

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2004
7:00 P.M. -OPEN SESSION
WACTC-ROOM 303
MULTI-MEDIA ROOM

Call to Order at 7:20 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:

Mr. Keith Morin, 170 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, stated that Mrs. Ferranti is the best principal they have had and that she is good with the parents and the teachers.

Ms. Kim Mowbray, 253 Harris Avenue, Woonsocket, is a teacher at Citizens Memorial, could not understand why Mrs. Ferranti was not appointed at the last meeting. She is only one of five people that still remain out of forty-seven since their last SALT report. There is a lack of consistency and effective leadership and discipline. Mrs. Ferranti has changed that and is the most effective administration they have had. Excitement is back and failure to confirm her is eroding moral.

Ms. Pauline Clancy, 547 Clinton Street, feels the same way. Many have written letters and emails and resented the fact that there was no response at all.

Ms. Marie Carrier, 153 Main Street, stated she is a mother of five, has had to deal with four different principals since 2000 when becoming the president of the PTO. Mrs. Ferranti is wonderful with kids and should make her the permanent principal.

Ms. Donna Houle, 130 Ward Street, attended her first parent/teacher conference and suggested they extend the meeting for three hours like at the Middle and High Schools. Perhaps they could do that when the next contract comes up.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated that is set by the contract and a parent can request a meeting with a teacher anytime.

Chairman Dubois moved that the Unfinished Business be taken out of order, unless there was an objection by the Committee. There was none.

Motion to appoint Mrs. Ferranti as an Elementary School Principal as recommended by the Superintendent

JW Second: AA

Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Mr. Ward commented in his nine years he has never seen such support and thanked everyone who took the time to write.

Mr. Auclair stated that he would talk with Administration about how they can take faster action when an administrator or teacher is not doing their job and causing a negative climate at a school.

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. D’Acchioli congratulated Coach Pam Paige and the Girls Field Hockey Team for winning the Division II State Championship. The team posted a 17-0-1 record to win the championship. Gina Deluca, senior captain, was the leading scorer in Division II, finishing her final season with 17 goals and 19 assists. Congratulations to the team!

Congratulations went to their football team for making it into the Division 3 Playoffs. They played a great game yesterday against Mount Pleasant and Dr. D’Acchioli is looking forward to an even greater game on Thanksgiving.

Congratulations went to Anthony Marsella and Briana Badeau for being selected for the Wendy's Heisman Award to outstanding athletes. This award is based on excellent achievement in athletics, academics and community service. This year 14,874 nominations were submitted nationwide and two of their students were selected from Woonsocket High School. Tomorrow night, they will attend a banquet in their honor at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts.

Congratulations to the boy’s soccer team which had their best quarterfinalist record in 10 years with 10 wins, 4 losses and 2 ties. Kudos to the team.

Special thanks went to Sheila Lennon for organizing Globe Park School's second annual Family Math Night on October 26th. Eighty-one adults and children spent an hour participating in Math Activities. Each family went home with a packet containing articles, resources and activities they could do at home. Thanks went to the following staff members who facilitated activities during the event: Terri Ficca, Linda Pepler, Kathy Palmieri, Barbara Johnson, Diane Hampson, Michelle Lacourse, Pauline Hynes, Nancy Flood, Fran Pergola, Annette Levasseur, Nicole Lavallee, Donna Bourgeois and Mike Davis.

Kudos were given to Senior, Stephanie Lavallee who won the 2004 International Youth Summit Award sponsored by the National Education Business Partnership Network. Stephanie will participate in a conference in London, England focusing on leadership skills, team building and presentation skills. Her nomination was sponsored by the Children’s’ Crusade under the guidance of Woonsocket High School representative Christine Baker. Congratulations to Stephanie.

Dr. D’Acchioli thanked WHS teachers Claire Laquerre and Janet Miele for conducting a very successful 'SMILE' science family night. Students and their families participated in a potluck dinner and then conducted family science activities. This was the second annual SMILE night, the culmination of many science and home activities students participate throughout the year.

Dr. D’Acchioli recognized the “Student Senate” at Citizens’ Memorial. These students will meet with their principal each month to discuss school issues and help in planning school activities.

Congratulations to Bruce Villeneuve, Director of Athletics for being elected to the Cumberland High School “Athletic Hall of Fame.” Bruce taught and served as coach and athletic director for the Cumberland School Department for 30 years before accepting his position with the Woonsocket School Department. Congratulations Bruce.

Motion to receive and place of file
Unanimously approved

MB Second: JW

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the Open and Closed minutes of October 27th and the correction to the Closed Minutes of October 13th
Unanimously approved

JW Second: AA

CONSENT AGENDA:

Personnel Actions: (See Attached)

- Certified Appointments
- Non-Certified Appointments

Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Local

- Blackstone Valley Office Systems/WACTC/Usage/Local,\$3,500.00
- J.L. Faria/Repairs Gym Door/WHS/Local,\$2,160.00
- Konica/Usage/Harris/Local,\$4,000.00
- Perma-Bound Books/Books/WHS/Local,\$2,185.00
- Phonak Hearing Systems/Speech/Hearing Equip/Sp.Ed./Local,\$2,356.90

Grant

- Dell Home Systems Co/Computer/Mt. St. Charles/Grant,\$3,448.38
- PC Nation/Camera & Equip./WACTC/Grant,\$4,944.53
- Ed Solutions Inc./NCLB Requirement Supplemental Services/Coleman/Grant,\$60,832.00

Field Trips/Conference Requests

- Lakeland Regional High School/Wanaque, NJ/WHS/Fundraiser
- Partnering to Prevent Truancy/ Wash, DC/Elementary/Title II

Home Schooling Requests: (0)

Dr. D'Acchioli stated there were two corrections to the Personnel Items. Christopher Wilson's name should be removed because he accepted another position in another District and replace Gayle Amaral as the Street Law Program Facilitator with Tonimarie Campopiano. Also, please add Mr. Andy Barnes, the Attendance Officer, to the Partnering to prevent Truancy conference in Washington, D.C.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the changes as mentioned

MD Second: JW

Unanimously approved

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Auclair stated that the Parent Advisory Council met on November 10th and he congratulated Tracey Beliveau as being elected co-chair and he, also, congratulated Wendy Lapoirs and Linda Filomeno on, also, being elected. The next meeting will be on December 1st at the WACTC at 7:00 P.M. in Room 303. He would like to see if the Council can get a spot on the website. Dr. D'Acchioli believes that would be possible.

CONFERENCES:

Dr. D'Acchioli gave the Strategic Plan update in Dr. Macera's absence. (SEE ATTACHMENT 1) He stated he is happy to see that RIDE is working on a statewide curriculum and that he is proud the State is using their Strategic Plan in making their own model. Copies of this plan are available on their website and hard copies are available at the Public libraries and the Principals' offices at each school.

Motion to approve the Strategic Plan as proposed
Unanimously approved

JW Second: AA,MB

Dr. D'Acchioli reviewed the InSite Report with the Committee. He outlined that the report clearly shows that Woonsocket spends more of their money (% of the budget) on instruction and the least money spent on leadership. They should be very proud of that. Also, a larger part of the budget goes to maintaining their buildings. Their buildings are always clean and well maintained. This report will be available on the RIDE website once they receive this report from all the Districts.

Mr. Ward asked Mrs. Goodman to provide the Committee with a five-year comparison on student expenditures.

Motion to approve the InSite Report as submitted
Unanimously approved

MB Second: JW

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

All ready address earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to appoint Ms. Roth E. Nordin to the Position of Assistant Secondary Principal as recommended by Dr. D'Acchioli
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

JW Second: MB

Motion to appoint Mr. Robert J. Picard to the Position of Assistant Secondary Principal as recommended by Dr. D'Acchioli
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

MD Second: AA

Motion to approve the School Calendar 2005-2006 as submitted
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

JW Second: AA

Dr. D'Acchioli will list Graduation Day once he confirms the date with Mr. Vachon.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. D'Acchioli stated their last professional development day went very well with topics spanning Assertive Discipline; Teaching out of Poverty (MS); Literature analysis; Literacy Centers; Problem Solving in Math (Elem.); and Looking at Student Work; Disciplinary Literacy; and Model Lessons of Best Practices (HS). And, he is most proud to state that all of these offerings were presented by members of their own faculty.

On November 5th, the NRI Chamber of Commerce conducted an awards ceremony at the WACTC. Students who videotaped the election debates were recognized and thanked for their volunteerism.

Last week, the Citizens faculty and administration met with the RIDE designated SALT leader to review the process and finalize details for their SALT visit.

Last Friday, Mr. Gallishaw and D. D'Acchioli attended a work-session in Warwick to see how that district is using Starbase to track the district's PLP's.

Yesterday, Mrs. Tincknell and Dr. D'Acchioli met with City officials to work out details minimizing the impact of the Logee Street construction on school operations. While everyone wants definitive answers, the reality is that it will be a long process and they have little control over the factors, which will impact the project's timeline. They intend to keep school operations status quo until construction on Logee actually prohibits travel in front of the school. At that time, a plan will be implemented making Getchell and Jillson

the drop-off and pick-up location for all students.

This morning, Mrs. Goodman and Dr. D'Acchioli attended a RIASC-sponsored session on the cooperative purchasing of energy. They will use this information and that collected by their consultant to guide their purchases.

This evening, Mrs. Filomeno and DR. D'Acchioli unveiled the district's Strategic Plan to the Committee and the public. Many thanks go out to Dr. Macera, all of the Directors and the many participants who guided this work. Their plan is used by RIDE as a model for other districts.

This evening, they provided a brief overview of the State's In\$ite program. He thanked Mrs. Goodman for the many hours that went into this report. Dr. D'Acchioli reiterated his previous comments. He was once again extremely proud of this report. Woonsocket uses its limited resources to greatest advantage and places a greater percentage of its funds directly into instruction than does any other district in the State. For the critics who think they are overpaid and spend too much on management, In\$ite quickly dispels that misconception. This Administration does so much for so many with so little, it's about time to start complimenting those responsible for their success. So once again, he extended thanks to all of the district and building administrators for seeking funds and spending wisely. The true winners are their students.

On another positive note, next Tuesday, at 9:00 AM, Governor Carcieri will visit the Social Street School to announce the State's school rankings. Social Street was selected because they were one of only two schools statewide who raised test scores high enough to lose the school choice designation. Committee is invited to attend this event.

Keeping the good news theme, Mr. Vachon will be placing the icing on the cake when he presents the NEASC findings at their next meeting.

To close, the Thanksgiving Day game against Cumberland High School will be held at 10:30 A.M. in Cumberland. It promises to be a very exciting game.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

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

MB Second: JW

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD AND WELFARE:

Mr. Auclair received a copy of a letter regarding the school crosswalks from Mr. Annarummo and he read the letter aloud. He has met with all involved and this issue has been addressed before. It is his opinion; along with the Chief of Police that the resolution to this problem is that they consider hiring retired Police Officers. The School Department and the City are working hard to make the streets safer and the City is willing to work with them. The Bradlee Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital's Speaking of Kids on Thursday, January 27th from 7-9 P.M. at Tollgate High School in Warwick will be presenting 'How To Talk To Your Kids So They Will Listen' hosted by Tracey Sutton. Call 1-800-927-1230 or call Lifespan for more details. Also, Scholastic is having a warehouse book sale from December 11-18th where books will be 50% off and you can purchase them through their website at www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/warehouse. Perhaps teachers and librarians may be interested in this. Mr. Auclair met with Mr. Parrillo and Mr. Belknap two weeks ago about the school vehicles issue and he learned that two of their vehicles are used by Sodexho. Mrs. Goodman stated that Cumberland uses their vehicles for Sodexho and Cumberland is billed for the use. She will see that mileage logs are maintained in those vehicles as well. Mr. Auclair suggested that there be an annual cookout or appreciation day for the custodial/janitorial staff. He reminded everyone that there is no smoking allowed on school grounds and that includes outside the building and that parents, teachers and other visitors must be advised of that if they are smoking on the property. He congratulated the three people appointed this evening and thanked Mrs. Goodman and Dr. Macera and Mr. Latham for the work they did on their reports.

Mr. Bileau congratulated Mrs. Ferranti, Ms. Nordin and Mr. Picard on their appointments.

Chairman Dubois stated that at the end of the footbridge on Cumberland Street it is a four-lane street and one lane of cars will stop for students while the other is still going. There has to be more than three hundred students that use that bridge. He went to the City about this and they won't put up a traffic light. It is too costly to hire a Police Officer at a minimum of four hours at \$35 an hour. He asked Dr. D'Acchioli if for the half hour at arrival and dismissal time could a building monitor be asked to monitor that area. Dr. D'Acchioli stated he is concerned about extending the responsibility of staff beyond school grounds. He will ask Mrs. Dubois to see if there is any grant money available for this such as Safe Passages. Chairman Dubois stated he attended a meeting last night at the Bernon School regarding the Logee Street plans, which should go into effect November 29th. The Police are working with the School Department. They have a good plan in place and Mr. Legare from Valley Transportation has done a lot of work. He, also, congratulated the three appointees and explained that there was no second for the appointment of Mrs. Ferranti at the last meeting because he had heard of some allegations and he needed time to review them and that the no second on the appointment, was not meant as a negative vote and congratulated her.

Mr. Ward congratulated the three appointees. He hopes that the State will work on a single bid/contract when it comes to food services. They could go to bid on a regional basis. He asked Dr. D'Acchioli about the sign for the Harris School. Dr. D'Acchioli stated he would talk to Mr. Hazard again to see if WACTC can build a non-lighted sign. Mr. Ward advised everyone that next Monday night, the City administration would be presenting a proposal at Harris Hall to the City Council for the development of Park Square, which includes a school building at Barry Field. He urged everyone to attend and let their feelings be known. This is a very important meeting. There is a plan for school construction and no effort ton include the School Department.

Ms. Williams congratulated Mrs. Valentine and the other three appointees, as well as the field hockey and football teams on their wins.

The Chair declared a five-minute recess at 9:10 before convening into Closed session.

Call back to order at 9:18 P.M.

Motion to convene into Executive Closed Session in accordance with RI Law: 42-46-5 (a) (8) Student Privacy Issue **MD Second: MB**

Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Open session reconvened at 10:41.

Motion to adjourn at 10:41 P.M.

MD Second: MB

Unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Denise St Germain
WSC Recording Secretary