

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

AGENDA #29

The School Committee will virtually hold a special meeting:

on: Thursday, August 20, 2020
at: 5:15 p.m. – Regular Session
in: Room 410, Durkin Administration Building

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR MEETING
INVOCATION

5:16 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/NATIONAL ANTHEM

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS - NONE

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION - NONE

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES - NONE

VII. COMMUNICATION AND PETITION - NONE

IX. PERSONNEL - NONE

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-248 - Administration
(August 17, 2020)

**On a roll call of 6-1
(nay Ms. Novick), the
item was approved
(See notes)**

To consider approval of a pilot high school ELA virtual curriculum
for 2020-21.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

6:07 p.m.

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

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N O T E S

The School Committee convened virtually in Open Session at 5:16 p.m.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-248

Dr. Magdalena Ganas, Manager of the Office of Curriculum and Professional Learning, presented a modified pilot for high school English Language Arts for grades 9-12 entitled StudySync. She stated that the modified pilot was the result of an endorsement from middle schools that are currently implementing StudySync. The curriculum allows for lessons to be designed by teachers and is supported in a variety of languages. It is compatible with Clever, provides ongoing support, has over 1700 classics and categories and is interchangeable with print and digital.

Ms. Novick asked for information on who the teachers were that were involved in this decision.

Dr. Ganas stated that the decision was not the typical pilot process for choosing a curriculum. This modified pilot was chosen in part based on the fact that it has an online assessment option to assist in collecting data.

Ms. Novick asked for the cost of the program and Dr. Ganas stated that the cost of the program is \$256,500.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the money will come from the Foundation Budget's District Instructional Materials account.

Ms. Novick stated that while she was pleased to see a balance of diverse and women authors, she felt that as a district we are saying that this is what you should be using.

Ms. McCullough stated that she was happy that the district is looking at more diverse texts in this modified pilot.

NOTES (continued)

GENERAL BUSINESS

Colleen Dyer, English Language Arts Liaison stated that teachers would be able to recommend a book to be taught and that monthly meetings would be held with department heads.

Mr. Monfredo stated that, although he has a problem with the cost, he would support the modified pilot for the benefit of the students.

Mr. Foley questioned the timing of the approval process and thought that spending the money this year and going to something different next year is an issue.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report in January or February 2021 on:

- how the pilot is working
- what the challenges were and
- a list of authors

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

Mrs. Clancey asked how the teachers are being trained and supported with this curriculum i

Dr. Ganas stated that the publishing company is holding some dates for training with multiple sessions planned, contingent on the approval of the curriculum.

Ms. Novick asked when the district will know about next year's curriculum to which Superintendent Binienda replied May of 2021.

On a roll call of 6-1 (nay Ms. Novick) the item was approved.

Mayor Petty asked for an item to be placed on the August 27, 2020 agenda regarding the fall sports recommendations.

Superintendent Binienda stated that there will be an item on the agenda.

On a roll call of 7-0, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.