

Committee Members
Brian A. O'Connell, Chairman
Robert A. Bogigian
John F. Monfredo

AGENDA #1
C/D
1-12-2009
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A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Curriculum Development met at 5:20 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2009 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Mr. Bogigian, Mr. Monfredo and Chairman O'Connell

Representing Administration were: M. Ciccone, Dr. Friel and Dr. Gribouski

Others in Attendance: Dr. Nigrosh

gb #1-194 - Mr. O'Connell (September 10, 2001)

To review the August 28, 2001 study of the University of Minnesota Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement, regarding improvement in the attendance rates and grades of Minneapolis senior high school students since changing the school starting time from 7:15 a.m. to 8:40 a.m.

Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration invite Professor Wolfson to attend the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Curriculum Development to discuss her research report as to the impact of additional sleep on the attendance rate and academic success of teens.

Request that the Administration discuss with Professor Wolfson the feasibility of conducting a start time change at one or more secondary schools to determine its success in the Worcester Public Schools.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

gb #6-7 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell (December 6, 2005)

Request that the Administration consider developing a long range plan for preventing dropouts in the Worcester Public Schools in conjunction with educators, social agencies, business leaders and minority leaders.

Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a status report in June 2009 on the long range plan for preventing dropouts in the Worcester Public Schools.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #6-22 - Mr. O' Connell/Mr. Monfredo (January 11, 2006)

To encourage Worcester secondary schools to develop school partnerships with schools of the Republic of China currently seeking such partnerships.

Mr. Monfredo, Mr. Bogigian and Mr. O' Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a progress report in a Friday Letter with regard to the penpal exchange program with schools of the Republic of China and the availability of Mandarin Chinese courses at Worcester State or the College of the Holy Cross in addition to the instruction of Mandarin Chinese in the Virtual High School Program.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #7-19 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O' Connell (January 22, 2007)

Request that the Administration update the School Committee on the progress made during the current year on dual enrollment to include:

- a listing of the participating colleges and universities which do not charge tuition for college credits to either the students or the Worcester Public Schools
- the number of students enrolled at each college or university indicating the sending high school and
- any recommendations for expanding the program

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that information on dual enrollment be placed on the Worcester Public Schools' website and be shared with the secondary guidance counselors.

Request that the Administration interact with the Colleges of the Worcester Consortium to urge that the colleges and universities provide credit to students taking dual enrollment courses upon satisfactory completion of those courses.

Request that the Administration invite an appropriate representative from the consortium to attend the meeting of the Standing Committee on Curriculum Development to discuss ways to provide college credit to students in the Worcester Public Schools.

gb #7-19 (continued)

Request that the Administration provide to the School Committee the amended copy of the chart in Annex A by including the data for Worcester State College.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Curriculum Development.

gb #7-61 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo (March 5, 2007)

To consider supporting "An Act Relative to School Improvement Plans" proposed by Senators Antonioni and Moore, to amend Chapter 69, Section 11 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

FILE.

gb #7-65 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell (March 5, 2007)

To expand the opportunities available to students for experience in public speaking, especially at the secondary level, by means of debating teams, speech competitions such as that sponsored by the American Legion, and Model Congresses in each school and/or citywide.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration report back as to the results of the discussion of the September 15th motion of the School Committee with the principals regarding the establishment of debating teams, Model Congress programs or any other appropriate organized public speaking activities.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #7-242 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo (November 26, 2007)

To consider participating in the Massachusetts Academic Decathlon.

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gb #8-144 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O' Connell/Ms. Hargrove (May 27, 2008)

To consider as part of National Poetry Month in April of 2009 that we have a day designated as "Put a Poem in Your Pocket Day" in our schools.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration establish April 16th as a "Poem in Your Pocket Day" in our schools and encourage the Mayor and Superintendent to open the School Committee meeting with their favorite poem.

Request that the Administration, on behalf of the School Committee, forward letters of thanks to Donna Quitadamo, teacher at Nelson Place School for the idea and students Callesta Pacheco and Rachel Amank for their letters to the School Committee supporting "Put a Poem in Your Pocket Day."

Request that the Administration forward the backup for the item to the principals.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

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gb #8-156 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O' Connell (June 24, 2008)

To inquire as to interest of the Worcester Public Schools to participate with the Friends of the Worcester Public Library and the Worcester: the City that Reads Committee, in promoting literacy through a coupon program promoted by the Friends of the Worcester Library.

It was moved and voice voted to request that the Administration invite Mr. Jack Donahue to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Curriculum Development and forward the backup to him to be disseminated.

gb #8-166 - Mr. O' Connell/Mr. Monfredo (June 24, 2008)

To consider implementation of a policy requiring completion of a "senior project" by each student as a prerequisite for graduation.

Mr. O' Connell and Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the School Committee approve the Administration's recommendations as contained in Annex A of the backup for the item to require that all students complete an essay in their senior year.

gb #8-166 (continued)

Request that the Administration provide a progress report with regard to the essay requirement in a Friday Letter.

Request that the item be referred for discussion to the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council to include a discussion of the feasibility of having students complete a community service learning project.

Request that the Administration provide a report in a Friday Letter regarding the interest in having service learning projects.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

FILE.

gb #8-173 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo (July 2, 2008)

To consider ways of introducing Worcester students, staff, and interested community members, to amateur radio, and to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, through school clubs, Night Life courses, and/or evening training programs at Worcester Technical High School, with the assistance of the Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, Inc. and the Amateur Radio Relay League.

It was moved and voice voted to refer the item to Night Life and Worcester Technical High School for consideration.

FILE.

gb #8-236 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Ms. Hargrove (October 20, 2008)

To consider implementing a "K-11 graduation option" in the Worcester Public Schools.

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The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Helen A. Friel, Ed.D.
Clerk of the School Committee