

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

AGENDA #40

on: Thursday, December 17, 2020
at: 5:00 p.m. - Executive Session
6:00 p.m. - Regular 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
6:00 p.m.**

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

aor #0-44 - Administration
(December 10, 2020)

To consider approval of the Minutes of the School Committee Meeting
on Thursday, December 3, 2020.

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

IV. MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - NONE

V. IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #0-375 - Administration
(December 9, 2020)

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

Request that the School Committee provide information on student
academic performance for Quarter One. (Fatima Daffaie)

To discuss the availability of extra help for ESL students after
school. (Germania Balbuena Marte)

See notes

ACTION

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros#7-18.2 - Administration/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Monfredo
(December 10, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the request to provide a list containing the number of homeless students and indicate the sites and ways in which the School Committee can provide help to them.

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

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS - NONE

VIII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE -NONE

IX. PERSONNEL

0-14 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:

Correa, Elizabeth 12/7/2020

0-15 The Superintendent has APPOINTED the person named below to the position 52 week Word Processor, permanent/fulltime at a salary of \$19.02 (minimum) to \$23.52 (maximum) effective as follows:

Piskator, Kelly 11/23/2020

0-16 The Superintendent has appointed the attached teacher positions for 2020-21.

0-17 The Superintendent has appointed the attached teacher Resignations and Retirements for 2020-21.

On a roll call of 7-0, Personnel items 0-14 to 0-17 were accepted and filed

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #9-101.2 - Administration/Mr. Comparetto
(December 10, 2020)

Response of the Administration to the request to consider creating an initiative to provide more services and support for the system's approximately 2500 homeless students.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #0-138.5 - Administration/Ms. Novick
(December 7, 2020)

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 following motion from the FY21 Budget:

500130-92000 Personal Services (Non-Salary)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the how much it would cost the system to provide caps, gowns and tassels next year for graduating seniors.

gb #0-275.3 - Administration/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. McCullough
(December 3, 2020)

On a roll call of 7-0, the response was accepted and the item was held for January

Response of the Administration to the request to provide monthly updates on the air quality and HVAC work being done in the schools beginning September 17, 2020.

gb #0-292.1 - Administration/Ms. Novick/Mrs. Clancey/
Ms. McCullough
(December 3, 2020)

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

Response of the Administration to the request to have high school principals submit student representatives to the statewide and regional student advisory councils.

gb #0-376 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. McCullough
(December 1, 2020)

On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Administration_for a report in January

Request that the Administration provide a report on the number of open positions with titles and salaries.

gb #0-377 - Administration
(December 4, 2020)

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

To approve the following prior fiscal year payments:

1. \$2,040 to SEEM Collaborative
2. \$9,110.43 to Accept Educational Collaborative
3. \$233.39 to an employee for a half day sick bank day

gb #0-378 - Administration
(December 8, 2020)

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

To approve the FY21 General Fund Budget for the Worcester Public Schools in the amount of \$372,398,668, reflecting a reduction of \$16,056,536 from the budget amount approved in June 2020 resulting from the reduction of the first year of Student Opportunity Act funding due to revised state budget estimates caused by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)ACTION

gb #0-379 - Mr. Monfredo/Ms. McCullough
(December 8, 2020)

Request that the Administration update the School Committee on the progress made during the current school year on dual enrollment to include:

- number of students enrolled at each college or university indicating the sending high school and
- any recommendations to expand during the 2021-22 school year

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to provide the response in a Friday Letter_and file the item

gb #0-380 - Miss Biancheria/Ms. McCullough/Mr. Monfredo
(December 9, 2020)

Request that the Administration provide an update on the warehouse operations regarding PPE and supplies and include a report on the disbursement of supplies to other districts.

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

gb #0-381 - Ms. Novick/Ms. McCullough
(December 9, 2020)

Request administration post a simple weekly dashboard of numbers of COVID-19 positive students and staff, sorted by remote or in buildings, as submitted to the state each week.

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

gb #0-382 - Ms. Novick/Ms. McCullough
(December 9, 2020)

Request administration report on updates to the Worcester Technical High School admission process, its results, and its interaction with state attention and possible revision to admission requirements.

**On a roll call of 7-0, the item was referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports
(See notes)**

gb #0-383 - Administration
(December 10, 2020)

To approve the following donations

1. ObjectiveEd software, valued at \$1,000, to the WPS Special Education Department from Memorial Foundation for the Blind.
2. a donation, valued at \$20,000 from Becker College in the form of \$50.00 Walmart gift cards to Chandler Elementary School to support the needs of families during this holiday season (i.e., food, supplies, gifts, etc.).
3. a donation from the College of the Holy Cross to Chandler Elementary School valued at \$800.00, in the form of gift cards in the amount of \$150.00 each to support the needs of sixteen families during this holiday season.

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

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION

gb #0-384 - Administration
(December 8, 2020)

**Held from 5:07
p.m. to 5:45 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-19 Related 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 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

6:33 p.m.

N O T E S

The School Committee convened in Open Session at 5:02 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

The School Committee recessed to Executive Session from 5:07 p.m. to 5:45 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

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

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-19 Related 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 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, the motion was approved.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

There were present at the second Call to Order:

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

IMMEDIATE ACTION

gb #0-375

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to forward a response to the first request in a Friday Letter and hold the second request for a future meeting.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

ros#7-18.2

Ms. Novick asked if there was an increase in homelessness due to the pandemic and, if so, what are some of the ways in which the School Committee can respond.

Superintendent Binienda reported that there was extra funding given to families for rent and heating bills through the Worcester Housing Alliance. Each was eligible for \$3,000 but the moratorium will expire on the last day of December. She stated that the WPS is prepared to offer extra support for families in 2021.

Mrs. Mahoney stated that there was a slight increase in homelessness but believed that the numbers may be under reported for a number of reasons.

Mayor Petty stated that the Family Resource Center is also an available resource for families who may be in need of heat, food and transportation.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

gb #0-138.5

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the item be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Operations to be considered with next quarter's in order to consider covering the cost of caps, gowns and tassels.

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

gb #0-292.1

Ms. Novick made the following motion:

Request that the students who are on the statewide and regional student advisory councils be invited to a future School Committee meeting in order to provide any Central Mass or State level updates.

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

gb #0-380

Mr. Pezzella stated that two million masks were provided from DESE to the WPS to house in a temporary warehouse. A donation of 2 bays for storing the PPE for distribution to staff and students was provided by Allegro.

gb #0-381

Superintendent Binienda stated that currently the number of positive cases are as follows:

- 205 students
- 118 staff (57 remote, 61 within building)

She stated that the information will be posted weekly on the WPS website.

gb #0-382

Superintendent Binienda stated that the Emergency Admissions Policy will be presented and voted on at the January 7, 2021 meeting and resubmitted to DESE.

On a roll call of 7-0, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

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