

CITY OF WORCESTER

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday, May 11, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 5:33 P.M.
Adjourned: 6:59 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Khrystian E King
Vice Chairperson Tony Economou
Councilor Gary Rosen



CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Nikolin Vangjeli

www.worcesterma.gov

City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

Present Were:

Chairperson Councilor Khrystian E. King
Councilor Tony Economou
Councilor Gary Rosen

Also:

Chief Financial Officer Timothy J. McGourthy
Director of Budget Erin E. Taylor
Deputy City Clerk Stephen A.J. Pottle, clerk

1. Virtual Attendee Call-In Information

- a. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and in order to ensure active, public engagement, the City of Worcester currently allows for both in-person and remote participation at all City Council and Standing Committee meetings. To partake in the meeting, you may attend the meeting in-person within the meeting location, follow the below link to join via Zoom or dial the direct line as indicated. If you join a Zoom meeting by dialing in with a phone number, you can raise your hand by dialing *9.

Education Committee Zoom Link: <https://worcesterma.zoomgov.com/j/1615397757>

Education Committee Zoom Phone Number: +1 646 828 7666

Education Committee Zoom Access Code: 161 539 7757

2. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Order- That the City Council Standing Committee of Education hereby approves the minutes of the Education Committee meeting on March 31, 2025.

Chairperson Councilor King read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item. Order adopted on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

3. Communications of the City Manager

- a. Transmitting informational communication relative to a financial update concerning the schedule of revenues, expenditures and change in fund balance relative to the Education general fund.

30d CC April 28, 2026

Chairperson Councilor King read the item and moved to take the item up collectively with items #3b and #4a.

Chairperson Councilor King recognized the Chief Financial Officer, who provided an overview relative to the Educational Budget Considerations Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) presentation.

Chairperson Councilor King spoke concerning historical processes used to meet or exceed required net school spending and best practices relative to ensure net school spending is met with the Chief Financial Officer.

Chairperson Councilor King recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed potential impacts relative to the expiration of the Student Opportunity Act, rising costs associated with transportation and issues related to ineligible net school spending relative to educational facility expenses, and estimated timelines associated with remaining debt services relative to North High School and Worcester Technical High School with the Chief Financial Officer and Budget Director.

Chairperson Councilor King recognized Councilor Rosen, who spoke concerning the allocation of over sixty percent (60%) of the total City of Worcester budget to the Worcester Public Schools (WPS), the city's total budget allocated to WPS compared to similarly situated cities in the Commonwealth, the process relative to receive state reimbursement for charter schools, whether the amount of unhoused students factors into state contributions, and estimated timelines associated with transmitting information relative to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) entitlement funding under FY27 with the Chief Financial Officer, Deputy City Clerk and Budget Director.

Chairperson Councilor King discussed building rentals as ineligible net school spending, the process to authorize three (3) or more year lease agreements, risks associated with federal funding, and expected grant funding losses with the Chief Financial Officer and Budget Director.

Chairperson Councilor King recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning the process relative to authorizing and auditing the use of grant funds with the Budget Director and Chief Financial Officer.

Chairperson Councilor King discussed the financial update for the period ending February 28, 2026 with the Chief Financial Officer.

Chairperson Councilor King moved for a roll call vote to recommend the items be placed on file.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- b. Transmitting informational communication relative to the extent and impact of federal funding on the City of Worcester and Worcester Public Schools.

8.26B CM March 18, 2025

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #3a)

4. Miscellaneous Items

- a. Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King - Request Standing Committee on Education invite the Chief Financial Officer and Worcester Public Schools Chief Financial and Operations Officer to an upcoming meeting for the purpose of the administration providing a presentation relative to the WPS Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27).

13b CC April 28, 2026

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays (See Item #3a)

- b.** Order of Councilor Khrystian E. King - Request City Manager provide City Council with an update concerning a previously adopted order from September 12, 2023, which read, “Request City Manager complete a safety audit for the following issues: 1) Safety of the areas where children get dropped off and picked up during school hours – at all schools; 2) Safety of municipal streets where schools are located and children must access when arriving or departing the school building; 3) Which schools have crosswalks; 4) Which schools have blinking light crosswalk signs; and 5) Which schools have 20 MPH signs posted.” Further, request City Manager work to inform families and children of how to cross the street in a safe and appropriate manner.

121 CC August 27, 2024

Chairperson Councilor King read the item and spoke concerning audits received concerning the item with the Deputy City Clerk.

Chairperson Councilor King brought forth the following two (2) Chairman's Orders: "1. Request City Auditor provide City Council with a report detailing a completed safety audit for the following issues: 1) Safety of the areas where children get dropped off and picked up during school hours – at all schools; 2) Safety of municipal streets where schools are located and children must access when arriving or departing the school building; 3) Which schools have crosswalks; 4) Which schools have blinking light crosswalk signs; 5) Which schools have 20 MPH signs posted; and 6) Which bus stops are not located at existing crosswalks; and 2. Request Standing Committee on Education invite Worcester Public Schools' (WPS) Director of Safety to an upcoming meeting for the purpose of discussing school safety matters."

Chairperson Councilor King recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed school bus stop locations that do not have existing crosswalks.

Chairperson Councilor King recognized Councilor Rosen, who spoke concerning the feasibility of making a public service announcement relative to ensuring neighbors in the vicinity of schools clear their sidewalks during winter months.

Chairperson Councilor King moved to amend the item to include, "Which bus stops are not located at existing crosswalks" and "Further, request City Manager create a public service announcement educating residence of the importance of clearing sidewalks in the winter months, especially in the vicinity of schools."

Chairperson Councilor King then brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Manager provide City Council with an update on a previously adopted order from August 27, 2024, which read, Request City Manager provide City Council with an update concerning a previously adopted order from September 12, 2023, which read, "Request City Manager complete a safety audit for the following issues: 1) Safety of the areas where children get dropped off and picked up during school hours – at all schools; 2) Safety of municipal streets where schools are located and children must access when arriving or departing the school building; 3) Which schools have crosswalks; 4) Which schools have blinking light crosswalk signs; and 5) Which schools have 20 MPH signs posted; and 6) Which bus stops are not located at existing crosswalks" Further, request City Manager work to inform families and children of how to cross the street in a safe and appropriate manner. Further, request City Manager create a public service announcement educating residence of the importance of clearing sidewalks in the winter months, especially in the vicinity of schools."

Chairperson Councilor King then moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be held as amended.

Recommend Hold as amended on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

Chairman's Orders

Request City Auditor provide City Council with a report detailing a completed safety audit for the following issues: 1) Safety of the areas where children get dropped off and picked up during school hours – at all schools; 2) Safety of municipal streets where schools are located and children must access when arriving or departing the school building; 3) Which schools have crosswalks; 4) Which schools have blinking light crosswalk signs; 5) Which schools have 20 MPH signs posted; and 6) Which bus stops are not located at existing crosswalks.

Request Standing Committee on Education invite Worcester Public Schools' (WPS) Director of Safety to an upcoming meeting for the purpose of discussing school safety matters.

Request City Manager provide City Council with an update on a previously adopted order from August 27, 2024, which read, Request City Manager provide City Council with an update concerning a previously adopted order from September 12, 2023, which read, "Request City Manager complete a safety audit for the following issues: 1) Safety of the areas where children get dropped off and picked up during school hours – at all schools; 2) Safety of municipal streets where schools are located and children must access when arriving or departing the school building; 3) Which schools have crosswalks; 4) Which schools have blinking light crosswalk signs; and 5) Which schools have 20 MPH signs posted; and 6) Which bus stops are not located at existing crosswalks" Further, request City Manager work to inform families and children of how to cross the street in a safe and appropriate manner. Further, request City Manager create a public service announcement educating residence of the importance of clearing sidewalks in the winter months, especially in the vicinity of schools.

- c. Order of Councilor Etel Haxhijaj - Request Standing Committee on Education meet jointly with the School Committee's Standing Committee on Finance, Operations, and Governance for the purpose of reviewing matters pertaining to public education, the public libraries, arts, culture and higher education listed on their agenda.

11f CC May 28, 2024

In Committee September 11, 2024 - Held

Chairperson Councilor King read the item and moved to amend the item to strike the phrase "Operations, and Governance."

Chairperson Councilor King moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be held as amended.

Recommend Hold as amended on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- d. Order of Councilor Thu Nguyen - Request Standing Committee on Education meet jointly with the School Committee's Standing Committee on Finance and Operations for the purpose of reviewing matters pertaining to public education, the public libraries, arts, culture and higher education listed on their agenda.

10g CC March 29, 2022

In Committee May 16, 2022 - Held

In Committee November 21, 2022 - Held

Chairperson Councilor King read the item and moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be placed on file.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays