

**MINUTES  
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2005  
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:**

Mr. Richard DiPardo, 134 Huntington Avenue, Woonsocket and President of the WTG, stated in an effort to help students and staff at the Middle School, three Committee Members have attended various meetings (Mr. Bileau, Mr. Dubois and Ms. Williams). Items still remain unresolved and are multiplying. He represents 130 people who are working in very difficult conditions. When the school year started, Dr. D'Acchioli removed the Team Leaders with the Committee's approval and then, the Principal left. Dr. D'Acchioli acted quickly and appointed Donna Valentine with the Committee's approval. The four administrators at the Middle School have only been since the time they started there in October. The February of this year, the faculty spoke with Dr. D'Acchioli and Mr. Bileau and then with Chairman Dubois and Ms. Williams at another meeting where their concerns were presented. Nothing changed. It is the School Committee's philosophy not to micro-manage and they agree. Teaching is a great job but people are waking up and dreading going to work. He sees five problems: inconsistency in discipline by Administrators; lack of communication; lack of Middle-School culture; lack of respect for the staff and intimidation of the staff. Last Friday, twenty-five people were willing to speak at tonight's meeting. Then, on Monday, there was an incident. There was a story in the Call by Joe Nadeau about Mrs. Papino's Sunrise Café and it was quite a nice story and quite positive.

Mrs. Pauline Papino of Greenville, R.I., stated on Friday around 1:10 P.M., Mr. Joe Nadeau, Call reporter, came into her 7<sup>th</sup> period class. She asked why he was there and he said to take pictures, which he did. He had a pass on and she taught her class. He did ask a couple of students questions after school and Mr. LeClair came in and Joe asked him some questions. Mr. Nadeau left and then came back and it was now around 3:15. She went down and asked the Principal's secretary why Mr. Nadeau was there because he was still there. She told her that he did speak to Mrs. Valentine and he was told he could go and see her. Mrs. Valentine wasn't there at the time. She stayed until 5:00 P.M. and then went to the Bocci Club but still was wondering what was going on. On Monday, she went to school and at 7:15, she brought some paperwork for a walk she was planning for next week to Mrs. Valentine and she came at her about 'What are you doing? You had no right to do that. Did you get permission slips for the students for the pictures taken?' and she asked Mrs. Valentine, 'Does the school look good?' and walked out. Her secretary did confirm he was sent down. Why was she picked? Perhaps because they like what she does and takes pride in her work and doesn't hold grudges. And she is always being told 'she is not an administrator' like when she asked if she could participate in a Learning Walk.

Mr. DiPardo stated he has never seen a better heart. Once the news of this incident spread, that was it.

Folks are afraid of what will happen if you cross swords with the Principal.

Mr. Bruce Heroux, 126 Lilac Avenue, stated he was not there to tear anyone down but rather there about health and safety concerns. Since last August until now, there have been a lot of assaults and a failure to make kids feel safe. There is an increase of weapons in the school, broken desks, chairs and lights, labeling and harassment of the staff as racists with no consequences to the students and no follow-up, the arrest of staff for assault and again, nothing is done to the student. It took three months to get a light repaired in his class. The student traffic in the hallways is dangerous, time for the Administration to come to a classroom needs to be shortened, Ms. Guerra does reinforced the teachers, students are urinating in the stairwells, gang-related graffiti in the building, litter in and out and from talking to fellow staff members, degradation from administration and degradation and disrespect from the students to staff and degradation to administrators from teachers.

Mr. Scott Gray, 52 Trent Street, Woonsocket, thanked Mr. Bileau, Ms. Nordin and the WMS faculty for their support when he was assaulted by a student last Friday. As the line from the movie, 'Cool-Hand Luke' stated, 'What we have here is a failure to communicate!' The culture at the Middle School is far from understood by the Administration. They are told the Administration has a vision... what is it? No one is sharing the vision or any common focus. They must know what it is to focus on it and they need to share, debate and come to a consensus in order to build and unify. There is institutional knowledge of the faculty that is being ignored and yet they are expected to carry out the changes while their ideas are set aside. Treat others like you would like to be treated.

Mr. Corey Lamoureux, 534 South Main Street, has been at that school for nine years and this is the first time he has no idea where the building is going. They would work together and be on the same page and now they are splintered. The Administration was the leadership and its not now and you feel isolated. He has had a couple of occasions to deal with the Administration and only felt disrespect. He wants to go to work each day and enjoy the job. His father was a Principal in this city for thirty years.

Mr. DiPardo stated that regarding the inconsistent discipline, that per the Contract, teachers can remove troublesome students from their class and now they have to call an administrator. They should be able to respond quickly and the discipline is inconsistent versus the code of conduct in the handbook. They are reinforcing bad behavior. Regarding the lack of communication, there are memos and newsletters but the communication is one way. Dr. D'Acchioli stated that when he was a Principal, he would have fifteen minutes on Fridays in the cafeteria where you could go and talk to him. He mentioned it to Ms. Valentine and she said she liked the idea. The lack of understanding of a middle-school culture; the leaders they had before understood people where the administration has no extensive experience such as the seating at lunch is a concern. The way some staff are treated such as Mr. Curran. The Administration and School Committee set the policy. It is how you treat people. Mrs. Valentine is very bright and she said 'I do not know what you do.' to Mr. Curran. There is a lack of respect for the staff. Items are dictated with no input from the staff. If there is a problem with a teacher, they are handling it right in front of a student doing a referral. Students, now believe, they can get people fired and say you touched me. Teachers are concerned about students going to the lavatory alone. There are more kids in the corridor. He reminded Dr. D'Acchioli today about a rape that happened a few years ago in a stairwell. The parents that teachers deal with today and much more difficult and aggressive. Some parents feel they are right regardless and the Administrator should control the meeting. They are talking down to the teacher like a student. It is unprofessional and you are always on guard and always at fault. Perception becomes reality. He believes the School Committee cares and he asks that the School Committee sit down with him to brainstorm to help the staff and Administration.

Mr. Ward stated that he was not invited to the meeting because he was told he wasn't trusted because he will go to the Superintendent. He will, personally, talk to the Principal and Superintendent and changes will happen. It is their job to fix. He has never done anything underhanded. This is not acceptable behavior at the school. When they look for people, they hire for attitude and then train for skills. His job is to insist the job is done, it is not his job to do the job. He has not heard of any retribution. Perhaps if he was at the meeting, something would have happened. Something will happen in the next twenty-four hours. He will talk to Mrs. Valentine and Dr. D'Acchioli.

Mr. DiPardo stated they need solutions quickly. Perhaps direct someone to sit down with them. How many times have people consistently turned out at these meetings? They are working hard.

Chairman Dubois stated he had heard the concerns. Mr. Auclair has been pleading since September from the Superintendent to meet with the Middle School staff and has been ignored. When certain people ask for things, nothing happens. Maybe if Mr. Ward asks, he can make it happen.

Ms. Marlene Smith stated there is intimidation in the school district. The intimidation is very subtle. Teachers have to keep files, progress reports, locker information, discipline slips, absentee slips, signed failed tests, communication to and from the parents, absent notes, attend faculty meetings, etc. They do eight progress reports a year and are told they don't talk to parents enough. They handle tons of paperwork and they are not appreciated for all that they do. 90% of parents and students are good. They are catering to the minority. She is against the lavatory policy. If she talked to students the way she is talked to... There is no communication at the faculty meetings. Teachers were assaulted during the recent SALT visit. Classroom teachers are the bottom line. They love the kids. They do it all and are insulted when they are told they don't. Mrs. Valentine had her total support. She heard that the faculty has dug in their heels, they haven't seen nothing yet.

Mrs. Carmine Boucher, resident and taxpayer of Woonsocket, was there regarding split classrooms. She was informed at a recent school-improvement meeting that there would be split classrooms next year. She had never heard of this and went to the Principal who couldn't answer her questions. She emailed Dr. D'Acchioli on May 8<sup>th</sup> and he met with eight parents at Bernon. Today, she has questions, such as: how the students are chosen for split classrooms; will children do the same thing two years in a row; how will parents be notified, what are the expectations; what is the research on split classrooms; what will be parent impact and more...

Mr. Ward stated that split classrooms have been used across the District for the last five years due to bussing issues. They want to leave kids in their neighborhood schools and that's the reason for split classrooms.

Mrs. Boucher asked that the Committee look into it and get the answer to these questions. Chairman Dubois stated that this issue is on the next meeting's agenda on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Ma Carvel, 78 Gilbert Street, has a student at Bernon Heights and is happy with the education there and has a good relationship with the teacher. She is concerned about split classrooms for grades 1-2 and 2-3. These students are very young and would like to see some data.

Ms. Louise Massie has a student at an elementary, Middle and High School. She is not in favor of the split classrooms. She has done some research and it shows that children are chosen if highly motivated. This has a negative affect on other classrooms. They won't be optimum classrooms and concerned her child's education is in jeopardy.

Mr. Peter Moniz, Mendon, Ma., was a veteran teacher in Woonsocket and still active with the Guild, heard that there was no administrator at the dance last week and they had to hire someone to be there.

Mrs. Donna Valentine, 138 Cumberland Street, Warwick, stated as Paul Harvey says, ' Now the rest of the story.' She feels bad about Mrs. Papino and had asked about where the permission slips were for the students. As far as lack of experience that Mr. DiPardo spoke of, there are 140 faculty members at that school with eight years plus experience. She is concerned the way the Good & Welfare is handled and is unprofessional and not just listen to faculty but also, the leaders. Test scores at the school are some of the poorest in the State and they are on the State's radar. 80% of parents and students feel they will succeed. Their kids need to be able to compete. The elementary schools and high school are doing well, why is the Middle School not performing? They are the same kids. The SIT team is ready to work and has met for over fifteen hours this year and has heard none of these issues brought up. Please analyze the SALT report. Private agendas must be put aside. Focus on the kids and they can work together. Its all about teaching and

learning.

Ms. Terri-Lyn Lanctot, 47 Oakton Street, stated she has served on many committees and has been a teacher assistant at the Middle School for nine years and wants to teach at the Middle School. WMS has great teachers and staff. There are constant put-downs and it's sickening. Parents need to know that the weapons are brought into the school and stop blaming the teachers. There are lots of positive things happening. The media and the School Committee need to make the positive things known.

Ms. Wendy McPeak is an eight-grade Math teacher at the Middle School for five years. Great, valuable information is offered up by the teachers at faculty and SIT meetings all year and they need to use the experience of the teachers to help inexperienced teachers. When she started, she had a team leader and a plan within her team. She has been asking for guidance. If a new teacher comes in, they don't know all that they have to do and are responsible for.

Ms. Lynn DeSchepper, the sister of Chairman Dubois, stated there is an intimidation process and she doesn't have a job here. When the school nurses wanted to come to the School Committee, they were told by the Administration they couldn't speak or they would eliminate the position. So, no one spoke. Two school-committee members stated they received calls about nepotism when the three other members received no calls at all. Mr. War and Mr. Bileau received all the calls? Intimidation... She subbed in all the schools and the staff feels sorry and this never should have happened. She was good enough to sub.

Ms. Tina Clark, 55 Iona Street, Providence, a middle-school teacher, stated that many issues and facts have been presented and the fact they all showed up means they want to come together as a staff. They are willing to come to meetings but she sees a breakdown tonight. They need a committee to integrate literacy and problem solving into the curriculum. The most important support the staff has is itself.

Ms. Linda Majewski, 51 St Hughes Street, is on a SIT team and there are lots of things that need work. They need to put some money into professional conflict resolution.

### **RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Dr. Macera congratulated all third graders who participated in the Trout release program at River Island Park. This program is part of a community program to make the Blackstone River swimmable and fishable by 2015. Each student released a trout into the river and participated in various activities that promote a clean environment. A very special thank you to Michael Ferry at the High School and Elizabeth Noth for the phenomenal job they did working with their committees in organizing such an inspiring educational event.

Dr. Macera congratulated Mr. Riley and the staff of the WACTC, which was honored recently at a reception at the State House for being one of the top schools in Rhode Island for recycling. The recycling program at WACTC was pointed out as a model for others to follow.

Congratulations to Glen Boisvert, the physical-ed teacher at Citizens for the excellent job he did in preparing and implementing the two field days at Cass Park. And on top of that, he turned into a hero when he noticed a small fire in the woods. He pulled a fire extinguisher from his truck and put the fire out before the firemen arrived. His quick thinking and action and the foresight to have a fire extinguisher in the truck.

Dr. Macera extended sincere congratulations to the faculty, staff and Mr. Pickett of the Social Street School for being one of the two elementary schools in the state of R.I. for being a Commissioner's Commendable School. She showed the plaque and read 'The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education honor the Social Street School for significant improvement in both English-Language Arts and Mathematics for the past two years in a row.' Dr. Macera stated that this is a remarkable achievement in a very short time.

**Motion to receive and place of file**  
Unanimously approved

**MB Second: AA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve the Open and Closed Minutes of May 11, 2005**  
Unanimously approved

**MB Second: AA**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Personnel Actions:** (See Attached)  
Certified Appointments  
Non-Certified Appointments

**Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000**

**Local**

Keystone Information System, Inc./Software Maint Agreement/McFee/Local-\$15,388.00  
Perkins, Smith & Cohen, LLP/Promac/McFee/Local-\$59,894.02  
ReStructure Co./Promac/McFee/Local-\$2,465.00  
Visconti & Boren/Promac/McFee/Loca-\$2,692.00  
Wistow & Barylick, Inc./Promac/McFee/Local-\$19,686.90

**Grant**

Dell Computers/Computers/Technology/WHS/Grant-\$13,539.65  
Scholastic/Ed. Supplies/WHS/grant-\$41,700.00

**Lunch Rev.**

Weidenhammer System Corp./Food Serv. Training/District/Lunch Revenue-\$2,200.00

**WACTC Revenue**

Engineering Design Services Inc./Culinary Arts Design Serv./WACTC/WACTC Revenue

**Field Trips/Conference Request**

Automotive Youth Educational System Instructor Training Conf./Dearborn, MI/WACTC/Perkins Grant

**Home Schooling Requests (1)**

Ms. Williams asked that the following three items be removed for discussion: Perkins, Visconti and Wistow purchases.

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the three items mentioned**

**MD Second: MW**

Unanimously approved

Ms. Williams asked that an up-to-date total be provided to the Committee on the amount spent on the Promac litigation. Mrs. Goodman stated she will forward that information.

**Motion to approve Perkins, Smith & Cohen; Visconti & Boren and Wistow & Barylick, Inc. purchases**

**JW Second: AA**

Unanimously approved

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ms. Williams stated she had received a fax from the R.I. School Nutrition group who is conducting a confidential survey statewide and asked if anyone on the Committee is interested, to please let her know because she has to fax it back. This is for a better understanding of policies implemented.

Dr. Macera read aloud Dr. D'Acchioli's letter of retirement. **(SEE ATTACHMENT #1)** Chairman Dubois stated that after receiving a copy of this letter last Thursday, he checked with Attorney Ackerman along with a copy of the Superintendent's contract, and according to the contract, Section 2, sub-section 2.2, it states that 'this contract will automatically extend for one year each year on July 1<sup>st</sup> beginning July 1, 2005 unless otherwise is notified by the previous 6/30<sup>th</sup> that the contract will not be extended. It is Mr. Ackerman's opinion, as well as his, that this letter does not serve that he was properly notified by the School Committee that they will not be extending it. Therefore, there will be a motion to accept this letter this evening. However, on the agenda for the next meeting, under New Business, he wants to formally notify the Superintendent that his contract will not be renewed.

Ms. Williams asked Mr. Ackerman that at the last meeting, the Chairman asked that the non-renewal of the Superintendent's contract be placed on the agenda and she wanted to make it public how this was handled. Last Thursday, they attended the R.I. National Honor Society Inductee ceremony and they had a meeting before that. Chairman Dubois walked in three minutes before the ceremony and had three minutes to approve the agenda and was told that instead of the non-renewal, he wrote his letter of retirement. Because Chairman Dubois had all ready asked for this to be on the agenda tonight, can they place it on there tonight?

Attorney Ackerman stated there needs to be proper notice.

Chairman Dubois asked if the Superintendent can remove items from the agenda?

Attorney Ackerman stated it is best for the Committee to check what your rules and practices are.

**Motion to accept and place of file Superintendent's letter of Retirement MD Second: AA**  
Roll Call Vote (MD-Yes, MB-Yes, AA-Yes, JW-With Gratitude Yes, MW-Yes)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**CONFERENCES:**

Dr. Macera stated that Ms. Jane Cotnoir, Director of Guidance, Mrs. Valentine and herself, along with other staff members have worked on the academic failure rate at the Middle School and summer school and how this will help. **(SEE ATTACHMENT #2)**

Mrs. Valentine stated they have a plan to help students who haven't met their proficiencies in Math and Language Arts. Guidance has reviewed the plan. They are offering free summer school to these students. They have recruited very talented teachers and will be using Read 180 to supplement summer school. They are, also working with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant to purchase a computer-based writing program such as National Geographic provides. Best-case scenario, twenty-five students will be retained. Normally, a student must have a 60 or above average for summer school. It is reviewed on an individual basis but someone below that average, the teachers feel the three to four weeks of summer school will not be enough to correct. They still may attend summer school but they will not be passed.

Dr. Macera stated that Guidance, student, parents, etc meet and must concur that the child stay behind. Retention is very serious. Read 180 is for those who are two to three levels below.

Mr. Bileau and Mr. Auclair asked how students that have come before them with a large number of absent days can still be passing. And Mr. Auclair reminded them that the new policy is if 30 days or more of being absent means you would be held back.

Dr. Macera doesn't believe it is State law regarding the attendance policy. A Truancy judge may order certain things.

Mrs. Valentine stated that 160-240 students are attending summer school and the best case is 25 staying back but the number could be larger. Part of the twenty-five may be the students they are referring to with the large number of days absent.

Mr. Auclair stated that the attendance policy should either be changed or enforced if it is a District policy. Also, he wants a report of how many students do attend summer school and how many succeed.

Mr. Ward stated that with the Starbase program, regarding the students going to summer school, on that report, they can provide the number of days absent, if referred to Truancy Court, how many discipline referrals and if attending summer school because directed by the Truancy Court. He doesn't want people to think the schools are failing the students but rather the students and families. Also, he asked what is her plan for the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade next year for those who come in from a high-performing elementary school and yet aren't meeting expectations?

Mrs. Valentine stated that Paul Gagnon and others are working with the GLE's and focusing especially on Math, English and Social Studies for the sixth grade. In the sixth grade, they must now pass Math, English and one core subject, which is different from the elementary level.

Mr. Ward asked if the proposed reinstatement of team leaders at approximately a cost of 40K was possible, could they use funds from the Drug-Free and Safe Schools federal money? Team leaders are just as much about communication as safety.

**Motion to receive and place of file said report**

**MB Second: MW/JW**

Unanimously approved

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion to approve Bid Award #05-07 Uniforms & Uniform Cleaning Services to Cintas of Cumberland for a three-year contract, 1<sup>st</sup> yr-4/1/05-6/30/06 \$1,111.67; 2<sup>nd</sup> yr-4/1/06-6/30/07 \$1,140.57; 3<sup>rd</sup> yr-4/1/07-6/30/08 \$1,165.54**

**JW Second: AA**

Roll call Vote (ALL Yes)

**Motion to approve change in financial institutions**

**MD Second: JW/AA**

Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Mrs. Goodman referred to a letter she received from Mr. Strom, Finance Director, City of Woonsocket, Finance Department, stating they had changed from Bank of America to Citizens and recommended they do the same to save on monthly charges and save the City of Woonsocket approximately 40k per year.

**Motion to change the Elementary School Hours 2005-06**

**MD Second: MB/AA**

Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Dr. Macera read a letter from Mr. Legare, owner of Valley Transportation. (SEE ATTACHMENT #3) She met with Mr. Legare, Dr. D'Acchioli and Principals and all feel the change is acceptable. Mr. Auclair stated the hours need to be changed in the new handbooks before they go to the printers. Mr. Ward suggested that they begin working on a transportation plan for the next couple of years when the High School will finish later and run into the elementary bus pick-up time.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Macera stated they received a visit for the federal evaluation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant for the Middle School. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant is for 200K a year for after-school, parent outreach child programs. The grant can be renewed for three years so there is a potential to receive 300K. Initiative is going well and received positive feedback at the meeting. She fully expects additional funding. The program got off to a late start due to staffing issues but well underway.

The entire District's staff has been very diligently working on the consolidated resource claim that is due June 1<sup>st</sup>. Pat Dubois has done a phenomenal job coordinating everyone and they will be making a presentation on the plan. It is a very complex document that completely ties their program initiatives to Federal and State requirements and exact amounts of money and how they are spent. One different item is Article 18, formerly Article 31, where their funding report is not due until October 1st and schools have a chance to review their school-improvement changes and the Professional-Development component, which is Article 18 money to support those changes.

Dr. Macera commended their partners in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century initiative, Terry Curtain, Director of Connecting Children and Their Families and the Project Director, Kristin Allen, for the wonderful job she did supervising and rewriting the grant application.

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

**MB/AA Second: JW**

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Mr. Bileau congratulated Mr. Pickett, students, staff and parents who all did their part in receiving the wonderful plaque. On June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 in the Gym at the Middle School, the Presidential Awards will be given out. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the WACTC Awards Banquet will be held at 6:00 at Wright's Farm. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Barrett's class will be performing a play at Citizens at 10,1 and 6P.M. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Pothier School, will be the last meeting for the Special Education Local Advisory Committee. Anyone with special needs please attend...it's a great place to learn. Regarding the SALT report, the word is bad going around. He doesn't agree with it. He went to a meeting yesterday with the SIT and State but was not allowed to talk. They will continue on.

Chairman Dubois congratulated Mr. Pickett and the staff at Social Street School. He has had the opportunity to go there a couple of times this year and they have made great progress. He attended the R.I. National Honor Society ceremony last week and it was a wonderful ceremony. He appreciated the invitation. Tonight, while getting ready for the meeting, he heard on a local talk show that Mr. Ward stated the reason he requested a letter of retirement from Dr. D'Acchioli was because he was upset his sister didn't get a job in the District. Nothing is further from the truth and when he decided to run for the School Committee, it was to give something back to the community. He has lived here his whole life and wanted to make a difference. He did not run for the School Committee to get his sister a job. He didn't appreciate that comment being made on the air. He wasn't going to comment on his reasons why he didn't want to renew his contract. In a position to defend himself and to him, the superintendent's position should not be political and be honest and open and doing what's right for the kids. A brief timeline in his involvement, at several meetings when questioned why the Facilities Director had a take-home car to Narragansett, he was told that his name in on the Police/Fire logs and is called in for emergencies. He went to the Police Station and his name was not on the log but rather Henry Trudeau and Jeff Belknap. Then, he received complaints from parents, one being a Police Officer, that a knife was found in his child's classroom and the teacher told him to keep it a secret that a student had a knife and nobody knew. Then, the child went home and told his parents, parents call him, he looks in to it and sure enough, it was not reported to them. He gets at least one to two calls a week from parents stating they go to Administration to meet with Dr. D'Acchioli and he refuses to meet with them and they get frustrated and call him or City hall who refers them back to him. There is a lack of communication between the Superintendent and the School Committee. Certain things are communicated to certain members and other members are left in the dark. Regarding the George Nasuti

case, all agreed they wanted him and he was voted in unanimously. Then, he finds out a couple of days later, that he has a relative who is a teacher at the High School. He approaches him and he claims he didn't know and no one told him about it. He started getting calls and asked the High School Principal who told him he definitely told him that George had a relative at the school. He didn't want to be in a conflict nor blamed for not passing on the information. When Dr. D'Acchioli gets caught in a lie, he claims he has a bad memory or quote from the last meeting, 'I have a memory like a sieve.' That is one incident of selective memory he is fed up with. The frustration tonight could have been handled earlier this year if the School Committee could have met with the Middle School administration. Mr. Auclair has been asking since September/October to meet with the Middle School administration and there was never a date or firm answer. He went to a meeting with Ms. Williams a couple of months ago and he reported back to the School Committee all the concerns and was told they would set up a meeting, which never materialized. They lost a great Principal at the Middle School earlier this year and other principals leaving for the same reason. They will lose more if they don't make a change. He loved the quote tonight: 'Bad things to happen, the good has to be quiet.' The School Committee has been too quiet for too long and Dr. D'Acchioli has to remember that the School Committee doesn't work for him; he works for the School Committee.

Mr. Ward congratulated the Honor Society inductees. Wonderful job. Unfortunately, he cannot attend the Presidential Awards on June 1<sup>st</sup> because he has to work. He congratulated all the participants in the Music Man for a delightful performance. He stated to Ms. Williams that he looked at some legislation that Connecticut was working on regarding nutrition and they started with insisting on healthy foods, then it went to shall and by the third round, may and by the sixth round, sections were removed and by the end, it was they will serve food. He printed down the whole sequence and she could review it. He encouraged her to work with nutritionists and others in this state. He thanked the Middle School staff for expressing their feelings, Mrs. Valentine for responding and ultimately, good will come of it. He, as a parent, had complained about integrating classes when that began. Regarding split classrooms, parents don't want their students bussed all over. The only alternative is to have more classes and hire more teachers. He is troubled by the comment that Dr. D'Acchioli said regarding diminished education. He will be asking him about it. He will leave his comments regarding Dr. D'Acchioli retirement for another forum.

Ms. Williams stated she has concerns with the split classrooms, too. She congratulated Social Street School and all the teachers, students and parents. She congratulated the Girls' Softball Team on a great season. She attended the R.I. National Honor Society Inductee ceremony and their dedication to education. She saw Music Man and it was fabulous. She attended the River Island Park where they released the trout and it was great for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. And she especially thanked Sodexo for serving hundred's of people. They had fruit in plastic bags as snacks. She attended the SALT meeting yesterday and there were a lot of good ideas. Everyone needs to work together. Mrs. Papino asked in she could go on a Learning Walk and was told she is not allowed because she is not an administrator, a gentlemen at yesterday's meeting stated everyone needs to participate and work for the benefit of the students and listen. Regarding the Drug-Free Safe School money, would Mr. Curran's job fall under that? Dr. Macera stated he has opted for another position. Mr. Curran stated his job was eliminated and took the other position rather than be out of work. Dr. Macera stated that the new position would utilize his talents. Ms. Williams stated that the Police said they need to look at something and how Mr. Curran has done a great job. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Minority Concerns meeting at the WACTC at 7:00 P.M. Bradley Hospital is holding a free workshop tomorrow night from 7-9 P.M. regarding Parenting Teens. She feels the non-renewal issue is very important and as a taxpayer and not sure if she will be on the Board in 2007. The position she is in was put in the newspaper never should have happened. At the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, if the attorney was there, he could have advised her not to vote on a grievance but he wasn't. He was there tonight for a change and she feels he should be there at the meetings. She requested a copy of his job description for the School Committee. She thanked everyone for coming and they are moving in the right direction.

Mr. Auclair thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting. They live it and they (Committee) don't see it. He congratulated Social Street's students, parents and staff. He attended the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner for Connecting Children and their Families with Terry Curtain and he never knew all that they do in the community. He attended the R.I. National Honor Society Inductee Ceremony and congratulated all inductees and offered special congratulations to Kelly Duong, Valedictorian (101.6) and Maranda Kay

Cimeno, Salutatorian (99.0). He was proud to see that Mrs. Papino's class was in the story in Monday's Call and what is going on and how her students really enjoy her and is engaging and she has his support. He reiterated that he has asked the elementary school administration to train staff to write effective press releases. You have to write the stories for the papers. That goes for everyone. This Sunday at River Island Park from 9-5 P.M., there will be a Make A Wish Carnival Fair. He thanked Mr. Peter Fontaine for the pre-application for the EPA and even though it was denied, they will now be on the EPA grant list and receive grant paperwork. He was hoping to use that money for an indoor air quality program. He agrees with Mr. Ward about using some of the money from the Drug Free Federal program but at a recent R.I. Association of School Committees, he was told by Rep. Kennedy that President Bush had eliminated that and that the House Committee is working on reinstating. The City is giving them 317K less and the Governor is giving them a 3% increase vs. 5%, which means 1M less. It is a community effort to go to the City & State and advocate for more funding. Students are the future. He is always available and his numbers are on [www.woonsocketschools.com](http://www.woonsocketschools.com). Lots of good things going on and hopes folks will stay active even when things are good.

Chairman Dubois called a five-minute recess at 10:18. Meeting reconvened at 10:25 P.M.

**Motion to convene into Executive Session in Accordance with RI Law 42-46-5 (a)(8) Student Privacy Issue**

**MD Second: AA**

Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Meeting reconvened at 11:12 P.M.

**Motion to adjourn at 11:12 P.M.**

**AA Second: MW**

Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise St Germain  
Secretary to the School Committee