

**MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2004
7:00 P.M. -OPEN SESSION
WACTC-ROOM 303
MULTI-MEDIA ROOM**

Call to Order at 7:00 P.M.

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Marc Dubois-Chairman	Present
Michael Bileau-Vice Chairman	Present
Allen Auclair	Present
John Ward	Present
Michelle Williams	Present

GOOD AND WELFARE-PUBLIC:

Ms. Darlene McGraw of 663 Thomas Street, Burriville, is a former resident of Woonsocket and graduate of the WHS and is part of the Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Poverty and was before the Committee over a year and a half ago about the Universal Breakfast program. They have received many reports of success from other schools that have started this program and would like to appear on a future agenda to propose this again. She passed out some information from the Pawtucket School Department about their success with the program.

Ms. Linda De Schepper stated she emailed Dr. D'Acchioli last week about the circumstances in which she could break her contract to seek employment elsewhere. Dr. D'Acchioli stated he did respond and that he would do everything to keep her from missing an opportunity even if it meant less than a two-week notice. He will resend the response. She thanked Chairman Dubois for his honesty and for not stepping down.

Mr. John King, 273 Oregon Avenue, works at the Middle School as a custodian and is the president of the Local 1137. He knows they are considering amending city-owned vehicles policy and wanted to inform the Committee that two of the three people who take these vehicles home live in Woonsocket and have all their tools in them and are on twenty-four hour call. They live in the district and are just minutes away and they don't have to go to a central location and waste time when there is a pipe break, vandalism or the Police are waiting for them to get into a building.

Mrs. Berube, 622 Fairmount Street, has a child at Coleman and last year went to the teacher to put him in a reading program but was told it was too early and then no notice of a problem and then told in April that he may not pass. He was passed and is reading at a third grade level in the fourth grade and is, also, having math problems. How did he get passed to the fourth grade and the whole class is behind? Principal Nasuti was in attendance and Mrs. Berube and he spoke privately.

Ms. Susan La Plante, 312 Lucille Street, she has been trying to address issues with her child at Savoie who has multiple disabilities and no one wants to hear her. It took two months before the principal would hear her and he refused to meet with Cedars stating there was no release when there was one in place. They set up a 504 last year and she found that two weeks into the school year, the teacher doesn't have it. Her child is on two, new medicines due to the stress being caused by all of this. Why is the school system failing him? She has letter from their doctor about the stress and what it is doing to him. Dr. D'Acchioli stated that he will talk to Mr. Emerson, head of the Special Needs but if the IEP team says no, she can appeal to the

Department of Education. He will make sure the 504 Plan is followed.

Ms. Marlene Smith, 15 Monica Drive, Cumberland, seventh-grade teacher at the Middle School, stated that during a Professional day yesterday, a matter came to her attention. She had applied for the posting of the Disciplinary Literacy in Social Studies Committee. She found out she wasn't selected because people with more seniority applied. Yesterday, she overheard people stating they didn't want to be on the committee and were recruited because no one applied. She has no problem with this but wanted to bring this to McFee's administration's attention. She is happy with Mrs. Valentine.

Mr. Jeffrey Belknap of Harrison Avenue has been an employee of the WSD for seventeen and a half years. He is the day facilities supervisor since February 1998. There was an article in the Providence Journal about the use of vehicles by employees. In August 2002, Chairman Boucher stated that the policy regarding city-owned vehicles is the same as other city departments have in place. He doesn't know what precipitated this or why no one has talked to him or the Director of Facilities. The article quoted Chairman Dubois stating this was the first of many changes. Have these changes been discussed with the full committee because they are the same people who brought up the whole issue of things being discussed before meetings? More changes to come does he have the support? Ms. Williams refers to the costs and money saved. They are on-call twenty four/seven and they receive no extra stipend for that and nowhere in the contract with Local 1137 does it mandate they come in if called. There has been a gentlemen's agreement between Mr. Parrillo and Dr. D'Acchioli. If this passes, a memo will be sent to all facilities and to the Police and Fire Departments for callbacks, security, etc. that they are not available before or after regularly scheduled hours. The Facilities staff will turn in their Nextel's at the end of each day and the vehicles will be locked at the Bernon lot. The Union President and Council will ask to meet with Dr. D'Acchioli and discuss violations of collective bargaining. Speaking for the facilities staff, the treatment of Mr. Parrillo was shameful, political and unprofessional. This is a seventy-year old man who has worked for them for thirteen years and doesn't deserve this type of treatment.

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. D'Acchioli extended special thanks go to all of the students and staff who worked behind the scenes to make this year's Autumnfest a great event. Kudos to the high school and middle school bands and to the WHS Cheerleaders for their participation in the parade.

Congratulations went to Gina DeLuca for being named "Scholar Athlete of the Week" by the Call. Gina tied for lead scorer last year for the Field Hockey team (19 Goals - 62 points) and is doing very well this year (12 goals - 33 points). A senior quad-captain for the field hockey team, Gina is a straight "A" student; is the publicity director for the National Honor Society, as well as a member of the RI Honor society and is a sports writer for the Villa Novan school newspaper. Come spring she will, also, be playing first base on the softball team. Gina is a great role model for the younger players on the team and is a dedicated player. The Superintendent wished her good luck during your upcoming season.

Dr. D'Acchioli congratulated Alaina Kayata for securing a \$120 donation from Lowes in Woonsocket for plants and flowers for the Citizens' Memorial foyer. Also, he thanked Mark Hedden for the extra time he put in to make sure every teacher at Citizens' Memorial had an ID and lastly, Kim Mowbray for keeping the Citizens' Memorial website up-to-date each and every day (on her own time).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the open minutes of September 22, 2004 as submitted
Unanimously approved

MB Second: MD

CONSENT AGENDA:

Personnel Actions: (See Attached)

- Certified Appointments
- Non-Certified Appointments

Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Local

- Advanced Construction Technologies Corp/Asbestos Abatement/WMS/Local, \$2,500.00
- Blackstone Valley Office System, Inc/Copier Usage/WMS/Local, \$4,000.00
- Childcraft/Kindergarten Supplies/Bernon/Local, \$2,189.33
- East Bay Ed. Collaborative/Reading Training/District/Local, \$10,725.00
- Follett Library Services/Library Books/WMS/Local, \$2,000.00
- Konica Office Products/Copier Usage/District/Local, \$18,900.00
- Rick's Music Instruments/Repairs/WHS/Local, \$4,750.00
- Rizzo Ford/Dump Truck Repairs/Facilities/Local, \$3,000.00
- Tech Depot/Laser Pinter & supplies/Social St./Local, \$2,304.00
- Valley Transportation/Music/WHS/Local, \$2,700.00

Grant

- Apple Computer/Computers/WMS/Technology/Grant, \$16,618.00
- Dell Computers/Computers/Technology/Grant, \$9,532.56
- Educational Focus Enterprises, Inc./Eval. & Prof/Tech Assistance/WHS/Grant, \$5,602.59
- Staples/Printing/Grants & Curriculum/Grant, \$2,353.00
- Valley Transportation/ School Choice Bus/District/Grant, \$51,700.00
- WB Mason/Prof. Dev.Supplies/Grant & Curriculum/Grant, \$4,279.36

Services

- Tillinghast, Licht, Perkins, Smith & Cohen, LLP Promac/McFee/District, \$13,762.00

Field Trips/Conference Requests

- NAF Conference, Las Vegas, NV/WACTC/Perkins Grant
- NEATE Annual Conference, Nashua, NH/WACTC/Perkins Grant
- English Literature Comp Workshop, Houston, TX/Mt. St. Charles/Title II
- ACTFL Annual Mtg., Chicago, IL/Mt. St. Charles/Title II
- FBLA Conference, Chicago, IL/WHS/
- Principal's Workshop, Washington, DC/Social St., Coleman/Title I
- ASCD Conference, Boston, MA/Mt. St. Charles/Title II

Home Schooling Requests:(1)

Mr. Auclair asked that the Rick's Music and Rizzo Ford purchases be discussed separately.

Motion to approve the entire Consent Agenda except the two Purchases removed for discussion

AA Second: MB

Unanimously approved

Dr. D'Acchioli explained that the purchase for Rick's Music is money put aside for repairs or replacement during the year. There is no exchange or purchase requested this evening. The Woonsocket Education needs to put money aside and budget it. Regarding Rizzo Ford, any warranty on any vehicle is utilized first. This was a 2001 vehicle and the warranty has expired. Mr. Parrillo gets the absolute best deal he can on all repairs.

Motion to approve the Rick's Music and Rizzo Ford purchases as submitted MD Second: MB
Unanimously approved

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Dubois reminded everyone that the Safety Committee will be meeting on November 3rd and Mr. Auclair reminded everyone of the Parent Advisory Committee meeting on October 20th at 7 P.M. in room 305.

CONFERENCES:

Mrs. Ferranti and Ms. Diane Mayers gave a PowerPoint presentation on putting together the Nature Trail at the Citizens Memorial School. (SEE ATTACHMENT 1) They would like permission for use of the land.

Motion to receive and place of file said report MB Second: AA
Unanimously approved

Motion to let them use the land MD Second: MB
Unanimously approved

Mr. Auclair asked them to make sure the nature trail is not having a negative impact on the water. At the end of the school year, he asked for a summary of the use of the trail over the school year. As an aside, Dr. D'Acchioli stated that Mr. Ferry prepared a wonderful book for their students about the trail.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion to approve the amendment to BYLAWS-Article V Meetings - 2nd Passage
MB Second: JW
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve the P7-7 Integrated Pest management and Control Policy - 1st Passage
JW Second: MD
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Dr. D'Acchioli stated this is the result of changes in the State laws stating that School Committees must have a policy on this issue. He has been able to gather the policies from other Districts and took the best from each and this policy meets all the requirements of the statute.

Mr. Ward stated that parents who registered with the school would be notified of annual scheduled inspections and pesticide treatments.

Motion to approve the amendment to R2-1.1 Use of City-Owned Vehicles by Employees - 1st Passage
MD Second: MW

Dr. D'Acchioli reviewed the changes to the use of city-owned vehicles and questioned several changes. He can't endorse these for reasons mentioned in the Public Good & Welfare. He would like to see a section added regarding no smoking allowed in city-owned vehicles. The policy, otherwise, has been serving the district well.

Mr. Auclair stated this is school property and mileage logs should be maintained regarding personal and business use, especially for tax purposes. Perhaps, 1099's should be issued unless repayment is made for personal use. Folks should be accountable if vehicles used for personal use.

Dr. D'Acchioli asked Mrs. Goodman to check and see how the City handles their vehicles and can check with the accountants regarding the tax questions.

Ms. Williams asked if breaks and lunchtimes are considered personal time?

Dr. D'Acchioli stated that it is not clear because those are contractual items allowed those during work hours.

Mr. Ward expressed concern about the policy and the impact the School Committee has when it imposes its will without due consideration. There was no staff input, consideration of union contracts, etc. This action may cost them a Director and the Union to take action against them. He cannot support it not because of its merits but because of the process. The impression that other actions are coming concerns him about the Committee imposing its will. If this was about saving money, they are talking about 3k at the high end and only one vehicle leaves town. He was strongly against magnetic decals; permanent decals were put on immediately and eliminated magnetic decals. Also, he believes the Committee is in conflict with State Law 16-2-9.1 dealing with Ethics policy. He is against these changes until the proper process is completed.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated that magnetic decals were suppose to be only used when a new vehicle was purchased and were waiting for the permanent decal which would take about a month. They were misused but their use has since been limited.

Ms. Williams asked for an explanation of the gentlemen's agreement Mr. Belknap mentioned earlier.

Dr. D'Acchioli explained that the Woonsocket Education Department uses the same policy as the City. Originally, the vehicles were taken home during winter months and then became annual when the City changed its policy and the Woonsocket Education went to 24/7 security monitoring.

Mr. Belknap stated that contractually, facilities staff does not have to come in when called. It is not mandatory. If it was checked throughout the State, many folks are paid if on-call. They are not. This is opening a can of worms for the next round of negotiations.

Mr. Auclair stated that on-call means you are listed with the Police and Fire. He would have no problem with the vehicles going home if the folks are on-call, with the authority of the Superintendent to use these vehicles with notification to the Committee and that logs be maintained on each vehicle including the VIN and odometer readings daily and logs kept at worksite.

Mr. Ward discussed personal use versus business use. Salesmen, for instance, who have company cars, are charged per mile for their personal use. Our vehicles are only used for the convenience of the School Department and can't be used for personal use. They are parked at home. This is for the convenience of the employer, and not the employee. Can check to see if commute time is considered personal time. All other info is compiled each year on each vehicle and can be provided. Vehicles are school property and they have a no-smoking policy on any school property so that should apply to vehicles.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated he is going to a conference on October 21st regarding this issue, as well as other new laws and the implementation of R.I. Workers' safety and non-smoking laws. He does only authorize three people to use the vehicles and they are Mr. Belknap, Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Parrillo. Also, he feels any changes regarding the Facilities Department should go through Mr. Bileau.

Chairman Dubois asked Mr. Belknap how they are paid when they handle a call back. Mr. Belknap explained they receive three hours of pay if called back but not in all situations. It used to be that way but during the last negotiations, if it is within three hours of their scheduled time, they do not receive the automatic three hours and if they need to stay late, they are only paid for the time actually worked.

Chairman Dubois explained that the Police station only has Mr. Belknap, Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Plante on their emergency call list.

Ms. Williams explained that Mr. Parrillo drives a 2002 Explorer home to South Kingstown each day and has no tools in the truck and now not even on the call-back list with the Fire and Police departments and there are two other people right in Woonsocket who can be called.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated he has seen Mr. Parrillo's name on the list and even he has been called when there are problems so the numbers are there.

Motion to amend under number 7, add after 'vehicle home' in the first line 'if authorized by the Superintendent' and add at the end of number 7 ' Notification to the School Committee of authorized personnel; add maintain mileage logs of each vehicle at job site pending what Mrs. Goodman finds out from accountants as to what's needed for tax purposes; number 5, add report to the director of Facilities; remove number 9 due to changes in number 7 and now make that the place for the no smoking in School Department vehicles pending what Dr. D'Acchioli finds out at the upcoming conference;

AA Second: MD

Roll Call (AA-Yes, MB-Yes, MD-Yes, JW-No, MW-Yes)

Mr. Ward stated this is a total rewrite and is subject to items still be researched and proves his earlier point and believes it would be prudent to table this issue and address it at a future meeting where meaningful and productive discussion can occur.

Roll Call vote on original motion with amendments

(AA-Yes, MB-Yes, MD-Yes, JW-No, MW-Yes)

Mr. Pedro Senior of 2203 Diamond Hill Road, Apt 1, explained that his five-year-old daughter has a serious medical condition. She has severe asthma and is in the Emergency Room ten times a year and has pneumonia at least twice a year. She has to walk two blocks for the bus and wait out in the cold weather. He has a letter from their doctor. He asked if the bus could pick her up at their door and it was denied. He doesn't understand when a bus does come through to pick up other children at their door.

Mr. Legare, owner of Valley Transportation, stated that this bus stop is the single, highest concentration of students. There are fifty-three students at that stop. There are eleven buildings and one hundred and eleven apartments. His entrance to the bus stop is 260'. The apartments are very close to the driveway the bus would come through. His concern is that if the bus when picking up the regular-ed students would go into the lot for the bus stop, there would be a lot of children running from different directions at the last minute and that could be dangerous. When they stop now at a door, they are picking up one child. Mr. Bebeau from the City has been out there and Dr. Macera went with him and where the stop is now is the safest for that size group of students. The bus does go in and stop now for students but it's for Special Needs and its one child at the door.

Mr. Ward asked if this could be covered with a 504, which would accommodate for such a disability.

Dr. Macera will make arrangements for a 504 assessment to be done.

It was agreed by all that Mr. Senior would talk to Dr. Macera tonight and Mr. Emerson and the school doctor along with their doctor to see what they can do. Mr. Senior was told by the School Committee he could come back to them if they can't resolve his issue.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. D'Acchioli congratulated and gave a hearty thank you to Mrs. Natale, Mrs. Rollins and Mrs. Ferranti and the entire Citizens staff involved with the creation of this nature trail.

On Monday, September 27th, representatives from Griggs and Browne provided an inspection and answered questions posed by the School Committee and Administration regarding the most recent infestation of cockroaches at the Middle School. Inspections and treatment continue. As of this afternoon, there are very few sightings and the pests appear to be under control.

On September 29 and 30, Social Street School and Coleman Elementary School celebrated their respective accomplishments with respect to gains made on the State Assessments. Congratulations to the teachers, administration and staff of both schools for a job exceedingly well done.

On Monday, October 4th, WHS received 25 Pentium 2 Computers from the RI Judiciary. Chief Justice Frank Williams toured the school and responded to student questions.

Later in the afternoon, the district held a Strategic Planning session to adjust their focus and tweak their plan for submission to RIDE. Once completed, Dr. Macera will provide Committee with an overview.

Yesterday, the district held its second professional day this school year. Topics included continuation of Assertive Discipline training, video streaming, the Advisor-Advisee program at the HS, Physical restraint training, AYP, NECAP and work on the new GLE's. Professional Development in Woonsocket is most comprehensive and covers a wide variety of areas.

The next scheduled day is on November 2, Election Day.

Regarding their facilities, the architect is about 75% finished with the bid specs for an elevator at McFee. The partitions for the MS girls' lav's are in and being installed. Handrails at the Pothier School were being installed this morning. The SIMPLEX materials for the Pothier fire alarm have arrived and will be installed next week. The MS intercom is now fully functional. A roof drain at the high school has been repaired, and water meters throughout the district have been replaced. The structural issues reported earlier at the Citizens Memorial School have exhibited little additional movement so their short-term repairs and periodic monitoring will suffice. Asbestos abatement and pipe repair in the basement of Citizens have been completed. The high school hot water heat exchange has been successfully installed. The roof leaks at the Pothier School have been repaired in-house. Parking lot lines at Bernon, Citizens, Pothier, the Middle and High Schools have been relined. Middle School exterior doors have been painted and a handrail was installed in front of the auditorium entrance.

The posting closes for the MS and Citizens Principalships next Monday. Interviews will be scheduled for the MS principal on Tuesday, October 19 and the Citizens principal on Wednesday, October 20 with a target appointment date of Wednesday, October 27. If assistant principal vacancies should result, the Administration will be seeking WTG approval for a one-week posting for any assistant principal vacancies. If so, they would look to the Nov. 17th School Committee meeting to fill those vacancies.

They are approaching the mid-quarter of the school year. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's teachers regarding his/her progress. The value of constant home-school communications cannot be understated.

Motion to receive and place on file said Superintendent's Report
Unanimously approved

AA Second: MB

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD AND WELFARE:

Mr. Ward congratulated everyone involved with the success of the Autumnfest. He was proud of all the participants including local groups and Lions members and he and Mr. Auclair sold a lot of doughboys. Dr. D'Acchioli was a float judge and thanked Dr. Macera for her strategic planning. He wished the football, hockey, and all the athletes well.

Ms. Williams thanked all involved with the Autumnfest and asked about a question asked a few weeks ago about salaries versus what is budgeted. Dr. D'Acchioli explained that the numbers in December are the amounts the committee approves and pays. The salaries listed in the budget are estimates.

Mr. Auclair thanked all who came to the meeting. He can't wait to walk down the new nature trail. He asked about the standards on the website and the benchmarks for science and the use/need for microscopes.

Dr. Macera had emailed all the principals for a microscope inventory. Some schools had a few and some had none. They will be addressing that in the next budget but waiting for the GLE's in science and will focus resources on things actually needed. They will be sharing resources and will be meeting with the principals.

Mr. Auclair asked how many students were retained in Grades 4 and 5 per school?

Dr. Macera is involved with the parents heavily regarding retention. Retention in the elementary grades is usually because of age or immaturity. They offer summer school, after school and many other choices to help the student. It is very difficult to retain a student after the third grade. There are a high number of drop-outs. It is a joint decision with the parents to retain. Social promotion is not the norm and supports are in place to help the student.

Mr. Auclair asked if the sixth grade teachers meet with the fifth grade teachers to provide them with criteria? And, is there a forum for students to voice comments at the elementary level?

Dr. Macera stated that they do have meetings between grades and schools along with counselors and social workers.

Mr. Auclair stated he has materials regarding the EPA N.E. Children First campaign to reduce asthma and lead poisoning. Perhaps the district should participate.

Dr. Macera stated that during professional development, nurses do cover those issues such as respiratory illnesses and environmental causes.

Mr. Auclair asked about creating educational 30-minute videos that could be played on Public television and use parent volunteers to interpret. Also, what about the possibility of adjusting the curve for special-ed students?

Dr. Macera stated that NCLB would not allow any adjustment. They must meet minimum requirements. Otherwise, there is no additional funding. It's all based on chronological age. They are looking into the videos but it is a very costly project.

Mr. Bileau stated he had mentioned this before about the automatic caller system at the High School and parents getting calls at night. One parent received a call at night that his daughter wasn't in school when she was and was told it was a mistake. This issue needs to be addressed with more hands-on approach. He offered his help to Ms. Mayer's with the nature trail. He thanked everyone for coming out.

Chairman Dubois stated it was a wonderful Autumnfest and was honored to march in the parade. Hats off to the city. He was glad they changes to the use of vehicles was passed.

The Chair declared a five-minute recess at 9:50 before convening into Closed Session.

Call back to order at 10:00.

Motion to convene into Executive Closed Session in accordance with RI Law: 42-46-5 (a) (2)
Grievance 04-08.01 Team Leaders **MD Second: MB**
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Open session reconvened at 11:10.

Motion to adjourn at 11:10 P.M. **MD Second: JW**
Unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Denise St Germain
WSC Recording Secretary