

Committee Members

John F. Monfredo, Chairman
Dianna Biancheria, Vice-chairman
John Foley

AGENDA #1
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A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met at 6:06 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2017 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Mr. Foley and Chairman Monfredo

There was absent: Miss Biancheria

Miss Biancheria arrived at 6:13 p.m.

Representing Administration: Ms. Boulais and Dr. Friel

Others in attendance: C. Collins, C. Kelly, T. Leary, C. Manning and J. Miller

gb #5-195 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (July 23, 2015)

To review the Worcester Public Schools' Incident Report for the 2014-15 academic year.

Miss Biancheria made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide the Incident Report for 2015-16 in a Friday Letter.

Request that the Administration provide the Incident Reports from September 2016 to March 2017 in a Friday Letter and monthly thereafter. She further requested to see the changes that have been made to the incident report document.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

FILE.

gb #5-246 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Ramirez/Mr. Foley/Mr. O'Connell/
Miss Biancheria (September 14, 2015)

Request that the School Committee support a bill, submitted by State Senator Jennifer Flanagan, that addresses ways of dealing with Opioid addiction such as school drug screening called "Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment" or SBIRT.

gb #6-144 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Ms. Colorio/Mr. Monfredo/
Miss Biancheria/Miss McCullough/Mayor Petty (April 4, 2016)

To update Worcester Public Schools' policies regarding substance abuse prevention and education, and to post the updated policies on the Worcester Public Schools website, in compliance with Chapter 71, Section 96 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

gb #6-276 - (July 28, 2016)

To consider necessary policy changes concerning the implementation of the recently enacted Bill relative to Substance Use, Treatment, Education and Prevention and review the policy developed by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

(These items were considered together.)

FILE gb #5-246, gb #6-144 and gb #6-276.

gb #5-291 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley (October 19, 2015)

Request that the School Committee review the policy on cell phones and gather information from all secondary principals.

Mr. Monfredo mentioned that the principals had responded that they were very happy with the current Cell Phone Policy.

Jordan Miller, a student at Worcester Technical High School spoke about concerns regarding the Cell Phone Policy.

gb #5-291 (continued)

Miss Biancheria, Mr. Foley and Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the principals review the current Cell Phone Policy regarding use of the phones for after-school programs, in school and off site school events.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for additional principal feedback regarding the above mentioned motion prior to its insertion into the Policy Handbook with any possible amendments.

c&p #6-1 - Clerk (February 16, 2016)

To consider a communication from a citizen regarding a:

- request that Worcester's public high schools host a contest for students to design a banner to mount on the telephone poles/street lights near their schools and
- request that the School Committee's videos be archived on the City's website

Miss Biancheria suggested that the Administration review the condition of the permanent school signs for possible repair rather than pursuing the banner project at this time due to the cost.

Mr. Monfredo suggested that the principals and staff may want to pursue the banner project with support from PTOs or corporate sponsors.

FILE.

c&p #6-7 - Clerk (August 24, 2016)

To consider a communication from a citizen expressing an interest in promoting civic engagement in the Worcester Public Schools by initiating a "Municipal Governance Day" which would give high school students an opportunity to learn how the municipal government works.

c&p #6-7 (continued)

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration consider scheduling a "Municipal Governance Day" in the Spring and have students assume the roles of School Committee and City Council.

Request that the Social Studies Liaison inform the Clerk of the School Committee of all civics activities taking place in the schools and provide that information to the local media.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item until April 2017.

c&p #6-8 - Clerk (August 24, 2016)

To consider a communication from a citizen relative to the feasibility of holding an event annually with a guest speaker to encourage eligible students to register to vote.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Social Studies Liaison notify the Clerk of the School Committee when:

- voter registration takes place in the schools
- the Worcester Rising Civics Camp takes place and notify the media about the event

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

c&p #6-8 (continued)

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Social Studies Liaison develop a flyer regarding voter registration to be distributed to all students and parents.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Monfredo requested that the Administration provide the dates of voter registration to the media for publication.

gb #6-36 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Miss McCullough (January 11, 2016)

To establish a Special Committee, consisting of at least three School Committee members, to continue the review of policies proposed for the Worcester Public Schools by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

Mr. Foley and Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration forward the Domestic Violence Leave Policy to the City Solicitor for review and possible abbreviated format prior to approving it for insertion into the Policy Manual.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to approve Section G – Personnel, as contained in Annex B, with the caveat that a Domestic Violence Leave Policy will be added to this section.

gb #6-271 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Colorio/Miss McCullough/Miss Biancheria/Mayor Petty (July 21, 2016)

Request that the Administration consider including training in the Heimlich maneuver as part of the Compression CPR Program and review the Heimlich Heroes Program, which was created by Deaconess Associations, Inc. (DAI) with the support from the Heimlich Institute, for possible implementation in the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #6-271 (continued)

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration approve implementation of the Heimlich Heroes Program and provide a report on its success at the various grade levels.

Request that the Administration inform the secondary school staff, especially the physical education teachers, about the approval of the Heimlich teaching technique in conjunction with CPR training during physical education classes.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item regarding the Heimlich Heroes Program until November 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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