

MINUTES

**WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005
7:00 PM – OPEN SESSION
WACTC –ROOM 303**

**Call to Order
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

Mr. Dubois announced that a closed session was held prior to the public session and that Atty. Girard Visconti was hired to provide additional counsel on the Promac matter.

GOOD AND WELFARE – PUBLIC

- **Karen Deslaurier, Co-Chair of Bernon PTO:** Asked if because they didn't use the money for an additional bus, if they could get an additional crossing guard. They were told by the police that their first priority is to make sure cars aren't parked where they shouldn't be and not crossing the kids. She asked what steps they need to take now. Dr. D'Acchioli told her to go directly to the highway department because they received federal funds to do this project. Mr. Ward suggested going to Mr. Annarummo, Director of Public Works and Public Safety Director.
- **Eleanor Nadeau, Bailey Street:** Asked why it's necessary to hire additional legal counsel when the school department has its own. Mr. Dubois explained that the WSC wanted to get someone whose specialty is in construction law in light of the large amount of the judgment by the arbitrator. Atty. Visconti will be there to review the decision and advise the committee as to what the next step should be. Ms. Nadeau referred to a recent article in The Providence Journal regarding her best friend, Marlene Smith. She recalled a WSC meeting in April 2004 where the superintendent advised Ms. Smith and Mr. Wrona to seek employment elsewhere because of so-called insubordination. "In the last year, the WMS has gone through an upheaval like we have never seen, namely because of poor judgment by McFee, but we survived. I think Dr. D'Acchioli should give Ms. Smith and Mr. Wrona an apology.
- **Linda Mazijewski, Woonsocket:** Asked about the advisor/advisee program, a 15-minute window of time in which they are doing this. "Is it ethical to open up a topic when you know you only have 15 minutes? What about the confidentiality of students if this is done in a group? Teachers are trained to teach. They are not trained in social/emotional health. Will they be liable for the advice they give? When some teachers are just coming out of college at the WHS level, a 23-year old could be advising a 17-year old. How can they be objective? What about parental consent? We have to sign a consent form for all kids to take a SALT survey, but nothing for a program like this? When will the parents be notified or consulted? These are some important issues to think about. Are we realistically prepared for the influx of referrals?

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Dr. D'Acchioli

Congratulations were extended to Aimee Perry, a Kindergarten student in Mrs. Caron's class at Second Avenue School, the winner in the recent Woonsocket Call coloring contest. Many schools have completed their school-wide Spelling Bee competitions. Congratulations were extended to all school participants and the respective winners and runner-ups. The Citywide competition is scheduled for January 20th at Harris Elementary. Good luck to all competitors. Woonsocket High School had three award winners at the annual Scholastic Art Awards Competition: Scott Groome - Silver Key; Autumn Gedutis - Gold Key; and, Melissa Nespolo - Gold Key - American Visions Award. The Gold Key winners will represent RI and compete nationally for similar awards. The American Visions Award is especially noteworthy in that there are only five of these awards presented out of the 75 Gold Keys issued to RI students. We should all be proud of this accomplishment because Woonsocket High School is competing with private as well as public schools throughout the state. Special thanks were extended specifically to the Italian Workingman's Club, the Tyra Club, and the Savini Family for their very generous donations toward the special awards for the Villa Novan Super Bowl Football team. Heartfelt thanks are also extended to the many individuals who have contributed to this cause.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 12/8/04 OPEN/CLOSED & 12/15/04 OPEN/CLOSED

Motion to approve: M. Bileau

2nd: J. Ward (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments/
Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000:

<u>Local Funds:</u>	Apple Computer/Computers/District	\$3,580.00	
	Ardente Supply Co./Water Heater/Globe	\$2,531.72	
	Konica Office Pds./Maint. Agreement/WHS	\$5,000.00	
	<i>Lincoln Environmental Inc./Neutralization Tank/WHS</i>	\$10,850.00	REMOVED
	Wistow & Barylick, Inc./Legal Services/McFee	\$5,000.00	
<u>Grant Funds:</u>	Assoc. of Supervision & Curr. Develop/Prof. Dev./Mt. St. Charles	\$5,166.00	
	Charles Mojkowski/Consulting/WACTC	\$4,800.00	
	Highsmith/Ed. Materials/Good Shephard	\$2,906.00	
	Mt. St. Charles/Writing Manual/Mt. St. Charles	\$3,000.00	
	Warwick Public Schools/Curriculum Reform/WACTC	\$2,652.00	

3. Field Trip/Conference Requests

NAEA Convention, Boston, MA/Mt. St. Charles/Title V
NCTM Conference/Anaheim, CA/WHS/Article 18

4. Home Schooling Requests: (1) Ms. Cara Bomeke for Ladbrooke, Gr. 6

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: M. Dubois 2nd: M. Bileau
Remove Lincoln Environmental – A. Auclair

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Unanimously Approved

EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve \$10,850 to Lincoln Environmental Inc.: M. Dubois 2nd: J. Ward (Unanimously Approved)

Mr. Auclair asked for clarification on what a neutralization tank is. Dr. D'Acchioli explained that it's an underground tank outside for waste from the science lab. It's covered with a board right now, which was the result of a cave-in.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Dubois announced the list of subcommittees and who is heading up each one as follows:

Building: M. Bileau, J. Ward	Recognitions: A. Auclair
Facilities/Planning: M. Bileau, J. Ward	School Safety: A. Auclair, M. Dubois
Finance: M. Bileau, J. Ward	Sick Bank:
Food Service: M. Williams	Special Needs/Early Childhood: Auclair, Williams
Legislative: M. Dubois, M. Williams	Strategic/Instructional Planning: A. Auclair
Minority Concerns: M. Dubois, M. Williams	Transportation: A. Auclair, M. Dubois
PTO Liaison: A. Auclair, M. Williams	Technology: A. Auclair, M. Bileau
Personnel/Contracts: M. Dubois, J. Ward	WACTC: J. Ward
Policy: M. Dubois, J. Ward	

PAC Update – A Parent Advisory Council report was given in both English by Tracy Belliveau and Spanish by Carmen Boucher. The council is striving to improve communication between parents, administrators and school groups. One way would be to publish an editorial in the Valley Breeze, including upcoming fundraisers, etc. The council is also striving to increase parent involvement in the schools. Their next meeting is on February 16th at 7 p.m. at the WACTC.

Motion to receive and place on file: J. Ward 2nd: M. Bileau (Unan. Approved)

CONFERENCES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bid Award:

- **#05-04 Consultant Evaluator for WMS – 21st Century Program**

Motion to Approve recommendation of administration to award \$29,605.00 to N. E. Educational Consultants for a 3-year term: J. Ward 2nd: M. Bileau

Roll Call Vote: MD-yes / AA – yes / MB – yes / JW-yes / MW – yes. Motion passes 5-0.

Mr. Bileau asked why there was only vendor that bid on this item. Mrs. Goodman explained that it's a specialized service and there aren't many vendors in this area that provide it.

2. Amendment of Current 2004-05 School Calendar:

Dr. D'Acchioli announced that the new date for the NELMS Conference is the 21st of March. The WED allows teachers to attend this conference every year on the professional day. It was changed from the 28th to the 21st, therefore, the professional day is requested for the 21st of March.

3. Approval of Amended School Calendar 2005–06 :

Dr. D'Acchioli pointed out that Jan. 2nd, 2006, is the federal observance of New Year's Day, so students will return to school on Tuesday, Jan. 3rd. The last day of school will be the 15th of June, rather than the 14th.

Motion to accept changes to the 2004-2005 & 2005-2006 School Calendars: M. Bileau
2nd: J. Ward **Roll Call Vote: MD-yes / AA – yes / MB – yes / JW-yes / MW – yes. Passed 5-0.**

4. Appointment of Director of Facilities & Security:

Dr. D'Acchioli recommended Peter Fontaine for appointment to this position, adding that there were 32 applicants, with 3 applicants in-house. He read his recommendation memo regarding the process by which Mr. Fontaine was chosen. Both Mr. Ward and Mr. Bileau said he was head and shoulders above the rest of the candidates. He will assume his duties on January 13, 2005.

Motion to approve recommendation of Peter Fontaine to the position of Director of Facilities & Security with a performance review to be done prior to June 30, 2005: J. Ward

2nd: A. Auclair **Roll Call Vote: MD-yes / AA – yes / MB – yes / JW-yes / MW – yes. Passed 5-0.**

5. Approval of FY06-10 Capital Outlay Plan:

Dr. D'Acchioli noted that the WED attempts to spend close to \$1 million every year on facilities in order to get the 80% cost reimbursement as well as creating a nice place for students to learn and people to work. He briefly reviewed some of the bigger projects, such as fire alarm upgrades throughout the district and roof work at the WHS. Mr. Ward asked who was responsible for the specs for the lav partitions at Citizens and Coleman and asked that we hold up on payment unless the engineer approved doing it that way. He asked that Mr. Fontaine investigate this matter. Mr. Ward also asked when the ground water filtering system will no longer be needed at Savoie. He would like some idea based on the trend instead of just dishing out \$10,000 a year indefinitely. He also wants to know what section of the WHS roof needs to be replaced. Dr. D'Acchioli thought Bill Parrillo had said the entire roof needed to be replaced, but Mr. Ward didn't think that was possible for the price. "It has to be only one section, but which one?" he asked. Mr. Auclair informed parents that a notice would go out when any asbestos removal is done at the WMS. Mr. Ward asked if the windows with caps in them at the WMS where holes were drilled could be replaced a little over time.

Motion to approve: M. Dubois 2nd: M. Bileau
Roll Call Vote: MD-yes / AA – yes / MB – yes / JW-yes / MW – yes. Motion passes 5-0.

6. Approval of FY06-10 Enrollment Projections:

Dr. D'Acchioli reported an increase of 100 more kindergarten next year because of a change in admittance dates. It will be offset by the number of 1st graders. Overall we anticipate 160 fewer elementary students. The WMS will remain the same and the WHS will have an increase of about 38 students. There will be 6,168 students in the district next year. Mr. Auclair questioned the decrease in the numbers in the projection with all the building projected in the city. Dr. D'Acchioli said that if a development goes into Oak Grove, a school would have to go along with it. Mr. Ward doesn't see any significant increases in state aid coming down the pike and thinks we should form a legislative collaborative with the other school districts and superintendents to have a stronger voice when asked for what we need in funding. He thinks a function should be held that includes the other districts involved. There is also the issue of collaborative bussing for special needs students with other districts to save money that can be discussed.

Motion to approve: M. Dubois **2nd: A. Auclair / J. Ward**
Roll Call Vote: MD-yes / AA – yes / MB – yes / JW-yes / MW – yes. Motion passes 5-0.

7. Approval of FY06 Non Union Wages:

Dr. D'Acchioli reported that he met with the Personnel Subcommittee. The increase projections range from 0% to 4.49%. He noted that Dr. Macera has requested that her travel and conference stipends be rolled into her base salary. Mr. Dubois said he would not support it because it will increase her pension and he is a taxpayer. Dr. D'Acchioli said that without the change, her base salary would be \$105,000 instead of \$108,000. Mr. Auclair was concerned about setting a precedent by allowing this rollover. He was assured that would not be the case, so he was in favor of the rollover.

Motion to approve the FY06 Non-Union Wages with the exception of Dr. Macera's salary: J. Ward
2nd: M. Bileau Roll Call Vote: MD-yes / AA – yes / MB – yes / JW-yes / MW – yes. Passes 5-0.

Motion to approve Dr. Macera's wages to increase from \$101,000 to \$105,000 which will not reflect a rollover of her travel and conference stipends into her base salary: M. Dubois

2nd: M. Bileau Roll Call Vote: MD-yes / AA – yes / MB – yes / JW-yes / MW – yes. Passes 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. D'Acchioli

Happy New Year. 2004 was quite the year with more than sufficient challenges, successes and failures. Full high school accreditation, a Super Bowl win, State Athletic championships, and removing the Coleman and Social Street Schools from a failing school status to high-performing status were significant accomplishments. The year ended with several remarkable student performances in the form of various plays and concerts. 2005 presents a new set of challenges, which the district is preparing to address. Of immediate concern is the commencement of several capital projects, which must be completed during this fiscal year. Of particular concern is the adherence to the changes in the State Fire Codes. Bids for this work were opened last Friday and are being analyzed. Tonight the Administration provided its first of several budget presentations. The status of State financing is again highly questionable and we will be seeking another increase in City funding. The Administration is also preparing the annual teacher non-renewal list to comply with a very outdated and damaging March 1 notification State law. The Administration also looks forward to SALT visits at Citizens and the Middle School. State Assessments and the testing schedules will change this year and with that change introduce still more challenges. This week the Committee received notice of another new member workshop scheduled for Saturday, January 22. Per our conversation at the last meeting, the Administration will pay for Committee attendance. However, if a member signs up for a paid workshop and fails to attend, the WED will not be responsible for charges incurred. He closed by again wishing everyone a healthy, productive and satisfying new year.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Dubois **2nd: M. Bileau / J. Ward (Unan. Appr)**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD AND WELFARE:

M. Dubois: Wished everyone happy new year. Announced that next Safety Committee Meeting will be held in February. No exact date yet. Congrats to Peter Fontaine. In regards to Promac, he said that the WSC is very disappointed with the arbitrator's ruling, adding that most of the committee was not here when all of it took place. "It just fell in our laps." He asked the public to be patient with them.

J. Ward: Congrats to football team—coaches, players, cheerleaders, supporters. Praised Bruce Villeneuve, Athletic Director, for being at every sports activity in the district. Spoke regarding increasing sports teams by one to have separate girls' and boys' soccer teams. It will cost approximately \$2,700 to do it. Asked for suggestions of how to offset the cost. Dr. D'Acchioli asked Bruce about what other things could possibly be eliminated, and they could decide to have only intramural teams at the WMS. Congrats to Peter Fontaine. Wished Bill Parrillo well. Mr. Ward also had concerns about advisor/advisee issues, such as where is the time going to sit? The information given to them raised more questions than it answered. Dr. D'Acchioli admitted there is more than one way to achieve personalization, and he thought block scheduling put us leaps and bounds ahead of everyone else in this respect. Ward thanked those who conducted the school association program and spoke about micromanagement. Reported that the district's contribution to the teachers' pension system has gone up to 11.84%, which is an increase from 9%. "That's about \$1.2 million out of our budget. We have no control over it."

M. Williams: Wished everyone happy new year. Congrats to Peter Fontaine. Congrats to spelling bee winners. She participated as a judge at WMS. Apologized for not attending the PAC meeting, but there was a special WSC meeting she had to attend. She has a concern about our legal counsel not being present when we have to get answers to questions. Spoke about his salary increase and the fact that he is very seldom here for the WSC meetings to answer questions. Wants to set something up with him about having him attend more.

A. Auclair: Attended multicultural fair last year at the WMS. It was very well done and completely by the students. Thanked the student who prepared the Thailand exhibit for the papaya salad, his favorite. Thanked Dr. Macera for preparing and disseminating the RI School District Report Cards on the web site to all the schools. Reported that parents can go to the RIDE web site and see how their child's school is doing. The next PAC meeting will be scheduled for Feb. 16th. He will meet with Dr. Macera regarding a subcommittee on instruction. He wants to extract three to five goals to present to the WSC regarding student achievement. He asked if the RIASC workshops are available to the general public because he feels that people who are interested in running for school committee should be able to attend. Mr. Ward said that they have trouble getting school committee people to attend, so he doesn't think they would be against it. He suggested Mr. Auclair call Tim Duffy. Mr. Auclair will contact him and report back to the WSC. Mr. Auclair had a concern brought to his attention about Pothier School and a shed that is out there. The shed was \$1,500 to \$2,000, not some exorbitant amount. It's just to store playground equipment.

M. Bileau: Thanked the public for coming and congratulated Peter Fontaine. Said he believes he is the best person for the position and thinks he will do a tremendous job for us. Wished Bill Parrillo good luck in his retirement. Said he is a big proponent of a girls' soccer team at the WMS and is surprised that we haven't gone after Title 9 funds since it requires it. "I am sure we can find \$2,700 somewhere."

Motion to Adjourn at 9:15 p.m: M. Dubois

2nd: A. Auclair (Unan. Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle
Substitute WSC Recording Secretary