

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

AGENDA #3  
C/D  
3-30-2009  
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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, March 30, 2009 in the Conference Room at Worcester Technical High School.

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

Representing Administration were: Mrs. Ciccone and Dr. Friel

Others in Attendance: D. Case, J. Donohue, C. Fahy, L. Kuczka, J. Lyons, G. Nigrosh and K. Valentine Goins

gb #3-136 - Mr. O'Connell (June 13, 2003)

To consider development, and implementation, of a "five year high school," in cooperation with a community college, which will offer an associate degree at the conclusion of the fifth high school year.

FILE.

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 to participate in a flex schedule program as a means of extending the instructional day for students.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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. Bogigian made the following motion:

Request that the Administration inquire as to the level of interest of students at Doherty Memorial High School and Worcester Technical High School to participate in a JROTC program, if offered, at their respective schools.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

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 were considered together).

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

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

gb #6-13

gb #8-244

gb #9-71 (continued)

- a recommended timeframe to implement a four course math 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.

Request that the Administration consider, after discussion with mathematics department heads, piloting the Saxon Math Program in grades 7-8 and report back to the Standing Committee on Curriculum Development in June 2009.

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 motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item for a meeting in June 2009.

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

gb #7-19 (continued)

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration invite an appropriate member of the Worcester Consortium to attend a meeting of the Standing Committee on Curriculum Development to discuss ways to provide college credits to students in the Worcester Public Schools and to expand the system's dual enrollment program.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

gb #7-31 - Mr. Monfredo/Mr. O'Connell (February 6, 2007)

To consider requiring that children reach their fifth birthday by August 31 in order to enroll in kindergarten in the Worcester Public Schools, and to review, in discussing this proposal:

- the number of referrals for special education evaluation of students with late birthdays categorized by gender and by month of birth
- the data compiled in a previous study of this topic as to children retained in an elementary school grade, categorized by their age on entering kindergarten
- the budgetary and space impact of such a decision, and
- any current guidelines or practices as to retention of children in kindergarten for maturity/academic progress reasons.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration, based on test results, consider offering four full day preschool programs, one in each quadrant to be funded by IDEA, Title I and/or stabilization funds.

Request that the Administration inquire as to needed support for the classroom teacher in the primary grades such as supplies, tutors, etc. in order to better prepare the students with the skills needed to pass the MCAS test in grade 3.

Request that the Administration consider offering materials, workshops and individual conferences to parents of primary grade students in order to help them with their children at home.

gb #7-31 (continued)

Request that the Administration encourage the schools to review the test data with the parents in May and, if a child is having difficulty with the classroom goals, encourage the parent to recommend that he/she remain in the kindergarten for a second year.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

gb #7-73 - Mr. O'Connell (March 14, 2007)

To coordinate with churches and other agencies which offer after-school or summer educational programs, to assist them in their effort to provide instruction which harmonizes with the curriculum of the Worcester Public Schools.

It was moved and voice voted to hold the item pending development of plans for summer educational programs.

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.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motion:

Request that the Administration work with the Friends of the Worcester Public Library to develop a survey to determine the level of interest of the PTOs and CPPAC in promoting literacy through a coupon program sponsored by the Friends of the Worcester Public Library and provide the results of the survey at the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Curriculum Development.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved

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.

gb #8-166 (continued)

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration consider offering a program entitled, "Giving Back to our Community," a service learning program, in which each elementary and middle school, on a voluntary basis, initiates a service learning project in their respective neighborhood.

Request that the Administration consider establishing a service learning committee to include service learning advocates whose mission would be to develop a cost effective plan at the secondary level based, if feasible, on the Hudson High School's model.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

It was moved and voice voted to file the item at the Standing Committee level and provide a report in a Friday Letter in June 2009.

motion (gb #2-202.1) - Administration/Mr. O'Connell (September 12, 2008)

Request that the Administration provide a status report regarding the progress of the Five-Year Library Plan September 2008.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that the Administration provide a report on the enhancement of secondary school libraries.

Request that the Administration provide a copy of the 2005 PALS program.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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