

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, May 7, 2026**
At: 5:00 p.m., Executive Session; 5:30 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 5:02 p.m.

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

Members Biancheria, Binienda, and Johnson were absent at the call to roll.

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 (virtual), yes; Member Guardiola, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 6-0, the motion passed. Executive Session began at 5:04 p.m.

Members Biancheria, Binienda, and Johnson were absent for the vote.

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

Member Biancheria arrived at 5:14 p.m.

Member Johnson arrived at 5:16 p.m.

Member Binienda arrived at 5:42 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 – Initial Collective Bargaining Agreement Negotiations - Teamsters Local Union 170 for and on behalf of the City of Worcester Public Schools Transportation Mechanics.

To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and/or to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Director of Special Education and Intervention Services– Tammy L. Murray, Ed.D.

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.

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, Aides to the Physically Handicapped, Monitors and Drivers 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 April 16, 2026

B. Call to Order: The return to open session was called to order at 6:14 p.m.

C. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem: Yvonne Roberts, grade 12, of Burncoat High School, sang the National Anthem.

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

Mayor Petty left the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Pursuant to action taken in executive session, it is moved to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement between the Worcester School Committee and the Teamsters Local Union 170, on behalf of the City of Worcester Public Schools Transportation Mechanics, for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 and to authorize the execution of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027. 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 unanimously.

M. Student Advisory Committee Items

E. Consent Agenda

i. Approval of Minutes

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

Approval of Minutes of the [April 17, 2026](#) Legislative Breakfast.

Approval of the Minutes of the [April 30, 2026](#) Standing Committee for Teaching, Learning, and Student Success meeting.

Approval of Minutes of the [May 4, 2026](#) Standing Committee for Operations and Governance meeting.

ii. Approval of Donations

To consider approval of a donation from Shutterfly LLC in the amount of \$290.46 to benefit Woodland Academy.

To consider approval of a donation from Shutterfly LLC in the amount of \$497.68 to benefit Nelson Place Elementary School.

To consider approval of a donation from Shutterfly LLC in the amount of \$426.46 to benefit Tatnuck Magnet School.

To consider approval of a donation from Reading for Education in the amount of \$443.63 to benefit Gates Lane School.

To consider approval of a donation from the National Football League Foundation in the amount of \$3,730.98 to benefit Chandler Elementary School.

iii. Notification of Personnel Records

- a. [New Hire Instructional Staff](#)
- b. [New Hire Non-Instructional Staff](#)
- c. [Resignations/Retirements](#)

iv. Initial filing of Recognition

Roy

(May 7, 2026)

To formally recognize Heard Street Discover Academy, 4th grader, Harley Rose Figueroa for creating "Harley's Kind Kid's Club, making her artwork and designs into shirts, bracelets etc.. to raise money, and bring awareness, to always remember to be kind and to include others. Monies she raised went to a local horse rescue farm and the horse are trained to be used in therapeutic therapies for children and adults who have suffered PTSD and other traumas.

Roy

(May 7, 2026)

Recognition of Principal Dr. Brenda Diggs of the Transition Program and Holy Cross College students, Kya Roumimper Ascani, Delaney Walch, Lily Jaramillo and Lauren Yee for sponsoring "Our Shining Students Gala" and for all they do with the students in the Transition Program to feel, loved, valued and encouraged.

v. Notices of Interest to the District or to the Public

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda. 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 unanimously.

F. Item for Reconsideration

G. Held Items

H. Recognitions

McCullough

(February 26, 2026)

The Worcester Tech/North High 4x200 Relay team was recognized for winning the MIAA Division 3 State Championship.

McCullough

(March 19, 2026)

Our senior student School Committee representatives were recognized for their participation in the School Committee Student Advisory Committee.

McCullough

(April 16, 2026)

Worcester County Superintendent's Association Scholarship recipients were recognized for their achievement:

Burncoat High School - Yvonne Roberts

Claremont Academy - Nikkie Perritt & Carol Somersall Feliz

Doherty Memorial - Elena Melka & Kleri Morcka

North High - Tammy Do & Milene Novoa

South High Community - Jordan Dennett, Caleb Som & Kristen Doan

University Park Campus - Rediet Abayneh

Worcester Technical - Katie Lam & Nelson Tetteh

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 gb 4-69 and gb 5-75A.
2. Gary Hunter, of Worcester, spoke regarding gb 4-69 and gb 5-75A.
3. Warren, from Holden, spoke in favor of gb 6-54.
4. Heather Stanek, of Worcester, spoke regarding gb 4-69, gb 6-49, and

ros 6-9.

5. Dina Tedeschi, of Worcester, spoke regarding gb 4-69, ros 6-9, and gb 6-49.
6. Nelly Medina, of Worcester, spoke regarding gb 4-69, gb 5-75A, and gb 5-75 B.
7. Catherine Holmes, of Worcester, spoke regarding gb 4-69.

J. Public Petition

K. Report of the Superintendent

ros 6-9 (Administration)

Vision to Action...College and Career Highlights (Early College, AP, Night Life & Adult Education)

Dr. Emily Lehman, Administrative Director of College and Career Readiness, and Mr. Dan St. Louis, Director of Early College, presented the report which featured the two models of academic acceleration, Early College and Advanced Placement (AP).

Mr. St. Louis explained the partnerships behind Early College, the experience and the goal of the program. He also presented the Committee with six (6) different coursework choices for WPS students. He went on to note that 1,362 participants have earned 7,696 college credits, with 160 students earning more than 12 credits each in the program.

Data and information on the AP program and coursework was presented. Over seven (7) AP subjects, 2,820 AP exams have been taken by WPS students with 51% achieving qualifying scores in 2025. Qualifying score percentages have steadily increased since 2022. More data was presented on AP students and exams from 2022-2026.

The Worcester Night Life program, which has expanded substantially over the past five (5) years brings over 80 in-person workforce development classes annually.

The Worcester Adult Learning Center has 90 high school equivalency seats, 20 Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) seats, 210 seats for English Language Learners (ELLs), and priority enrollment for WPS parents. The Worcester Adult Learning Center is part of a state-supported system that provides no-cost education for adult learners. These programs are designed to bridge the gap between living and learning and make it possible for anyone - no matter who they are or where they are in their life story - to pursue an education and advance in their careers.

Vice Chair McCullough asked for clarification on what is needed to enter the AP program and what supports are available to our students. Mr. St. Louis noted that both participation and passing rates are steadily increasing and the district is always looking at ways to shift and provide supports to students to continue that upward trajectory. He then explained the entry requirements.

Member Binienda noted that students who take AP courses feel better prepared for college coursework. She spoke in favor of access to AP courses in earlier grades and finding ways to encourage students to take more rigorous coursework in high school.

Member Mailman praised the growth of Night Life. Member Mailman also asked if there was any information about the cost of early college and any budget implications that the Committee should be aware of. Superintendent Allen stated that there was heavy financial pressure to WPS's higher education partners and while WPS has some minimal costs, the majority of costs for early college fall to our academic partners.

Member Alvarez asked for information about special education and multilingual students who are interested in college and career readiness, which was answered by Dr. Lehman.

A motion was made to approve and file this report. 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; By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Petty was absent for the vote.

L. Reports of the Standing Committees

TLSS, Thursday, April 30, 2026

gb 5-113 (Alvarez)

(October 23, 2025)

To request the administration provide a comprehensive review and discussion of the current support systems and resources available to adjustment counselors within Worcester Public Schools, with the aim of identifying potential areas for enhancement to better serve student needs.

Results: By a 3-0 margin, the report was approved and filed.

gb 6-32 (Guardiola)

(March 19, 2026)

To request that the administration provide a report on the status of the Head Start program within Worcester Public Schools, including enrollment data for the past three school years, current program capacity and locations, waitlist information if applicable, and any changes to funding, staffing, or program structure. The report should also include an overview of outreach efforts to families and any anticipated challenges or opportunities related to enrollment and program access moving forward.

Results: By a margin of 3-0, the report was approved and filed.

A motion was made to approve the TLSS 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; By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Petty was absent for the vote.

Operations and Governance, Monday, May 4, 2026

gb 2-92 (Clancey/McCullough/Johnson/Kamara/Mailman)

(March 8, 2022)

Request that the Administration provide quarterly reports regarding building maintenance to include timeframes on when work will begin and be concluded.

Results: Results: By a margin of 3-0, the report was approved and held for the next quarterly report.

gb 4-69 (Mailman)

(July 18, 2024)

To request information related to the new turf field for Doherty High School. In the response please indicate answers to the following questions: 1. Has the turf been bought yet? 2. Certainly cost was a factor in the field that was chosen. What are the differences in specifications based on cost? 3. What and when are the next turf fields replacements scheduled for WPS ? 4. The NFL is rejecting turf fields for safety reasons- are there alternatives? 5. As our city goal is to build green - do we have concerns about petrochemical fields? 6. Has the Mass Association of School Superintendents (MASS) weighed in on turf fields?

Results: Results: By a margin of 3-0, the report was approved and filed.

gb 5-75A (Motion from Member McCullough)

December 19, 2025

Receive an update on how the uniform coding of discipline data is progressing

Results: Results: By a margin of 3-0, the report was approved and filed.

gb 5-75B (Motion from Member Biancheria)

(December 18, 2025)

Receive a report on supports for alternative placements for students involved in disciplinary action, including the reinstatement of student safety centers, including the cost and feasibility.

Results: By a margin of 3-0, the report was approved and filed.

gb 6-6 (McCullough)

(January 22, 2026)

To explore the cost and feasibility of resurfacing the tennis courts at Burncoat High School.

Results: By a margin of 3-0, the report was approved and filed.

gb 6-41 (Clerk)

(April 16, 2026)

To review the 2026-2027 WPS Student Handbook approve any necessary changes.

Results: By a margin of 3-0, the handbook was approved with an amendment from Member Biancheria to put in bold font, page 122, "No agent, employee, or volunteer of a school or school district shall..." and the item was filed.

Member Mailman made three (3) motions regarding gb 4-69: 1. To receive any and all environmental reports used by the Turf Field Committee in making their recommendation; 2. To implement installing thermometers on playing fields; and 3. To receive a report on playing field temperatures.

A motion was made to hold item gb 4-69 with Member Mailman's aforementioned motions. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, no; Member Binienda, yes; Member Guardiola, no; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; and Member Roy, no. By a margin of 5-3, the motion passed. Mayor Petty was absent from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the remaining O&G 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; By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Petty was absent for the vote.

N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items

To consider approval of [A Preschool Itinerant Team Initiative DESE Grant](#) in the amount of \$10,000 to develop strategies for supporting preschool students to receive their IEPs.

To consider approval of a prior year payment in the amount of \$1,881.41 to an employee for a missed step placement last year.

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 Guardiola, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; By a margin of 7-0, the motion passed unanimously. Member Mailman and Mayor Petty were absent for the vote.

O. General Business

gb 6-31 (Guardiola)

(March 19, 2026)

Response from Administration

To request that the administration provide a report to the Committee on the current status of special education transportation in Worcester Public Schools in light of the findings and recommendations contained in the [Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General's February 2026 report](#).

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

gb 6-47 (Mailman)

(May 7, 2026)

Request a 3–5 year analysis of students leaving the district, using a template to track trends over time. Include breakdowns by special education, English learners, grade level, and other key groups.

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

gb 6-48 (Mayor Petty)

(May 7, 2026)-

To consider rescheduling the School Committee meeting of Thursday, June 18, 2026 to Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

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

gb 6-49 (Mailman)

(May 7, 2026)

Request that the Administration provide a report on the district's policies and practices regarding the documentation, retention, and storage of complaints of abuse, including allegations of sexual misconduct, made by students against educators or administrative personnel, and whether such practices are in compliance with Title IX and applicable Massachusetts state law.

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

gb 6-50 (Administration)

(May 7, 2026)

To approve an extension of an existing Parent Square contract for three (3) years, at a cost of \$350,078.80.

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

gb 6-51 (Administration)

(May 7, 2026)

To approve an extension of an existing Custom Computers (Infinite Campus) contract for three (3) years, not to exceed \$1,358,134.10.

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

gb 6-52 (Administration)

(May 7, 2026)

Response from Administration

To authorize the Administration to purchase the Unique Learning Curriculum for the Worcester Public Schools at a cost not to exceed \$96,349.44.

A motion was made to refer this item to TLSS. 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; By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Petty was absent for the vote.

gb 6-53 (Administration)

(May 7, 2026)

Response from Administration

To authorize the Administration to purchase the Number Worlds Curriculum for the Worcester Public Schools at a cost not to exceed \$450,893.26.

A motion was made to refer this item to TLSS. 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; By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Petty was absent for the vote.

gb 6-54 (Mayor Petty)

(May 7, 2026)

To consider the approval of a plaque at North High School in memory of Linda Bergstrom, a longtime Worcester Public Schools teacher. Linda dedicated over 35 years to teaching Worcester, including many years at North High School. During her tenure, she collaborated closely with pre-trial diversion district court, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, probation departments, and child guidance programs. Her efforts were central to the success of the Returnee Program, which was recognized in a special report by the National School Public Relations Association titled "alternative Schools: Why, What, Where, and How Much" (April 1977)

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

P. Announcements

Meeting Dates:

- May 18 (if needed), 2026, Standing Committee for Operations and Governance, 5:00 p.m., 20 Irving Street, Room 410
- May 20, 2026, Standing Committee for Finance, 20 Irving Street, Room 410
- May 21, 2026, School Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m., City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber
- May 28, 2026, Standing Committee for Teaching, Learning, and Student Success, 5:00 p.m., 20 Irving Street, Room 410.
- Public Budget Hearing, 6:00 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 Guardiola, yes; Member Johnson, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Petty was absent for the vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristi Turgeon, Clerk of the School Committee