

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

AGENDA #31

The School Committee will hold a regular meeting:

on: Thursday, December 15, 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 – Reverend Clyde Talley
Belmont AME Zion Church

Convened in Open
Session at 6:05p.m.
See notes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM - South High Sax Trio

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Colorio, Mr. Foley, Miss McCullough, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell and
Mayor Petty

There was absent: Miss Biancheria

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:20 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #6-27 - Clerk
(December 7, 2016)

Approved

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting
of Thursday, December 1, 2016.

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #6-406 - Administration
(December 5, 2016)

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

ACTION

Filed

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #6-15 - Administration
(December 7, 2016)

PRE-SCHOOL EXPANSION PLAN

**Accepted and filed
See notes**

VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE

VIII. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 5:34 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2016 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

**Approved as amended
See notes**

The Standing Committee on Finance and Operations met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2016 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

**Approved as amended
See notes**

IX. PERSONNEL

ACTION

6-51 The Superintendent has APPROVED the RETIREMENT of the persons named below effective as shown:

**Filed Personnel Items
6-51 and 6-52**

Noone, Barbara, Teacher, Elementary, Tatnuck Magnet School, effective November 30, 2016

6-52 The Superintendent has APPROVED the APPOINTMENT of the persons named below effective as shown:

Beaudoin, Paul, Teacher, Music, Worcester East Middle School, Doc, Step 8, \$83,311 effective November 23, 2016. Licensed: Music All levels.

Blake, Tara, Teacher, Special Education, Goddard School of Science and Technology, BA, Step 2, \$47,522 plus alternative stipend \$4,506 effective December 5, 2016. Waiver in Severe Disabilities – all levels.

Collins, Eileen, Teacher, English as a Second Language, Systemwide, BA, Step 1, \$45,064 effective December 5, 2016. Licensed English as a Second Language Prek-6.

Kennedy, Amy, Teacher, Elementary, Tatnuck Magnet School, CAGS/2MA, Step 9, \$82,124 effective November 28, 2016. Licensed: Early Childhood with and without Disabilities Prek-3.

Maher, Stephanie, Teacher, Elementary, Elm Park Community School, BA, Step 1, \$45,064 + extended day stipend, effective November 28, 2016. Licensed: Elementary 1-6.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #6-399.1 - Administration/Mr. O'Connell
(December 7, 2016)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide the salary schedules for both the two non-represented confidential principal clerks and the two non-represented confidential head clerks to align with the represented 52 Week Administrative Secretaries.

gb #6-407 - Administration
(November 28, 2016)

To accept the following donations in the total amount of \$1,700 for the Goddard Scholars Academy:

\$500.00 from Susan & Seth Popinchalk
\$500.00 from Steven & Clare Gentilucci
\$700.00 from Elena & Frank Fechner

gb #6-408 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/
Mayor Petty
(November 28, 2016)

Request that the Administration forward letters of congratulations to S.O.F.A (Save our Fine Arts) - Worcester Arts Magnet School, Burncoat Middle School, and Burncoat High School for the sponsorship of ("Fame", the Fine Arts Magnet Extravaganza) held in the Friel Memorial Auditorium at Burncoat Middle School and thank the students and staff who participated in this outstanding event.

gb #6-409 Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio
(November 28, 2016)

To establish a process for consultation by the Superintendent with the School Committee as to school improvement plans, as mandated by Chapter 255 of the Acts of 2016.

ACTION

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

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

Forward letters

**Referred to the
Standing Committee
on Accountability and
Student Achievement**

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-410 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio
(December 1, 2016)

Referred to the
Administration for a
report back on
January 5, 2017

Request that the Administration provide the following information regarding the evaluations of principals:

- a description of the prior evaluation process indicating who was responsible for its execution and
- a description of a current evaluation process indicating who is responsible for its execution and include any changes that have been developed

gb #6-411 - Miss Biancheria/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio
(December 1, 2016)

Referred to the
Standing Committee
on Finance and
Operations

Request that the Administration develop a process to address the issues of older school buildings to include examinations of:

- water systems
- foundations
- leaking roofs
- heating systems and
- wrapped pipes

gb #6-412 - Ms. Colorio/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria
(December 5, 2016)

Referred to the
Administration for a
report back on
January 19, 2017
See notes

Request that the Administration renew the licenses of all administrators and teachers working in the Worcester Public Schools using the new data base tool from DESE.

gb #6-413 - Ms. Colorio/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria
(December 5, 2016)

(Considered with
gb #6-414)
Referred to the
Administration
See notes

Request that the Administration send out a robo call informing parents of the availability of an educational alternative, if needed, at the Rockdale Recovery School for students struggling with drugs and alcohol addiction.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

gb #6-414 - Ms. Colorio/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria
(December 5, 2016)

**(Considered with
gb #6-413)
Referred to the
Administration
See notes**

Request that the Administration send a robo call informing parents of the Worcester Opiate Educational Forum, sponsored by the Worcester District Attorney's Opiate Educational Task Force, which will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2017 at Worcester Technical High School.

gb #6-415 - Administration
(December 7, 2016)

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

To approve payment of a prior year contractual reimbursement in the amount of \$125.00 for a bus driver's physical and certificate.

gb #6-416 - Administration
(December 7, 2016)

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

To authorize the Superintendent to enter into contracts of up to twenty years for the purchase of electricity through net metering energy credits.

gb #6-417 - Administration
(December 7, 2016)

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

To approve prior year invoices totaling \$74,967.76 for special education transportation services.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

gb #6-418 - Administration
(December 7, 2016)

Finding that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the School Committee, the committee votes to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation and strategy for collective bargaining for a denial of access.

c&p #6-9

To consider a communication from a citizen relative to a request that the School Committee drop its Court Appeal and allow for testing for PCBs at Burncoat High and Doherty Memorial High schools.

gb #6-332

Request that the Administration drop the appeal and allow PCB testing at Burncoat High School and Doherty Memorial High School this school year and do what is necessary to correct the problem.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Teachers and Unit B, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Instructional Assistants, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

Finding that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the School Committee, the committee votes to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation. - Lyons vs. The Worcester Public Schools, et al.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

ACTION

Held from 6:06 p.m. to
7:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

N O T E S

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

Finding that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the School Committee, the committee votes to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation and strategy for collective bargaining for a denial of access.

c&p #6-9

To consider a communication from a citizen relative to a request that the School Committee drop its Court Appeal and allow for testing for PCBs at Burncoat High and Doherty Memorial High schools.

gb #6-332

Request that the Administration drop the appeal and allow PCB testing at Burncoat High School and Doherty Memorial High School this school year and do what is necessary to correct the problem.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Teachers and Unit B, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for Instructional Assistants, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the collective bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

Finding that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the School Committee, the committee votes to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation. - Lyons vs. The Worcester Public Schools, et al.

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent-Miss Biancheria), the motion was approved.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 6:06 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:20 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:20 p.m.

NOTES (continued)

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

Mayor Petty left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. O'Connell chaired the meeting from 9:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Mayor Petty returned to the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #6-12

Kim Davenport and Eve Gilmore from Edward Street Child Services presented the report regarding the Pre-School Expansion Plan.

Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Administration seek copies of the new research from Kim Davenport regarding the future success of students who have received high quality early education.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports is hereto annexed as Annex A and was approved as amended.

gb #6-308 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria (September 7, 2016)

To discuss the impact of radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation from wifi and cellular towers on students and staff in schools, potentially including neurologic impairment and malignancy, and to consider means of minimizing any such risk within the Worcester Public Schools by changes as to practice and policy.

NOTES (continued)

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports (continued)

gb #6-308 (continued)

At the Standing Committee level, Mr. Walton made a presentation with respect to the impact of radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation from wifi and cellular towers.

Ms. Doucette provided the following links to information regarding wireless and cell phone technologies:

- Harvard University's Law School Center for Ethics report, [Captured Agency: How the Federal Communications Industry is Dominated by the Industries it Presumably Regulates](#). This provides information on why our government has not informed the public that wireless and cell phone technologies are biologically hazardous.
- The [U.S. National Toxicology Program study](#) finding DNA damage, brain and heart tumors in 2016; more findings will be reported out in 2017. Please remember that although this is a cell phone study, cell phones and wi-fi all operate off of radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation in the [microwave spectrum](#) so the hazard applies to all wireless technology. Dr. Joel Moskowitz of U.C. Berkeley has included information in the link above to help separate fact from industry spin for those of us new to the conversation.
- The [BioInitiative Report](#) contains peer-reviewed studies that indicate evidence for damage to sperm and reproduction, children are more vulnerable, fetal and neonatal effects, effects on Autism (Autism Spectrum Conditions), Alzheimer's, electrohypersensitivity, blood-brain barrier opening, brain tumors, genotoxicity, neurotoxicity, childhood Leukemia, adult cancers, melatonin, and more. In mainstream media we generally hear only about cancer risks, which can take decades to develop during which time the industry makes great profits. The other shorter-term effects are seldom reported on and so the public is unaware.
- In this 16-minute lecture, Dr. Martin Pall explains what electromagnetic radiation is doing to our bodies and why it is causing illness: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kQQyU8NHv8>.

NOTES (continued)

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports (continued)

gb #6-308 (continued)

- The World Health Organization list of classifications: [This link](#) shows the five categories. [This link](#) shows how they determine which agents to evaluate: "Agents are selected for review on the basis of two main criteria: (a) there is evidence of human exposure and (b) there is some evidence or suspicion of carcinogenicity." [This link](#) shows Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields are a Group 2B Possible Human Carcinogen. Feel free to sort by Group to see what else is a 2B; I could understand Lead, Chloroform, Welding Fumes, BHA, Diesel Fuel, Engine Exhaust, Gasoline, HIV and HPV but there are many others. More research has come through since the 2B classification was made in 2011, and some of the scientists who served on the review committee are now asking that Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields be raised to a Group 1 Human Carcinogen.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration place on the WPS website the handout entitled Best Practices for Mobile Devices from the Ashland Public Schools leaving out the following bullet:

- ❖ Turn wifi on only when needed.

Request that Dr. Knorr be invited to a meeting in February.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

At the School Committee level, Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Administration develop its own Best Practices for Mobile Devices and discuss the pros and cons of this issue prior to posting anything on the website.

On a roll call of 4-3 (nays-Miss Biancheria, Mr. Monfredo, Mr. O'Connell), the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to invite Dr. Knorr to a Standing Committee meeting in February.

NOTES (continued)

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

Standing Committee on Finance and Operations

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations is hereto annexed as Annex B and was approved as amended.

gb #6-281 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria
(August 10, 2016)

To implement the provisions of the November 1995 letter of the Commissioner of Education, and the Advisory on School Governance which accompanied it, that "the school committee remains the body responsible for approving and transmitting school department expenditures to the municipal accountant for the drawing of warrants. The Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services has advised that all school department bills must be approved by the school committee. When the superintendent, or principal and superintendent, have statutory authority to incur expense, the Department of Revenue advises that the bills must be approved by them as well as by the committee."

At the Standing Committee level, the Administration researched its current practices to verify its adherence to current state laws and the City Charter and Ordinances. A legal opinion from City Solicitor David Moore summarized the legal authority within the City of Worcester for the approval of school department bills prior to payment. In summary, he stated that the November 1995 letter from the Commissioner of Education does not apply to Worcester since the School Department is one of the City's departments which falls under the rules and regulations of the City Charter.

Therefore, the Administration recommended no changes in the current process of payment of bills of the school department.

FILE.

At the School Committee level, Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the item be referred together with the opinion of the City Solicitor to the Department of Revenue Division of Local Services for its advice as to what the obligations are as a School Committee under Massachusetts Law keeping in mind and taking into account any applicable or relevant provisions of the City Charter or Ordinances of the Council.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #6-412

Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a list of all teachers and administrators, currently employed by the Worcester Public Schools, who are in violation of expired licenses including temporary, preliminary, initial and professional licenses and also provide recommendations as to ways to correct these violations.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #6-413

gb #6-414 (These items were considered together).

Superintendent Binienda suggested taking gb #6-413 and gb #6-414 together and include information about the Rockdale School in the Worcester Opiate Educational Forum.

gb #6-416

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration keep the School Committee updated as it negotiates that contract with appropriate information as to what is being done.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Committee Members

Brian A. O'Connell, Chairman
John F. Monfredo, Vice-Chairman
Molly McCullough

AGENDA #5
TLSS
12-5-16
Page 1

A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports met at 5:34 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2016 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Mr. Monfredo and Chairman O'Connell

There was absent: Miss McCullough

Miss McCullough arrived at 5:36 p.m.

Ms. Colorio and Miss Biancheria were also in attendance.

Representing Administration were: Dr. Rodrigues and Dr. Friel

Others in Attendance: K. Brenner, J. Church, D. Crompton, C. Doucette, R. Hall, J. Hennessey, C. Mooshian, S. O'Connell, Dr. O'Neil, D. Shea, D. St. Louis and R. Walton

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

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

Mr. Crompton made an excellent presentation relative to the Model UN.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration develop proposals for a Debate Team, a Model Congress, a Model UN and other debating initiatives in each of the high schools.

Request that the Administration develop proposals for a Debate Team, a Model Congress, a Model UN and other debating initiatives in each of the interested middle schools.

Request that the Administration add the two documents that have been provided to us by Mr. Crompton entitled Model UN and Model UN: Definition and Rationale as backup information for this item.

Request that the item be held for further discussion in February.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

gb #4-175 - Ms. Novick/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell (May 28, 2014)

To consider the possible benefits and drawbacks of later secondary school start times on teaching and learning.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration establish an advisory committee to include school personnel, community representatives and experts in the field of student health to review options in connection with an earlier start time for secondary school students. The committee will be provided the backup information accumulated from the studies on this topic from 2000 to the present as well as any information provided to us by Professor Amy Wolfson.

Request that the Administration contact Professor Wolfson and ask her if she could provide an update as to any recommendations she would have including any studies she has conducted with the Worcester Public Schools as to a later start time and its impact on student attentiveness and student achievement. He further requested that the backup for the item be made available to the advisory committee without the section regarding the elimination of bus transportation for secondary school students.

Request that the Administration provide a report in May or June and, if that is not feasible, alert the School Committee of the problem.

Request that the advisory committee consider among the options available for the school system the possible establishment of one or two pilot secondary school programs for a later start time.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

gb #6-23 - Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Miss McCullough (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.

gb #6-23 (continued)

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the item be referred to the Administration to continue its search for funding and fielding an outside source. It was further requested that the Administration consider this topic in connection with the FY18 Budget deliberations.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #6-293 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Mr. O'Connell (August 22, 2016)

Request that the Administration review the Mentoring Program for principals in their first three years in the Worcester Public Schools.

FILE.

gb #6-308 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Colorio/Miss Biancheria (September 7, 2016)

To discuss the impact of radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation from wifi and cellular towers on students and staff in schools, potentially including neurologic impairment and malignancy, and to consider means of minimizing any such risk within the Worcester Public Schools by changes as to practice and policy.

Mr. Walton made a presentation with respect to the impact of radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation from wifi and cellular towers.

Ms. Doucette provided the following links to information regarding wireless and cell phone technologies:

- Harvard University's Law School Center for Ethics report, [Captured Agency: How the Federal Communications Industry is Dominated by the Industries it Presumably Regulates](#). This provides information on why our government has not informed the public that wireless and cell phone technologies are biologically hazardous.

gb #6-308 (continued)

- The [U.S. National Toxicology Program study](#) finding DNA damage, brain and heart tumors in 2016; more findings will be reported out in 2017. Please remember that although this is a cell phone study, cell phones and wi-fi all operate off of radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation in the [microwave spectrum](#) so the hazard applies to all wireless technology. Dr. Joel Moskowitz of U.C. Berkeley has included information in the link above to help separate fact from industry spin for those of us new to the conversation.
- The [BioInitiative Report](#) contains peer-reviewed studies that indicate evidence for damage to sperm and reproduction, children are more vulnerable, fetal and neonatal effects, effects on Autism (Autism Spectrum Conditions), Alzheimer's, electrohypersensitivity, blood-brain barrier opening, brain tumors, genotoxicity, neurotoxicity, childhood Leukemia, adult cancers, melatonin, and more. In mainstream media we generally hear only about cancer risks, which can take decades to develop during which time the industry makes great profits. The other shorter-term effects are seldom reported on and so the public is unaware.
- In this 16-minute lecture, Dr. Martin Pall explains what electromagnetic radiation is doing to our bodies and why it is causing illness: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kQQyU8NHv8>.
- The World Health Organization list of classifications: [This link](#) shows the five categories. [This link](#) shows how they determine which agents to evaluate: "Agents are selected for review on the basis of two main criteria: (a) there is evidence of human exposure and (b) there is some evidence or suspicion of carcinogenicity." [This link](#) shows Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields are a Group 2B Possible Human Carcinogen. Feel free to sort by Group to see what else is a 2B; I could understand Lead, Chloroform, Welding Fumes, BHA, Diesel Fuel, Engine Exhaust, Gasoline, HIV and HPV but there are many others. More research has come through since the 2B classification was made in 2011, and some of the scientists who served on the review committee are now asking that Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields be raised to a Group 1 Human Carcinogen.

gb #6-308 (continued)

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration place on the WPS website the handout entitled Best Practices for Mobile Devices from the Ashland Public Schools leaving out the following bullet:

- ❖ Turn wifi on only when needed.

Request that Dr. Knorr be invited to a meeting in February.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

gb #6-334 - Miss McCullough/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (September 26, 2016)

Request that the Administration consider the feasibility of establishing a citywide girl's ice hockey team.

Miss McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the item be held for discussion in February for additional information from the Administration relative to the possibility of forming a co-op.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Monfredo suggested that the Administration check with the local colleges and Michael Myers, Manager of the Worcester Railers, the new professional hockey team for possible equipment support for a citywide girls hockey team In the Worcester Public Schools.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

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

Committee Members
John Foley, Chairman
Molly McCullough, Vice Chairman
Donna Colorio

AGENDA #3
F/O
12-12-16
Page 1

A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Finance and Operations met at 5:34 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2016 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Miss McCullough and Chairman Foley

There was absent: Ms. Colorio

Ms. Colorio arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Representing Administration were: Mr. Allen and Dr. Friel

Others in Attendance: S. Consalvo and T. Novick

gb #5-157 - Ms. Novick/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Ramirez
(May 27, 2015)

Request administration update the School Committee regarding FY15 capital spending, including MSBA reimbursements.

FILE

gb #5-172 - Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Novick/Miss Biancheria
(June 22, 2015)

To review the status of the FY16 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the Account Summary Final Report and file the item.

gb #6-281 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria
(August 10, 2016)

To implement the provisions of the November 1995 letter of the Commissioner of Education, and the Advisory on School Governance which accompanied it, that "the school committee remains the body responsible for approving and transmitting school department expenditures to the municipal accountant for the drawing of warrants. The Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services has advised that all school department bills must be approved by the school committee. When the superintendent, or principal and superintendent, have statutory authority to incur expense, the Department of Revenue advises that the bills must be approved by them as well as by the committee."

ANNEX B

AGENDA #3

F/O

12-12-16

Page 2

gb #6-281 (continued)

The Administration researched its current practices to verify its adherence to current state laws and the City Charter and Ordinances. A legal opinion from City Solicitor David Moore summarized the legal authority within the City of Worcester for the approval of school department bills prior to payment. In summary, he stated that the November 1995 letter from the Commissioner of Education does not apply to Worcester since the School Department is one of the City's departments which falls under the rules and regulations of the City Charter.

Therefore, the Administration recommended no changes in the current process of payment of bills of the school department.

FILE.

gb #6-294 - Administration (August 22, 2016)

To review the status of the FY17 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

The members discussed the status of Salary and Ordinary Maintenance accounts for the first quarter report and held the item.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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