoc Ngo, Hamilton College

Worcester Technical High School

Esmely Munoz, Bucknell University

gb #6-16 - Mr. O'Connell
(December 30, 2015)

To forward a letter of congratulations to Edward Boamah, a senior at Worcester Technical High School, on his selection as Most Valuable Player of the Boston Holiday Challenge Sprints, including his new meet record for the 300 meter event, his qualification for the NB Indoor Nationals, his participation in the record-breaking 4 x 200 relay and his medal for the long jump.

gb #6-17 - Mr. Monfredo
(January 6, 2016)

To request that the School Committee conduct an internal search, under the direction of Mayor Petty, for the next superintendent with a deadline sometime in March for the final interviews.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-18 - Mr. O'Connell
(January 6, 2016)

To review the ALICE program ("Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate") - "the first active shooter response program" - as an option for protection of the staff and students of the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #6-19 - Mr. O'Connell
(January 6, 2016)

To determine whether the Worcester Public Schools should nominate any additional buildings or sites for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

gb #6-20 - Mr. O'Connell
(January 6, 2016)

To set a date to recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, the donation of ten Heart Start defibrillators to the Worcester Public Schools by the Josh Thibodeau Helping Hearts Foundation.

gb #6-21 - Mr. Monfredo
(January 6, 2016)

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to Rachel Dao, a 12 grader at North High School and Shamus Flynn, a 10th grader at South High Community School for their selection as winners in the Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-22 - Mr. Monfredo
(January 6, 2016)

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to the following students for being selected as winners in the Martin Luther King, Jr. essay and poetry contest and to Ann Kahi for receiving the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award:

Burncoat High School
Paolo Bustos, grade 9

Goddard Scholars Academy
Jessica Cohen, grade 7
Sam Posner, grade 7
Emily Judkins, grade 8
Julia Nguyen, grade 8

North High School
Chris Nguyen, grade 9
Julie Le, grade 11
Wendy Romero, grade 11
Cassandra Cooper, grade 11
Jeyshaliz Aponte, grade 11

South High Community School
Maxine McInnes, grade 10
Osborne Munyambu, grade 10
David Judkins, grade 12

gb #6-23 - Mr. Foley
(January 8, 2016)

Request that the Administration work with Fallon Health and other interested funders to explore the potential opportunity to implement a pilot program developed by Playworks in several elementary schools that train staff and volunteers to run recess sessions that include positive play, greater levels of exercise and better utilization of limited recreational space.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-24 - Mr. O'Connell
(January 8, 2016)

To set a date to recognize and to congratulate the following students who were honored by the Worcester County Superintendents' Association, at its Scholars Luncheon for their academic, social and civic achievements:

Burncoat High School
Laurana Nyman

Claremont Academy
Jaqueline Alvarez

Doherty Memorial High School
Aubrey Leary
Madeleine Lerner

North High School
Allen Quang
Rachel Dao

South High Community School
Kenneth Adusei
Dominik Danko

University Park Campus School
Sibgha Javaid

Worcester Technical High School
Abeeku Bondzie
Tauny Tambolleo

gb #6-25 - Ms. Colorio
(January 8, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide a list of Drug and Alcohol Educational Programs and assemblies scheduled for the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students for the school year 2015-16 academic year.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-26 - Ms. Colorio
(January 8, 2016)

To re-examine the Kindergarten Entrance Age Policy.

gb #6-27 - Ms. Colorio
(January 8, 2016)

Request that the Administration consider conducting an anonymous school safety survey for teachers.

gb #6-28 - Ms. Colorio
(January 8, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide a list of assessments that were administered to kindergarten students for the 2015-16 academic year.

gb #6-29 - Ms. Colorio
(January 8, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide the most recent results of the Teacher Climate Survey to include all of the teacher comments.

gb #6-30 - Ms. Colorio
(January 8, 2016)

Request that the Administration forward a letter to parents indicating their right to opt their child(ren) out of the PARCC assessment.

gb #6-31 - Ms. Colorio
(January 8, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide an update, by school, on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-32 - Ms. Colorio
(January 8, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide a list of the Professional Development training for teachers on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

gb #6-33 - Ms. Colorio
(January 8, 2016)

Request that the Administration consider offering Civics as an elective course at the high school level for the 2016-17 academic year.

gb #6-34 - Mr. Monfredo
(January 11, 2016)

Request that the School Committee and the City Council assist in the search for mannequins or the resources to purchase them to increase the bystander CPR program for secondary students in Physical Education classes.

gb #6-35 - Mr. O'Connell
(January 11, 2016)

To encourage Worcester secondary schools with robotics programs to consider participation in the 2016 FIRST ("For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology") Robotics Competition.

gb #6-36 - Mr. O'Connell
(January 11, 2016)

To establish a Special Committee, consisting of at least three School Committee members, to continue the review of policies proposed for the Worcester Public Schools by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-37 - Mr. O'Connell
(January 11, 2016)

To address the incidents of violent and aggressive behavior on the part of students toward teachers, administrators and other staff members in school, including staff development training in responses to student aggression, and consideration of appropriate policies and practices to curtail such incidents.

gb #6-38 - Mr. O'Connell
(January 11, 2016)

To determine whether sufficient student interest exists to form gymnastics teams, in individual schools or on a citywide basis, in cooperation with any private Worcester gymnastics centers willing and able to assist the teams to minimize costs.

gb #6-39 - Mr. O'Connell
(January 11, 2016)

To review the Every Student Succeeds Act, to address its impact on the Worcester Public Schools, and to consider any options which it provides to states and school districts to modify current practices and to reduce present testing, record-keeping and reporting requirements.

gb #6-40 - Mr. Monfredo
(January 11, 2016)

To prepare any resolutions which the Worcester School Committee may wish to submit to the 2016 meeting of the Board of Delegates of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-41 - Ms. Colorio
(January 11, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide a chart indicating the number of school behavior referrals, by school, for the 2014-15 academic year.

gb #6-42 - Administration
(January 12, 2016)

To accept the STARS Residencies FY16 South High Community School Grant in the amount of \$1,800.

gb #6-43 - Administration
(January 13, 2016)

To authorize the Administration to submit Statements of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the following Accelerated Repair Projects for 2016:

Belmont Street Community School:	Window and Boiler Replacements
Chandler Elementary Community School:	Window and Boiler Replacements
Gerald Creamer Center:	Window and Boiler Replacements
Wawecus Road School:	Window Replacement

gb #6-44 - Administration
(January 13, 2016)

To authorize the Administration to submit Statements of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the following projects for major renovation or replacement for 2016:

Doherty Memorial High School (district priority project)
Burncoat High School
Worcester East Middle School

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-45 - Administration
(January 12, 2016)

To approve a decrease in the mileage reimbursement rate from \$0.575 per mile to \$0.54 per mile, effective January 1, 2016, for all represented and non-represented personnel in accordance with the 2016 standard mileage rate established by the Internal Revenue Service.

gb #6-46 - Mr. O'Connell
(January 13, 2016)

To study the report of the Worcester Regional Research Bureau and the Worcester Education Collaborative, "The Urgency of Excellence: Considerations for the Next Superintendent of Schools in Worcester, Massachusetts", and to consider implementation of the recommendations set forth within it.

gb #6-47 - Miss Biancheria
(January 13, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide an updated report in February, March and April for the STEM Program to include upcoming events, locations and participating schools.

gb #6-48 - Miss Biancheria
(January 13, 2016)

Request that the Administration provide the number of consultants that are paid by grant funding or taxpayer dollars currently working in the Worcester Public Schools.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-49 - Mayor Petty
(January 13, 2016)

To consider, as we prepare the Massachusetts School Building Authority proposals for South High Community School, either adding vocational technical programs at the school or converting it into a vocational technical high school.

gb #6-50 - Mayor Petty
(January 13, 2016)

To consider joining and fully funding Worcester Technical High School's schoolwide participation in SkillsUSA.

gb #6-51 - Administration
(January 13, 2016)

To discuss strategy in preparation for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to conduct negotiations with nonunion personnel – Manager of Special Education and Intervention Services.

To review the Superintendent's search firm proposals to comply with Chapter 30B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

AGENDA #5A

SUPPLEMENTAL

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, January 21, 2016
at: 6:00 p.m. – Executive Session
7:00 p.m. – Regular Session
in: Council Chamber, City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

- 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
- VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE
- VIII. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES - NONE
- IX. PERSONNEL - NONE

- X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #6-52 - Mayor Petty
(January 15, 2016)

Request that the School Committee vote not to lift the cap on
Charter Schools.

- XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

AGENDA #5B

SUPPLEMENTAL

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, January 21, 2016
at: 6:00 p.m. – Executive Session
7:00 p.m. – Regular Session
in: Council Chamber, City Hall

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

- 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
- VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE
- VIII. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES - NONE
- IX. PERSONNEL - NONE

- X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #6-53 - Mr. Monfredo
(January 19, 2016)

To consider a letter from Representative Peisch, House Chair of the Education Committee, relative to recommendations for amendments to Chapter 222.

- XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Thursday, December 17, 2015
Agenda #25 and #25A

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met in Open Session at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Thursday, December 17, 2015.

There were present at the Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez and Mayor Petty

It was moved to recess to Executive Session in order to discuss the following item:

Executive
Session

- 1. gb #5-348 - Administration
(December 9, 2015)

To provide an update on litigation relative to elevator fines assessed against the Worcester Public Schools - City of Worcester v. Elevators Maintenance & Service et. al., Worcester Superior Court Civil Action No. WOCV2015-00062-B

To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies in the Worcester Public Schools.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:		<u>0</u> 7
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The motion carried.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:06 p.m. to 7:14 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:15 p.m.

The invocation was given by Pastor Lou Soiles of Journey Community Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered and the National Anthem was played.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez and Mayor Petty

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

2. aor #5-25 - Clerk
(December 9, 2015)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, December 3, 2015.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of Thursday, December 3, 2015.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

3. gb #5-316.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell/
Ms. Novick/Miss Ramirez/
Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty
(December 7, 2015) Recognition/
James O'Donoghue

To recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, the quarter century of service by James O'Donoghue as announcer of Worcester Public Schools' games at Foley Stadium.

Mayor Petty and Dr. Rodrigues presented a Certificate of Appreciation to James O'Donoghue as announcer of Worcester Public Schools' games at Foley Stadium.

COMMUNICATION AND PETITION

4. c&p #5-8 - Clerk
(December 4, 2015) Communication and
Petition/proposed
policy for non-arrest
of students

To consider a petition from a citizen regarding a proposed policy for non-arrest of students at school.

The following individuals addressed the petition regarding a proposed policy for non-arrest of students in the Worcester Public Schools:

Gordon Davis	Chris Robarge
Gwen Davis	Len Zalauskas
Sally LaPorte	Ron Madnick
David Balyon	Ruth Rodrigues
Idalla Hazzard	Keith Scott
Walter Joelle	Reverend Aaron Payson

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report of the
Superintendent/ School
Safety and Security
Assessment Report

5. ros #5-14 - Administration
(December 9, 2015)

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY ASSESSMENT
REPORT

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations.

Mr. Lucy, Principal, Risk Management and Mr. Gallagher, Principal, Design & Engineering from Good Harbor Techmark, LLC discussed the School Safety and Security Assessment Report for the Worcester Public Schools.

Vice-chairman Biancheria chaired the meeting from 8:20 p.m. – 8:25 p.m.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the report be forwarded to the principals and the School Liaison Officer.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the newly formed Safety Advisory Committee of the Worcester Public Schools submit a progress report regarding its work relative to the School Safety and Security Assessment Report.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that when the item is referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations it include:

- Miss Biancheria's motion to bring the item back to the full committee on February 25, 2016
- the recommendations from the Administration regarding the report
- a multi-year initiative to be imbedded in the FY17 Budget and capital recommendations to the City Manager and
- involvement with the School Building Authority as to how these recommendations can be carried out over the course of multi-years.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration consider offering more safety training hours to staff and to seek grant money for such training.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Miss Biancheria suggested that the Administration consider reinstating at this time the position that was cut in the Safety Office who offered support not only to the Safety Liaison but to the schools.

Ms. Novick suggested that the Administration review the Admissions Policy for Worcester Technical High School.

6. gb #5-338 - Administration
(December 7, 2015)

Recognition/
Dr. Dolores Gribouski

To recognize Dolores Gribouski for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

The School Committee presented a chair to Dolores Gribouski for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

7. The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

gb #2-139 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio
(April 11, 2012)

Boston Debate
League

To consider development of a partnership with the Boston Debate League to support academic debate teams in high schools in Worcester.

12-8-15 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Mrs. Eressy spoke to the item and indicated that she would provide information regarding the National Debate Organization to the secondary principals.

Mr. O'Connell requested that the Administration conduct a survey at the secondary level in the winter to determine interest regarding the establishment of Debate Teams, Model Congresses or a Model UN Congress in the Worcester Public Schools.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the item be held for a report back in late January or early February 2016.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to request that the Administration contact the President of Becker College to determine interest in working in a collaborative way to develop a public speaking or debate initiative in the Worcester Public Schools.

12-17-15 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.

The Gateway Cities Vision
for Dynamic Community-
wide Learning Systems

gb #4-39 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Mayor Petty (February 4, 2014)

To review and consider the report which sets forth "The Gateway Cities Vision for Dynamic Community-Wide Learning Systems."

12-8-15 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

Dr. Rojas made a presentation relative to a multi-tiered system of supports which tied into "The Gateway Cities Vision for Dynamic Community-Wide Learning Systems."

Mr. Monfredo and Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a report to the Standing Committee during the month of February with regard to progress made in the formulation of its multi-tiered system of supports.

Request that the Administration also provide any recommendations it has for budgetary investment by the School Committee in connection with the program for FY17.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

12-17-15 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.

North High School/
convene a listening
session

gb #5-42 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Ramirez/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (January 26, 2015)

To convene a School Committee "listening session" at North High School, to welcome the input and advice of staff, students, parents and other members of the community as to topics of interest and concern they choose to raise regarding their school, and as to any issues of policy and/or budget which they believe the School Committee should address.

12-8-15 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

FILE.

12-17-15 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.

gb #5-48 - Administration (January 29, 2015)

To accept the systemic, culture, climate and safety Action Plan for North High School.

North High School/
accept the systemic,
culture, climate and
safety Action Plan

12-8-15 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

FILE.

12-17-15 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.

gb #5-237 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo (September 9, 2015)

Request that the Administration consider implementing the Reach Out and Read Program in the Worcester Public Schools.

Reach Out and Read
Program

12-8-15 - STANDING COMMITTEE ACTION

FILE.

12-17-15 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION

The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.

PERSONNEL

8. It was moved and voice voted to file Personnel Items 5-52 and 5-53.

5-52 The Superintendent ACKNOWLEDGES the RESIGNATION of the persons named below:

Resignations

Fay, Linda, Teacher, Science, Unassigned, effective November 12, 2015.

Rosales, Elisa, Teacher, Mathematics, North, effective October 30, 2015

5-53 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the persons named below:

Appointments

Boulay, Michelle, Teacher, Elementary, Burncoat Prep, MA, Step 5, \$61,912 effective November 30, 2015.
Licensed: Elementary 1-6.

Burke-Montero, Brendan, Teacher, English as a Second Language, Burncoat High, BA, Step 2, \$47,522 effective October 17, 2015. Licensed: English as a Second Language 5-12.

Howard-Donlin, Grace, Director, Advanced High School Academy at Doherty, MA, Step 4, \$94,979 effective November 30, 2015. Licensed: Principal/Assistant Principal 9-12.

Mercado, Albert, Liaison, Guidance, Systemwide, MA+30, Step 8, \$75,428, effective November 30, 2015. Licensed: School Guidance Counselor 5-12.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Ms. Novick left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Donation/Susan & Seth
Popinchalk/
\$500

9. gb #5-340 - Administration
(November 30, 2015)

To accept a donation in the amount of \$500 from Susan & Seth Popinchalk for the Goddard Scholars Academy.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell, Ms. Ramirez, Mayor Petty	6
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Against the motion:		0
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Absent:	Ms. Novick	$\frac{1}{7}$
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The motion carried.

Donation/Lake View
School parents, students,
friends and
relatives/\$5,720

10. gb #5-341 - Administration
(December 3, 2015)

To accept a donation in the amount of \$5,720.35 from parents, students, friends, and relatives to support a spelling contest for Lake View School.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell, Ms. Ramirez, Mayor Petty	6
-----------------	---	---

Against the motion:		0
---------------------	--	---

Absent:	Ms. Novick	$\frac{1}{7}$
---------	------------	---------------

The motion carried.

- 11. gb #5-342 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Miss Ramirez/
Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty
(December 8, 2015)

Recognition/
Robert Kraft

Request that the Administration forward a letter of appreciation to Robert Kraft for a donation of \$100,000 to Worcester Technical High School.

Ms. Novick returned to the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

It was moved and voice voted to forward a letter of appreciation to Robert Kraft for a donation of \$100,000 to Worcester Technical High School.

- 12. gb #5-343 - Administration
(December 9, 2015)

Donation/Big Y Foods, Inc./Claremont Academy, Gates Lane, Grafton Street, Midland Street, Tatnuck Magnet and Forest Grove Middle schools/\$500 each

To accept donations in the amount of \$500.00 each from Big Y Foods, Inc. for the following schools:

- Claremont Academy
- Gates Lane School of Science and Technology
- Grafton Street School
- Midland Street School
- Tatnuck Magnet School
- Forest Grove Middle School

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
-----------------	---	---

Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
---------------------	--	---------------

The motion carried.

- 13. gb #5-344 - Ms. Novick/Miss Ramirez/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. Foley/Mayor Petty
(December 9, 2015)

Islamophobia/
adopt the City Manager's
statement

Request that the School Committee consider adopting the City Manager's statement against Islamophobia.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the item.

Recognition/set date

- 14. gb #5-345 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Ramirez/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. Foley/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty
(December 9, 2015)

To set a date to recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, the donation of \$50,000 by the Worcester Rotary Club to assist with construction, by the students of Worcester Technical High School, of the Myra Kraft Footbridge at Elm Park.

It was moved and voice voted to set the date of Thursday, January 21, 2016.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the item be amended to include recognizing the students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute who had participated in the engineering that led into preparation of the bridge whether by a certificate to a representative of WPI or by letters to an appropriate individual at WPI.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Donation/JVE Co, Inc./Tatnuck Magnet School/\$195

- 15. gb #5-346 - Administration
(December 9, 2015)

To accept a donation in the amount of \$195.00 from JVE Co, Inc. for Tatnuck Magnet School.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
-----------------	---	---

Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

Budget Reduction/
\$501,120

- 16. gb #5-347 - Administration
(December 9, 2015)

To consider a budget reduction in the amount of \$501,120 to reflect the final state budget for charter school reimbursement and tuition assessments.

Miss Novick made the following motions:

Request that the Administration forward a letter, on behalf of the School Committee, to the local delegation and provide carbon copies to the Joint Committee on Education and Governor Baker to:

- point out that the Worcester Public Schools is cutting its budget in December 2015 by \$500,000 due to the lack of full funding of the Charter School reimbursement and
- consider lifting the Charter School cap.

Request that the Administration forward a letter, on behalf of the School Committee, to the Board of Education with a carbon copy to the Commissioner of Education to:

- point out that the Worcester Public Schools is cutting its budget in December 2015 by \$500,000 due to the lack of full funding of the Charter School reimbursement
- consider lifting the Charter School cap
- make the point that the Board of Education, under the recommendation of the Commissioner of Education, continues to consider adding seats to the Charter Schools despite not fully funding its current legal obligations.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved to reduce Account 500-91111 Teacher Salaries in the amount of \$501,120.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
-----------------	---	---

Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

It was moved to approve the FY16 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$318,291,993.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
---------------------	--	---------------

The motion carried.

Recognition/
Hilda Ramirez

17. gb #5-337 - Administration
(December 7, 2015)

To recognize Hilda Ramirez for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

The School Committee presented a chair to Hilda Rodrigues for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

Recognition/
Tracy O'Connell
Novick

18. gb #5-336 - Administration
(December 7, 2015)

To recognize Tracy O'Connell Novick for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

The School Committee presented a chair to Tracy O'Connell Novick for her years of dedicated service to the Worcester Public Schools.

Recognition/
Tracy O'Connell
Novick/MASC's Division
IX All-State School
Committee 2015 award

19. gb #5-270.1 - Administration/Mr. Foley/
Miss Ramirez/Mr. Monfredo/
Mr. O'Connell/Mayor Petty
(December 7, 2015)

To recognize Tracy O'Connell Novick for being selected to receive MASC's Division IX (Urban) All-State School Committee 2015 award.

Mayor Petty and Dr. Rodrigues presented a Certificate of Recognition to Tracy O'Connell Novick for being selected to receive MASC's Division IX (Urban) All-State School Committee 2015 award.

Student
Representatives/
input

20. gb #5-339 - Administration
(December 7, 2015)

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

It was moved and voice voted to file the item.

It was moved to suspend the Rules of the School Committee to discuss gb #5-349 from Supplemental Agenda #25A.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
-----------------	---	---

Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
---------------------	--	---------------

The motion carried.

- 21. gb #5-349 - Administration
(December 17, 2015)

MCAS or PARCC
Assessments/school
preferences for
Spring 2016

To consider approval of the Interim Superintendent's recommendation on school preferences for the Spring 2016 administration of MCAS or PARCC assessments in grades 3-8.

Mayor Petty stated that as of the posting deadline for the agenda submittal, he did not anticipate that this item would be taken up at this meeting.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	7
-----------------	---	---

Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
---------------------	--	---------------

The motion carried.

It was moved to reconsider the motion to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:		0
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Against the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley, Mr. Monfredo, Ms. Novick, Mr. O'Connell, Miss Ramirez, Mayor Petty	$\frac{7}{7}$
---------------------	---	---------------

The motion to reconsider was defeated.

Tatnuck Magnet
School/replace
flagpole

23. Mayor Petty made the following motion:
Request that the Administration consider replacing the
flagpole at Tatnuck Magnet School.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

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

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Tuesday, January 4, 2016
Agenda #1

The School Committee met in a special meeting at 4:45 p.m. in the Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, January 4, 2016.

There were present: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,
Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell
and Mayor Petty

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 1. gb #6-1 - Clerk
(December 30, 2015)

Vice-Chairperson/
informal straw vote/
Mr. O'Connell

To take an informal straw vote of the School Committee Elect to determine the Vice-Chairperson for 2016.

Mr. O'Connell was selected, by straw vote, to serve as the Vice-Chairperson of the Worcester School Committee for 2016.

- 2. gb #6-2 - Clerk
(December 30, 2015)

Seating Order

To select the seating order of the 2016-17 Worcester School Committee.

M A Y O R

Mr. Foley SEAT 4
Miss McCullough SEAT 5
Mr. Monfredo SEAT 6

Mr. O'Connell SEAT 1
Miss Biancheria SEAT 2
Ms. Colorio SEAT 3

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

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

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Tuesday, January 4, 2016
Agenda #2

The School Committee met with the City Council for the purpose of Inaugural Ceremonies at 5:00 p.m. in the Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, January 4, 2016.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Inaugural
Ceremonies

1. gb #6-3 - Clerk
(December 30, 2015)

Inaugural Ceremonies

The program for the Inaugural Ceremonies is contained in Annex A and the actions are as follows:

1. The Oath of Office was administered to the City Council by the Honorable Mark E. Noonan.
2. The Oath of Office was administered to the School Committee by the Honorable Mark E. Noonan.
3. Mr. O'Connell was unanimously elected as the Vice-Chairman of the School Committee for 2016.
4. The Oath of Office was administered by the Honorable Mark E. Noone to:
 - Michael T. Gaffney as the Vice-Chairman of the City Council
 - Brian A. O'Connell as the Vice-Chairman of the School Committee for 2016
5. The Oath of Office was administered to Mayor Joseph M. Petty by the Honorable Mark E. Noonan

- 2. gb #6-4 - Clerk
(December 30, 2016)

Vice-Chairperson/
election of/2016/
Mr. O'Connell

Election of the Vice-Chairperson of the School Committee for 2016.

It was moved to elect Brian O'Connell to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the School Committee for 2016.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty	7
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Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
---------------------	--	---------------

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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

Annex A



**CITY OF WORCESTER
INAUGURAL EXERCISES
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016
HANOVER THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

ENTRANCE – BURNCOAT HIGH SCHOOL STRING QUARTET
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – U.S. ARMY VETERANS
ALEXANDER B. DEMONTIGNEY, ANGEL F. ORTEGA AND MICHAEL Y. OWUSU
STAR SPANGLED BANNER – BURNCOAT HIGH SCHOOL SELECT CHORUS
INVOCATION – RABBI AVIVA FELLMAN, CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
NOV. 3, 2015 MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS – DAVID J. RUSHFORD, CITY CLERK

OATHS OF OFFICE

HONORABLE MARK E. NOONAN, FIRST JUSTICE, MASS. DISTRICT COURT

CITY COUNCILORS

MORRIS A. BERGMAN	TONY ECONOMOU
MICHAEL T. GAFFNEY	CANDY MERO-CARLSON
KHRYSITIAN E. KING	GEORGE J. RUSSELL
KONSTANTINA B. LUKES	SARAI RIVERA
KATHLEEN M. TOOMEY	GARY ROSEN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DIANNA L. BIANCHERIA	DONNA M. COLORIO
JACK L. FOLEY	MOLLY O. MCCULLOUGH
JOHN F. MONFREDO	BRIAN A. O'CONNELL

ELECTION – SCHOOL COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR DR. HELEN A. FRIEL
OATHS OF OFFICE TO THE VICE-CHAIRS – HONORABLE MARK E. NOONAN
PRAYER – REV. WALTER J. RILEY, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
INTERLUDE – BELMONT A.M.E. ZION GOSPEL YOUTH CHOIR
OATH OF OFFICE TO MAYOR JOSEPH M. PETTY – HONORABLE MARK E. NOONAN
INAUGURAL ADDRESS – HONORABLE JOSEPH M. PETTY
CLOSING PRAYER – REV. MILAD SELIM, ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
RECESS TO THEATRE LOBBY – BURNCOAT HIGH SCHOOL STRING QUARTET



BURNCOAT HIGH SCHOOL STRING QUARTET

CHRISTIAN BACELIS, ANDREW BITAR, GWEN BUI, MADELINE HATMAN
DAHI RIMONI, STRINGS TEACHER

BURNCOAT HIGH SCHOOL SELECT CHORUS

JOEL ADADE, RUTH ADADE, KAYLA ANESBE, CHRISTIAN BACELIS, SONIA BAMPFO,
ALEXANDRA BEAUDOIN, SHALON DESOTA, ALEXANDER EDMONDS, QUINLAN FITZGERALD,
JACOB FONTANEZ, AUDREY GOSSHO, WILLIAM HAYMAN, BREANNA LEBRON,
BRETT LEVESQUE, RYAN MCCARTHY, MADELINE MCKENNEY LYDICK, SAMANTHA MEUNIER,
EVA MOYNIHAN, JADE NGUYEN, RACHEL ORANGE, ANDREW PERSSON, JEFFREY PERSSON,
LIBBETT QUINPE, KATLYN RESENER, STEVEN RIVERA, JADEN SCOTT, JAMES STRONGS,
KYLIE THOMAS, JOYCE WANG, MARY WHITNEY, TYLER YANIS
DAVID TWISS, DIRECTOR

BELMONT A.M.E. ZION GOSPEL YOUTH CHOIR

AMYA CHAVIS, MARTAN MULDROW, JORDAN MULDROW, THIANA HERNANDEZ,
ANALTA HERNANDEZ, QUSIDE RICHARDSON, ANZELLE ROACH, ANESHA MELENDEZ,
VALERIE WRIGHT, KEYNILLA HOCHARD, IMARA SANTANA, CIAIRA CAMPBELL,
ALAYA CAMPBELL, LISA NGANGA, ALECIA MCCOMBNEY, KENDRA BANKSDALE,
VIOLET ERAGG, DIRECTOR

THE HANOVER
Theatre
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Worcester, Massachusetts
Tuesday, January 4, 2016
Agenda #3

The School Committee met in a special meeting at 6:35 p.m. in the Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, January 4, 2016.

There were present: Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio,
Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough,
Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell and
Mayor Petty

GENERAL BUSINESS

Policies, By-laws
and Rules of the
School Committee/
acceptance of

- 1. gb #6-5 - Clerk
(December 30, 2016)

To accept the policies, by-laws and rules of the previous School Committee, such policies, by-laws and rules to be in force until changes are effected as required by Rule 9368.13.

It was moved to approve the item.

On a roll call, the vote was as follows:

For the motion:	Miss Biancheria, Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell, Mayor Petty	7
-----------------	---	---

Against the motion:		$\frac{0}{7}$
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The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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

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PLAYWORKS for every kid

About Playworks

5

Why Playworks

We believe recess and play can unlock our kids' superpowers

How Playworks

Our approach connects recess to a positive school experience

0

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Recess Rock Stars

Meet the rock stars helping
ensure kids get healthy,
active play every day



PLAYWORKS for every kid.

In 1995, Playworks Founder [Jill Violet \(/about/jill-violet\)](/about/jill-violet) got an earful from a principal she was visiting in Oakland, California. Rather than recess being a happy, playful time for the kids, the principal lamented that it had become the most chaotic period of the school day, with kids getting hurt, getting into trouble, and getting left out. In that moment Jill saw an opportunity to change recess, to make it a positive and productive time for all kids. In 1996, Jill founded Sports4Kids, now Playworks, in two Berkeley, CA elementary schools.

We all know that through play children learn critical skills for getting along with each other, working in teams and resolving disagreements. We also know that the playground is where children have the opportunity to be leaders and live out positive cultural values like including others and demonstrating empathy.

But unfortunately, school principals tell us that nearly all discipline-related problems in school occur during

recess. Instead of going back to class energized and ready to learn, the kids return to class upset and unable to focus.

We can change this. Recess should be fun and energetic and safe and inclusive for everyone. Isn't that what we want for all kids in elementary school today?

When recess becomes a healthy, integral part of the school day, kids carry that positive experience with them beyond the playground.

We are coaches, kids, teachers, parents, and supporters who believe in the power of play to make kids, schools, and communities stronger. On our playgrounds, everyone plays, everyone belongs, everyone has the opportunity to get in the game. Playworks coaches encourage kids to bring out the best in themselves and each other, and kids learn the value of fair play, inclusion, and respect. We are changing school culture by leveraging the power of safe, fun, and healthy play at school every day. We create a place for every kid on the playground to feel included, be active, and build valuable social and emotional skills.

On our playgrounds, kids become leaders. They run their own games and settle their disputes quickly (rock-paper-scissors is our problem solver) because getting along is more fun than fighting.

On our playgrounds, kids play hard, cheer loud, and high-five with joy. Whether through imaginative play or organized games, they carry a feeling of empowerment and belonging with them into their classrooms, back to their neighborhoods, and out into the world.

Playworks's mission is to improve the health and well-being of children by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play. Today, Playworks is the leading national nonprofit leveraging the power of play to transform children's social and emotional health. Playworks currently serves more than 1,200 schools across the United States and

reaches more than 700,000 students directly and through professional training services.

PLAYWORKS for teachers and principals

Every year we survey the staff (</about/annual-survey>) at our partner schools around the country to see Playworks through their eyes. Here's what they reported this year:

A decrease in bullying

An improvement in overall school climate

A reduction in disciplinary incidents

More participation in academics

An increase in students' abilities to focus on class activities

In addition, Stanford University (<http://jgc.stanford.edu/>) and Mathematica Policy Research (<http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/education/playworks.asp>) spent time on our playgrounds studying our program. In 2013, they published a randomized control trial, considered the gold standard for research, that found that compared to other schools, schools with Playworks experienced less bullying and exclusionary behavior, an increased perception of safety, more physical activity, better behavior and more attention in class than schools without the program. (</blog/playworks-recess-much-more-break-day>)

We've gone from kind of dreading teaching the period right after recess to it being a very productive academic time.

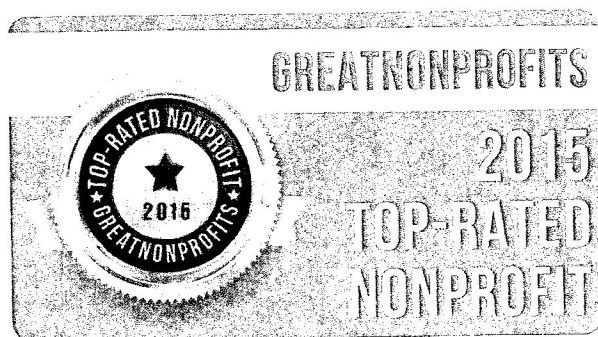
—Audra Philippon, principal

I believe the 'cliques' have been served notice. Inclusiveness is the operative word. There seems to be an increased sensitivity to try and draw the fringe students into whatever the activity. They are less content to leave their classmate behind.

—Elaine Newhouse, teacher

By emphasizing responsibility, tolerance, conflict resolution and inclusive play students are better equipped to handle social situations. Moreover, the amount of time spent on discipline has been reduced and instructional time-increased!

—Teacher, Los Angeles



<http://greatnonprofits.org/org/playworks-1>



[\(/join-the-game/join-our-team/amicorps-program-coordinator/amicorps-faq\)](#)

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**GRANTS REPORT
2015-2016**

Fund	Grant	Purpose/Priorities	Amount
MCC	STARS Residencies South High School	<p>Through this STARS Residencies Program, South High students will learn the art of storytelling and participate in a SLAM. A SLAM is a culminating contest where students demonstrate their new skills as they listen to and perform their stories for each other.</p> <p>StoryLIVE teaches students how to develop a personal narrative through the art of storytelling. All students learn valuable presentation skills and engage in narrative forms as "authors". Their stories and skills are of immediate practical use in college application essays, college interviews and in representing their experiences at job interviews.</p>	\$1,800.00

Use of Funds
Stipends
Consultants
Materials

These funds have been awarded to South High School



Massachusetts Cultural Council - STARS Residencies FY16
South High Community
Application #RES0238

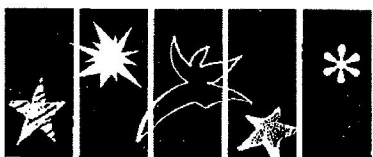
Primary Contact: Mrs. Maureen Binienda
Phone: (508) 799-3392
Email: biniendam@worc.k12.ma.us

Document Generated: Wednesday, November 18th 2015, 5:41 pm

Residency Projected Budget

Total Expense cannot be less than the Total Grant Amount you calculated on the Residency Summary page.

Cultural Partner Fee	1,600
Planning	200
Materials	0
Other	0
Expense Total	\$1,800
Grant Amount (if approved)	1,800
Funds to be raised by school	0



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

November 24, 2015

Maureen F. Binienda, Principal
South Community High School
170 Apricot Street
Worcester MA 01603-1297

10 St. James Avenue, 3rd floor
Boston, MA 02116-3803
617.858.2700
800.232.0960 Toll Free
617.727.0044 Fax
mcc@art.state.ma.us E-mail
www.massculturalcouncil.org Web

Dear Ms. Binienda:

Congratulations! We are pleased to inform you that you have been awarded an FY2016 Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) STARS Residency grant (#FY16-SR-RES-1813) in the amount of \$1,800.

Enclosed you will find a contract package that contains award instructions and reporting requirements. Please review these documents carefully and return the required paperwork by **January 15, 2016**. This will help us process your award as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions about the contract, please contact Cyndy Gaviglio, MCC's Contracts Officer (Cyndy.Gaviglio@art.state.ma.us). If you have questions about the program or your application, please contact Diane Daily, Creative Youth Development Programs Manager (Diane.Daily@art.state.ma.us).

Please note that you are required to complete an online STARS Residency Final Report within 30 days after the residency has ended, or no later than July 15, 2016. You must submit the Final Report before you are eligible to apply for another MCC grant in the future. You can access the Final Report from our website. If you have questions about the Final Report, Diane can assist you.

In addition to STARS Residency grants, please be aware that MCC offers a variety of other services to support your work in the arts, sciences, and humanities. Please visit MCC's web site, www.massculturalcouncil.org, an excellent online starting point for cultural resources in Massachusetts and a source of information for schools, educators, artists, and organizations.

Again, congratulations on your STARS Residency grant award and thank you for your invaluable investment in cultural education and Massachusetts' young people.

Sincerely,

Ira S. Lapidus
Chair

Anita Walker
Executive Director

Enclosures





COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS ~ STANDARD CONTRACT FORM

This form is jointly issued and published by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (ANF), the Office of the Comptroller (CTR) and the Operational Services Division (OSD) as the default contract for all Commonwealth Departments when another form is not prescribed by regulation or policy. Any changes to the official printed language of this form shall be void. Additional non-conflicting terms may be added by Attachment. Contractors may not require any additional agreements, engagement letters, contract forms or other additional terms as part of this Contract without prior Department approval. Click on hyperlinks for definitions, instructions and legal requirements that are incorporated by reference into this Contract. An electronic copy of this form is available at www.mass.gov/osc under Guidance For Vendors - Forms or www.mass.gov/osd under OSD Forms.

CONTRACTOR LEGAL NAME: South Community High School 170 Apricot Street, Worcester MA 01603-1297 (and d/b/a):	COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT NAME: Massachusetts Cultural Council MMARS Department Code: ART
Legal Address: (W-9, W-4, T&C):	Business Mailing Address: 10 St. James Ave 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02116
Contract Manager: Maureen F. Binienda	Billing Address (if different):
E-Mail:	Contract Manager: Cynthia E. Gaviglio
Phone: 508/799-3325 Fax: 508/799-8242	E-Mail: cyndy.gaviglio@art.state.ma.us
Contractor Vendor Code:	Phone: 617/858-2711 Fax: 617/727-0044
Vendor Code Address ID (e.g. "AD001"): AD01 (Note: The Address ID must be set up for EFT payments.)	MMARS Doc ID(s):
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW CONTRACT PROCUREMENT OR EXCEPTION TYPE: (Check one option only) ___ <u>Statewide Contract</u> (OSD or an OSD-designated Department) ___ <u>Collective Purchase</u> (Attach OSD approval, scope, budget) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Department Procurement</u> (includes State or Federal grants 815 CMR 2.00) (Attach RFR and Response or other procurement supporting documentation) ___ <u>Emergency Contract</u> (Attach justification for emergency, scope, budget) ___ <u>Contract Employee</u> (Attach <u>Employment Status Form</u> , scope, budget) ___ <u>Legislative/Legal or Other:</u> (Attach authorizing language/justification, scope and budget)	<input type="checkbox"/> CONTRACT AMENDMENT Enter Current Contract End Date <u>Prior</u> to Amendment: _____, 20____. Enter Amendment Amount: \$ _____, (or "no change") AMENDMENT TYPE: (Check one option only. Attach details of Amendment changes.) ___ <u>Amendment to Scope or Budget</u> (Attach updated scope and budget) ___ <u>Interim Contract</u> (Attach justification for Interim Contract and updated scope/budget) ___ <u>Contract Employee</u> (Attach any updates to scope or budget) ___ <u>Legislative/Legal or Other:</u> (Attach authorizing language/justification and updated scope and budget)
The following COMMONWEALTH TERMS AND CONDITIONS (T&C) has been executed, filed with CTR and is incorporated by reference into this Contract. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commonwealth Terms and Conditions ___ Commonwealth Terms and Conditions For Human and Social Services	
COMPENSATION: (Check ONE option): The Department certifies that payments for authorized performance accepted in accordance with the terms of this Contract will be supported in the state accounting system by sufficient appropriations or other non-appropriated funds, subject to intercept for Commonwealth owed debts under 815 CMR 9.00. ___ <u>Rate Contract</u> (No Maximum Obligation. Attach details of all rates, units, calculations, conditions or terms and any changes if rates or terms are being amended.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Maximum Obligation Contract</u> Enter Total Maximum Obligation for total duration of this Contract (or <u>new</u> Total if Contract is being amended). \$ 1,800.	
PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNTS (PPD): Commonwealth payments are issued through EFT 45 days from invoice receipt. Contractors requesting accelerated payments must identify a PPD as follows: Payment issued within 10 days ___ % PPD; Payment issued within 15 days ___ % PPD; Payment issued within 20 days ___ % PPD; Payment issued within 30 days ___ % PPD. If PPD percentages are left blank, identify reason: ___ agree to standard 45 day cycle ___ statutory/legal or Ready Payments (G.L. c. 29, § 23A); ___ only initial payment (subsequent payments scheduled to support standard EFT 45 day payment cycle. See Prompt Pay Discounts Policy.)	
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACT PERFORMANCE or REASON FOR AMENDMENT: (Enter the Contract title, purpose, fiscal year(s) and a detailed description of the scope of performance or what is being amended for a Contract Amendment. Attach all supporting documentation and justifications.) This is a grant of financial assistance for a residency with StoriesLive-6.	
ANTICIPATED START DATE: (Complete ONE option only) The Department and Contractor certify for this Contract, or Contract Amendment, that Contract obligations: ___ 1. may be incurred as of the <u>Effective Date</u> (latest signature date below) and no obligations have been incurred prior to the <u>Effective Date</u> . ___ 2. may be incurred as of _____, 20____, a date LATER than the <u>Effective Date</u> below and no obligations have been incurred prior to the <u>Effective Date</u> . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. were incurred as of 11/15, 2015 , a date PRIOR to the <u>Effective Date</u> below, and the parties agree that payments for any obligations incurred prior to the <u>Effective Date</u> are authorized to be made either as settlement payments or as authorized reimbursement payments, and that the details and circumstances of all obligations under this Contract are attached and incorporated into this Contract. Acceptance of payments forever releases the Commonwealth from further claims related to these obligations.	
CONTRACT END DATE: Contract performance shall terminate as of 03/01, 2016 , with no new obligations being incurred after this date unless the Contract is properly amended, provided that the terms of this Contract and performance expectations and obligations shall survive its termination for the purpose of resolving any claim or dispute, for completing any negotiated terms and warranties, to allow any close out or transition performance, reporting, invoicing or final payments, or during any lapse between amendments.	
CERTIFICATIONS: Notwithstanding verbal or other representations by the parties, the "Effective Date" of this Contract or Amendment shall be the latest date that this Contract or Amendment has been executed by an authorized signatory of the Contractor, the Department, or a later Contract or Amendment Start Date specified above, subject to any required approvals. The Contractor makes all certifications required under the attached <u>Contractor Certifications</u> (incorporated by reference if not attached hereto) under the pains and penalties of perjury, agrees to provide any required documentation upon request to support compliance, and agrees that all terms governing performance of this Contract and doing business in Massachusetts are attached or incorporated by reference herein according to the following hierarchy of document precedence, the applicable <u>Commonwealth Terms and Conditions</u> , this Standard Contract Form including the <u>Instructions and Contractor Certifications</u> , the Request for Response (RFR) or other solicitation, the Contractor's Response, and additional negotiated terms, provided that additional negotiated terms will take precedence over the relevant terms in the RFR and the Contractor's Response only if made using the process outlined in <u>801 CMR 21.07</u> , incorporated herein, provided that any amended RFR or Response terms result in best value, lower costs, or a more cost effective Contract.	
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE FOR THE CONTRACTOR: X: <u>Marco Rodriguez</u> Date: <u>12-3-15</u> (Signature and Date Must Be Handwritten At Time of Signature) Print Name: <u>Marco C. Rodriguez, Ed.D.</u> Print Title: <u>Superintendent</u>	AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH: X: _____ Date: _____ (Signature and Date Must Be Handwritten At Time of Signature) Print Name: <u>David T. Slatery</u> Print Title: <u>Deputy Director</u>

3. CULTURAL PARTNERS

Cultural Partners that are official collaborators in the residency must comply with the above-mentioned requirements. The grant recipient is responsible for informing their cultural partner(s) of this policy and seeing that they fulfill these obligations.

4. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The MCC reserves the right to negotiate additional requirements regarding credit and publicity on a case by case basis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS POLICY, CONTACT THE MCC'S STARS PROGRAM COORDINATOR, DIANE DAILY, OR THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

Application Number (Found on Standard Contract)

South High

Print the Name of the School Receiving the Grant

Maria Burch

Signature of the School's Principal

12/2/16

Date

Maria Burch

Signature of Person Responsible for the school's
Publicity and Publications (this may be the principal,
project coordinator, or PTA/PTO president)

12/2/16

Date

Worcester Public Schools
Massachusetts School Building Authority
Accelerated Repair Project List and 2016 Recommendations

History of Projects

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) approved the following projects for Accelerated Repair funding:

2012:

- Chandler Magnet School: Window Replacement
- Jacob Hiatt Magnet: Boiler Replacement
- Lake View School: Window Replacement
- May Street School: Window Replacement
- New Citizens Center: Window Replacement
- New Citizens Center: Boiler Replacement

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$8,434,649
MSBA Funding Share: \$7,319,014

2013:

- Columbus Park School: Window Replacement
- Columbus Park School: Boiler Replacement
- Tatnuck Magnet School: Window Replacement
- Worcester East Middle School: Window Replacement*
- Worcester East Middle School: Roof Replacement*
- Worcester East Middle School: Boiler Replacement
- Worcester Arts Magnet School: Window Replacement

* These projects were withdrawn by the City of Worcester / Worcester Public Schools and refiled as part of a major renovation project under the MSBA core program. The scope of the larger renovation project includes the complete replacement and upgrade of all mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems within the school. The project will also include the replacement of the windows and roof as part of this expanded scope of work.

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$9,172,582
MSBA Funding Share: \$5,523,769

2014:

- Clark Street School: Window Replacement
- Goddard School of Science and Technology: Window Replacement
- Union Hill School: Window Replacement
- West Tatnuck Elementary School: Window Replacement

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$12,916,070
MSBA Funding Share: \$10,050,321

2015:

- Flagg Street School: Window Replacement
- Francis J. McGrath School: Window Replacement
- Grafton Street School: Window Replacement
- Grafton Street School: Boiler Replacement
- Jacob Hiatt School: Window Replacement

Total Estimated Project Cost: TBD
MSBA Funding Share: TBD

The Administration recommends the following projects be authorized for submittal to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for funding consideration through the Accelerated Repair Program:

- **Belmont Elementary School: Window and Boiler Replacements**
- **Chandler Elementary School: Window and Boiler Replacements**
- **Gerald Creamer Center: Window and Boiler Replacements**
- **Wawecus Elementary School: Window Replacement**

The 2016 MSBA accelerated repair submission process is open through Friday, February 12, 2016. The traditional major renovation/replacement, or so-called core projects, submission process is open through Friday, April 8, 2016.

The following pages describe the MSBA process and the recommended Accelerated Repair projects.

MSBA Statements of Interest Overview:

A separate Statement of Interest must be submitted for each existing school for which the city, town, or regional school district may have an interest in applying to the MSBA for a grant. The SOI requires the city, town, or regional school district to: (1) identify the priority category(s) (set forth below) for which it is expressing interest, (2) provide a brief description of the facility deficiencies that the district believes it has and how those deficiencies align with the eight statutory priorities, and (3) provide any readily-available supporting documentation.


Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B, § 8, the MSBA shall consider applications for school construction and renovation projects in accordance with the priorities listed below. A district may designate as many categories as may apply to that particular school facility.

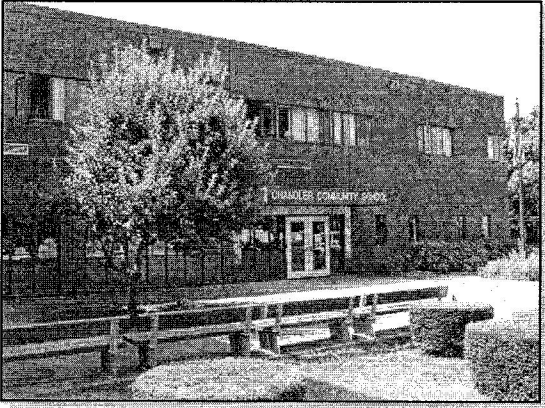
1. Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
2. Elimination of existing severe overcrowding, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
3. Prevention of the loss of accreditation, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
4. Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments, which must be substantiated, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
5. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
6. Short term enrollment growth, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
7. Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements, as determined in the judgment of the Authority; and
8. Transition from court-ordered and approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts, as determined in the judgment of the Authority.

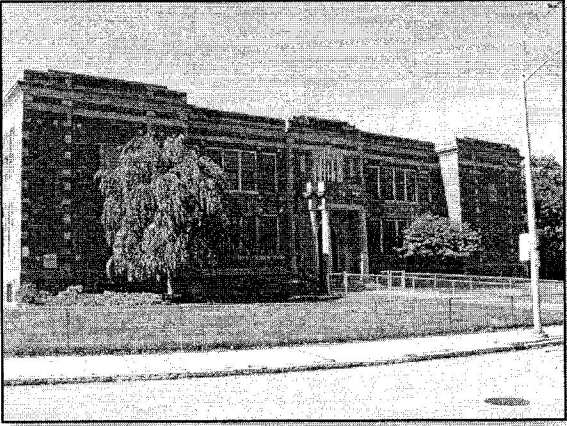
MSBA Process Overview:

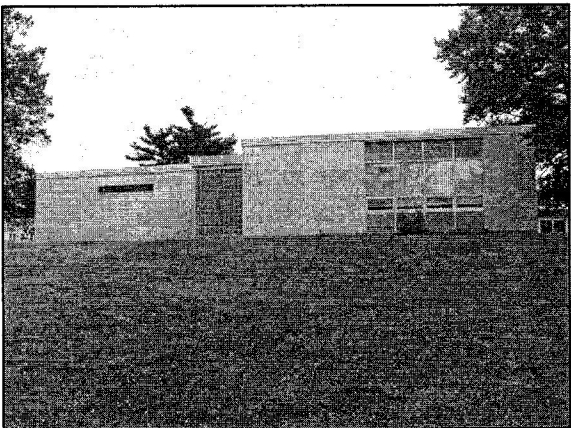
1. **Identify the Problem:** Local community identifies deficiencies in school facilities through the Statement of Interest process
2. **Validate the Problem:** MSBA and local community work together to validate deficiencies identified
3. **Evaluation of potential solutions:** MSBA and local community work in collaboration to identify potential solutions
4. **Confirm the solution:** MSBA and local community agree on solution and appropriate course of action
5. **Implement the agreed upon solution:** MSBA and local community continue collaboration through design and construction

2016 Recommended Accelerated Repair Projects

Belmont Elementary School	Window and Boiler Replacements
	<p>The Belmont Street School was built in 1970.</p> <p>The window systems are original to the building. They are double-pane, insulated-style windows indicative of 1970's construction. Frequent leaks and inconsistent room temperatures based on heat loss through the aging windows have been causing disruptions to the educational environment. In addition, the District has noted an increase in heating costs based on the inefficiency of the existing windows.</p> <p>The boilers were replaced in the mid-1990's with gas-fired, forced hot water boilers which are past their useful life.</p>

Chandler Elementary School	Window and Boiler Replacements
	<p>The Chandler Elementary School was constructed in 1977.</p> <p>The window system is original and insulated, double-paned. Frequent leaks and inconsistent room temperatures based on heat loss through the aging windows have been causing disruptions to the educational environment. In addition, the District has noted an increase in heating costs based on the inefficiency of the existing windows.</p> <p>The boilers were replaced in the mid-1990's and are gas-fired, forced hot water boilers which are past their useful life.</p>

Gerald Creamer Center	Window and Boiler Replacements
	<p>The Gerald Creamer Center was built in 1926.</p> <p>The wooden windows are late 1960's double-paned vintage and do not offer energy-efficiency. Many of the outside panes are cracked and/or missing, and numerous window operating mechanisms are no longer in working order. Frequent leaks and inconsistent room temperatures based on heat loss through the aging windows have been causing disruptions to the educational environment. In addition, the District has noted an increase in heating costs based on the inefficiency of the existing windows.</p> <p>One boiler is vintage 1960's and is inoperable. The other gas-fired boiler was replaced in early 2000's. The building has been operating with one working boiler for a number of years. New boilers are needed to provide energy-efficiency, proper temperature levels, redundancy, and control.</p>

Wawecus Elementary School	Window Replacement
	<p>The Wawecus Elementary School was built in 1963 and the windows are original to the building. They are highly-inefficient, single paned window units. Frequent leaks and inconsistent room temperatures based on heat loss through the aging windows have been causing disruptions to the educational environment. In addition, the District has noted increasing energy costs based on the inefficiency of the existing windows.</p>

Worcester Public Schools
Massachusetts School Building Authority
Major Projects History and 2016 Recommendations

In prior years, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) invited the following projects for funding consideration:

Nelson Place School (2012)
South High Community School (2014)

The Administration of the Worcester Public Schools requests to re-submit the following schools to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for major renovation or replacement:

1. Doherty Memorial High School (district priority project)
2. Burncoat High School
3. Worcester East Middle School

These recommendations are based on the present condition of schools using various in-district and independent evaluations including, but not limited to, MSBA Needs Assessment Report (2010), NEASC report(s), and previous facilities assessments. Based on the condition and needs assessments of these schools, the Administration recommended, and the School Committee and City Council approved these eight (8) projects for the 2016 Statement of Interest submittal to the MSBA.

The traditional major renovation/replacement, or so-called core projects, submission process is open through Friday, April 8, 2016.

The following pages describe the MSBA process and the proposed projects.

MSBA Statements of Interest Overview:

A separate Statement of Interest must be submitted for each existing school for which the city, town, or regional school district may have an interest in applying to the MSBA for a grant. The SOI requires the city, town, or regional school district to: (1) identify the priority category(s) (set forth below) for which it is expressing interest, (2) provide a brief description of the facility deficiencies that the District believes it has and how those deficiencies align with the eight statutory priorities, and (3) provide any readily-available supporting documentation. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B, § 8, the MSBA shall consider applications for school construction and renovation projects in accordance with the priorities listed below. A district may designate as many categories as may apply to that particular school facility.

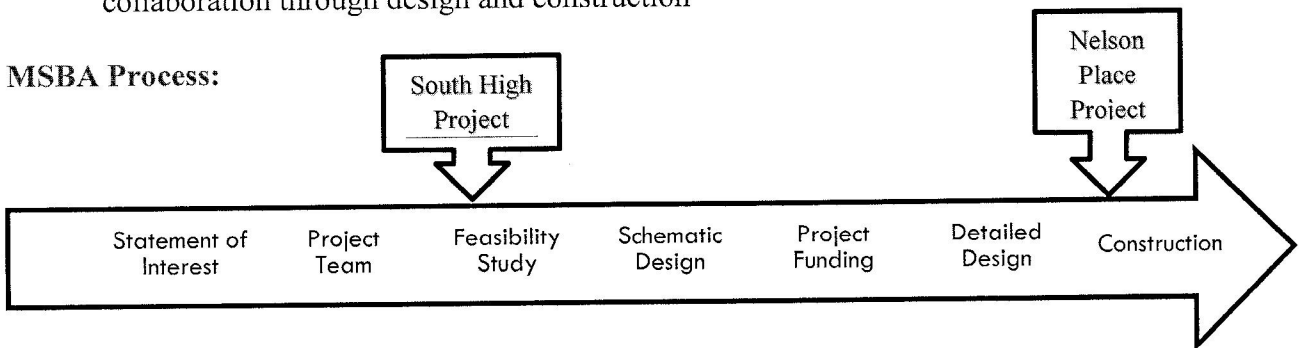
1. Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
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3. Prevention of the loss of accreditation, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
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8. Transition from court-ordered and approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts, as determined in the judgment of the Authority.

MSBA Process Overview:

1. **Identify the Problem:** Local community identifies deficiencies in school facilities through the Statement of Interest process
2. **Validate the Problem:** MSBA and local community work together to validate deficiencies identified
3. **Evaluation of potential solutions:** MSBA and local community work in collaboration to identify potential solutions
4. **Confirm the solution:** MSBA and local community agree on solution and appropriate course of action
5. **Implement the agreed upon solution:** MSBA and local community continue collaboration through design and construction

MSBA Process:



The Statement of Interest phase is the initial step to inform the MSBA of perceived deficiencies within a school facility. Cost identification and financial solutions are not needed at this phase of the MSBA process. The MSBA will evaluate the submission of each community and invite those to advance to project team formation and feasibility study phase.

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2016 Standard Mileage Rates for Business, Medical and Moving Announced

IR-2015-137, Dec. 17, 2015

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2016 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2016, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 54 cents per mile for business miles driven, down from 57.5 cents for 2015
- 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down from 23 cents for 2015
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The business mileage rate decreased 3.5 cents per mile and the medical, and moving expense rates decrease 4 cents per mile from the 2015 rates. The charitable rate is based on statute.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

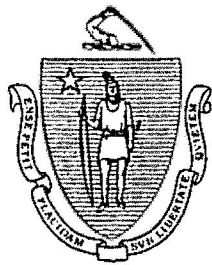
Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for more than four vehicles used simultaneously.

These and other requirements for a taxpayer to use a standard mileage rate to calculate the amount of a deductible business, moving, medical or charitable expense are in [Rev. Proc. 2010-51](#). [Notice 2016-01](#) contains the standard mileage rates, the amount a taxpayer must use in calculating reductions to basis for depreciation taken under the business standard mileage rate, and the maximum standard automobile cost that a taxpayer may use in computing the allowance under a fixed and variable rate plan.

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Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 17-Dec-2015



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

ANNEX A
gb #6-53
Page 1

ALICE H. PEISCH
REPRESENTATIVE
14TH NORFOLK DISTRICT
WELLESLEY - WESTON - WAYLAND

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 473G
TEL. (617) 722-2070

CHAIR
Joint Committee on Education

Alice Peisch@MAhouse.gov

October 15, 2015

Senator Harriette Chandler
Majority Leader
MA State House, Room 333
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Chandler,

I write with regard to a number of issues raised in a meeting I attended with you earlier this month in Worcester regarding the implementation of the school discipline law that went into effect last year.

I understand that the Worcester Public Schools have a long history of providing services for excluded and suspended students and are supportive of that aspect of the law that now requires the provision of such services. However, the administrators have found the new 90 day restriction on offenses that are not enumerated in c. 71 sections 37H and 37H1/2 to be problematic. To be more specific, they are frustrated by the current law's prohibition on exclusions beyond 90 days for student on student attacks that are extremely violent.

I have reviewed both the language of the statute as well as the regulations promulgated thereunder and believe that the assumption of both is that the type of behavior described at the meeting would come under the provision of Section 37H1/2 that permits exclusions beyond 90 days for felony charges or convictions. I am sympathetic to the reluctance to involve the criminal justice system in every such case, but it is clear that the language of the statute requires that the student be charged or convicted. In the short term, it appears that the district will need to press criminal charges in order to suspend a student for longer than 90 school days. In the longer term, I will be working on language to amend the statute to make clear that especially violent, premeditated student on student behavior should be dealt with under 37H1/2, not 37H3/4.

Additionally, concern was raised over the inability to have a suspension extend into a new academic year. While I note that the regulations promulgated under the statute indicate that the suspension may not extend beyond the end of the school year, the statute does not contain this requirement. Based on what I heard at our meeting, I will be communicating my concern with this regulation to the commissioner in the hopes of achieving some flexibility on this issue.

Finally, I have looked at the language of 37H ¼ and believe that the principal or a designee of the principal is responsible for holding a meeting/hearing with the student and his parents before finalizing a suspension. The regulations make it quite clear that the principal is to hold a hearing in the first instance. See 603 CMR 53.06 (d) which states in pertinent part, “(d) the opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the principal concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent to attend the hearing.” (emphasis added)

For any suspension that exceeds 10 days, the student has a right to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent.

I hope this is helpful and I will keep you informed of my progress on these matters.

Very truly yours,



ALICE HANLON PEISCH
State Representative
14th Norfolk District