

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

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

on: **Thursday, April 2, 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, Member Biancheria, Member Guardiola, Member Johnson, Member Mailman, Vice Chair McCullough, Member Roy, Mayor Petty.

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 Biancheria, yes; Member Guardiola, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 8-0, the motion passed. Executive Session began at 5:04 p.m.

Member Binienda arrived at 5:06 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 – Successor Contract Negotiations - Massachusetts Laborers’ District Council for and in behalf of Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 272 of the Laborers’ International Union of North America, AFL-CIO, Unit D, Computer Technicians/IT Professionals.

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.

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 March 19, 2026.

The School Committee recessed from Executive Session at 5:20 p.m. and returned to open session.

- B. Call to Order:** The return to open session was called to order at 5:33 p.m.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem:** The National Anthem was sung by The All-State Singers: Natasha Acquah, Keira Emmons, Grace King, Neve Leach, Jarelis Lopez of Burncoat High School, and Stacy Domingo of South High.
- D. 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 [March 19, 2026](#) School Committee Meeting.

Approval of Minutes of the [March 26, 2026](#) Standing Committee of Teaching, Learning and Student Success Meeting.

Approval of Minutes of the [March 30, 2026](#) Standing Committee of Operations and Governance Meeting.
- ii. Approval of Donations
To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$1,400 from bankHometown to benefit Quinsigamond Elementary School.

To consider approval of a donation from DCU in the amount of \$10,000 to benefit the Worcester Public Schools.

To consider approval of a donation from Reading for Education in the amount of \$431.33 to benefit Midland Street 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
McCullough
(April 2, 2026)
To congratulate South High's student-led literary magazine, The Apricot Journal, has for being recognized as a REALM First Class magazine by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

Administration
(April 2, 2026)
To recognize the Worcester Regional Research Bureau's 2026 Isaiah Thomas

Award recipient and nominees for their youth engagement in the community.

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; and Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

F. Item for Reconsideration

G. Held Items

H. Recognitions

(Mayor Petty)

(January 22, 2026)

Linda McSweeney was recognized for her proclamation from Governor Healey on her years of service and dedication in the field of education.

(Administration)

(January 22, 2026)

Belmont Street School staff was recognized for their coordinated response to the recent fire.

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. Melinda Martin, a WPS Paraeducator, spoke regarding ros 6-7.
2. Sonia Rodriguez, of Worcester, spoke regarding ros 6-7.
3. Nelly Medina, of Worcester spoke regarding ros 6-7.
4. Dina Tedeschi, of Worcester, spoke regarding ros 6-7, and c&p 6-2.
5. Heather Stanek, of Worcester, spoke regarding ros 6-7, gb 5-3, c&p 6-2, and gb 6-34.
6. Catherine Holmes, of Worcester, spoke regarding gb 6-34 and c&p 6-2.

J. Public Petition

c&p 6-2 (Sullivan Middle School)

(April 2, 2026)

[**Petition Presentation**](#)

To petition the School Committee to consider adding recess back into middle schools.

The students from Sullivan Middle school presented their petition to the School Committee.

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

Pursuant to action taken in executive session, it is moved to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement between the Worcester School Committee and Massachusetts Laborers' District Council for and in behalf of Worcester Public Service Employees Local Union 272 of the Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO, Unit D, Computer Technicians/IT Professionals, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. 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; and Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

K. Report of the Superintendent

ros 6-7 (Administration)

Vision to Action...Autism Program Updates

Dr. Tammy Murray, Gina Creamer, and Brittany Lucibello presented the report on supports for students with autism and the WPS SAIL program.

The SAIL model and the tiered education model was reviewed with the Committee. Data on SAIL program locations, tier distribution by gender, and overall tier distribution, along with the total number of SAIL students in each grade was presented. There are a total of 726 students in the SAIL program, between tiers 1, 2, and 3.

Dr. Murray explained the WPS SAIL efforts that have taken place this year, along with the introduction of the SAIL task force. Instructional structures for students with autism was discussed with the Committee.

The autism and hub school support data, along with staffing levels for each tier was included in the presentation, in an effort to optimize staffing. Emphasis was placed on educator retention, with each classroom supported by a teacher and at least one paraeducator, depending on tier.

Additionally, the next steps and future plans for the SAIL program were discussed, including implementation of evidence based curriculum, maintaining services and consultation with the New England Center for Children, continue providing professional development and training, and monitor implementation and adjust practices based on data and student needs, along with the completion of the SAIL guidebook.

Member Mailman made a motion to receive comparison charts to show categories of student disabilities in similar school districts and, separately,

staff leave data, comparing general educators versus special educators in a Friday letter.

A motion was made to approve and file this report along with Member Mailman's motion above. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motions passed unanimously.

L. Reports of the Standing Committees

Teaching, Learning, and Student Success: March 26, 2026

gb 3-70 (McCullough)

(February 16, 2023)

Response from Administration

Request that the Administration collaborate with the Worcester Public Library and our One City, One Library schools to ensure that the parameters regarding the use of the library space is available for school-based needs.

Results: On a 3-0 vote, the report was approved and this item was held for future updates.

gb 5-45 (Clerk)

(May 15, 2025)

Response from Administration

Bi-Annual Report To receive a biannual update on the collaborative efforts between Worcester Public Library and Worcester Public Schools. Request that the Administration provide an update on library programs and the use of librarians throughout the district. (New item will be put in the agenda in April for referral to TLSS) including but not limited to: Provide updated SORA data and Updates on the "4th" and "5th" prep classes to be used for library period.

Results: On a 3-0 vote, the report was approved and this item was held for future updates.

sa 5-1 (Student Advisory)

(December 18, 2025)

Response from Administration

To propose a plan for more student/business jobs and/or volunteer opportunities. Many jobs won't hire students simply because of their age. Also, aid students in getting job certifications such as ServSafe, CPR, or first aid).

Results: On a 3-0 vote, the report was approved and this item was filed.

gb 6-33 (Administration)

(March 19, 2026)

To authorize the Administration to purchase the [Reveal Elementary Math Curriculum](#) for the Worcester Public Schools, on a six (6) year contract, at a cost not to exceed \$3,200,000.

Results: On a 2-1 vote (Member Alvarez dissented), the motion to approve the purchase of the curriculum passed.

Chairperson Guardiola reviewed the meeting items before the full committee.

Member Mailman asked about Reveal math in regards to the dual language students. Ms. Heather Farrington noted that Reveal is available in both Spanish and English. Dr. Marie Morse answered additional questions about the cost of the new curriculum versus the cost of an extension of the current curriculum.

Member Mailman made a motion to create a curriculum review schedule cycle and to learn about its creation in a Friday letter.

A motion was made to approve the items from the Standing Committee of Teaching, Learning, and Student Success, along with Member Mailman's motion. 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; and Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Operations and Governance: March 30, 2026

gb 4-111 (Administration)

(November 21, 2024)

Response from Administration

To consider possible revisions to school boundary assignments and school quadrant assignments to become effective for the 2027-2028 school year.

Results: On a 3-0 vote, the report was accepted and the item was filed.

gb 5-3 (McCullough)

(January 9, 2025)

Response from Administration

To explore expanding middle school sports, with high demand, into 7th and 8th grade teams in order to give more students the opportunity to participate.

Results: Chairperson Johnson made a motion to conduct a feasibility study to expand middle school sports to surrounding towns. On a 3-0 vote, this item was held with Chairperson Johnson's motion.

gb 6-20 (Administration)

(February 26, 2026)

Response from Administration

To review potential updates the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) as published in the WPS Student Handbook.

Results: Chairperson Johnson made a motion to create an online FAQ section About the policy and be notified of the FAQ section via Friday letter. Another motion was made to approve and file this item. On a 3-0, vote both motions

passed unanimously.

gb 6-21 (Clerk)

(February 26, 2026)

Policy EFBA

Policy Updates: [BHE](#), [GBEDC](#), [IKFE](#), [JJE](#), [KBG](#)

To review updates to these MASC policies in order to update Worcester School Committee policies.

Results: A motion was made to approve these changes and file this item. On a 3-0 vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Johnson reviewed the report of Operations and Governance and Dr. Marco Andrade answered some additional questions and clarifications regarding COPPA and FERPA, from Member Mailman.

A motion was made to approve the items in O & G. 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; and Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items

To consider approval of [OpenSciEd grant](#) from the One8Foundation in the amount of \$170,100 for the implementation of OpenSciEd curriculum at 3 middle schools, across 3 years.

To consider approval of the [One8 Foundation Investigating History Grant](#) in the amount of \$25,100.

To consider approval of the [Summer Eats Grant](#) from DESE in the amount of \$13,340.

A motion was made to approve the 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; and Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

O. General Business

gb 5-52 (Johnson)

(May 15, 2025)

Response from Administration gb 5-52

Request the Administration work with the City Manager on an internship program through the Worcester Department of Public Works (DPW), to make it accessible to all high school students.

Emily Lehman, Director of College and Career Readiness explained the persistent challenges of liabilities.

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

gb 5-70 (Administration)
(June 18, 2025)

Grading Policy Update

To review and approve High School Mastery-Based Grading Practices

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

gb 5-119 (Roy)
(December 4, 2025)

Response from Administration gb 5-119

Request administration provide an update on the programs that include online harm through cyber bullying and social media.

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

gb 6-13 (Johnson)
(February 5, 2026)

Response from Administration gb 6-13

Request administration look at adjusting the 2026-27 school year calendar to adjust the Christmas break to allow for two weeks off.

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

gb 6-34 (Mailman)
(April 2, 2026)

To request the Superintendent work with the WPS Athletic Director and WPS Equity Department, together, to create a formal process for reporting and logging of race-related complaints, across all sports, directed towards our students, so we may understand the breadth of the issue. Additionally, to request a survey of our coaches experiences in the last few years, while creating a plan, to combat the racism.

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

gb 6-35 (Biancheria)
(April 2, 2026)

Request administration provide an update on the Exploring Aviation career program including number of students enrolled, maximum enrollment, schools connected to this program, future of the program with options of expanding the program.

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

gb 6-36 (Roy)

(April 2, 2026)

Request administration provide a report on the projected students for enrollment of the 26-27 school year for K-6 with the comparison of the 25-26 school year including any thoughts of funding issues.

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

The following two items were taken together:

gb 6-37 (Roy)

(April 2, 2026)

Request administration provide an update on the SAIL program including the number of students enrolled, the ratio of staff vs students and what are the tiered program levels in reference to needs.

gb 6-38 (Roy)

(April 2, 2026)

Request administration provide the number of students enrolled under the spectrum of autism and supports provided with school sites.

A motion was made to file both of these items. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

P. AnnouncementsMeeting Dates:

-April 16, 2026, School Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m., City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

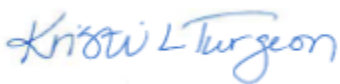
-April 30, 2026, Standing Committee for Teaching, Learning, and Student Success, 5:00 p.m., 20 Irving Street, Room 410.

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 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristi Turgeon, Clerk of the School Committee