

**MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 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

Dr. D'Acchioli began the meeting by recognizing those employees who serve the staff and students well and wanted to recognize all the employees nominated in all the categories. The recipients were as follows:

RECOGNITION AWARDS 2004-2005

Facilities (Custodian) Employee of the Year - Paul Plante, employed since 1988

Clerical (Secretary) Employee of the Year – Jeanne Beaudette, employed since 1998

Teacher Assistant of the Year – Elizabeth Peloquin, employed since 1990

Teacher of the Year – Linda Limoges, employed since 1976 and her name has been forwarded to the State for their Teacher of the Year Award

Ms. Marlene Smith presented the Jennifer Rivera Citizenship Awards, which are brand new awards, and she thanked Chairman Dubois and Ms. Williams and their Minority Concerns sub-committee for making the awards possible. Ms. Smith reminded everyone of the story of Miss Rivera in 2001 when she lost her life after agreeing to testify in a murder trial. At the Middle School, students are taught Civics and citizenship. Each cluster selected their student. Ms. Smith announced each recipient and the student's teacher presented them with the plaque. The list is as follows:

JENNIFER RIVERA CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Rebecca Frueh
Sabathay Sidazont
Linda Arocho
Leisha Marin
Ashley Rivera
Richard Simard
Raymond Dumont

Ms. Smith thanked the parents and families for attending along with the teachers. She was asked if she notified Jennifer's mother about the presentation and she stated she didn't because she didn't want to turn this into a media event. She thanked the School Committee and the sub-committee, again, for allowing her to do this.

Chairman Dubois thanked Ms. Smith for putting this together and the teachers for their work and stated he hopes that the Recognition Awards will receive the publicity it deserves and is well covered.

Chairman Dubois stated that there are three candidates listed on the agenda this evening to be appointed as Elementary Principals and that only the candidate for the Coleman School will be discussed and voted on. After talking with Dr. D'Acchioli and hearing from the majority of the School Committee, Dr. D'Acchioli is withdrawing the other two candidates and will re-hold interviews with parents and teachers.

GOOD AND WELFARE-PUBLIC:

Ms. Denise Auclair, Harris Avenue, stated she is on many committees and has heard they will be losing some classrooms with the split classrooms and has done some research on the matter. It still doesn't make sense to her. She heard, today, that there is no room for the first graders in the second grade. She wanted to know what the make-up will be of a split classroom and how the students will be selected and that it has been used in some schools all ready and has it been better in those schools? She suggested that the parents listen and stay involved and come to meetings, PTO's, etc.

Mrs. Margaret Tincknell, Principal of Bernon Heights School, 657 Logee Street, asked the School Committee to reconsider the creation of split classrooms at Bernon Heights. Everyone knows that the 21st century is all about education and the implementation of N.C.L.B. initiatives at the Federal, State and local levels. Daily, educators are faced with challenges and responsibilities on improvement and advancement of teachers and learning practices. These involve the implementation of new curriculum lesson plans with the inclusion of grade-level expectations, which are constantly being revised at the state level; new annual state assessments with NECAP to be administered October 2005 for elementary grades 3-5; the writing of personal literacy plans. At the District level, they are committed to the implementation of developmental reading assessments every trimester; best practices for teaching & learning focusing on the Pittsburgh Institute for Learning Practices; new phonics program; new assertive-discipline program. She has discovered that her students are coming to school with greater social, emotional and financial needs. They currently employ a social worker for two days a week but she finds they need a full-time social worker. For several years, they were the largest elementary school in the City and have gradually progressed from a low-performing/non-improving school to presently, a moderately-performing/improving school. Through the dedication and best efforts in building a successful and effective team community, students, teachers, administrators and staff strive to become a high performing and improving school. As an administrator, she is concerned about the opening of split classrooms and hopes it won't impede their progress. The composition of a split classroom will be where students are placed in a heterogeneous manner with no teachers' assistant in the classroom. In conclusion, she realizes the financial situation and the need to afford a child an education in their school...both issues are important and must be addressed. They are all child focused and are confident the Committee will make the right decision not only to benefit the Bernon Heights Elementary School but all the elementary schools in the District.

Ms. Ma Carvel, 78 Gilbert Street, has a son at Bernon Heights and gives kudos to Mrs. Tincknell and Ms. Duquette and is very pleased so far with the school. She has some serious concerns about split classrooms, such as the consistent level of education, how this will impact other classrooms, how students will be selected, data from the State, research on those who have been in this type of classroom and have they met the standards. She wants her son to get the best education he can. She feels the split classroom is a simple solution to a complex problem.

Ms. Melissa Pierce, who has been a teacher in Woonsocket for twelve years and has training in multi-age classrooms, stated that the enrollment is smaller had great success. She then went into an integrated classroom. They had great success because they had twenty students per class and an assistant and these were high-achieving students with no behavior problems. She taught a first-grade class last year and she saw a major growth in students from first to second grade. Now, if they do split classrooms, will the students be selected the same way and not evenly distributed? There are challenges in a split classroom and no assistant. In the first grade, a child is taught to read and in the second grade, they know how to read. You will have twenty-five students, no assistant and trying to teach to the standards. Teachers will work hard and be disappointed at the fact it is not the best education they can provide.

Mr. John Boudreau, Executive Vice-President of the WTG, wanted to discuss a comment that appeared in today's Providence Journal attributed to Dr. D'Acchioli stating that professional development would be more effective if the Union would stop resisting every initiative. He takes personal insult to that comment and hopes it was taken out of context. The Guild always promotes professional development and works collaboratively with the School Department, Dr. Macera and Mrs. Filomeno. He named many of the training programs and strands. So, it bothers him when he reads comments like this. They take professional development very seriously.

Dr. D'Acchioli told Mr. Boudreau to believe none of what you hear and half of what you read. He is correct that the Guild works very closely with Administration and they have a lot of joint programs.

Mr. Richard DiPardo, President WTG, 70 N. Main Street, asked when a date would be set for the meeting regarding the Middle School. He was informed there is a Special Meeting on June 22nd at the WACTC at 7:00 P.M. just covering the Middle School SALT report. He asked Dr. D'Acchioli when the School Committee decided to question the arbitrability of a grievance that was brought up and denied a month ago? Dr. D'Acchioli stated when Mr. Ackerman last spoke to the School Committee and couldn't recall the date. Mr. DiPardo stated he filed a grievance, which Dr. D'Acchioli heard and denied the grievance followed by the School Committee hearing the grievance and they denied it, as well. He followed the contract and filed for arbitration. He and Mr. Ackerman jointly chose arbitrators and were on a second list and a date. At the last school-committee meeting, he was told that Mr. Ackerman was going to court that Friday to get the grievance declared non-arbitral. He didn't know there was a timeline for the School Committee to be able to meet for that decision. He did some research today and spoke to three committee members, none of which don't remember anything being said about going to court and having the grievance declared non-arbitral. He thinks this is dirty pool. If the grievance was non-arbitral, it was non-arbitral from the beginning. When did the School Committee make this decision? He has been reading, with great glee, the articles in the Providence Journal. Today's article disturbed him. The comments were attributed to Dr. D'Acchioli. Believe only half of what you read. He thinks the article is right on task. In one section, it states that Dr. D'Acchioli and Mrs. Valentine state that's its an exaggeration that the staff is not happy and believe that the majority of the faculty still supports their mission and blames the Teachers' Guild and the media for publicizing the views of a few constant complainers. It's ironic that the reporter recognized that over half of the staff, approximately 120 people, was at the last meeting two weeks ago. With due respect, he asked Dr. D'Acchioli, 'What planet do you live on?' He can see one comment being misconstrued but not four in one article. School-department officials said that DiPardo was the instigator of this power struggle and accused him of resisting change on any level. Has he ever done that, he asked? He knows who made that comment because it was said to him at the last School Committee meeting by Donna Valentine and that he could diffuse the situation if he wanted to. People involve have to recognize the school is in crisis. Anyone who has heard DiPardo speak before the School Committee knows he is a passionate defender of his teachers but away from the microphone, he is less driven. He has been accused of being too close to Dr. D'Acchioli and collaborating too closely. That is not going to happen anymore. He has always dealt in good faith and he believes the statements in the article were whole or partially stated. He detailed in February 2005, what was going on and he was asked to go there. He tried his best to alleviate what was happening. He had three of the school-committee members there, along with Dr. D'Acchioli. Now, he is wrong and the instigator and the Guild doesn't cooperate and they hide behind their contract. They ask for more money for everything they do and will not go that extra mile for the students and the City of Woonsocket. He is a senior-class advisor and he treats the kids like they are his own. He asked Mrs. Goodman today for a copy of the Superintendent's contract. He wants to see the exact terms of his employment. If his people are hiding behind the contract was said, then there is no basis to deal. He did thank Dr. D'Acchioli for seeing the favors were delivered to the Westin Hotel when they didn't have the money to store them there. He is greatly disappointed and their relationship has dramatically changed. They are the one constant group in the City who care about the children besides and Committee and the parents.

Mr. John McLaughlin, 632 South Main Street, thanked the Minority sub-committee, Chairman Dubois and Ms. Williams for holding the meetings over the winter regarding minority concerns. The Hispanic group which is for everyone, needed to raise money and they held a car wash at Consumers Propane Gas on Hamlet Avenue the second Saturday in May under the guidance of Vice-Principal Mrs. Rollins and the students raised \$300 for scholarships for when they are in High School. He, Publicly, thanked Rene Bousquet and his son for allowing the students to work there. He thinks it would be a great idea to start at the Middle School, perhaps an after-school program, similar to the Hispanic program, a multi-national group because he has heard from a lot of students and it would be a great place for kids to eat together and exchange cultural differences.

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. D'Acchioli congratulated their entire employee of the year nominees and award winners and, also, to the students selected for the Jennifer Rivera Citizenship awards. Good luck to Mrs. Limoges as she competes for the State title.

Kelly Doung has been named Valedictorian and Maranda Kay Cimeno has been named Salutatorian of the WHS graduating class of 2005. Kelly's cumulative average of 101.6 resulted in her selections of extra credit classes over her high school years, while Maranda finished with a 99.0 percentage over four years. Congratulations and good luck to both students as they pursue challenging careers.

Dr. D'Acchioli congratulated the student council at Bernon Heights Elementary for conducting a successful Book Swap. Ms. Kim Pierce, who linked her Art Curriculum with Literacy, and the district summer reading program, supervised the project. Books were donated to Bernon from the Lincoln Lonsdale Elementary School.

Kudo's were extended to Principal Margaret Tincknell for the creation and implementation of a unique literacy and assertive discipline program at Bernon. The program was concluded with a Medieval banquet. Student's dressed in medieval attire and a meal was preparation by Sodexo staff to celebrate the conclusion of the program. Thanks to teacher, Kim Pierce, teacher assistant Christine Archambault, and Director of Kid's Klub, Sharon Desper for the help with decorations for this event.

Congratulations went to Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Deborah Duquette, for hosting and evening Mother's Day event, which featured the reading and creation of books by students dedicated to their moms.

This afternoon, he attended a play at Citizens Memorial School by Mrs. Barrette's class entitled "The Bully Magnet." This play was so spectacular that he is attempting to get this class to perform at the Middle School next week and possibly at next year's Teacher Orientation Day.

Congratulations went to Ms. Linda Lemay for supervising the Project Learn Support for Adult Literacy Program for the past five years. Bernon was the winner of this project and received \$500 towards the purchase of new books.

Lastly, he announced that Natasha Downing, a graduating WHS Culinary Arts student, has received a scholarship in excess of \$20,000 to the International Institute of Culinary Arts in Fall River, MA, to further her career.

Motion to receive and place of file
Unanimously approved

MB Second: JW

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the Closed Minutes of May 19, 2005 and the Open and Closed Minutes of May 25, 2005

MB Second: JW

Motion Passes (All -Yes, AA-Abstained)

Mr. Auclair stated that he did not receive his copies of the two closed sessions so he will not vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Personnel Actions: (See Attached)

- Certified Appointments
- Non-Certified Appointments

Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Local

- Bellingham Lumber/Supplies/WHS/Local-\$3,620.74
- The Call/Advertising/District/Local-\$17,000.00
- City of Woonsocket/Fuel/District/Local-\$28,000.00
 - Follett Library Resources/Books/WHS/Local-\$2,500.00
- Konica/Maintenance/WHS/Local-\$8,500.00
- Michael Sartini/Professional Educator/WHS/Local-\$2,000.00
 - NEASC/Dues/WHS/Local-\$2,300.00
- Paula Widor/Reimbursement/McFee/Local-\$2,381.16
 - Pitney Bowes/Postage/WHS/McFee/Local-\$15,562.47
 - Providence Journal/Advertising/District/Local-\$13,000.00
 - Rick's Musical Instruments/Repairs & Replace/WHS/Local-\$4,750.00
 - Shaw's/Supplies/WHS/Local-\$3,000.00
 - Suzanne DiGiovanni/Reimbursement/McFee/Local-\$2,352.48
 - Valley Transportation/Transportation/WHS/Local-\$2,700.00
 - W.B. Mason/Supplies/WHS/Local-\$5,664.78
 - Xerox Corporation/Maintenance/McFee/Local-\$4,482.48

Grant

- Institute for Nonviolence/Training/Citizens/Social/Coleman/Grant-\$22,900.00
- NE Educational Consultants/ Reform Grant/WHS/Grant-\$4,000.00
 - WED/Grants Audit/McFee/Grant-\$4,500.00

Field Trips/Conference Request (0)

Disposal of Obsolete Equipment

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted

JW Second: MB

Unanimously approved

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

CONFERENCES:

Dr. D'Acchioli explained that split-grades or multi-age classrooms were started when the first school was ever built. The concept is not new. He is a product of education housed in a two-room schoolhouse in Johnston. Block Island has but one school for grades K-8. There are volumes of research not only justifying the effectiveness of multi-age classrooms, but much literature touting its superiority over homogeneous single grade configurations. In 1976, Dr. D'Acchioli assumed his first principalship at the Meadowbrook Farms School in East Greenwich. At that time, he had one first grade classroom, one-second-grade classroom, and three combination grade one-two classrooms. Multiage classrooms were the preferred mode of instruction.

In Woonsocket, split grade or multi-age classrooms were in place prior to his arrival in all of their smaller schools - Grove, Kendrick, Fifth, Second, Social Street and the original Harris School. These programs have been used every year he has been in Woonsocket.

Split grade classrooms are used as an economic tool. The choice is between combining grades and bussing some students out of their neighborhood school. This community needs to be reminded that they are still projecting a \$1.5 M deficit. Aside from the added costs of bussing, students will spend longer periods of time riding a school bus. They will not share the same classroom experiences as their neighbors, nor will they be able to do homework together. Some siblings will be separated and some parents will be forced to choose between schools in terms of PTO and school-specific opportunities. The advantages of keeping students together in a neighborhood school are many. There are no advantages to bussing some students out of their neighborhood schools.

Some of the split grade classrooms are on paper but not real. Enrollments change everyday and it is way too early to worry about classroom configurations. The Union gives them until October 1st to adjust enrollments to conform to contractual limits. The Administration can ask a teacher to take additional students up to twenty-seven in a class, and the teacher earns additional income only when they agree. The district cannot support classes with only nine, ten or eleven students in them.

Dr. Macera stated that there are some states such as Kentucky, Oregon and Mississippi that mandate multi age classrooms and other states are in the process of doing the same thing.

Dr. D'Acchioli gave the Committee data sheets regarding testing and the scores were indistinguishable on the state assessment of students in split classrooms and those who are not.

Dr. D'Acchioli then answered questions from the audience and the Committee. He stated he will do what the Committee decides and they always try to accommodate requests from parents.

Ms. Williams ask Dr. D'Acchioli about a comment that was made at the last meeting that he said, with split classrooms, education is not in jeopardy but will be diminished. Dr. D'Acchioli stated that he apologized if his comment was misunderstood but he was referring to diminished learning when bussing students out of their neighborhoods and away from their neighbors and siblings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve Bid Award #05-20 Workers' Compensation Insurance to Rhode Island Risk Management Trust of East Providence in the amount of \$373,153.00 AA Second: MD
Roll Call Vote (All Yes Except JW-No)

Motion to approve Bid Award #05-23 Used Culinary Equipment from Union Hotel Equipment of North Smithfield in the amount of \$4,800.00 MD Second: MB
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Motion to approve the renewal of the Food Service Management Contract MD Second: AA/JW
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Mrs. Goodman stated that this includes a 3% increase with Sodexo and they receive 11.7 cents per meal and paid on actual number of meals served. They estimate the amount to be \$138,807. Mr. Auclair asked that these amendments be posted on the website along with the original contract.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated that the data shows a decline in participation in the number of students eligible for free and reduced breakfast despite a pledged all-out effort on the part of Universal Free Breakfast advocates to get more students participating. He trusts the pilot has ended. Chairman Dubois asked that this be placed on the June 29th agenda because this was a pilot program to run until the end of this school year and then they had agreed to review this over the summer to decide if the program will continue next school year. Mr. Auclair asked that he wants the final data including the monthly totals from September through this June on the number of breakfasts, free and reduced, and the average daily number because there are less and more days in certain months.

Motion to approve the policy change - Administrative Leave - 1st Passage JW Second: MB

Dr. D'Acchioli thanked Mr. Auclair for bringing the policy issue to his attention regarding administrative leaves. The current policy on the books states they can grant a leave only if it is for educational purposes. This is in conflict with the Family & Medical Leave Act of 1993 and he recommends they amend the current policy. He read a proposed amendment.

Mr. Auclair asked that the School Committee be advised of leaves for administrators.

Dr. D'Acchioli recommended changing the amendment to read as follows: **'Request for leaves of absence by non-union employees and at the recommendation of the Superintendent shall be brought to the School Committee for approval and such approval may be granted when deemed to be in the best interest of the Education Department, but in no case shall this policy limit a non-union employee from any legally protected right'**

Motion to amend

MD Second: AA/JW

Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Roll Call Vote on the first motion. All Yes, Motion carries.

Dr. D'Acchioli reminded the Committee that this was the first passage and it will be before the Committee for second passage if further changes need to be made.

Motion to table protocol for student hearings until the June 29th meeting JW Second: AA

Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Mr. Ward stated that he would let Dr. D'Acchioli review and write a recommendation on this matter. He has questions and this is a big issue and there is currently lots of policy regarding discipline.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated he will place this issue on the June 29th agenda and asked that the Committee email him recommended changes and he will talk with Mr. Emerson and will have him present on the 29th.

Chairman Dubois stated he had requested this in February. There were thirty-two student hearings this year and doesn't believe all of these need to come before the Committee. For example, a fourth grader with a plastic, toy gun. He feels the Hearing Officer can handle that with the appeal process in place. Any Committee member reserves the right to have any violation brought before the School Committee.

Mr. Ward, also, mentioned that in the case where an IEP exists, their hands are tied. They come before the Committee and they make their decision and then they are told you can't do that because of the IEP. Why spend the time if you can't affect the decision? Also, he believes the Law no longer allows home tutoring. They need an alternative option. They need to develop one in the District. Otherwise, their choices will be to send a student to an alternative school, which can run 30-50K and or co-mingle a student who has a behavior problem in a special-needs population. He, also, believes that regarding weapons, there is an obligation under Law to have a hearing before the School Committee for expulsion.

Mr. Auclair stated that the handbooks would have to reflect these changes if made. Perhaps the changes

should be made in a large Policy Manual and not make the handbooks the policy guide.

Motion to Appoint Mr. Marc J. Ladin as an Elementary Principal MD Second: AA/MW
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Dr. D'Acchioli stated that per the Committee's request, the Savoie vacancy and the anticipated one-year vacancy at Citizens would be posted internally. A joint committee between the two schools will screen both prior and new applications, conduct interviews and make recommendations to the Superintendent. He anticipates making appointment recommendations at the June 29th SC meeting. He does, however, wish to recommend the appointment of Mr. Marc J. Ladin and he read his letter of recommendation. (SEE ATTACHMENT 1)

Mr. Auclair stated that per policy, there should be a probational wage period with a 75-day probation evaluation followed by a six-month or end of the school year evaluation. Also, new hires from outside the District are expected to pay a 20% co-pay for their medical and dental insurances.

Dr. D'Acchioli recommended that the Committee waive and rework policy because administrators are at a premium and the policy was really written for non-union positions. Mr. Ladin is taking a significant wage difference in coming to Woonsocket.

Mr. Ward strongly urged they modify this policy before the State mandates that School Committees negotiate with Principals. Health and Dental is defined by the teachers' contract. He would waive this tonight.

Motion to waive said policy JW Second: AA
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

Motion to approve amendment to the Superintendent's Contract MB Second: AA
Roll Call Vote (All Yes except JW- No)

Chairman Dubois stated his concern with rollover provisions. The school's Attorney wrote an amendment, which removes the automatic renewal notice. The contract expires on June 30, 2007. He then, read the amendment to the Superintendent's contract. (SEE ATTACHMENT #2)

Mr. Ward stated he is voting against this because the Superintendent already advised the Committee that he was resigning as of June 30, 2007. He is a man of his word.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Since Dr. D'Acchioli's last meeting, he had the delightful opportunity to attend the High School's production of Music Man. Once again, Mrs. Maiello and her students have outdone themselves. In the same vein, the Music Department conducted their annual Percussion and Collage Concerts with the style and professionalism they have come to expect.

On the student front, he once again attended the all of the high school proms. In each event, the students were well behaved and respectful.

Awards and honors programs have, also, provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase their finest students. From the R.I. and National Honor Societies induction ceremony (where sixty-eight students were accepted) to last week's Citizens RIF celebration, their students are getting much deserved recognition. Monday night, the district held its annual Athletics Awards Banquet. Last night, the WACTC held its graduation. Earlier this morning, many of their high school seniors received monetary recognition in the form of scholarships. It is his understanding, more than \$30,000 in grants and scholarships was awarded to their students thus far. As he has stated many times, this is the most enjoyable time of celebration in the school year.

This week, he read news articles on the status of the Beacon Charter School, a decision on a teacher charged with assault, and a Commissioner's decision affirming Committee's denial of student transportation. To date, he has not received any official correspondence on any of these issues. Also, one article referenced that the teacher lost salary as a result of charges brought against her. Since she was exonerated, the Education Department has restored her lost wages incurred as a result of charges brought against her.

Friday, Woonsocket High School will hold its 131st annual graduation exercise at Barry Field. The weather appears promising. This year, Mr. Vachon and Mr. Panu will exit with this graduating class. Dr. D'Acchioli took the opportunity to wish the graduating class of 2005 and the two senior seniors best wishes as they enter a new phase of their lives.

Next Tuesday and Wednesday, fifth graders will be spending "bump-up" day at the Middle School. This annual activity is designed to acquaint their students with their new school. Supplemental orientation sessions will take place closer to the opening of school next August.

Dr. D'Acchioli closed with a reminder that the Woonsocket Education Department has a summer reading requirement. Book lists and expectations can be found on the website and, also, in the public library. With only eight school days remaining, be assured that the Administration is working diligently to make next year an even better experience for the child of Woonsocket.

Motion to receive and place on file said Superintendent's Report AA Second: MB
Unanimously approved

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD AND WELFARE:

Chairman Dubois congratulated the graduating class of WHS and he will be attending the graduation on Friday. He wished Mr. Panu, who has been with the School Department for forty-four years and Mr. Vachon, who is, also, leaving, all the best. They were two great administrators. He congratulated Mr. Ladin and thanked Mr. Bileau for sitting in the Committee and keeping the process done fairly and accurately and keeping the School Committee informed. He thanked Marlene Smith for the Rivera Awards earlier and the teachers representing their clusters. They were terrific and they are wonderful kids. He hopes it will continue. He attended the Presidential Awards at the Middle School and the Honors' dinner this week. He went to the High School and saw L.L. Cool J. and he is a very nice man. He gave a great motivational speech about staying in school and making something of yourself regardless of parents, etc. He was very humble and took pictures and he thanked Congressman Kennedy and their Representative. He was troubled tonight in hearing that Mr. Ackerman acting on behalf of the School Committee. The grievance was denied but three members do not remember authorizing him doing what he did. Dr. D'Acchioli stated that Attorney Ackerman represents the Committee and he chose the venue. The Committee denied the grievance. The Union appealed and it is then given to the Attorney. It is the attorney's decision not his nor the School Committee's from where it goes from there. That is the job of an Attorney. There was nothing sneaky going on. The Attorney takes over and represents the Committee and their denial as best he sees fit. There was no approval or denial needed. Chairman Dubois stated that Attorney Ackerman should have informed the Committee. He is on their payroll and they should be kept informed so they are not blindsided.

Mr. Ward, in regards to the lawyer and the grievance, the proposal from the attorney forwarded to us at the last hearing was that the language that controls the appointment of administrators to Union specification was characterized by our own attorney as language that the Courts have upheld as non-arbitral and have overturned arbitration decisions. He indicated, that in all likelihood, it would have no standing. It is his duty to go to Court first and have it rendered non-arbitral. If it goes to arbitration first, the burden to overturn the arbitration decision is significantly higher. It was his understanding that when they made their decision was that the language was null because it put an authority in a contract, that in his opinion had no standing. So, in fact, they were fully aware as a matter of due course, would be attempting to have it declared non-arbitral. He only will go to arbitration if forced to and he sees it as totally consistent and this

is an outgrowth of an argument over this matter going all the way back to the last contract. He is not surprised by it and doesn't know why Mr. DiPardo is surprised. Mr. DiPardo has taken something he has fought to keep private which is grievances and he has decided to expose this because it's a hot issue. Mr. DiPardo has fought in Court so that they would not be allowed to discuss grievances. He thanked Ms. Smith and anyone, else, involved in the Rivera Awards. It is perfect to recognize students who do the right thing and are good members of the community. He thanked them for keeping Ms. Rivera's name in the public spotlight and recognition of a person who did the right thing and had the misfortune of becoming a victim. He congratulated the students who received scholarships on Class Day and is looking forward to the Graduation this Friday. Regarding the Beacon School, he is receiving mixed messages. First they have support and then they don't. They are trying hard and maybe they will succeed. He was very uncomfortable about the news article in the Providence Journal but something good will come of it. After the News gets through bleeding for them and the acrimony flies, then perhaps people, along with the SIT team, will come to the June 22nd meeting with solutions. Let's not waste the meeting fighting. There is enough time to purge the system of bitterness. He wished Mr. Prince well. He wasn't there long but made good improvements. He has heard some talk to school fund formulas and suggested to Dr. D'Acchioli to see if he can find out the outcome of the hearings. There is, also, a General Assembly bill that may require them to transport to and from day-care providers from any school.

Ms. Williams thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight regarding split grade classrooms. They need more dialogue. She is not opposed to them but wants to be sure teachers are prepared to handle the situation. She congratulated Mr. Panu, Mr. Vachon and thanked Ms. Smith and the teachers for the Rivera Awards. Ms. Smith went out and got the plaques that were given out. She reminded everyone that the Minority Concerns meeting is tomorrow night at the WACTC at 7:00. She congratulated Mr. Prince and Mr. Ladin. On June 15th at the Middle School at 3:00 P.M. in the Consumer Science Room, there will be a meeting of the Wellness Committee including a representative from Kids First. She encouraged teachers and students to participate. She thought that Mr. McLaughlin's idea of a multi-national club at the Middle School is a wonderful idea. It builds unity. Perhaps they could look at some after-school funding. She encouraged people to come to the June 22nd meeting regarding the Middle School. Per Chairman Dubois, they tried to schedule that meeting before the end of school but there is a prior engagement next Wednesday and so they moved back their regular School Committee meeting until June 29th.

Mr. Auclair congratulated the Middle School students who earned the awards. He was attended the WACTC awards yesterday. The kids are doing tremendous things. He likes the Jennifer Rivera Awards that congratulates somebody for making the right choice. He thanked Ms. Smith and the teachers. He congratulated the employees who received the District's Recognition Awards and all those nominated, who are, also, doing a good job. He agrees with Mr. Ward and is tired of hearing complaints and asks people to come to the June 22nd meeting with some solutions. He apologized to all the groups that he can't attend their function. He can't make them all and even missed one of his own daughter's. He will be attending the graduation Friday. He congratulated and welcomed Mr. Ladin. He heard from one of the nine candidates for elementary principal, that they never received any acknowledgment or communication. This is very disappointing. Perhaps, they won't apply next time. He was surprised that the Middle School was not tested this year and they used a pilot test in October. This invalidates the past year. This October, the new testing will take place. The pilot is not validated and the State has the ability to state who is tested and who isn't. He received a couple of phone calls to some information he sent out about the 30-day absent days and the automatic failure. He was told that this violates State Law. They approved this as a policy and there is concern for the Middle School staff and how to apply that. He asked Dr. D'Acchioli and Dr. Macera to clarify this and remove it from the handbook if it is a violation. Let's do what we say we are going to do. They are there for the students.

Mr. Bileau stated he had attended the Presidential Awards last week and attended Mrs. Barrette's 'Bully Magnet', which was excellent. He would like to see that recorded and played on Public Access. He attended the WACTC awards where there were four hundred people all beaming about their kids. He thanked Mrs. Jellows for her job while at McFee. It is sad to see Mr. Prince leaving. He did an exceptional job in the two years he has been there. He heard nothing but glowing praise. Regarding the lawyer concerns, he should inform us when he is going to court and what the outcome was so they are not blindsided. He was, also, deeply concerned about the article in the Providence Journal yesterday. He heard

that a student was taken to Mrs. Valentine's office because he was wearing a bandana. The bandana was removed and the student was allowed to walk back to the classroom swearing in the hallway. Mrs. Valentine chose to say she would talk to the student when he cooled down. That is not acceptable. She told him what was in the newspaper was true.

Motion to adjourn at 11:15 P.M.
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

MB Second: AA

Respectfully submitted,

Denise St Germain
Secretary to the School Committee