

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

The School Committee held an in-person meeting with a virtual option:

on: **Thursday, August 13, 2026**

At: 4:00 p.m., Executive Session; 4:30 p.m. Open Session
Esther Howland Chamber, Worcester City Hall

MINUTES

A. General Business Items taken in Executive Session

Open session was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

There were present at the Call to Roll: Member Alvarez, Member Binienda, Member Guardiola, Member Johnson, Member Mailman, Vice Chair McCullough, and Member Roy.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss the items below and reconvene in open session. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Guardiola, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; By a margin of 7-0, the motion passed. Executive Session began at 4:02 p.m.

Member Biancheria arrived at 4:08 p.m. and Mayor Petty arrived at 4:31 p.m.

B. General Business Items taken in Executive Session

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.

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, Paraeducators Unit.

Executive Session pursuant to Mass. G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a), Purpose 7 to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law, including the Massachusetts Public Records Law, Mass. G.L. c. 66, Section 10, and the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, Mass. G.L. c. 30A, Sections 22(f) and (g), relating to review of executive session minutes for meetings that occurred on July 16, 2026.

C. Call to Order: The Committee reconvened in open session at 4:58 p.m.

D. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem: The National Anthem was performed by Zoe Bodinizzo.

E. Roll Call: There were present at the Call to Roll: Member Alvarez, Member Biancheria, Member Binienda, Member Guardiola, Member Johnson, Member Mailman, Vice Chair McCullough, Member Roy, and Mayor Petty.

M. Student Advisory Committee Items

E. Consent Agenda

i. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the [July 16, 2026](#) School Committee Meeting.

ii. Approval of Donations

To consider approval of a donation from Prospect Hill Academy Charter School of 953 Amplify Science Student Investigation Notebooks, plus additional print materials to benefit Worcester Public Schools grades first through fourth grade.

To consider approval of a donation from Blackstone Watershed Collaborative of forest management tools, supplies and equipment to benefit students enrolled in the Environmental Technology program at Worcester Technical High School.

To consider approval for the donation of space located at 220 Barber Avenue from Chacharone Properties to assist with temporary warehouse opportunities for the district.

To consider approval of a donation from Patricia & Francis Magner in the memory of Joseph Alfego in the amount of \$50 to benefit Worcester Technical High School.

To consider approval of a donation from Carnegie Hall Musical Explorers Digital of curriculum materials, professional development, and digital resources to connect students in grades K-2 to rich and diverse musical communities as they build fundamental music skills through listening, singing, and moving to benefit Worcester Public Schools.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$150 from John Morocco & Telaine Dimatteo to support Worcester Technical High School in memory of Joseph Alfego.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$150 from Elizabeth Defalco & George Defalco Jr to support Worcester Technical High School in memory of Joseph Alfego.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$100 from Donald

Speicher & Jill Ann Speicher to support Worcester Technical High School in memory of Joseph Alfego.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$25 from John Evans III & Paula Jeanne Evans to support Worcester Technical High School in memory of Joseph Alfego.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$50 from E Russell Young & Nancy Young to support Worcester Technical High School in memory of Joseph Alfego.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$100 from M. Pope & Co. Fine Jewelers to support Worcester Technical High School in memory of Joseph Alfego.

- iii. Notification of Personnel Records
 - a. New Hire Instructional Staff
 - b. New Hire Non-Instructional Staff
 - c. Resignations/Retirements
- iv. Initial filing of Recognition
- v. Notices of Interest to the District or to the Public

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda with all items with the exception of the donation from Carnegie Hall Musical Explorers digital curriculum. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Guardiola, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 9-0, the motion passed.

Dr. Marie Morse explained that the Carnegie Hall Musical Explorers digital curriculum is optional for music educators. Educators who choose to participate will inform Carnegie of their thoughts on the curriculum. No student information is used in this program.

A motion was made to approve the donation from Carnegie Hall Musical Explorers digital curriculum. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Guardiola, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 9-0, the motion passed.

F. Item for Reconsideration

G. Held Items

H. Recognitions

I. Public Comment-Any member of the public may address the Committee regarding any item before them for two (2) minutes. Those speaking will state their name, their residence, and the item on which they wish to speak for the record. Those speaking may do so in person or via remote participation. Those wishing to address the Committee in a language other than English are asked to notify the Clerk of the Committee in advance, so the Committee may be provided with an interpreter. Members of the Committee may not respond to the comments of the public at the meeting. [Click to view Policy BEDH-Public Comment](#)

1. Fred Nathan, of Worcester, spoke regarding EAW contracts.
2. Melinda Martin, of the EAW, spoke regarding the EAW contracts.
3. Christine Lucien, of Worcester, spoke regarding the EAW contracts.
4. Tina Mansfield, of Spencer, spoke regarding the EAW contracts.
5. Alex Ortiz, of Worcester, spoke regarding the EAW contracts.
6. Joey Ford, of Attleboro, spoke regarding the EAW contracts.
7. Heather Stanek, of Worcester, spoke regarding the Superintendent's evaluation.
8. Maria, of the Parent Information Center, spoke regarding the EAW contracts.
9. Fianna Jettan Singh, of Worcester, spoke regarding the Carnegie Music curriculum.
10. Shawna Sylvia, of Worcester, spoke regarding the Carnegie Music curriculum.
11. Desiree Anderson, of Worcester, spoke regarding c&p 6-11.
12. Nelly Medina, of Worcester, spoke regarding the Superintendent's evaluation.
13. Brent Gleason, of Worcester, spoke regarding c&p 6-11.
14. Catherine Holmes, of Worcester, spoke regarding the Superintendent's evaluation and EAW contract.
15. Louis Goddard, of Worcester, spoke regarding EAW contracts and c&p 6-11.

J. Public Petition

c&p 6-10 (Ford)

(August 13, 2026)

Petition Backup

The petitioner respectfully requests that the Worcester School Committee refer this matter to the Standing Committee on Operations and Governance, with input from the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Success, and direct the administration to provide an expedited, de-identified report concerning Nelson Place School placement and transfer decisions for the 2026–2027 school year.

Mr. Joey Ford, of Attleboro, presented his petition to the School Committee.

A motion was made to refer this petition to the Administration. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

c&p 6-11 (Ford)

(August 13, 2026)

Petition Backup

The petitioner respectfully requests that the full Worcester School Committee discuss and vote on directing the administration to provide an expedited, public, de-identified report concerning Nelson Place School placement and transfer decisions for the 2026–2027 school year.

Mr. Joey Ford presented his petition to the School Committee.

A motion was made to refer this petition to the Administration. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

c&p 6-12 (Ford)

(August 13, 2026)

Petition Backup

The petitioner respectfully requests that the full Worcester School Committee discuss and vote on directing the administration to provide a public, de-identified report concerning outside-counsel spending and the district's practice of involving outside counsel in matters that remain administrative, educational, or pre-litigation in nature.

Mr. Joey Ford presented his petition to the School Committee.

A motion was made to refer this petition to the Administration. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

c&p 6-13 (Ford)

(August 13, 2026)

Petition Backup

The petitioner respectfully requests that the full Worcester School Committee discuss and vote on directing the administration to provide a public report and proposed corrective action concerning the district's cybersecurity safeguards, security-incident response, and notification of affected members of the school community.

Mr. Joey Ford presented his petition to the School Committee.

A motion was made to refer this petition to the Administration. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

K. Report of the Superintendent

No report due to the Superintendent Evaluation

L. Reports of the Standing Committees

N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items

To consider approval of the [Community-Based Out of School Social and Recreational Program grant](#) in the amount of \$43,384.50.

To consider approval of the [Replicating Applied Learning Everywhere \(RALIE\)](#) grant in the amount of \$2,000.

To consider approval of [27 prior year payments](#) in the amount of \$101,647.57.

To consider approval of a prior year payment for missed educational level for a full year employee in the amount of \$20,000.

A motion was made to approve the aforementioned grants and other finance items. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Guardiola, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 9-0, the motion passed.

O. General Business

gb 6-88 (Petty)

(August 13, 2026)

Summative Evaluation

To conduct an evaluation of the Superintendent for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mayor Petty reviewed the evaluation review process. He reviewed the Committee assessment on the Superintendent's Goals. District Goal #1, District Goal #2 and the Professional Practice goals were graded as "met" and District Goal #3 and the Student Learning Goal were graded as "significant progress."

Mayor Petty went into more detail while describing each goal, focus indicators, and evidence provided to determine the evaluation criteria. He also provided select comments from School Committee members, which were provided in their evaluations.

The evaluation standards were graded as follows:

Standard I: Proficient

Standard II: Proficient

Standard III: Proficient

Standard IV: Proficient

Overall Summative Evaluation grade: Proficient

Member Mailman asked when individual evaluation documents will be posted to the WPS website. Mayor Petty noted that it would be done no later than Monday, August 17, 2026.

Member Johnson spoke regarding the evaluation process. He also gave kudos to the Superintendent's cabinet, teachers, paraprofessionals, and all WPS employees. Member Johnson also noted there is some room for improvement in family and community engagement and looks forward to working with Superintendent Allen in the coming year. He stated that while he does believe that there is room for improvement, WPS is still in a great place.

Mayor Petty commented on the evaluation and praised Superintendent Allen's staff.

A motion was made to approve and file this item. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

gb 6-89 (Clerk)

(August 13, 2026)

Recommended Meeting Dates

To review, discuss, and approve School Committee Meeting Dates for the calendar year 2027.

A motion was made to approve the School Committee Meeting Dates for 2027 with the exception of the November 4, 2027 meeting, for which a more suitable date will be selected. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion with the amendment passed unanimously.

gb 6-90 (Administration)

(August 15, 2024)

Proposed ROS Schedule 2026-27

To approve the Report of the Superintendent Schedule for the 2026-2027 school year.

A motion was made to approve the Report of the Superintendent Schedule for the 2026-2027 school year. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

gb 6-91 (Mayor Petty)

(August 13, 2026)

To consider rescheduling the November 5, 2026 meeting to November 12, 2026.

A motion was made to reschedule the November 5, 2026 meeting to November 12, 2026. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

gb 6-92 (Biancheria)

(August 13, 2026)

Request administration inquire on the possible services that can be provided to our students whom are job or internship seekers through MassHire - Worcester Career Center including Worcester workforce Board opportunities.

Member Biancheria presented her item to the Committee.

A motion was made to refer this item to the Administration. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

gb 6-93 (Administration)

(August 13, 2026)

To consider approval to implement the new [IRS mileage reimbursement rate](#) as of July 1st, 2026 from \$0.725/mile to \$0.76/mile.

A motion was made to approve and file this item. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

P. Announcements

Meeting Dates:

- August 18, 2026, Operations and Governance, 4:30 p.m., Doherty Memorial High School, Guidance Conference Room, 299 Highland St, Worcester, MA 01602
- September 3, 2026, School Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m., City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber
- September 17, 2026, School Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m., City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

Q. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristi Turgeon, Clerk of the School Committee