

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, March 19, 2026**

At: 5:00 p.m., Executive Session; 5:30 p.m. Open Session
Esther Howland Chamber, Worcester City Hall

MINUTES

Open session was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

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.

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 Binienda, yes; Member Guardiola, yes; Member Mailman, yes; Vice Chair McCullough, yes; Member Roy, yes; Mayor Petty, yes. By a margin of 9-0, the motion passed. Executive Session began at 5:05 p.m.

A. General Business Items taken in Executive Session

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 between 2023 and 2026.

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 5, 2026.

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 – NAGE R1-156, 52 Week Administrative Secretaries 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 – NAGE R1-16, Cafeteria Workers 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 – Massachusetts Nurses Association for and on behalf of Worcester School Nurses.

The School Committee recessed from Executive Session at 5:37 p.m. and returned to open session.

B. Call to Order: Open session was again called to order at 6:03 p.m.

C. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the Nation Anthem was played, and a moment of silence was observed in honor of two WPS students who had recently passed away.

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. Mayor Petty left the meeting at 6:34 p.m. and returned at 7:17 p.m.

M. Student Advisory Committee Items

E. Consent Agenda

i. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the [March 5, 2026](#) School Committee Meeting.

ii. Approval of Donations

To consider approval of a donation of a \$100 Amazon gift card from Lindsay & Michael Boggess to support students at Claremont Academy.

To consider approval of a donation of 30 Dell Pro Laptops from the Mass Broadband Institute as part of their Connected & Online Program to benefit Worcester Public Schools.

To consider approval of a donation of hat press machines, transfer label aligner, DTF ShakerDryer and Hat Lower Platen from Kevin O'Brien to benefit Worcester Technical High School's Graphic Communication program.

To consider approval of a donation in the amount of \$1967.03 from Reading for Education to benefit Nelson Place 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
McCullough

(March 19, 2026)

To congratulate Burncoat Dance team and coaches for their 1st place finishes in Varsity Hip Hop, 2nd place in Varsity Jazz and 2nd place in JV Pom from the MSAA State Championship.

McCullough

(March 19, 2026)

To recognize our senior student School Committee representatives.

McCullough

(March 19, 2026)

To recognize Doherty High School senior Bernardo Pena Dos Santos on being selected as Posse Scholar.

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

Vice Chair McCullough made an amendment to her initial filing of recognition for the Burncoat Dance Team to include additional awards won since her initial submission. A motion was made to approve the consent agenda with Vice Chair McCullough's amendment. 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

gb 6-28 (Mayor Petty)

(March 5, 2026)

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

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

H. Recognitions

Adryan Ferreira Pugira and bus driver Fabian Torres were recognized for their commendable response to a porch fire.

Andrea Cook of Burncoat Middle School was recognized for being named Central Mass Music Educators Association Middle School Educator of the Year.

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 6-7.
2. Barbara Mudd, of West Boylston, spoke regarding ros 6-6.
3. Catherine Holmes, of Worcester, spoke regarding c&p 6-1 and ros 6-6.
4. Heather Stanek, of Worcester, spoke regarding c&p 6-1 and gb 6-33.
5. Dina Tedeschi, of Worcester, spoke regarding ros 6-6 and gb 6-33.
6. Khrystian King, of Worcester, spoke regarding ros 6-6.

J. Public Petition

c&p 6-1 (Medina)

(March 19, 2026)

I request that WPS provide families with a comprehensive, published K-12 calendar of all district-wide and state assessments (such as ACCESS and MCAS) for the remainder of the current academic year; and request that parents and caretakers be notified of specific subjects and testing dates at least one week before the start of any assessment to allow us to prepare our students mentally and academically.

Ms. Nelly Medina, of Worcester, along with her son presented her petition to the School Committee. Hearing no opposition, this item was referred to Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning, and Student Success.

K. Report of the Superintendent

ros 6-6 (Administration)

[**Vision to Action...Vision of a Leader - Family and Community Engagement**](#)

Casey Starr, Director of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) and Dan O'Brien, Director of Communications, presented an update to the School Committee from both departments, strategic plan priorities, and a roadmap for future work.

Ms. Starr went on to describe the FACE framework and mention the many family engagement groups, including school site councils, including Citywide Parent Planning Advisory Council (CPPAC), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), Pride Family Advisory Council (FAC), and more. She also described educational initiatives, outreach events, and enrollment information sessions that her department has initiated. She also showcased the work of Wraparound Coordinators in WPS who provide information on support services for students and families.

Ms. Starr presented data regarding the work her department has done in supporting families, including distributing gift cards, winter coats, supporting families with access to resources, sponsoring family events, and providing referrals. Included in these family services are translation services which were provided by WPS. Initiatives to strengthen support for families and the anticipated next steps were discussed.

Mr. O'Brien described the initiatives of the Communications Department with emphasis on streamlining communication for staff, enhancing FACE through diverse formats, and ensuring consistency. He also reviewed the improvements that have been made to internal communications, based on feedback from staff, which include reducing over communications, providing consistency and reliability in communication, and reduce bottlenecking while leveraging new and existing tools.

Mr. O'Brien informed the Committee that a crisis communication and response manual has been created for all schools that is in line with the I Love U Guys framework. He also reviewed external communication strategies, platforms (including Parent Square) and survey data, received by a parent and caregiver survey from earlier this year.

Ms. Starr and Mr. O'Brien described the FACE and Communications strategy alignment and collaboration that will strengthen engagement and foster meaningful connections.

Members Binienda, Roy, Alvarez, Mailman, Guardiola, and Biancheria made comments regarding the work of FACE and Communications and thanked the team for the report, commending both departments for their work.

Member Mailman made a motion to urge Superintendent Allen to collaborate with Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) regarding communication on racism in interscholastic sports.

Member Biancheria made a motion to receive a list of agencies FACE coordinates with.

Member Biancheria made a motion that communications publish items that showcase and celebrate our students.

A motion was made to respond to the collective aforementioned motions in a Friday letter. On a voice vote of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Petty was absent for the vote.

A motion was made to approve and file this item. On a voice vote of 8-0, the motion passed. Mayor Petty was absent.

L. Reports of the Standing Committees

N. Approval of Grants and other Finance Items

To consider approval of a prior year payment to an employee in the amount of \$2,084.11.

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; 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.

O. General Business

gb 6-7 (Alvarez)

(January 22, 2026)

Response from Administration

To request administration to provide a report on which Worcester Public Schools received in-school fire safety visits from the Worcester Fire Department during the last 5 academic school years and any planned visits during this current year, including the grade levels, the frequency and format of the visits, and the criteria or process used to determine which schools receive visits. The report should also include any plans to expand or standardize access to ensure all students have equitable exposure to fire safety education.

Member Alvarez asked some clarifying questions which were answered by Mr. Tom Toney, Administrative Director of Positive Youth Development. Member Biancheria commended the Worcester Fire Department for their service to the City in collaboration with WPS.

A motion was made to approve this report and file this item. On a voice vote of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Petty was absent.

gb 6-29 (McCullough)

(March 19, 2026)

To explore the possibility of a creating Guidance Liaison or Guidance Q team position(s) in order to fully support district Guidance Counselors and College/Career Readiness (CCR) efforts.

A motion was made to refer this item to Administration. On a voice vote of 8-0, the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Petty was absent.

gb 6-30 (Clerk)

(March 19, 2026)

To review policies [BBA-E](#), [BBBA-E](#), [BEC](#), and [BDE](#) for potential updates.

Member Johnson made a motion to approve these policies on the meeting floor, noting that these policies are items that were previously voted on and were a matter of housekeeping, rather than going to Operations and Governance. On a roll call vote: Member Alvarez, yes; Member Biancheria, yes; Member Binenda, 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 6-31 (Guardiola)

(March 19, 2026)

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](#).

Member Guardiola spoke to his item and explained in more detail his reasoning for requesting this report.

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

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.

Member Guardiola spoke to his item and explained in more detail his reasoning for requesting this report.

A motion was made to refer this item to Teaching, Learning, and Student Success. On a voice vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

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.

Vice Chair McCullough addressed several questions about the curriculum and Dr. Marie Morse and Ms. Heather Farrington, Math Curriculum Specialist addressed the Committee.

Ms. Farrington stated that Reveal Math has already shown growth in 7-12 and streamlining with Reveal Elementary Math will ensure a smooth transition for students from grade to grade. This curriculum builds on skills from year to year and by purchasing Reveal and it will align curriculum from grades K-12.

Ms. Farrington noted that she has met with teachers and coaches over the past few years and Reveal offers opportunities for English language learners (ELL) students, has social-emotional learning (SEL) components, has real-world applications, and connects the concrete with manipulatives. Ms. Farrington also noted that teachers can deliver the curriculum in different ways, with paper or online versions, giving teachers the opportunity to decide what works best for their students.

Ms. Farrington informed the Committee that she will plan a professional development with Reveal and then to do additional professional development by grade level to give teachers the opportunity to talk with each other about the curriculum, to build a community of teachers who can discuss with each other, problem solve, implement the curriculum effectively, and feel supported.

Member Johnson made a motion to send this item to TLSS for review at their March 26, 2026 meeting.

Member Mailman asked how long Reveal has been used in the middle and high school level. Ms. Farrington noted that Reveal has been used for one (1) year; however, Reveal is the same curriculum we've been using for six (6) years but this is an upgraded version. Member Mailman noted she would like to see teacher feedback from WPS teachers. Dr. Morse noted that the reason Reveal made sense for WPS is the continuity and alignment of the curriculum from K-12 and it has many components that WPS educators were looking for.

On a voice vote of 9-0, the item was referred to TLSS.

P. Announcements

Meeting Dates:

- March 26, 2026, Standing Committee for Teaching, Learning, and Student Success, 5:00 p.m., 20 Irving Street, Room 410.
- April 2, 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 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristi Turgeon, Clerk of the School Committee