

The following items will be discussed at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports to be held on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 410 at the Durkin Administration Building:

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.

gb #5-244 - Mr. O'Connell/Miss Ramirez/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty (September 10, 2015)

To review the scores achieved by Worcester students in the Spring 2015 administration of the Advanced Placement examinations, in all courses and at all levels.

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 #6-50.1 - Administration/Mayor Petty/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss
McCullough (March 9, 2016)

Response of the Administration to the request to consider joining and fully funding Worcester Technical High School's schoolwide participation in SkillsUSA.

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.

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, October 17, 2016

ITEM: 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.

PRIOR ACTION:

4-26-12 - Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

1-30-14 - Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:
Request that the Administration conduct a survey of principals, teachers and students relative to the interest level of students to participate in debating.

Request that the Administration provide a cost figure in April to provide debating opportunities to students in the Worcester Public Schools.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

Miss Ramirez made the following motion:

Request that the Administration consider a review of the Toastmasters International Program, a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for April 2014.

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 page) contains a copy of the Administration's response to the item.

PRIOR ACTION (continued)

- 12-8-15 - 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.
- 8-16-16 - It was moved and voice voted to request that the Administration respond to the item in October 2016.

The district surveyed the high school principals to determine interest regarding the establishment of Debate Teams, Model Congresses or a Model UN Congress in their respective schools. Their responses are:

School	Debate Team	Model Congress	Model UN	Comment
Burncoat High	No Interest	No Interest	No Interest	No Student Interest
Claremont Academy	No Interest	Interested	Interested	
Doherty High	Interested	Interested	Interested	It will depend on student interest
North High	Interested	Interested	Interested	Not unless we can secure an Advisor
South High			Participates in Model UN with Sullivan Middle	Participate in Mock Trials
University Park	No Interest	No Interest	No Interest	No Student Interest
Worcester Tech	Currently has Debate Team			

Funding for Debate Teams Advisory Coaches have not been included in the FY17 budget. Interested schools would have to identify their own funding source to support this initiative.

The Superintendent will contact the President of Becker College at the appropriate time to discuss possible collaboration to develop a public speaking or debate initiative with the Worcester Public Schools.

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, October 17, 2016

ITEM: Mr. O'Connell/Miss Ramirez/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/
Mayor Petty (September 10, 2015)

To review the scores achieved by Worcester students in the Spring 2015 administration of the Advanced Placement examinations, in all courses and at all levels.

PRIOR ACTION:

10-1-15 - Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.
(Continued on page 2.)

BACKUP:

Annex A (1 page) contains a copy of the Administration's response to the item.

PRIOR ACTION (continued)

- 2-1-16 - STANDING COMMITTEE ON TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS
Mr. Ganem made a presentation regarding the backup for the item. Mrs. Binienda, Principal of South High Community School, introduced the AP Capstone Program for possible implementation in the Worcester Public Schools. She indicated that Clare Lorenz, a representative from the program, would be available on Thursday, February 4, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at South High Community School inform principals and answer questions about the program.
Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:
Request that the School Committee:
- vote to apply for participation in the AP Capstone Program
 - hold the item for further discussion to include a presentation from a representative from AP Capstone to the Standing Committee at a meeting in March 2016
 - ask the Administration, in connection with the AP Capstone Program, to prepare its recommendations in terms of cost impact prior to the Budget
- On a voice vote, the motion was approved.
Mr. O'Connell requested that the Administration provide the landscape printout of Annex B, page 1.
- 2-25-16 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING - The School Committee approved the action of the Standing Committee as stated.
- 8-16-16 - Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:
Request that the Administration provide an update as to the schools that are accepted for the Capstone Program.
On a voice vote, the motion was approved.
Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:
Request that the Administration provide recommendations as to a professional development initiative to assist in enhancing the score performances of the students on all Advanced Placement exams.
Request that the Administration provide recommendations in terms of cost impact for the FY19 Budget.
On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

To date, the Administration has not received official notification of the district's high schools' participation in the Capstone Program.

The district is currently developing professional development opportunities and working on the alignment of practices to enhance the scores of the students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes.

- Strong partnership with College Board and MMSI
- MIE Saturday sessions for students in English, Math, Science
- AVID pathway to prepare for AP courses
- AP sponsored training -week long Summer institutes and one day institutes during the year, these are mostly new teachers of AP
- AP coordinator session, one day yearly for testing updates
- AP resources are available online when teachers register in AP central
- Conducted AP 101 Workshop for new AP teachers on course/exam logistics
- AP teachers offering after school tutoring
- Gateway to College Grant – North High, South High, Sullivan Middle and Worcester East Middle to establish vertical alignment on a problem of practice – establishing protocols to effectively analyze student work
- Convene high school principals to discuss current AP student performance data and teacher performance
- Utilize strengths and effective practices of successful AP teachers to mentor teachers of like subject

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, October 17, 2016

ITEM: 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.

PRIOR ACTION:

- 1-21-16 - Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.
Miss Biancheria requested that the Administration provide a list of the current playground equipment indicating the condition of all such equipment and include an update on in-house recess.
- 8-16-16 - Mr. Monfredo and Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:
Request that the Administration provide a report in October to include a status report as to:
- the feasibility of the expansion of Playworks to other elementary schools in the district and
 - an inventory update of current playground equipment to include a status report on the playground equipment at Chandler Elementary School.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

BACKUP:

The Superintendent met with representatives from Playworks to discuss expanding the program to all elementary schools. Funding for this program is not included in the FY 17 budget and the Superintendent is discussing funding opportunities through community partners.

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, October 17, 2016

ITEM: Administration/Mayor Petty/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough
(March 9, 2016)

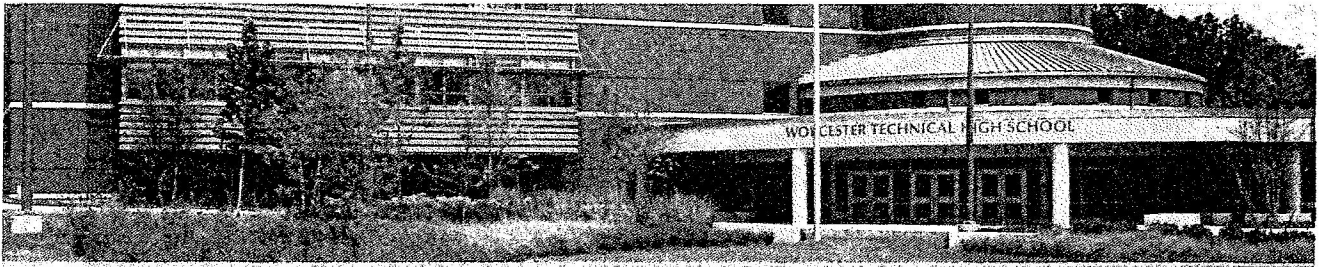
Response of the Administration to the request to consider joining and fully funding Worcester Technical High School's schoolwide participation in SkillsUSA.

PRIOR ACTION:

- 1-21-16 - Referred to the Administration.
- 3-17-16 - Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.
Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:
Request that the Administration seek out grants or support from the Skyline Fund to fully fund Worcester Technical High School's schoolwide participation in SkillsUSA.
On a voice vote, the motion was approved.
- 8-16-16 - It was moved and voice voted to request that the Administration respond to the item in October 2016.

BACKUP:

Annex A (2 pages) contains a copy of a letter from Susan Mailman, President, Skyline Technical Fund.



SKYLINE TECHNICAL FUND

Skyline Technical Fund • 100 Prescott Street Worcester, MA 01605 • 508-793-0350
October 13, 2016

Worcester Public Schools
School Committee
20 Irving Street
Worcester, MA 01609

RE: School Committee Item gb #6-50.1

Dear School Committee:

This letter is in response to your request for grants or support from Skyline Technical Fund, Inc., to fully fund district-wide Chapter 74 participation in SkillsUSA.

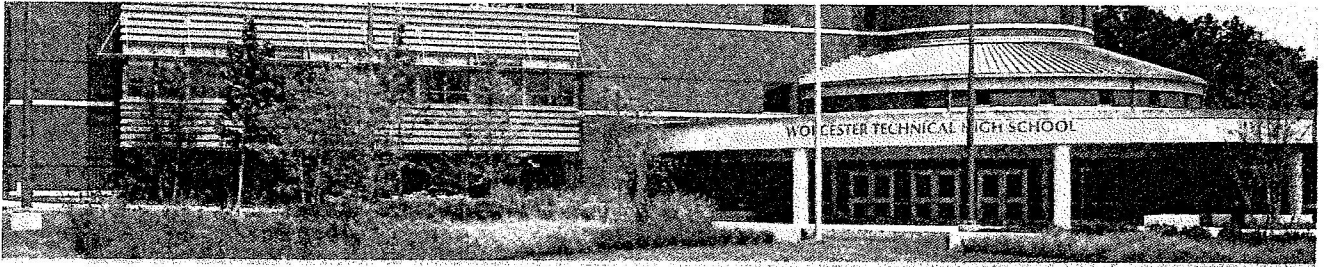
Skyline Technical Fund, Inc. was created for the benefit of WTHS as stated in their by-laws and mission statement. Currently, the funds held by Skyline Technical Fund are designated donations for specific programs and/or equipment with limited unrestricted funds. Skyline Technical Fund has assisted the WTHS SkillsUSA students in the past with competition expenses and will continue to do so as funds permit.

A question the school committee might explore is - how are the other vocational schools funding the significant cost of school wide Skills USA programs? They are utilizing Chapter 74 funds designated for vocational education. Some are also tapping into Perkins funds and many are supplemented by fundraising efforts of individual schools. As you consider the very modest capital equipment and/or facility improvement dollars allocated to Worcester Technical High School you would see that Skyline has had to be very focused on equipment and program needs.

The cost information provided by Dr. Rodrigues is for membership fees only and includes Doherty Memorial High School as well as North High School Chapter 74 programs. In the past, conference and competition costs have been in excess of \$10,000.00 per year for WTHS with only limited enrollment in SkillsUSA. If the entire Chapter 74 district was enrolled these costs would increase significantly.

At this time, Skyline Technical Fund, Inc. is not in a position to provide full financial support for school-wide participation and cannot financially support district-wide participation.

The Skyline Technical Fund is interested in exploring ways to expand the benefits of participation in SkillsUSA for all students and is willing to work with administration to identify funding solutions, including better access for our cities vocational students to the Chapter 74 designated funds



SKYLINE TECHNICAL FUND

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and Perkins Funds. We must remember as we compete to provide the best vocational training that is so desperately needed in our city that our vocational programs start off at a deficit because of our lack of access to full funding. We also recognize the need to work with the administration to continue to advocate for proper Chapter 70 funding for our city. If we were successful, we could likely explore increased direct access to Chapter 74 funding directly for vocational programs. We look forward to working together on these efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Mailman". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping tail.

Susan Mailman
President
Skyline Technical Fund

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, October 17, 2016

ITEM: 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.

PRIOR ACTION:

9-15-16 - Referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration invite Dr. Castiel, Director of Public Health, Dr. McGovern, Director of School Nurses and a member of the IT team when the item is discussed at the Standing Committee level.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to suspend rules to allow Leslie Saffer to address the item.

BACKUP: Mr. O'Connell requested that this information be included as backup.

Annex A (1 page) contains a copy of a release from Leslie Saffer regarding a "Best Practices" program for wireless devices.

Initiator of first-in-nation "Best Practices" program for wireless to speak in Worcester

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 11, 2016
For more information, contact Leslie Saffer at
[508.860.2019](tel:508.860.2019) [**healingspirit1@charter.net**](mailto:healingspirit1@charter.net)

Cece Doucette of Ashland, MA and Worcester resident, Leslie Saffer, will appear next week before the meeting of the Worcester School Committee's *Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports* to address concerns/solutions related to wireless devices and their infrastructure. Ms. Doucette is the initiator of Ashland Public Schools' *Best Practices for Mobile Devices*, the first program of its kind in the nation. Ms. Saffer is a member of the *Worcester Info Team for Health* (WITH) which addresses associated issues. The meeting is open to the public and will take place **Monday, October 17, at 5:30 pm, 20 Irving Street, Room 410.**

The Worcester School Committee recently approved a proposal by Standing Committee Chair, Brian O'Connell and fellow member, John Monfredo, to allow the information to be heard on the 17th.

See video: 11:45 to 20:04 at

<http://view.earthchannel.com/PlayerController.aspx?&PGD=worceschma&eID=444>

The October 17 presentations by the two women present decision makers and residents with a unique informational opportunity for accessing independent input to support making responsible, factually-informed decisions affecting public health.

Studies show children are among the most vulnerable populations within a rapidly rising radio-frequency-intense environment from ubiquitous wireless devices, resulting among other things, in DNA damage. Recently released preliminary findings from a years-long cell phone study by the U.S. National Toxicology Program prompted the American Academy of Pediatrics to issue new recommendations "to reduce exposure to cell phones."

<http://www.releasewire.com/press-releases/american-academy-of-pediatrics-issues-new-recommendations-to-reduce-exposure-to-cell-phones-726805.htm>

In May of 2011, the International Agency for Research on Cancer/World Health Organization (WHO) classified radio frequency electromagnetic fields as a Class 2B "possible" carcinogen. In May of 2015, Professor Martin Blank, Ph.D. of Columbia University, served as the spokesperson for a core of international scientists (updated figure: 221) calling on the United Nations, UN Member States and WHO to strengthen exposure guidelines.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=My5leLBbNqI>

Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Monfredo have pursued learning more about the radio frequency issue following their meeting with the *Worcester Info Team for Health*, prompting them to share the information with their colleagues. WITH takes an empowering, cooperative approach to this complex, multi-faceted issue by sharing illuminating information from independent science sources while providing options for solutions.