The Research Bureau

THOMAS S. GREEN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

2019 NOMINATION FORM

(Please return no later than Friday, February 22, 2019)

Worcester Regional Research Bureau, Inc.
500 Salisbury Street
Worcester, MA 01609
info@wrrb.org
www.wrrb.org
508-799-7169

The Thomas S. Green Public Service Awards honor municipal and public school employees who have made outstanding contributions to public service. The awards publicly recognize the efforts of Central Massachusetts public servants who illustrate:

- Exceptional competence and efficient handling of all assigned responsibilities
- Enthusiastic performance of tasks above and beyond the call of duty
- Cooperative, helpful, and friendly attitude toward the public and fellow employees
- Community involvement outside the scope of job-related responsibilities

Nominees should have a minimum of five years employment with the municipality or school district and should be actively employed at the time of the nomination. Department and division heads are not eligible for the award. Candidates nominated in previous years who did not receive the award may be re-nominated.

Nominee: **Thomas Barrett**

City/Town of Employment: **City of Worcester**

Department: **Worcester Public Schools** Position: **Coordinator of Buildings & Grounds**

Address: **Worcester Public Schools, School Shop, 1 New Bond Street, Plant 1, Worcester, MA 01605**

Telephone: **(508) 799-3151** Email: **BarrettT@worcesterschools.net**

Name of Nominator: **James Bedard**

Affiliation: **Colleague**

Address: **Durkin Administration Building – 20 Irving Street, Room 204, Worcester, MA 01609**

Telephone: **(508) 799-3151** Email: **BedardJ@worcesterschools.net**

In order to ensure a thorough review of nominees, The Research Bureau and the Thomas S. Green Public Service Awards Review Committee requests broad insight into the nominee.

1) Letter(s) of Support: On a separate sheet, please describe the nominee's role and explain specifically how he or she has performed those job responsibilities in an exceptional manner. One additional letter of support from supervisors, peers, and members of the public and/or documentation of outstanding work is *required.* Multiple letters are highly encouraged.

2) Criteria: The Committee would like insight into the capacity and character of the nominees. Below, we offer various criteria for evaluation. *We do not expect that nominators will be able to evaluate nominees on all criteria.* Please provide a considered review of your proposed nominee's qualities in those areas that you feel competent. Feel free to coordinate on this review with others who may be able to provide additional insight into the nominee.

Criteria	**Comments (Please Use Actual Examples if Available)** ***(Please Use Separate Sheet if Necessary)***
Job performance/competence – Does the nominee excel at his/her position and is he or she fully competent at assigned responsibilities?	As the Coordinator of Building & Grounds for the Worcester Public Schools, Tom certainly has his hands full. He and his team are responsible for the care and custody of 63 buildings covering 3.6 million square feet throughout the city, and he has a vast & intimate knowledge of each building & its needs. He is constantly asked to perform his duties all hours of the day and night, and his ability to go beyond the call of duty each time is routine for Tom. The call for service can come at any time and Tom never steps away from the challenge.
Efficiency – Is the nominee efficient with time, resources, and effort to complete responsibilities?	Tom works efficiently & effectively and constantly utilizes the resources that he has to work with. As resources tend to stay level, but required service is constantly increasing, Tom seems to find a way. He is routinely asked to do more with less and always finds a way to get the job done. When asked how it all gets done, he simply responds "this is not an 8-hour a day job and the work needs to be done." It is clear to him that the work is that important.
Responsiveness – Is the nominee responsive to public requests for assistance, including phone calls and emails?	Tom has provided dedicated on-call service to the school department for the past four years and is available 24/7. He has proven himself to be reliable and dependable all hours of the day and night. In Facilities, the call can come at any hour or day and Tom is always available. He has proven time & time again that he is ready to answer the call, and the exceedingly high volume of his e-mail activity during non-business hours is further evidence of his commitment to his work.

Professionalism – Does the nominee exhibit professionalism with the public and fellow employees?	Tom has established a positive and effective relationship with his colleagues and fellow employees. He exhibits professionalism in all that he does. He works with members of the School Department's Leadership Team, Principals, Teachers, and all of the various supporting departments. Of course, his primary focus is working with the Custodial and Maintenance Services divisions. He leads a team of nearly-200 dedicated staff members focused on the highest level of care to our school facilities. The Maintenance and Custodial teams are working constantly on the cleaning, repairing, and maintaining of the Worcester Public Schools. His job also has him work directly with various other city agencies including: Fire, Police, Code, BoH, etc. Tom's work covers a wide variety of areas.
Initiative – Is the nominee self-motivated, taking initiative when dealing with issues and/or opportunities?	Tom is self-motivated & proactive and takes the initiative in his approach to his work and the work of his team. As mentioned, much of Tom and his teams' work takes place during off-hours; they have to take the initiative to "get things ready" for school. He always looks for opportunities to improve the operation and departmental efficiencies.
Innovation – Is the nominee innovative, able to identify new, better means for accomplishing responsibilities?	Tom utilizes technology & creativity to accomplish all of the tasks required and is always on-board with improved innovation in his work. Take a look at his truck and see the mobile office that he drives around the city. He is ready to "set-up shop" anytime and anywhere, and his laptop and iPad are always up & running.
Adaptability – Is the nominee open to change and able to embrace new policies, responsibilities, situations, and leadership?	In a constantly changing environment, Tom is always willing to be adaptable and open to new ideas & concepts. In Facilities, situations are constantly changing and evolving and Tom is always up for the challenge. His leadership skills and willingness to work with the team are on the forefront of his everyday work. His team is routinely asked to perform a wide variety of varying tasks and Tom is always there to work with them.
Dedication – Does the nominee go beyond the normal job requirements to assist the public or colleagues with extraordinary tasks?	Tom goes above and beyond in all areas of his job. He is on-call seven (7) days a week to support the mission of the Worcester Public Schools. He can routinely be seen at the schools and on the job on weekends and in the middle of the night. He constantly responds to all calls, no matter what time of day and night.
Collaboration – Is the nominee a team player and able to work with diverse individuals and groups?	At each step throughout his 21-year career at WPS as an Electrician, Working Foreman – Maintenance Supervisor, and Coordinator of Buildings & Grounds, Tom has prioritized teamwork & building rapport with all that he comes into contact with. He works daily with the Worcester Public Schools' senior leadership, School Committee, Custodial Services, Maintenance Services, and the academic and support staff teams of the entire district. In addition, his work involves him with the city's Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, Public Library, Department of Public Works, and Emergency Management departments, as well as various state agencies. He collaborates with professionalism.
Enthusiasm – Does the nominee exhibit enthusiasm for his/her job and responsibilities?	Tom's enthusiasm comes across in everything he does. You can clearly see very quickly how much he enjoys his work. In some of the most difficult of situations, Tom can be found with a welcoming & professional smile on his face. He truly cares for the students and staff of the Worcester Public Schools.

Involvement – Is the nominee involved in the community through volunteer opportunities, participation in local events, or support for local causes?	Tom is committed to improvement and relishes any opportunity to lend his skills in making tangible upgrades. For example, Working For Worcester (W4W) has partnered with WPS for a number of years. Tom actively seeks out their lead volunteers to offer his assistance at each stage of their project planning: meeting with them; obtaining needed materials; coordinating building coverage & staff support; preparing the work sites and/or making them accessible for project day; visiting each site to ensure that everything is progressing smoothly & problem-solving when they are not; capturing the day's activities through photos as the projects unfold toward completion. Tom is hands-on and easily offers his support for the good of all; he enjoys the work throughout the entire process (before, during, and after) and has remarked that his favorite times are spent making upgrades that will benefit the students & families of the Worcester Public Schools. Tom has been a critical player in supporting AbbVie improvements, as well as ensuring support for the school district's One City – One Library endeavors.

Thank you very much for your support of the Thomas S. Green Public Service Awards and your commitment to good government in Central Massachusetts. If you have any questions about the Awards or the role of The Research Bureau, please see our website at www.wrrb.org or contact us at info@wrrb.org.

NOTE: More information, including past recipients, may be found at www.wrrb.org. This application may be

referred to the nominee's department head/supervisor for additional information and support.

Worcester Public Schools

Worcester, Massachusetts

JOHN F. MONFREDO
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER

8 CHEROKEE ROAD
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01606

February 24, 2019

To the Thomas Green Service awards Committee:

As a former recipient of the Thomas Green Award, I am honored and delighted to submit this letter of support for Tom Barrett. As a member of the Worcester School Committee I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Barrett on many school and community projects.

I can honestly say that Tom possesses an outstanding work ethic and leads by example. He is not afraid to put in the necessary hours to get the job done, and has a positive motivating effect on others. He is caring, respectful of others, is a good listener, and makes the tough decisions when necessary. If called upon to assist with a project or an immediate task he's there to do whatever he can. He has stepped up so many times to assist me with community-wide projects. Most importantly he makes the time to get it done.

I have found Tom to be efficient, detail-oriented, and competent. He often successfully finishes a task well before the deadline. He is extremely organized, and never misses a deadline or forgets an assignment Tom and his team have always been willing to help me with the many reading initiatives within our system by getting books to kids at the schools in the midst of all of the other tasks he is required to do.' In addition, he has assisted me in mapping out ball fields across the city on what needs to be done to get them ready for the students. In difficult situations Tom is able to grasp the problem and bring a common sense solution to the school district.

Tom can be seen in the schools at all hours of the day and night supporting the students and staff of the Worcester Public Schools. Every task Tom works on is carried out with enthusiasm, with hard work and with a high degree of professionalism. His personal attributes of empathy, excellent work ethics, sincerity, intelligence, and dedication have made him an outstanding candidate for the prestigious Thomas Green Award.

Sincerely,

John Monfredo

John Monfredo
School Committee Member

Worcester Public Schools

Worcester, Massachusetts

Susan P. O'Neil, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent

Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building
20 Irving Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-2493

Tel. (508) 799-3644
FAX (508) 799-3100
ONeilSP@worcesterschools.net

February 12, 2019

Re: Thomas S. Green Public Service Award Nomination

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that the Worcester Public Schools nominates Thomas Barrett, Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds, for the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award. The Thomas S. Green award honors an "'unsung hero' in municipal government for making Worcester and nearby communities a better place to live and work". Tom Barrett is that person.

Tom is a dedicated employee who makes sure our schools are safe and welcoming. He supervises over 150 custodians, all of our tradesmen, facilitates grounds and facility work in each of our buildings. He works with his staff and facilitates collaborations between his staff, building principals and administration. He works in response to community and neighborhood concerns and requests as well. This is no small task in one of the largest school districts in New England. To be able to juggle the many things, complicated and competing concerns, and do so calmly, professionally, and cheerfully deserves accolades. It makes the work efficient and effective. IT ensures a strong communication loop.

Tom listens, coordinates and takes action. This work requires his leadership and personal attention 24/7. For example, from a building loosing electricity or heat during a school day to a change in school population requiring a restructuring and building or taking down of classes and spaces to grounds upkeep and development reflecting a safe and welcoming environment, Tom is on around the clock. He is responsive to all but has to acknowledge the limits of district budget and resources. It is a difficult balance that he very successfully addresses each day.

Thomas Barratt is a dedicated employee with a genuine care and respect for our city and citizens. He does not just know what is happening, he shows up and assists. Tom has been onsite of neighborhood fires impacting our students to help and responds to activated security alarms after hours. He responds to concerns and complaints from neighbors of school buildings. He collaborates with community business and community partners who donate time and materials to improve our school facilities such as AbbVie and Working for Worcester, annual multi-site projects.

As we prepare for new high schools in the city, Tom will be very busy with his team. The other work will not stop or get put on hold. It continues. Tom is the steady force that the Worcester Public Schools relies on to ensure our schools are ready to welcome and serve the needs of students, staff and families at all times. It is a tremendous job that is not always seen as such because of Tom's work ethic and demeanor.

On behalf of the Worcester Public Schools, we are grateful to have Thomas Barret as Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds. His leadership is critical to ensuring a safe and welcoming environment day in and day out. We highly recommend him to you as our "unsung hero" in the heart of the commonwealth.

Respectfully,
Susan O'Neil, Ph.D.
Susan O'Neil, Ph.D.

Worcester Public Schools

Worcester, Massachusetts

Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building
20 Irving Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-2493

Finance and
Operations Division

Brian E. Allen
Chief Financial and Operations Officer

Phone: (508) 799-3143
Fax: (508) 799-3141
allenb@worcesterschools.net

February 22, 2019

Thomas S. Green Public Service Awards Review Committee
Worcester Regional Research Bureau
500 Salisbury Street
Worcester, MA 01609

Dear Thomas S. Green Public Service Review Committee,

It is with great honor to provide a letter of support for the nomination of Thomas Barrett, Buildings and Grounds Coordinator for the Worcester Public Schools, as a recipient of the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award. I have known Mr. Barrett for the past ten years and I strongly believe he is most deserving of this recognition.

Within his current role, Mr. Barrett oversees all custodial and building maintenance operations for the Worcester Public Schools. He spends every day in schools working with school leaders, community support groups, and interested stakeholders providing assistance, guidance, and oversight, and in the safe and orderly operations of the district's nearly sixty different buildings and facilities throughout the city. This is always done in a highly cooperative, helpful, and friendly approach; going above and beyond to make sure that all requests are addressed in a timely and efficient manner. This is most often done with a personal appearance to follow-up and make sure everything is operating smoothly.

Tom strives to make the work of the Facilities staff easier, more effective, and more efficient. He seeks new ways and methods to clean schools. He finds ways to combine and stretch resources to get the most of the department's budget to repair schools.

Tom is often thought of as a "go to person" for facilities operations for the district. When there is any need - large or small - to be taken care of – we call Tom! Tom is literally a "24/7" employee. Whether it's 6:00 am; he is making sure schools are opening smoothly; or at 10:00 am, he is often in schools addressing issues; at 2:00 pm he's making sure second shift operations are underway; at 6:00 pm, he is at schools following up on maintenance and cleaning activities; at 10:00 pm, he may be catching up on emails or still at schools addressing emergencies; and at 2:00 am he's overseeing any sanding and salting of driveways and parking lots. This happens every day! It happens on weekends and holidays! It is truly a tribute to his work ethic and dedication to the Worcester Public Schools.

When community groups organize to help paint a school, or improve a playground, or build a library, Tom is always on site to assist and support the volunteers. He often arranges for supplies

to be delivered, rubbish to be removed, or mulch to be spread. When fire or burglar alarms sound, when boilers and water pipes fail, or when power is lost, Tom is often the first person on site and the last person to leave to make sure the issue is addressed, the buildings are secure, and the schools are ready for students the next day. Again, this is day, night, weekends, and holidays. It is during good weather, driving rain, blizzard conditions, and tropical storms. Tom doesn't miss a day of work, he doesn't take a vacation, and he's always available to provide a hand.

Mr. Barrett views his role in "public service" with great pride and responsibility. He puts in all of the extra time - not for awards or for money, and not for power or control. Tom sacrifices his own time to make the Worcester Public Schools' buildings and grounds better for our students, staff, and our community. Tom is dedicated to the Facilities Department and to the Finance and Operations team, and to the Worcester Public Schools.

For that, he is very deserving of the Thomas S. Green Public Service recognition from the Worcester Regional Research Bureau. It is my hope that you also see his work as being efficient and responsible, above and beyond the normal call of duty, in a friendly and courteous way to be deserving as well.

Regards,

Brian E. Allen
Chief Financial and Operations Officer

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sara Consalvo | Budget Director | consalvos@worcesterschools.net | 508-799-3142

02/25/19

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to nominate **Mr. Thomas Barrett** for the 2019 Thomas S. Green Public Service Award. Tom has been employed with the City of Worcester's School Department since 1998 and is currently the Coordinator of Building & Grounds for the Facility Department. Tom constantly goes beyond any expectations and consistently provides outstanding service to the district. He has command of every school building in the district and is always willing to listen to Principals and staff regarding any concerns, especially when it involves student learning. His attitude is always friendly regardless of the time (including 3am snow days) and his work schedule knows no bounds. The School Department is extremely fortunate to have Tom Barrett as part of the team!

Please contact my directly or via email for any other information!

Sincerely,

Sara Consalvo

Street Address, City, ST ZIP Code

Office: Telephone | Website

Gmail

James Bedard <bedardj@worcesterschools.net>

TS Green Award

Paul Comerford <comerfordp@worcesterschools.net> Tue, Feb 26, 3:30 AM
To: <bedardj@worcesterschools.net>

It is with great pleasure that I write a letter of recommendation for Tom Barrett for the 2019 TS Green Award.
Tom is the most dedicated public servant I have seen in my 20 years in municipal service. Tom supervises the 190 custodians and maintenance workers of the Worcester Public Schools. However, he is also in charge of snow removal for the schools. Additionally, Tom is the primary contact of each principal when he/she has an issue in their school. It is not unusual for Tom to be supervising snow removal at 3am and then visiting a school that has contractor work taking place at 9pm that night. Simply put, Tom puts his heart and soul into his job.
Lastly, Tom performs these duties with a sense of humor and an enormous sense of pride. He is remarkable. I could write 100 examples of Tom's commitment to his job but suffice to say Tom is the heart beat of WPS's Facilities Dept. and we would be lost without him.

Sincerely,

Paul Comerford
Director of Facilities
Worcester Public Schools

Best Regards,

Paul

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JOHN P. HENNESSEY, JR.
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

60 FREMONT STREET
WORCESTER, MA 01603
508-799-3241
FAX 508-799-8215

February 26, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

Tom Barrett has quietly played a key role in the education of all Worcester Public Schools students for many years with his diligent behind-the-scenes preparation. As a supervisor in the facilities department Tom's steady leadership of a team of professionals makes sure that all Worcester Public Schools buildings are ready to welcome students each school day, regardless of the season. From major refreshing of buildings during the summertime, to making sure that school walkways and parking lots are clear of snow and ice during the winter months, to responding to boiler problems and leaking roofs Tom and his team create and maintain a warm and safe environment for all students and staff.

While Tom's days are full year-round we in the Worcester Public Schools transportation department have received the greatest benefit from his effort during snow events. I am not sure that Tom sleeps between December and March as he is tuned to the latest weather forecasts from the first mention of a possible snow flurry to expected blockbuster storms. Nighttime storms will always find Tom cruising the City and staying in touch with key City departments so he can give personal up to the minute reports of conditions that may affect decisions regarding student safety for possible snow days and school opening delays. Tom has always made sure that our Worcester Public Schools school bus yard is plowed and sanded so our school bus drivers can safely navigate the yard to clean our school buses for the next scheduled school day.

I am pleased to be able to recommend Tom Barrett for the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award.

John P. Hennessey, Jr.
Director of Transportation
Worcester Public Schools
60 Fremont Street
Worcester, MA 01603

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

DR. JOHN E. DURKIN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
20 IRVING STREET, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01609
PHONE: (508) 799-3132 • FAX: (508) 799-3469

February 22, 2019

Worcester Regional Research Bureau, Inc.
500 Salisbury Street
Worcester, MA 01609

To Whom It May Concern,

The Department of Nutrition Programs enthusiastically supports the nomination of Thomas Barrett, Worcester Public School's Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds for the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award.

Regardless of the time of day, Tom is always responsive to the various school facility, mechanical, and environmental issues confronting the Nutrition Program, coordinating, directing, and cooperatively working with various staff and trades to implement both immediate and long term solutions.

The Worcester Public Schools is very fortunate to have someone who is continuously working to improve the environment in which students learn, socialize, and access healthy meals!

Sincerely,

Donna M. Lombardi

Donna M. Lombardi
Director of Child Nutrition Programs

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 24, 2019

Re: Thomas S. Green Public Service Awards 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting my letter in support of Thomas Barrett, Worcester Public Schools Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds.

I've worked with Tom Barrett, in the School Dept., for over 20 years. From his first days as an employee, Tom was always interested in how he could contribute, how he could help. He was always the guy you hoped the Facilities Director would send when an issue needed attention. He was prompt, incredibly courteous and efficient. When Tom was done, lights worked, telephones worked, data ports worked, etc. and they stayed working.

As the Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds, Tom and I are in contact almost every day. He is very involved with all aspects of acquisition of supplies and services and payroll. He works with me to develop specifications that are detailed, clear and in the best interest of the City.

Tom is always conscious of budget. Tom doesn't just sign timesheets. He knows who is working, where, how long, who worked overtime, why and when.

He has learned so much about trades and equipment that are not his first language. Tom is an electrician by trade. He now knows custodial equipment (floor scrubbers, vacuums, window washers) and supplies better than anyone else in the School Dept. He knows Grounds equipment, from Kubotas to lawn mowers and snow blowers.

In addition, the School Dept. often gets offers of furniture donations from various schools and offices. There has never been a time, when I contacted Tom, that he has not made a crew available to pick up, deliver, and in some cases, assemble, these donations at our schools. It could be student and/or teacher desks and chairs, bookcases, office furniture, etc.

Tom is a model for his staff on priorities. Tom's first priority is the children of the Worcester Public Schools. His focus, first and foremost, is making the environment safe, clean and conducive to learning.

There is no employee who better represents the Worcester Public Schools and the City.

Debra Seymour, Director
Payroll and Supply Management
Durkin Administration Bldg
20 Irving St.
Worcester, MA 01609

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ROBERT WALTON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

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20 IRVING STREET
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01609-2493
TELEPHONE (508) 799-3264
FAX (508) 799-3016

February 22, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to support the nomination of Thomas Barrett for the Thomas S. Green Award. Thomas, or Tom as we all know him, is universally recognized in all 50 schools in our district. Tom oversees the tradesmen and the buildings and grounds for the entire school system. If a pipe breaks, call Tom. If a light fixture fails, call Tom. Need to repurpose a room in to a classroom, call Tom. Roof leaking, call Tom. Parking lot needs to be plowed, call Tom...he will likely show up himself with a plow and plow the school out. Speaking of snow storms, if it is snowing in Worcester, Tom is out all night at the schools, checking parking lot and street conditions, reporting back the information to help inform the school closing decision. When Tom actually sleeps is a mystery still unsolved.

Tom is so busy, if you see him, he is likely in his work truck with the laptop up and the cellphone to his ear. Tom averages over 2,000 minutes a month on his work cellphone. That is 36 hours every month of just communicating on the phone with staff, principals, vendors, and administrators! How much time he spends on emails, paperwork, and other administrative duties is anyone's guess. Actually, I am the IT Officer, I checked, he gets on average 7,500 emails per month which averages to 380 emails per working day. Between being on the phone and handling emails, I am not sure how he gets things done, but he definitely does.

Tom has truly dedicated himself to the district with his time and his hard work. You would be hard pressed to find anyone in the entire administration that does not know Tom and they will all have high praise for him. Tom is very self-effacing and would never expect to win a recognition like this, he would be mortified actually. He never looks for praise or to elevate himself. He is simply a hard worker that gives us everything he has. I would love to see him recognized for that dedication and that spirit that he has.

I highly recommend Thomas Barrett for the Thomas S. Green Award for her outstanding service in the Worcester Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Robert Walton

From: Pezzella, Robert <pezzella@worcesterschools.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:12 AM
To: Bedard, James <bedardj@worcesterschools.net>
Subject: Re: TS Green Award 2019 Nomination - TOM BARRETT

I have worked with Tom Barrett for over 8 years in the Worcester Public Schools,being called upon on a daily basis by Principals and other school officials to keep schools safe and secure. I have found Tom to be extremely accessible ,professional , and willingly cooperative when challenged with the task to come up with problem solving mechanisms in his role at School Facilities.
I highly and proudly recommend his nomination for the Thomas Green Award on behalf of our school system.He is worthy of such an honor.
Sincerely
Robert F. Pezzella
School Safety Director
--
Robert F. Pezzella
School Safety Director
Worcester Public Schools
(508)799-3472

Worcester Public Schools
Worcester, Massachusetts

Facilities Management Department

Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building
20 Irving Street
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Tel. (508) 799-3151
Fax (508) 799-3144
Snyder@worcesterschools.net

Sabrina P. Snyder
Coordinator of Plant Support Services

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Sabrina P. Snyder

Date: February 22, 2019

Subject: **Letter of Support for Thomas R. Barrett Jr., Thomas S. Green Award Nominee**

I've had the pleasure of working with **Thomas R. Barrett Jr.** during the full course of my career with the Worcester Public Schools. Beginning with our first interaction in 2001 and through to this very day, he has remained steadfast in his commitment to the school district's students, families & staff, as well as to the residents of the Worcester community at-large.

Tom's work ethic is exceptional, and his reputation of being accessible at all hours of the day & night is authentic. He functions at a level higher than most, and demonstrates his commitment & dedication on a daily basis. He does not seek the limelight, but his support often allows others to be successful. He is a servant-leader, in that he leads by example and is willing to complete any task he asks of others. He prioritizes service, organizational growth, and the professional development of his team above kudos, prestige, and personal accolades.

Given that Facilities is a non-stop 24/7 industry with little room for error, I have yet to observe Tom lose his cool. His philosophy is simple in nature yet can be difficult in application... "Let's get it done." But through his hands-on approach & determination to make improvements in the lives of others, he has earned respect from across the city.

I have no hesitation in forwarding this letter of recommendation for Tom Barrett to receive the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award. He is truly a deserving candidate. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (508) 799-3151.

Respectfully,

Sabrina P. Snyder
Coordinator of Plant Support Services

cc: File

Worcester Public Schools
Worcester, Massachusetts

Facilities Management Department

Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building
20 Irving Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-2493

Tel. (508) 799-3156
Fax (508) 799-3144
KoukakisA@worcesterschools.net

Alex Koukakis
Principal Clerk Confidential

February 26, 2019

Re: Thomas R. Barrett Jr. for Thomas S. Green Public Service Award Nomination

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Thomas Barrett for the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award. I have worked with Tom over the last five years and have only watched him grow and thrive as a public leader. Tom puts in his all, 24/7, and never falters. His commitment to the Worcester Public School System is truly remarkable. He not only meets, but exceeds all expectations on a daily basis. One of his best qualities is ensuring that all situations are handled with the same dedication, no matter how big or small. Tom genuinely loves the work he does and takes pride in the work he and his team completes each day.

Tom is the Coordinator of Building and Grounds for the Worcester Public School System and currently is responsible for over 60 buildings in the city. While this may seem like a large feat to some, Tom handles his position and responsibilities with grace, always at the ready to ensure the schools and grounds are safe and accessible.

Tom does not take his responsibilities lightly and is on call 24/7 to resolve issues in the city. From email to phone calls Tom is available for input and action, and always presents with a smile on his face and his "that's how we roll attitude." His dedication to his staff and his positive approach are only some of the wonderful contributions he brings to both the field and the office. His ability to be a seamless interdepartmental team player allows for flow in his otherwise busy day. There is no one I would rather recommend for the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award and fittingly, no one more deserving.

Please feel free to reach out via email or phone for questions.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Koukakis

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to support the nomination of Mr. Thomas Barrett for the 2019 TS Green Award.

I've been working at the Worcester Public Schools Facilities Department for 22+ years now and the majority of those years have been alongside Thomas Barrett.

First as an electrician Tom was a person who went above and beyond on the job site to make sure the job was done quickly, efficiently and complete. He also managed go beyond the work order checking in with the principal to see if he could fix any other electrical concerns they had before leaving the building.

Later when he stepped up and became a Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds he didn't hesitate to continue working long extra hours that were needed to be put in to run the school shop and custodial part of Facilities. Tom has turned things around to help the Facilities department run more efficiently. Tom is a person who will listen to your concerns and treats everyone fair.

Above and beyond are the words that come to mind when I think of Tom Barrett. As a co-worker and friend I couldn't think of a better person to be nominated and receive this 2019 TS Green Award.

Thank You,

Edward Stevens

Edward Stevens

Worcester Public School, Facilities Department

2019-02-22

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER
140 HARRINGTON WAY
WORCESTER, MA 01606

To whom it may concern,

Thomas Barrett is well deserving the honor of the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award. Having worked directly with Tom on many projects, I can confidently say he is a team player, who takes extreme ownership of his assigned duties. This often involves Tom taking on responsibilities of tasks outside of his normal job description in order to ensure things get done and done correctly for the betterments of the WPS.

As I've worked with Tom, I have seen his ability to adapt and be open-minded about the problems he is tasked with solving. Tom listens to his peers to understand their points of view and then incorporates their input into a solution for whatever he's tasked with. This ability has fostered many beneficial, cooperative relationships throughout the districts' school staff and various departments.

Tom's responsiveness and dedication to his responsibilities is exceptional. On more than one occasion I've called Tom outside of normal business hours to report an issue I needed assistance with, and Tom has always answered or gotten back to me within minutes. Also, his response is always a pleasant one. I have never gotten a hint of annoyance or aggravation from him. Based on the scope of his responsibility and the number of calls I assume he gets due to that, this amount of professionalism is commendable.

Myself being in the technology field, one thing I greatly appreciate about Tom is his lack of hesitation or resistance to the use of new, better, more efficient technology. This has come in the form of items such as building access controls, facility video monitoring, and most recently an update to the energy management controls systems. Tom embraces these efficiencies and pushes for these improvements, once again, to the betterment of the WPS.

Tom's job is one that includes a tremendous amount of responsibility and requires a high level of diligence and dedication. I have seen Tom take on the responsibility in stride and provide laudable level of dedication. It has been a pleasure to work with him throughout the years. He has my highest recommendation to be a recipient of the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award.

Respectfully,

Timothy Williams
Network System Engineer, WPS

City of Worcester, Massachusetts
Department of Administration & Finance

Edward M. Augustus Jr.
City Manager

Thomas F. Zidelis
Chief Financial Officer

John Odell
Director
Division of City Energy and Asset Management

Memorandum

To: James Bedard, Director of Environmental Management and Capital Projects
Worcester Public Schools

From: Matthew Urban, Chief Clerk of the Works, Division of Energy and Asset Management
City of Worcester, Department of Administration and Finance

Date: February 25, 2019

Re: Letter of Support for Tom Barrett – TS Green Award 2019 Nomination

Jim,

I have worked with Tom Barrett on several large projects at the Worcester Public School buildings since 2012. In that time, I have come to realize that Tom puts the schools and the students as the top priority. In working with me and the contractors working the projects I have been assigned, Tom has always been available and put in the time necessary to make sure that we understand the needs of the school administration, the student population, and the operations of each facility. Knowing that the work I do with Tom is only a small portion of the work the school department requests of him, I can only guess at the amount of time he gives the department in total.

Our working relationship continues to develop as we balance the responsibilities of my department managing the contracts and his responsibilities in coordinating access, ensuring good communication between my office and his, good communication between his onsite personnel and the contractors, and most importantly, as the liaison between Worcester Public Schools administration and operational needs. He has consistently been fair in working with us in maintaining the lowest impact on the school operations that we can feasibly accomplish. Many times, our work has required contractors to work second shift and weekends to reduce the impact on school operations. When this is the case, Tom has always been a phone call away, no matter what time it is.

Tom's dedication to the Worcester Public School system has been consistent from the day I met him. I find it hard to put into words the value Tom brings to the Worcester Public School Department. I would be hard pressed to think that anyone is more deserving than Tom Barrett to receive the TS Green Public Service Award.

Matthew Urban, Chief Clerk of the Works,

Energy and Asset management Division, City of Worcester

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DEERFIELD, MA 01342

Worcester Regional Research Bureau, Inc.
500 Salisbury Street
Worcester, MA 01609

February 22, 2019

Dear TSG Public Service Awards Nomination Committee,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Thomas Barrett for the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award. I want to thank the WRRB for this opportunity to recognize Tom who deserves this recognition as he goes over and above what he is required to do on a regular basis.

It is important for me to set the context for supporting this nomination. We are not only evaluating Tom's normal work conditions, but we are also considering the extra work load and changes he has been required to make under a huge initiative the school district undertook about nine years ago to create and implement an Environmental Management System (EMS). I was hired at that time to assist the district to develop and implement the EMS. This initiative has involved extensive changes in both academic and operations departments to address numerous common environmental health and safety (EHS) issues in schools. Since many EHS issues are both building-based and related to operations, this work put a disproportionate burden on Tom's department. The numerous changes have been significant, and range from new purchasing criteria, work practices, compliance and training requirements, to new ways to assess and respond to building-based issues.

The development of the EMS has involved creating numerous new EHS management systems, and Tom has always accepted, embraced and participated in the development and implementation of these initiatives. Although much of this work has required him to rethink many aspects of how his department works and has often added extra work to an already significant workload, he has been very receptive to new, innovative ideas. He is one of the first people I consult when addressing building-based initiatives or issues. I trust his judgement and rely on his perspective. He is open and receptive as well as creative!

He has stepped up as a leader to make the recommended changes in his department's approach to preventing EHS issues, as well as assessing and responding to them. He ensures that his staff; provide the information we need to create EHS programs, implement the new work practices and reporting requirements, attend training, use new products and equipment, and address issues that arise in a timely way.

There is another significant set of circumstances that highlight the magnitude of Tom's commitment to his work. The district has had significant changes in leadership positions that have directly impacted the Facilities Department over the last decade, including two superintendents, two facility managers, two custodial supervisors and an environmental coordinator. The district is very fortunate that Tom is totally self-motivated and directed, as he has been instrumental in successfully carrying the facilities-based work through these major administrative changes.

Tom works well collaboratively as well as independently. He knows when to reach out for technical assistance and works well with a variety of technical consultants to address a wide range of routine and high-risk issues. He is respectful to all the types of people he must interface with, from tradesmen and custodians to school administrators, city personnel and parents. I have seen him deal with disgruntled employees under his supervision with validation and understanding, while at the same time directing them and holding them accountable.

He is always there when you need him. Whenever there is a request from myself, a parent, the town or school personnel, Tom responds immediately by phone, text and/or email. He validates people's concerns and seeks to investigate and address them when warranted. No matter how busy he is, he shows up and stays throughout the duration of whatever project or situation requires his time. Many of the activities involved in responding to building-based emergencies require extraordinary efforts. Tom can always be relied on to always step up no matter what the time of day or night and will do whatever is necessary to respond effectively. Yet, for all that we ask of him, he never complains or resists! He just steps up and does it to the best of his ability.

In summary, Tom's commitment is unparalleled in the district. I have worked to develop EMSs in other large school districts as well as municipal departments across the state, and I have had the greatest success doing this work in Worcester due to commitments such as Tom's. I truly appreciate this opportunity to contribute to the recognition he deserves.

If you have any questions or need more information, I can be reached the phone number and email located on the first page of this letter.

Sincerely,

Lynn Rose

Lynn Rose
Owner