

Committee Members

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

AGENDA #6
C/D
10-5-2009
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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, October 5, 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: Mrs. Ciccone, Dr. Mulqueen and Dr. Friel

Others in Attendance: J. Choi and C. DelSignore

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 made the following motion:

Request that the Administration invite Dr. Amy Wolfson, a professor at the College of the Holy Cross, to attend the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Curriculum Development to speak about the results of her sleep time study in the Worcester Public Schools.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #4-94 - Mr. O'Connell (May 4, 2004)

To consider implementing "flex time" for teachers, and to look into use of flexible scheduling as a means of extending the instructional day for students.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration inquire as to the level of interest of teachers in participating in a flex schedule program as a means of extending the instructional day for students.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

HOLD for the meeting of the Standing Committee on Curriculum Development in November 2009.

gb #5-162 - Mr. O'Connell (June 14, 2005)

To explore the future feasibility of establishing an Air Force, Army or Navy JROTC unit at the Worcester Vocational High School and/or Doherty Memorial High School.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the Administration survey students at Doherty Memorial High School regarding the level of interest in a JROTC unit and provide a result of the survey to the School Committee in a Friday Letter.

Request that the Administration, prior to the start of the school year, inform students at Doherty Memorial High School as to the established JROTC units at North High, Burncoat and South High Community schools and allow them to participate in the programs.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

FILE.

gb #6-13 - Administration (December 27, 2005)

To consider approval of the revised Worcester Public Schools' mathematics curriculum that is consistent with the Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks in mathematics.

gb #8-244 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell (November 4, 2008)

To consider increasing to four the number of mathematics courses required for graduation from high school.

gb #9-71 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Bogigian (March 13, 2009)

Request that the Administration consider forming a math committee that includes middle and high school math teachers to re-examine best practices in the teaching of math in the secondary schools and to report back to the committee by November of 2009.

(These items are considered together.)

gb #6-13

gb #8-244

gb #9-71 (continued)

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide an update each month of the calendar of curricular review and match it with the five year Curriculum Renewal Cycle as described in Annex B of the backup for gb #9-71.

On a voice vote the motion was approved

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

Request that the Administration formulate a middle and high school mathematics committee to discuss, but not be limited to, the following:

- a recommended timeframe to implement a fourth year math course requirement for students in grades 8-12
- best practices in math education
- inclusion of math courses for all students in their senior year
- the use of one math textbook versus a variety of math resources to address the math frameworks and
- other math textbooks that have received positive reviews.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration consider, after discussion with mathematics department heads, piloting the Saxon Math Program in grades 7 and 8.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

Request that the math department heads review recommendations contained in the National Advanced Panel Report at the same time as they formulate proposed changes in the current Mathematics curriculum.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to file gb #8-244 and gb #9-71.

gb #6-208 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell (November 9, 2006)

Request that the Administration interact with the Citywide Parent Planning Advisory Council and interested PTOs to review the checklist provided by Parents Place, Parent Information and Resource Center to determine whether it can be implemented in the Worcester Public Schools to encourage more parental participation.

gb #9-174 - Administration (August 19, 2009)

To consider approval of the Family Involvement Plan.

(These items are considered together.)

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

Request that the School Committee approve the Family Friendly Survey which includes the random sampling and targeted mailing and the posting of the electronic survey on the district and school websites.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

Request that the School Committee approve the Family Involvement Plan (Annex A) as a support tool for principals and analyze it in relation to family involvement efforts that are specifically linked to student achievement and share with the School Committee an implementation and training timeline plan for principals.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

It was moved and voice voted to file gb #6-208 and gb #9-174.

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.

gb #8-181 - Mr. O'Connell (July 28, 2008)

To consider options for expansion of debate and public speaking teams and competitions in the Worcester Public Schools.

(These items are considered together.)

gb #7-65

gb #8-181 (continued)

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

Request that the Administration provide a list all the programs in debating that exist in the Worcester Public Schools and the programs and competitions that took place related to them.

Request that the Administration formulate an academic competition program similar to the Academic Olympics.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold gb #7-65 and file gb #8-181.

gb #8-157 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo (June 24, 2008)

To review the draft document: "Partner School Agreement between Clark University and the Worcester Public Schools," "to enhance curriculum, professional learning and student achievement" at the Claremont Academy.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motions:

Request that the last line in Annex A, page 1 be amended to read as follows:

The Partner School principal will be required to keep all stakeholders including the School Site Council, **School Committee members** and the district administration informed.

Request that the Administration consider including parents and, when appropriate, students as members of the partnership committee.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

HOLD.

gb #9-36.1 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Monfredo/Mr. Bogigian/Ms. Hargrove (February 27, 2009)

To review, and discuss, the PowerPoint presentation, Focus on Results, which was presented at the January 27 meeting of principals of the Worcester Public Schools.

FILE.

gb #9-54 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell (February 26, 2009)

Request that the Administration provide a report on all process writing programs that are taking place in the Worcester Public Schools and include ideas on additional ways to strengthen them.

FILE.

gb #9-162 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Bogigian (July 27, 2009)

Request that the Administration interact with Dr. Leonard Morse, the City of Worcester's Commissioner of Public Health, to reestablish an after school certification course in CPR/AED for high school students in the Fall of 2009.

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

Request that the Administration pursue grant funding to continue the CPR/AED after school certification program for high school students.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Hold for a status report at the Standing Committee level in November 2009.

gb #9-190 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell/Ms. Hargrove (September 8, 2009)

Request that the Administration investigate ways to train volunteers to work in elementary libraries.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration develop a standardized training program for volunteers who wish to work in the elementary libraries in the Worcester Public Schools.

On a voice vote the motion was approved.

FILE.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.