

MINUTES

**WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 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

GOOD AND WELFARE – PUBLIC

Prior to the start of Public Good & Welfare, Dr. D'Acchioli read a statement about his attempts to secure more funds from the city. The City Council approved giving us more funds, but he's not sure exactly how much money will be received. The teacher assistant job fair has been postponed because of it. The sports program at the WMS may also be reinstated if there's enough money.

- **Eleanor Nadeau, Bailey Street, Woonsocket:** She had questions regarding the house leaders at the WMS. "The state will pick up the tab for the salaries for one year? How will this be cost effective? Those three teachers need to be replaced. What will happen to these positions after the one year? When there were team leaders at a cost of \$36,000, we had very positive results. Why can't you just say to the state that we want to reinstate the team leaders? Otherwise, I wouldn't take the money, because I don't trust the state department of education. It's a short-term fix. Do we have a choice on how this money will be used?" she asked. Dr. D'Acchioli explained that we have no control over the provision that the state has imposed upon us. "They will be at the interview table. We have very little say in this. This is part of NCLB and very new. If the funds aren't there next year, the state will have to come up with a new strategy," said D'Acchioli.

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Dr. D'Acchioli

He congratulated recent graduates Justin Martin for receiving a \$1,000 dollar Sam Walton Community Scholarship by the Woonsocket WalMart, and Joseph Aghia for receiving a scholarship from the Grand Lodge of Mason. He wished them the best of luck as they peruse their future education at schools throughout the country.

- Mr. Dubois added that the Mayer is forming a Building Committee to look at building a new high school or middle school. He announced that WSC members Allen Auclair and Michael Bileau, citizens Mary Keegan and Carmen Boucher, as well as school representatives Peter Fontaine and Supt. D'Acchioli will be sitting on the committee.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Bileau

2nd: J. Ward (Unanimously Approved)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 7/20/05 Open/Closed

Motion to Approve: M. Bileau

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Personnel Actions (See attached)

Certified Appointments/
Non-Certified Appointments

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

Local Funds:	Abilitations / Special Ed. / Special Ed Equipment	2,364.96
	Blackstone Valley Office Systems / WMS / Maint./Usage FY06	4,330.00
	Konica Minolta / Social-Harris / Maintenance / Usage FY06	7,400.00
	Leslie Ryan / Special Ed. / Vision Specialist Services	24,180.00
	Lynn DeSchepper / Special Ed. / Nursing- July & August	3,750.00
	Parmelee, Poirier & Associates / Business Office/ Audit	23,040.00
	Sammons Preston / Special Ed. / Special Ed. Equipment	2,074.75
	Student Assistance Services / WHS / Student Assist. Prog. 05/06	20,000.00
	Susan Prentiss / Special Ed. / Physical Therapy Services	54,000.00
	Wistow & Baryllick, Inc. / Business Office / Promac	8,657.63
	Xerox / WMS / Maintenance/Usage FY06	7,668.00

are a hodge-podge of everything, so there are a few uniforms being ordered for them and the cross-country team. "The last few years we have been level-funded in supplies and uniforms. I have cut down the request to fit into the budget," said Villeneuve. When Mr. Ward asked about defibrillators that the city would be getting, he responded that the city told him we would get one defibrillator for the WMS, Barry Field and Dionne Park.

▪ **#05-25 Athletic Supplies**

Motion to approve the recommendation to award to various low bidders for a total of \$14,824.98:
J. Ward
2nd: M. Bileau
[Roll Call Vote: MD=yes / AA – yes / MB – yes / JW – yes / MW=yes. Motion passes 5-0.]

▪ **#05-18 Medical Supplies (for district-wide use)**

Motion to approve award to various low bidders for a total of \$18,642.29: M. Dubois
2nd: M. Bileau
[Roll Call Vote: MD=yes / AA – yes / MB – yes / JW – yes / MW=yes. Motion passes 5-0.]

2. Approval of Job Specifications for House Leader

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

Mr. Bileau said he attended the meeting the WED had with RIDE and asked about continued funding after the first year for these positions. "The future is questionable," he said. Mr. Ward confirmed with Dr. D'Acchioli that there are no prep periods for these positions. "No," said D'Acchioli. Ward asked if StarBase is in use at the WMS. Dr. D'Acchioli said that it is being used for attendance but not for scheduling. They will start using it this year for scheduling, even though we have had the software for four years. "Why was this allowed to happen?" asked Ward. Dr. D'Acchioli said it apparently wasn't a priority of the WMS administration four years ago. He noted that Todd Flaherty and one or two other people for RIDE will be participating in the interviewing for these positions. Dr. D'Acchioli announced that Joseph Nasif, retired Cumberland superintendent, would be serving as interim principal at the WMS, adding that we are extremely fortunate to have him. When asked about the salary as being set by the teachers' contract, Dr. D'Acchioli explained that it would go by the degree the person has and their experience. "It's an administrative position, but we are trying to pull from the school ranks. It will be a wonderful resume' builder. It's still under the teachers' contract," said D'Acchioli. Mr. Auclair wants to see them be required to participate in PTO meetings. It was pointed out to him that the list of requirements was already very lengthy and had to be cut down. "If we keep adding to it, no one will apply," said D'Acchioli. Ms. Williams asked that the Focus Room and PASS teacher be explained. A PASS teacher was said to be an intervention position. The Focus Room is where students will be sent for one period a day when asked to leave the classroom. Mr. Ward noted that the WTG specified a procedure for hiring Team Leaders and asked if that would apply here. "It has been waived in this instance, but we don't have it in writing, however," said D'Acchioli. Preference will be given to WMS candidates. Dr. Macera added that Todd Flaherty was very clear on that point.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. D'Acchioli

The topic consuming most of the district's time is the Middle School. On July 29th, the RIDE held a meeting of primary stakeholders to review and discuss plans for addressing issues raised in the SALT report. During that discussion, the job description of house leaders was discussed. Taken directly from the job description, House Leaders will work directly with a grade-level leadership team to promote the educational well being of each student attending the Middle School. The house leader will report directly to the Assistant Principal of his/her respective team. These teams will be relocated to offices close to their respective students. The posting for House Leaders was from August 1 through 15. Interviews will be scheduled for August 22 with recommendations for appointment targeted for the August 24th meeting. An anticipated scheduling change will be deferred for one year as will a grade-level relocation program. To lessen the scope of change taking place at the Middle School, the RIDE will waive the Regents' requirement of 330 instructional minutes for this year. A MS Committee will develop a schedule to be implemented in FY07 that will meet and/or surpass the Regent requirements. On the topic of replacing the Middle School principal, the search has been set back by the search team's inability to identify a sufficient number of credible candidates to interview. Ads appeared in the August 7th editions of the Providence Journal and the Boston Globe and also in the August 10th edition of

Education Week. Applications will close on Tuesday, August 23 and interviews will be scheduled sometime during the first week of September.

The Middle School will open under the supervision of an interim principal. Woonsocket is fortunate to have secured the services of Mr. Joseph Nasif, a recently retired superintendent and former Middle school principal. Mr. Nasif was a Middle School principal for nine years before assuming the Superintendency. He will remain as interim principal until a new principal assumes the position. Through the RIDE, RIMLE will also provide mentoring services to the Middle School administrative staff.

On a positive front, Dr. D'Acchioli had conversations with Council President, Leo Fontaine and met with the Mayor this afternoon in an effort to secure more funds. As of this afternoon, it appears that we may be receiving additional revenue; however, the amount still needs to be determined. The additional money will be used to reduce the impact of TA layoffs. Once an amount is confirmed, he will meet with Mrs. Goodman to calculate an exact impact. The TA job fair that was scheduled for this Friday has been rescheduled for Monday, August 30 following Teacher Orientation. There may be a possibility of also receiving additional funds to return inter-scholastic sports to the Middle School. The status of the Beacon Charter School continues to be a \$100,000 question affecting our budget. Once the question is answered, the Administration will submit a revised budget to Committee for consideration.

Schools open in three short weeks and the Administration is working very hard to prepare for a smooth opening. Bus schedules will be delivered to the CALL next Monday. He wished our students a healthy and happy remainder of the summer but also reminded them to complete the required summer reading.

Motion to receive and place on file: A. Auclair

2nd: M. Bileau (Unan. Appr)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD AND WELFARE:

A. Auclair: Thanked Dr. D'Acchioli for talking to the City Council and the Mayor about getting more funding and urged everyone to keep pushing. Said that he went to the City Council meeting last week to ask them to meet with the school department to brainstorm ideas to save us money. He has yet to get a response. He had requested the complete budget that was approved in February and thanked Dr. D'Acchioli for that. He wants to forward it to the Mayor and City Council, but Dr. D'Acchioli said that would be a bad idea because there have been many significant changes to it since then. "Let's wait and see what the Mayor comes up with for some funding and we revise the budget. After that, we can give it to them," suggested D'Acchioli. Auclair has gotten a request from the media for a line item budget instead of just a summary budget. The superintendent explained that our budget is included in the city's budget and we do the same thing as many of the other city departments. Auclair thinks that giving a more itemized budget to the media would generate more support from the public. Mr. Ward warned him about doing that because if something changes, someone will take us to task for it. Mr. Auclair spoke to Pat Kennedy's office about what we offer for ESL services. "We don't get a lot of federal funding for this. I would like to ask the INS to help fund the naturalization process," said Auclair. He would like numbers on what it costs us to do provide these services now. In regards to Policy P3-6.8, he said a parent asked about attendance registers. Dr. D'Acchioli said that the policy is outdated. Auclair asked about safety plans and emergency response plans. D'Acchioli stated that every building has them and that they should also be available from Facilities. Auclair thinks that the Safety Committee should also review these plans. He thanked everyone for coming.

M. Bileau: Thanked everyone for coming. Asked how Andrew Riley is doing after his surgery. Dr. D'Acchioli said he is out of intensive care and doing well. Bileau has been talking to Leo Fontaine, City Council President, about a work session, he told Mr. Auclair. They want to keep it small to not violate the open meetings law.

M. Dubois: He did a walk-through with the Dept. of Education of the WMS last week. The 6th graders will be on one floor and there should be very little traffic going from one side of the building to the other. He thinks we are taking steps in the right direction. Gave his best wishes to Mr. Riley and thanked everyone for coming.

J. Ward: He thinks reviewing the safety plan is a good idea. He read an article about a state law that the school committee reviews the purchase of all new textbooks. As long as he has served on the WSC, he doesn't recall reviewing the purchase of textbooks. Dr. D'Acchioli explained that when he came on board, they tackled piloting textbooks for purchase. "We went ahead and purchased them based on the pilots. If you would like, in the future we will have you approve them. We field-test multiple vendors. Bringing it before the WSC wasn't something I was aware of. Dr. Macera explained that PowerPoint presentations were done for the WSC after each pilot. Ward asked about landscaping being done at the schools, particularly Harris and Summer Street, saying the outside looks like it hasn't been taken care of. "There are weeds growing and the plantings are out of

control," he said. Dr. D'Acchioli will check with Mr. Fontaine about it. Mr. Ward was surprised to hear the acrimony from the City Council members about what they perceived as our cavalier attitude about the budget and cuts, etc. He spoke about how we award raises to non-union employees versus how the City does it. "We have also transferred our lunch monitors over to the food service program to save money." He suggested we bring the City Council evidence of all the grant money we get. Thanked everyone for coming.

M. Williams: She was happy to hear about the meeting Dr. D'Acchioli had with the City. She received many emails from kindergarten teachers regarding the loss of their assistants. There was an issue of a parent going to McFee and there was no one to talk to. Williams asked if there could be an administrator in the building at all times to avoid this situation in the future. Dr. D'Acchioli explained that the Assistant Special Education Director was there and did speak to the woman. He asked that people call first to make an appointment. "Most of my administrators in the building couldn't have helped with her questions," he said. Williams asked if the lunch monitors will still be WED employees or Sodexo's. Dr. D'Acchioli said they would still be ours. Williams asked if anyone knew who the other four large middle schools in the area are so we could compare where we are against them. Dr. D'Acchioli told her that the middle schools are the "Achilles heel" of most school districts—not just Woonsocket. He will see if he can get some statistics for her. Dr. Macera said she was at a large middle school in Cranston and there are a lot of different models to look at. Williams thanked everyone for coming out. Mr. Ward suggested she check the NELMS website for the info she's looking for. Dr. Macera told her they have an office at RIDE and she could contact Mr. Fasano there.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.: M. Dubois

2nd: M. Bileau/A. Auclair (Unan. Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle
Substitute WSC Recording Secretary