

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, July 16, 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 (virtual), Member Johnson, Member Mailman, Vice Chair McCullough, Member Roy (virtual), and Mayor Petty. Members Biancheria and Guardiola was absent.

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 Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 7-0, the motion passed. Members Biancheria and Guardiola were absent. Executive Session began at 4:02 p.m.

Member Biancheria arrived at 4:11 p.m.

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 – Worker Compensation Settlement - Cafeteria Manager.

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 – Worker Compensation Settlement - Cafeteria Worker.

To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and/or to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Director of Nursing Elect- Amy Grniet.

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 June 4, 2026.

Executive session adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

B. Call to Order: The Committee reconvened in open session at 4:30 p.m.

C. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem

D. Roll Call: There were present at the Call to Roll: Member Alvarez, Member Biancheria, Member Binienda (virtual), Member Johnson, Member Mailman, Vice Chair McCullough, Member Roy(virtual), and Mayor Petty. Member Guardiola was absent.

M. Student Advisory Committee Items

E. Consent Agenda

i. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the [June 25, 2026](#) Budget Hearing.

Approval of Minutes of the [June 25, 2026](#) School Committee Meeting

ii. Approval of Donations

To consider approval of a donation from Benchmark Senior Living of school supplies to benefit Worcester Public Schools.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$1000 from University of Wisconsin to support English learners in primary grade classrooms at Lincoln Street School.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$2,585 from the Worcester Educational Development Foundation to benefit Worcester Public Schools.

To consider approval of a donation from UMass Med of 6 CPR manikins and 3 AED trainers to benefit Worcester Public Schools Physical Education Department.

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, excluding the Minutes of the June 25 Open Session Meeting. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member

Guardiola was absent.

Member Mailman requested to review the Minutes of the June 25, 2026 Open Session Meeting. Member Mailman asked if the Clerk of the School Committee could note that, after the meeting, it was discovered, due to a clerical error, that there were no held items regarding policy JICFB (Bullying), as stated in the meeting. The Clerk noted that she would not be able to change the June 25, 2026 meeting minutes, as they were accurate; however, she would note this in these July 16, 2026 meeting minutes.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the June 25, 2026 meeting. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

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](#)

J. Public Petition

K. Report of the Superintendent

ros 6-10 Administration

(July 16, 2026)

[A Presentation on the 2025-2026 annual goals of the Superintendent](#)
[Superintendent Self-Assessment 2026](#)

Superintendent Allen reviewed the progress on his School Committee-approved goals from the 2025-2026 School Year.

The Student Learning Goal number one, increase % of students meeting or exceeding benchmark on STAR reading from 33% to 36% and STAR math from 33% to 36%.

Superintendent Allen described District goal number 1, implement a unified communication framework. For STAR Reading, this represents a six percentage-point increase since the beginning of the school year. For STAR Math, this represents a five percentage-point increase. Both are the largest within-year improvements observed

since current assessment practices began in the 2021-2022 school year.

The Professional Practice goal was to increase the percentage of collaborative teams from 0% baseline to 70% of teams district-wide by the end of the school year. By the end of the school year, 38 of 49 schools (78%) had met this criterion and were determined to have effectively implemented collaborative teaming structures.

The District Improvement Goal number one was to implement a unified communication framework that streamlines staff updates, community outreach and ensures all messaging is consistent. Grounded in the district's Vision to Action Strategic priorities, the framework emphasizes transparency, consistency, and two-way engagement, with implementation monitored through communication audits, analytics, and staff and family feedback surveys to support continuous improvement.

The Superintendent then described his work on District goal number two, Grow Your Own and Vision of a Leader programs. In 2025-26, the district leveraged existing structures and staff to launch a 5-year "grow your own" educator pipeline. An inaugural cohort of 41 students accessed industry-specific college coursework and career exploration opportunities. The majority of cohort students are students of color (78%) with 23 students (56%) identified as Hispanic or Latino. Additionally, through the Early College Program at Worcester State University, 13 students completed their first education course. Twenty-five members of the Class of 2026 participated in WPS's first Future Educators Signing Day, celebrating their intent to return to the district as educators, with WPS committing to ongoing support through the new Future Educators Alumni Network. The district will continue to expand these opportunities by deepening higher education partnerships and aligning support systems.

District goal number three, school boundary realignment is a two-year goal with that work continuing well into the fall of 2026. The hope will be to have the new boundaries introduced in the fall of 2027. Superintendent Allen noted that the administration remains fully committed to delivering an equitable, transparent realignment plan that expands programmatic opportunities and fosters long-term academic success for all Worcester students.

Member Biancheria noted she was pleased with the progress and direction of the District. She was pleased with both the expansion of middle school sports, the progress on elementary school libraries, and school and work experiences for students.

A motion was made to file this report. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

L. Reports of the Standing Committees

N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items

To consider approval of a DES grant [FY 27 FC426 CTE Frameworks and Competency Based Implementation](#) in the amount of \$80,000.

To consider approval of a National Education Association grant, ["Envision Equity"](#) in the amount of \$2,500.

To consider approval of a grant from the [PlayBall Foundation](#) for 2026-2027 Middle School sports in the amount of \$100,000.

To consider approval of [4 prior year payments](#) in the amount of \$18,090.65.

To consider approval of the [STEM Equipment and Professional Development Grant](#) in the amount of \$131,758.40.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$950.00 to AA Transportation.

A motion was made to approve Grants and other Finance Items. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

O. General Business

gb 6-86 (Administration)
(July 16, 2026)

To vote to execute the Contract for Employment between the [Worcester School Committee and Amy Grinet](#) for the position of Director of Nursing for the period of July 16, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

A motion was made to approve the contract for Amy Grinet for the position of Director of Nursing. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent

gb 6-77 (Mailman)
(July 16, 2026)

To receive an update on the City of Worcester Information Technology (IT) Department moving out of Worcester Technical High School.

A motion was made to refer this item to the Administration. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

gb 6-78 (Mailman)

(July 16, 2026)

To request an update on the [Safe Schools LGBTQIA](#) training/programming.

A motion was made to refer this item to Administration. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

gb 6-79 (Mailman)

(July 16, 2026)

To request and update on the [WPS Homework Policy](#), one year after implementation.

A motion was made to refer this item to Administration. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

gb 6-80 (Administration)

(July 16, 2026)

To review the status of the FY27 Budget and make appropriate transfers as required.

A motion was made to refer this item to the Standing Committee on Finance. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

gb 6-81 (Administration)

(July 16, 2026)

To review the report on applying agreed-upon procedures of Student Activity fund testing for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. (2025 remains outstanding for completion).

A motion was made to refer this item to the Standing Committee on Finance. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

gb 6-82 (Administration)

(July 16, 2026)

To review the Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education End of Year for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

A motion was made to refer this item to the Standing Committee on Finance. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

gb 6-83 (Administration)
(July 16, 2026)

To review the annual audit and agreed-upon procedures report on compliance and internal controls for the City of Worcester, including the Worcester Public Schools, which includes the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) A-133 Reports and the Management Letter for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

A motion was made to refer this item to the Standing Committee on Finance. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

gb 6-84 (Mailman)
(July 16, 2026)

To request a minimum four month lead time for curriculum, contracts, or policy changes needing approval from the School Committee to allow sufficient time for discussion and public input.

Member Mailman expressed her desire to allow more time for public feedback on these topics as well as allow more time for the committee members to review the information. Member Johnson asked if this would require changing the School Committee rules to which Mayor Petty confirmed it would need to be added as an amendment to the rules. Member Binienda commented that sometimes there are situations when four months may not be an option and expressed hesitation in adding a timeline to this item.

A motion was made to refer this item to the Standing Committee on Operations and Governance. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

gb 6-85 (Mayor Petty)
(July 16, 2026)

To set a date and approve the process for the [Superintendent Evaluation](#).

A motion was made to approve and file this item. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member

Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

gb 6-87 (Administration)
(July 16, 2026)

To authorize the Administration to enter into an additional three-year Software License and Services Agreement with Renaissance Learning, Inc. to support reading, mathematics, and early literacy instruction.

A motion was made to approve and file this item. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

P. Announcements

Meeting Dates:

- August 13, 2026, School Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m., City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber
- August 18, 2026, Operations and Governance, 3:00 p.m., 20 Irving Street, Room 410.

Q. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binienda, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Guardiola was absent.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristi Turgeon, Clerk of the School Committee