

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

AGENDA #38

on: Thursday, November 19, 2020  
at: 6:00 p.m. – Regular Session  
5:00 p.m. - Executive Session  
Virtually in: Room 410, at the Durkin Administration Building

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACTION

I. CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

**Convened in Open  
Session at 6:11 p.m.  
(See notes)**

II. ROLL CALL

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

**Mayor Petty was absent.**

**Mayor Petty arrived at 6:25 p.m.**

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #0-41 - Administration  
(November 10, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting  
on Monday, November 2, 2020.

aor #0-42 - Administration  
(November 10, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting  
on Thursday, November 5, 2020.

**On a roll call of  
6-0-1 (absent  
Mayor Petty), the  
item was approved**

**On a roll call of  
6-0-1 (absent  
Mayor Petty), the  
item was approved**

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION – NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #0-335.1 - Ms. McCullough/Mrs. Clancey/Mr. Monfredo/  
Ms. Novick/Mayor Petty  
(November 10, 2020)

To recognize Chantale Zuzi, a student at Burncoat High School, for receiving the Women’s Initiative of Central Massachusetts 2020 Meridith D. Wesby Young Leader Award.

gb #0-353 - Administration  
(November 10, 2020)

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

1. Request that the School Committee consider paying for the 2021 AP Exams. (Fatimah Daffaie)
2. Request that the Administration consider sharing weekly student check-in survey responses with the School Committee. (Jasmine Owusu)

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros #0-11.1 - Administration/Administration  
(November 10, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide the theories regarding the low math scores in grades 4, 5 and 6.

ROS #0-12 -Administration  
(November 11, 2020)

SELF EVALUATION, GOALS AND BENCHMARKS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR 2020-21

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS – NONE

VIII. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Standing Committee on School and Student Performance met virtually on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

The Standing Committee on School and Student Performance met virtually on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

ACTION

**On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mayor Petty), the recognition was held (See notes)**

**On a roll call of 7-0, item one was considered with gb #0-346.1 and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations**

**On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mayor Petty), item two was referred to the School and Student Performance (See notes)**

**On a roll call of 7-0, the item was accepted and filed**

**(See notes)**

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

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

IX. PERSONNEL

ACTION

0-9 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of Aide to the Physically Handicapped, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$17.04 (minimum) to \$21.00 (maximum) per hour, from Civil Service List #320-034, effective as follows:

**On a roll call of 7-0, Personnel items 0-9-0-13 were filed**

Bourogaa, Youssef 11/12/2020

0-10 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position of School Bus Attendant, permanent at a salary of \$16.23 minimum per hour to \$18.08 maximum per hour, from Civil Service List #320-030, effective as follows:

Jules, Erlande 11/9/2020

0-11 The Superintendent has provisionally APPOINTED the persons named below to the position of Junior Custodian, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$16.54 (minimum) to \$21.05 (maximum), per hour, effective as shown:

Polenski, Joseph 11/2/2020  
Simoncini, John 11/16/2020

0-12 The Superintendent has appointed the attached teacher positions for 2020-21.

0-13 The Superintendent has appointed the attached teacher Resignations and Retirements for 2020-21.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-290.2 - Administration/Ms. Novick /Mrs. Clancey/  
Ms. McCullough  
(November 3, 2020)

**On a roll call of 7-0, the item as referred to the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance (See notes)**

Response of the Administration to the request to clarify under what circumstances students will be suspended during remote learning and what suspension will consist of during that time.

gb #0-346.1 -Administration/Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/  
Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo  
(November 12, 2020)

**Considered with gb #0-353 On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations (See notes)**

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a report on actual total cost to district families of the 2021 Advanced Placement exams for consideration with the full committee's consideration of the first quarter budget report.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #0-354 - Administration  
(November 3, 2020)

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

To consider approval of the following prior fiscal year payments:

1. \$8,304 for tuition owed to the Assabet Valley Collaborative
2. \$6,906.80 to The Whitney Academy, Inc.
3. \$5,730 to LearnWell
4. \$247.92 to two Special Education staff members
5. \$18,121.36 to Southern Worcester Educational Collaborative

gb #0-355 - Administration/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/  
Mayor Petty  
(November 4, 2020)

**On a roll call of 7-0,  
the date was set for  
Thursday,  
December 3, 2020**

To set a date to recognize University Park Campus School for ranking #57 in Massachusetts High Schools out of 1,368 in National Rankings by U.S. News and World Report for its performance on state tests, graduation rates and preparation of their students for college.

gb #0-356 - Administration  
(November 9, 2020)

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

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$2,098.39 from the Worcester Arts Magnet PTG to Worcester Arts Magnet School to help replace items lost in the fire in Spring 2020.

gb #0-357 - Mr. Monfredo/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough  
(November 9, 2020)

**On a roll call of 7-0,  
the item was filed  
(See notes)**

Request that the School Committee support "Coats for Kids", which has been an ongoing collaborative between the Worcester Public Schools and the Worcester Educational Development Foundation for over 25 years.

gb #0-358 - Mr. Monfredo/Mrs. Clancey/Ms. McCullough/  
Miss Biancheria  
(November 9, 2020)

**On a roll call of 7-0,  
the item was  
referred to the FY22  
Budget  
(See notes)**

Request that the Administration consider expanding summer school in its planning, based on the data regarding the academic needs of the students.

gb #0-359 - Administration  
(November 12, 2020)

**On a roll call of 7-0,  
the item was  
referred to the  
Standing Committee  
on Governance and  
Employee Issues  
(See notes)**

To consider approval to turn on the self-harm filter that is available with the current software that monitors those students' behaviors.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #0-360 - Administration  
(November 12, 2020)

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

To consider approval of the administration of the MCAS for all eleventh graders and for those twelfth graders that have not yet passed it and administer both the Legacy in January of 2021 and the 2.0 MCAS in March of 2021.

gb #0-361 - Administration  
(November 12, 2020)

**On a roll call of 7-0,  
authorization was  
granted**

To authorize the Administration to enter into a contract for the lease-purchase of ten special education school buses for a term of up to five years for the operation of student transportation for a contract term to begin in June 2021 as part of the five-year fleet replacement cycle of existing school buses.

gb #0-362 - Ms. McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey  
(November 12, 2020)

**Considered with  
gb #0-363  
On a roll call o 7-0,  
the item was  
referred to the  
Administration**

Request that the Administration provide a report on the tracking of Special Education services that are currently being provided remotely to students.

gb #0-363 - Ms. McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mrs. Clancey  
(November 12, 2020)

**Considered with  
gb #0-362  
On a roll call o 7-0,  
the item was  
referred to the  
Administration**

Request that the Administration provide an update on Special Education testing to include the types that are taking place, the timeline updates and any other pertinent information.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #0-364 - Administration  
(November 5, 2020)

**Held from 5:05 p.m.  
to 6:10 p.m.**

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Coronavirus/COVID-19Related Issues – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators); Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Instructional Assistants; Parent Liaisons; Tutors; and Therapy Assistants.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Successor Contract Negotiations – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators).

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Successor Contract Negotiations – Massachusetts Laborers’ District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees, Local Union 176, Custodians.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares –Yuisa Perez v. Worcester Public Schools, et al., Worcester Superior Court, Civil Action No. 1785-CV-01465-A.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

**8:33 p.m.**

N O T E S

The School Committee of the Worcester Public Schools met virtually in Open Session at 5:03 p.m. in Room 410 of the Durkin Administration Building on Thursday, November 19, 2020.

There were present at the Call to Order:

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

Mayor Petty stated that the School Committee will recess into Executive Session to discuss the following items:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

gb #0-364 - Administration  
(November 5, 2020)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Coronavirus/COVID-19Related Issues – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators); Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers; Instructional Assistants; Parent Liaisons; Tutors; and Therapy Assistants.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Successor Contract Negotiations – Educational Association of Worcester, Units A & B (Educators/Administrators).

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Successor Contract Negotiations – Massachusetts Laborers' District Council, Worcester Public Service Employees, Local Union 176, Custodians.

To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares –Yuisa Perez v. Worcester Public Schools, et al., Worcester Superior Court, Civil Action No. 1785-CV-01465-A.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to recess to Executive Session.

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 5:05 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:11 p.m.

NOTES (continued)

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

Mayor Petty arrived at 6:25 p.m.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #0-335.1

Ms. McCullough and Mr. William Foley, Principal of Burncoat High School spoke to the item. Chantale Zuzi was recognized for receiving the Women's Initiative of Central Massachusetts 2020 Meridith D. Wesby Young Leader Award.

gb #0-353

Student Representative Jasmine Owusu made the following amendment to her item:

Request that the Administration consider sharing weekly student check-in survey responses **regarding common activities that students engage in most in class** with the School Committee. (Jasmine Owusu)

On a roll call of 6-0-1 (absent Mayor Petty), the item as amended was referred to the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ROS #0-12

Ms. Novick brought forth the following specific recommendations:

1. Set a specific goal on disciplinary data.
2. Provide an update on restorative justice to include number of suspensions.
3. Address the declining graduation rates especially for ELL students.
4. Work with the City on updating facilities.
5. Review and renew the Strategic Plan.
6. Set operational norms for the School Committee.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the item be referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues.

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



NOTES (continued)

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL AND STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance held on Monday, November 9, 2020 is hereto annexed as Annex A and was approved as stated.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL AND STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Action Sheet for the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance held on Monday, November 16, 2020 is hereto annexed as Annex B and was approved as stated.

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-290.2

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide first quarter data on student discipline and refer the item to the Standing Committee on School and Student Performance.

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

gb #0-346.1

Ms. Novick asked for the total number of AP exams that have been ordered.

Superintendent Binienda stated that 2,208 tests have been ordered.

Dr. Ganas stated that there would be no cancellation fee this year.

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that when considering the first quarter budget, that the Administration make the commitment to fund the remainder of the cost for AP exams and alert the students that the exams will be at no cost to them.

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

Fatima Daffaie, Ex-Officio member of the School Committee requested the number of students that did not take the College Boards this year and Superintendent Binienda stated that she would have that number for the next meeting.

NOTES (continued)

gb #0-357

Ms. McCullough made the following motion:

Request that the Administration upload a copy of the Coats for Kids flyer onto the Worcester Public Schools website.

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

gb #0-358

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report in March 2021 on a cost estimate to expand the summer school program.

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

gb #0-359

Mr. Walton spoke about Lightspeed, a system that monitors when a student searches for information that may suggest an intent to self-harm. He stated that the program is currently being used at four schools.

Mayor Petty made the following motion:

Request that the pilot be turned off and the item be referred to the Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues in order to invite school psychologists, administrators, parents and students to be part of a panel for discussion on the subject.

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

gb #0-360

Superintendent Binienda requested that the item be amended to read May 2021, not March.

On a roll call of 7-0, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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

Committee Members

Tracy O'Connell-Novick, Chairman  
 Dianna Biancheria, Vice-Chairman  
 Laura Clancey

AGENDA #3  
 SSP  
 11-9-20  
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A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on School and Student Performance met virtually at 6:03 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020 in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Chairman Novick, Vice-Chairman Biancheria and Mrs. Clancey

Representing Administration: Superintendent Binienda, Dr. Friel, Ms. Kuriacose and Dr. O'Neil

Others in attendance: Karrie Allen, Karen Allen, P. Padilla, S. Parretti, S. Petrella, A. Plant and S. Resendes

gb #0-228 - Administration (July 6, 2020)

To consider review of the following Innovation Schools Annual Evaluations:

Chandler Magnet School

**Claremont Academy**

Goddard Scholars Academy at Sullivan Middle School

**Goddard School of Science and Technology**

**Woodland Academy**

Academy of Science, Technology and Health at Worcester East Middle School

**Worcester Technical High School** and

University Park Campus School

Principals from Goddard School of Science and Technology, Worcester Technical High School and Woodland and Claremont Academies spoke to some aspects of their respective Innovation Plans.

Dr. Karrie Allen, Principal of Goddard School of Science and Technology touched on the following:

- the autonomy provided to the school by district leaders
- professional development
- literacy and math
- Envision
- Special Education
- hiring practices and
- attendance

ANNEX A

AGENDA #3

SSP

11-9-20

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Siobhan Petrella, Principal of Worcester Technical High School presented the following highlights from its plan:

- STEM focused curriculum
- rigor for college readiness
- collaboration with higher education on Articulation Agreements
- creation of demos for students and parents
- staffing
- collaboration with AVID
- graduation rates
- common planning time
- senior year co-ops
- equity and equality issues and
- entrepreneur curriculum

Patricia Padilla, Principal of Woodland Academy along with Assistant Principals Karen Allen and Suzanna Resendes and teacher Sherilynne Parretti spoke to the following:

- dual language-one way program
- American Reading Curriculum
- second hand trauma
- Title III (Second Language Learners)
- alignment with Claremont Academy
- 100% staffing of ESL teachers
- second language as an asset
- bilingual endorsement
- wraparound coordinators and
- staff involvement

Angela Plant, principal of Claremont Academy highlighted the following:

- diverse staff
- honors program Grade 7-12
- My Path curriculum
- partnership with Clark University
- weekly health and guidance meetings
- CSI (College Success Initiative)
- tutoring by Holy Cross students
- Career Day
- Friday attendance and
- grocery and Chromebook distribution

ANNEX A

AGENDA #3

SSP

11-9-20

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All four principals also alluded to the fact that since the shutdown, the schools have found innovative ways to help keep their students engaged. Many of them have found that the Friday attendance is problematic. They are continuing to look at ways to address that issue. Keeping in constant contact with parents/guardians has been a priority for all of the schools.

On a roll call of 3-0, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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

Committee Members

Tracy O'Connell-Novick, Chairman  
Dianna Biancheria, Vice-Chairman  
Laura Clancey

AGENDA #4  
SSP  
11-16 -20  
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A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on School and Student Performance met virtually at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2020 in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Chairman Novick, Vice-Chairman Biancheria and Mrs. Clancey

Representing Administration: Ms. Kuriacose, Superintendent Binienda and Dr. Friel

Others in attendance: S. Conley, N. Irizarry, I. Perez and D. St. Louis

gb #0-228 - Administration (July 6, 2020)

To consider review of the following Innovation Schools Annual Evaluations:

**Chandler Magnet School**

Claremont Academy

**Goddard Scholars Academy at Sullivan Middle School**

Goddard School of Science and Technology

Woodland Academy

Academy of Science, Technology and Health at Worcester East Middle School

Worcester Technical High School and

**University Park Campus School**

Principals from Chandler Magnet School, Goddard Scholars Academy at Sullivan Middle School and University Park Campus School spoke to some aspects of their respective Innovation Plans.

Daniel St. Louis, Principal of University Park Campus School, discussed the following highlights from the plan:

- heterogeneous all honors for all approach
- 100 percent graduation rate
- many Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Courses
- focus on college readiness for its diverse low-income population
- low suspension rate
- free college courses through the partnership with Clark University
- 44 students in each grade level

Noeliz Irizarry, Principal of Chandler Magnet School and Ivonne Perez, Chief Diversity Officer, discussed the following highlights from the plan:

- transitional bilingual education program
- dual language immersion program
- structured English immersion
- initiation of the American Reading Company program
- full day preschool Dual Language Program
- partnership with Worcester State University and the Latino Education Institution
- mentoring of teachers to take the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure Courses (METL) test

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the School Committee forward a letter urging the State to continue to expand opportunities for licensure that don't involve the MTEL with particular attention to educators who are multilingual or involved in English Language Learning.

On a roll call of 3-0, the motion was approved.

Shannon Conley, Principal of Sullivan Middle School, discussed the following highlights from the plan:

- expansion the GSA program at South High Community School
- a unique staffing autonomy
- addition of a Department Head position for the Goddard Scholars Academy
- rewriting of the application process for the school, due to the lack of MCAS scores
- students flexible schedule during remote learning
- band classes for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders

gb #8-54 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Comparetto/Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria (February 2, 2018)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the accountability changes made by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Ms. Kuriacose provided the report with the enrollment changes made by DESE and the enrollment demographics for both Hanover Academy and the Goddard Scholars Academy at Sullivan Middle School.

Ms. Novick suggested that the recommendations for admission not only come from teachers but also from community members.

On a roll call of 3-0, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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