

**MINUTES  
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2005  
7:00 P.M. -OPEN SESSION  
WACTC-ROOM 303  
MULTI-MEDIA ROOM**

**Call to Order at 7:08 P.M.**

**Moment of Silence**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

Marc Dubois-Chairman	Present
Michael Bileau-Vice Chairman	Absent
Allen Auclair	Present
John Ward	Present
Michelle Williams	Present

Chairman Dubois stated that Mr. Bileau informed him he would be a little late tonight. Also, Chairman Dubois asked some of the folks to stand just outside the door so they could maintain the 66 max-capacity limit for the room required by Fire Codes and that when their issue comes up, to please feel free to come in and speak and or listen.

**GOOD AND WELFARE-PUBLIC:**

Ms. Amy Midelas, 5<sup>th</sup>-Grade teacher at Globe Park, has worked in an inclusion, self-contained and now a regular-ed class. She has two children of her own with special needs and she has touched all areas of special education. Her two sons are in an integrated program and she has gone to the City Council regarding the para-professional situation. These students are out of the classroom for eighty minutes a day. There is no one there to maintain consistency. Lunch monitors do not know behavioral interventions. What is the IEP giving her son. The teacher is doing ten times more work. The Kindergarten teacher has twenty-five students who have never been in school before. The kids are paying the price.

Mr. Roger Harris, a Woonsocket resident and a member of the R.I. Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Poverty, stated he has been before the Committee three times before and on behalf of the kids is demanding the approval of the Universal Free Breakfast. He has provided enough information over the years to prove it works.

Ms. Deborah Duquette, teacher at Bernon Heights, claims she came to say what she has before and that now two months have finished this school year and that many families prepare their students for school and many don't. There are new State requirements and they need full-time assistants. There are many great things going on in their schools such as All-Day K, before-school programs and now getting Kindergarten accredited. She is aware of the money issues but full-time assistants are necessary to achieve initiatives. They must go to the City Council and Mayor for more funding.

Ms. Diane Hampton, an assistant for five years, stated that there are now integrated classes and some kids get way behind. One student said to her that he was stupid and wants to quit school. There is no feeling of security for the students. The School Committee should be doing everything for the students. Be the lifeguards and save them.

Ms. Lee DeVoicier, 210 Cottage Street, has a daughter in the Kindergarten at Bernon Heights School and they need a full-time assistant. Their first petition two weeks ago had thirty signatures and as of tonight, they have three hundred and sixteen. **(SEE ATTACHMENT #1)** They are requesting immediate action on this issue. One teacher for every twenty-five students is a safety issue. Imagine if there was a fire. Budget cuts are not worth their students' safety.

Ms. Sandra Kelly, from the R.I. Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Poverty, urged the Committee to implement the U.F. B. program.

Ms. Holly Gray, fifth-grade teacher at Globe Park, came to reiterate what others have said and that part-time para-professionals are not working and are very disruptive. They have more IEP children and less help and its not working.

Mr. Henry Shelton, form the Northern R.I. Chapter from the R.I Campaign, stated that the U.F. B. works well in other cities that have it and feels all cities should have this program. He gave the Committee a two-page document to review. The facts and figures show that when a child eats, he performs better. **(SEE ATTACHMENT #2)**

Ms. Judy Guillet, an employee with the WSD and is a secretary at McFee, asked that the secretary that was eliminated from that office be reinstated. There is no one to cover the switchboard from 7-8:00 A.M. There could be parents calling. The secretaries at McFee handle the work for the whole District.

Ms. Judy McNeil, claims she has a daughter in Ms. Duquette's class At Bernon Heights and her daughter has a form of autism and is having social problems. She has talked with Ms. Duquette about how her daughter is mad and frustrated when she returns home. She might consider having her daughter moved to a Regular-E class because she is very bright but they have no full-time assistants either. She, along with other parents, goes to help but they must reinstate the full-time assistants.

Ms. Elisha Jackson from the George Wiley Center stated that if they don't implement the U.F.B. program then they are not addressing the issues right away like what happened with Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Guy Trudell, Jr. has a daughter in the Kindergarten class at Bernon Heights and they need help and it needs to be dealt with now. They need answers now and they will keep coming to the meetings about this issue. The kids are behind when there is no need. They are all pleading for the reinstatement of the full-time assistants.

Ms. Sandy Paul, who teaches Kindergarten at Pothier School, reiterated what has been said and that with the State mandate, the students are behind all ready and more so when they move on to the first grade.

Ms. Sandy LaBarr is a teachers' assistant and goes between Kindergarten and the first grade. The students are frustrated because there is no consistency with a part-time assistant and she is like a visitor to the classes and has very little control over the children because of that. A lot of the kids' needs are not being met. The kids are not thriving.

Ms. Judy Danz from the Wiley Center urged the Committee to implement the U.F. B. because they have the people and resources to take care of their people and to be successful. They have provided the Committee with packets of information over the past three years. You can talk to other School Committees who have approved this and urged the Committee to approve it.

Ms. Donna Houle, 130 Ward Street, stated that the teachers' assistants play a vital role and she asked where the computers that were approved two weeks ago went. MS. Goodman gave her the information.

Ms. Marie Garier stated that she wanted to know who made the decision to cut the teacher assistants. As taxpayers, they are begging for them back and perhaps could find the money by cutting cell phones instead.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated that the Committee agonized for a full year and wrestled with this issue and with every priority. The School Committee approved the budget and he, personally, pleaded with the City Council for another half a million dollars so they could reinstate the assistants. And that doesn't even address other priorities. The School Committee must live with budget allocations from the State and City by law. If they did receive some money, then the question becomes which classes get the assistants first? They need at least a half a million dollars from the City to reinstate the assistants and the money is there.

Mr. Charles Haigh, a resident of Woonsocket, stated that there are a lot of issues that need discussion and are not on the agenda. This is a public meeting and now they have a legal reason to keep people out of the room. Also, there is a room that has been opened at the bus station on Main Street for people who are waiting and he has been told that the room is closed for 45 minutes when the Middle School gets out because Middle-School students have gone in there and misbehave and have broken windows. He knows they are no longer in their schools at that point but should be aware of the situation.

Mr. Ward, as a point of order, asked Attorney Ackerman if they have a large group such as this and no other facilities are immediately available, should they continue or postpone the meeting?

Mr. Ackerman stated there are new questions all the time regarding the Open-Meeting Act and the meeting can be postponed with the best notice possible perhaps for the next night and move it to a larger facility. For example, if the power was out tonight, you could cancel the meeting or do the best you can and do what is reasonable. If you don't transmit, you don't transmit. The implication of a facility large enough has come up once in five years. You could, also, do a dual posting for in the event you exceed capacity, you would postpone the meeting for thirty meetings and move it to the High School.

Mr. Ward asked that if someone came forward and stated they couldn't participate in the meeting, would that be a violation?

Mr. Ackerman stated that the Chairman made it clear at the beginning that they could come forward.

Someone in the crowd outside the door stated they have a radio out there and they can hear the meeting and what's taking place.

Ms. Margaret McNulty has two children in the schools and reiterated about the full-time assistants what has been said. Perhaps, grant money could be shifted. Dr. Macera stated that 77% of all grant monies received, goes to salaries. There are certain criteria's and requirements with grant money. When she first came to the District, they were receiving about 3.4M dollars in grant money and now they receive 9.5M dollars with 77% of that going to salaries. Ms. McNulty stated that there will be over three hundred parents at the next meeting and to find a big enough room. She commended the teachers at the Middle and High School where her son attended. She has a daughter who is in Ms. Duquette's class and she gives a lot of her personal time to her students. She volunteers to work in the class but the students don't know her and perhaps the School Committee and City Council need to attend one of these classes.

Mr. Mike Aaron has a son in Kindergarten at Savoie and perhaps the people are taking out their frustrations on the wrong people. How can they help the School Committee?

Chairman Dubois stated that they need to appeal to the City. Mr. Aaron stated they are only a small committee but with five hundred teachers and parents behind them, perhaps that could have an impact and wanted to know when the Committee would be meeting with the City Council again?

Mr. Ward requested through the Chair and the Committee to allow the Committee members to take out of order Good & Welfare S.C. only for the purpose of addressing these two issues instead of making these folks wait until 10:00 to hear what they have to say on these matters and keep it to those two issues. The Chair and all members agreed.

Mr. Ward thanked all for coming. He stated that grant money is very specific where it comes from. He has

met with the City Council and that after the City set its budget, the General Assembly awarded each community a revenue share of 1.5M dollars, which was not included in their original budget. He suggested to the Mayor and City Council that a half a million of that money be given to the School Department. There's the money. It would have a zero impact on taxes, on the City's rating, the budget, etc. He has asked at meetings and in letter form for people who appropriate money for the City for this. He had asked about some of the grant money and these funds are from a Federal grant, Title I, and the money is set aside for Choice for bussing, etc. Perhaps in January when amendments are allowed, they can utilize some of those monies if they haven't been used. However, if there is a Choice situation next year, then that money would be pulled back. Thirty of the para-professionals are funded through 930K dollars out of a grant including clerks, etc. They must plea to the City to fix this. They have the sufficient resources. They need to get the assistants in the classrooms at the earliest age possible.

Mr. Bileau arrived at 8:20 P.M.

Mr. Auclair requested through the Chair that a Special Meeting be set for next week inviting the City Council and Mayor devoted to the teachers' assistant positions and budget. This would allow the School Committee to host a public meeting on this issue. Chairman Dubois agreed. He will ask the City Council to attend this budget workshop but he can't make them. Members were assigned to work with the City Council on this issue and that hasn't helped. Invitations will go out to the Mayor and City Council and it will be held a week from tonight at the High School's auditorium at 7:00 P.M. Mr. Auclair continued and said that regarding U.F. B., two committee members did attend the sessions and more couldn't due to the quorum issue and that would be a violation. He went with Mr. Bileau and Ms. Williams is working on the food program and this issue was definitely not ignored and they worked within the law.

Ms. Williams stated that Ms. Danz said no one called other School Committees when she, personally, spoke with Pawtucket's committee who explained they have a 56K surplus due to the government increases the amount of money paid for free breakfast. The issue is how to get the kids to come in for the breakfast. This is a positive thing across the board. She feels it is better to spend a little now and get a lot back later. She has read some articles about how Principals should tell the School Committee what they need for their school and the School Committee should work on that. She is concerned that a student with an IEP is not helped during lunch. She asked Mr. Emerson, that they are required by law to assist these students with an IEP and there are many of them and how is he addressing this issue and what is the plan if the City doesn't give them the money?

Mr. Emerson stated they must follow the IEP and will look into this tomorrow. It's the first he has heard of it.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated that it is up to the School Committee what is to be done and not Mr. Emerson or the Principals, etc. The Committee can allow them to spend the money and then sure the City for it. It is up to the School Committee to make that choice. This was all covered when they reviewed the budget and it has been discussed many times. They cannot do their jobs and they are frustrated. The City Council has the money. The choices have to be made between the two public bodies.

Ms. Williams stated that she has talked to the Mayor about this and she was told the WSD from 1997-2004 had an 8M660K surplus.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated that money went to paying for All-Day K, 2M for the extension at Harris, the new Globe Park School and she is just hearing political talk. It is a smoke screen. Send him the money, Mayor Menard!!!

Chairman Dubois stated that Mr. Bileau informed him that he is very ill and would like to take out of order the New Contract for the Superintendent.

**Motion to take the New Contract for the Superintendent out of order**  
Roll Call Vote (All Yes)

**MD Second: AA**

Chairman Dubois stated that there was a sub-committee with their attorney who met with Dr. D'Acchioli and his personal attorney and a settlement agreement has been reached and it is before the Committee tonight. Attorney Ackerman stated there were a couple of revisions made today to language only and not to substance.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated this was an exit agreement similar to the one Chief Shea just agreed to. They used his accumulated benefits and can leave as early as this week. There is a savings to the District if this is agreed to. Per Ms. Williams's figures, they save 12K and he shows 32K on the current contract and what it contains. He will exhaust his accumulated benefits rather than being compensated and will remain on the books until June 2006 and then retire. His contract was through June 2007.

Mr. Ackerman stated that this document is more expansive than the original and captures the settlement and release of rights and obligations on both sides. He wouldn't presume complete explanation if they haven't read the completed agreement and the guts of this agreement was discussed with the School Committee. There were a few changes here and there for language and they were not substantive such as Dental is listed and was not in the original. Also, on the last page, it states that parties have had the opportunity to read, study and understand it and terms were understood. It is up to the Committee to read it.

Chairman Dubois stated the Committee could vote to enact this tonight and then have a final vote on it at the next meeting or a special meeting. Mr. Auclair asked that Mr. Ackerman go over the terms one at a time. Mr. Ackerman asked that they read the entire document rather than him possibly omitting something. Then, he can answer any questions they have. Mr. Auclair wanted to know the actual dollar amount regarding liability.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated that the number is 248K through June 2006 including all accumulated benefits. Then, any changes regarding the cost of health, etc. negotiated and retired teachers receive, would be the same benefit's the Superintendent would receive and not treated differently.

Mr. Auclair asked if they have to make a payment for him into the pension if he is on the books as of June 2006? It was explained that they would be paying that anyways.

Mrs. Goodman stated that Dr. D'Acchioli would have been paid through June 2007 with the District paying 9.72% to a retirement system including FICA. Unused vacation and sick time is not subject to pension payments. \$38,483 is payable in June 2006, not subject, just FICA. On the 38,483, 7.65%, which is \$2,994 and \$262 paid to Workers' Comp. If 162K is paid to him, \$15,746 is paid into the pension plan on his behalf. The wages that would have been paid through -06-07 would have also, received a pension payment but that would end in June 2006 based on what is before them tonight. So, 162K salary, 15,746 to the pension plan, 7.65% to FICA and Workers' Comp is a \$232,930 total the District is liable for.

Mr. Ward stated that the Chairman stated they could approve this tonight and then make changes at the next meeting. That process is what got us here. Folks had a three-page document to review for three months. We, now, have a seven-page document and have ten minutes to review. Section 13 is a new section and wants clarity on what the Committee is doing tonight.

Ms. Williams stated it is a seven-page document because it is double-spaced and that there was a lot of confusion on the other contract. Mr. Ackerman never reviewed that final draft. They were amendments and rumor has it, that Mr. Ward helped write it. Mr. Ward objected to the fact he was being accused of something base on rumors. Ms. Williams stated that this document was more simplified.

Mr. Ackerman, per the Committee's request, read out loud the entire new settlement and release agreement. All Members had a copy of the revised settlement. He read each page and then stopped to see if there were any questions the Committee may have. He reviewed each revision as they went along, as well. Revisions included: Page 2, Section 4, at the end of that page 'Collective Bargaining Agreement as amended from time to time, *including co-pay provision*'; Page 3, Section 5, 'However, after June 30, 2006, the Superintendent may continue *and pay* said life'; Page 3, Section 7, change As to *So*; Page 4, Section 9, 'computer equipment *owned by the District* utilized by him'; Page 5, last paragraph, *cross out 'past and*

*present*, *and the City of Woonsocket*, *officers, directors*', Page 6, Section 11, 'Department of Labor and Employment *based on his employment by WED* nor shall he be entitled to collect such unemployment benefits *based on his employment by WED*.'. (SEE ATTACHMENT #3)

Dr. D'Acchioli explained that regarding the 45 bonus sick days, the superintendent's contract in 1996, the State abolished individual employee contracts for non-union employees at that time and the School Committee language was with the exception of bonus sick time. His contract never had that language. Regarding Page 5, last paragraph, he agrees to fair play and if he can't sue them, they shouldn't be able to sue him. The final draft should afford him the same protections.

Mr. Ackerman stated that the agreement is signed by the School Committee and they can't bind another municipal entity and that's why he removed City of Woonsocket. Dr. D'Acchioli stated he is in agreement if his personal attorney agrees to the changes. Mr. Ackerman stated that can approve it as it reads and if Dr. D'Acchioli's attorney disagrees, they can amend it.

Mr. Ward asked why there is no co-pay when the Teachers' contract has a 15% co-pay?

Dr. D'Acchioli stated he had no problem with amending Plan 65. The current contract has no co-pay.

Mr. Ackerman asked that after sufficient time and questions answered, to please read Section 13 and then there are two lines for signatures, one for the Chairman, and one for Dr. D'Acchioli. Chairman Dubois asked if there were any further questions.

Mr. Ward asked Dr. D'Acchioli his comments about the agreement and what were his shortcomings that got him here? Dr. D'Acchioli stated he had a heavy heart. The agreement was fair that was being offered. He is in the same position as Mrs. Valentine. He could stay and fight and even prevail but who would win? Neither him nor the kids. He didn't know what his shortcomings were or how they got here. He hopes it passes.

**Motion to approve the settlement and release agreement as read tonight for discussion purposes only**  
MD Second: MB

Dr. D'Acchioli asked why for discussion when the agreement has been read and discussed?

Chairman Dubois asked Dr. D'Acchioli for a list of all equipment he has at home including their serial numbers.

Chairman Dubois, then, amended his motion that regarding Section 9, add *'be furnished with a list of equipment to the School Committee Dr. D'Acchioli has at his home'* and change the date from June 2006 to *'or upon a reasonable request by the WDS'*.

Dr. D'Acchioli only asked for sufficient time to purchase a new computer and transfer his files. The Chairman agreed.

Mr. Ward suggested they change it to *'no later than December 31, 2005, Dr. D'Acchioli shall return all computer equipment owned by the WED utilized by him at home'*.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated he would agree to that.

Chairman Dubois amended his motion to include *'no later than December 31, 2005, Dr. D'Acchioli shall return all computer equipment owned by the WED utilized by him at home'*.

Ms. Williams stated she requested the Superintendent's contract and salary be placed on the agenda in the Open Section and then saw it listed in the Closed Session. The new contract in under the Open section. Regarding Plan 65, refers to teachers with 35 years and the last 25 years in Woonsocket and he hasn't completed 10 years of service yet. His salary and health benefits would have rolled in six times. However,

his salary is 162K with no health benefits through June 2006. how did he get to 162K? Compensation for a doctorate degree, teachers must have 1014 years with the last five in Woonsocket and they receive \$500 and he will receive 4k per year and \$4,044 in his tenth year. There is a 9k compromise but in the long run, are they really saving money? The pension looks at the best three years. This is a huge expense. She can't support but wants him to leave.

Mr. Ward asked for a point of clarification. The motion was for discussion purposes...are they voting on the contract or just the end of discussion?

Chairman Dubois said just discussion and there will be another vote. He is looking at this agreement and the 162K seems high but there were a lot of questions on the past contract. If they decided to fight, it would cost the School Department a lot of money and this way, the District can move forward. If this passes, Dr Macera will be the interim superintendent and they may not need to fill the Deputy position. He feels this is a fair and best compromise. A win-win situation. With a new committee coming on, it's a good time to move ahead.

Mr. Bileau stated that he has put in over one hundred hours the past four weeks and this is the best case scenario. He didn't want Dr. D'Acchioli to leave but he asked him to because this was hurting the system. They should ratify this and move forward.

Mr. Ward stated in reference to rumors, the fact is the initial contract was brought to the Committee before they were sworn in and began negotiating in February 2004. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the amendments to the existing contract were given to the Committee and had until the end of April, which was ample time to ask questions, challenge and discuss it with the Superintendent, which no one did. Then, on April 29<sup>th</sup>, another opportunity to discuss, the amendments were approved. They were amendments and not a contract. It is historical practice that language stands by language. It was read into the minutes along with the document it was read from. He disagreed with Dr. D'Acchioli at the last meeting and offered to sit down with him and he was turned down by the Committee. They were then asked to meet with Dr. D'Acchioli individually. Then, he was told two committee members were negotiating with him. Now, tonight, there are two versions of this agreement. Two years later, he is still trying to find out what the Superintendent did that he is so despised. The amendments were approved 5-0 and then the walls came crashing down. In June 2004, he read a 7-page, single-spaced document containing all of Dr' D'Acchioli's accomplishments where Mr. Auclair stated he was surprised by the list. Why is the Committee asking him to leave? Did someone feel conned? Dr' D'Acchioli wrote up the contract himself and the attorney was not asked to review. He wasn't the Chair at that time. The Superintendent has been pummeled by the Committee and accused of mayhem. There have been years of surplus, buildings have been built, hired qualified staff, promotion from within, negotiated nine contracts with no attorneys and very little expense. And yet, he is under attack. He felt that with him only having two meetings left, he should bring up these questions. As far as going forward, does the School Committee propose to debate all contracts in public. Contracts do allow for conferences such as Dr. Macera's and she has the rollover aspect. What can the people left behind expect? What compensation will be granted to the interim superintendent? Why are they unable to fill the deputy position this year? How will that roll be filled? If there is a resource being used, why not pay the T/A's? When Josephine Kelliher left in 1995, the assistant superintendent was told in a closed session, they asked if they should do a search or give him fair hearing on how to replacement. It was not agreed to 4-1 and they told him he was welcome to compete and he left. Same question must be answered here. She would want to know if she stands above or put out? There are many hurdles this fiscal year. Such as: a new Middle School building; the budget which is all ready difficult and will be a great challenge; the existing Middle School and is it fixed; three new contracts have to be negotiated starting this December. His personal preference is that Dr. D'Acchioli keep doing his job but the School Committee has made that impossible to do. We serve them but now its they serve us and if you don't tow the line or disagree, you are punished. He works cooperatively and Dr.. D'Acchioli deserves more respect than afforded. There is a cloud over the Committee. The Superintendent has indicated his desire to leave and he is not sure how to vote. If the T/A's affect the classroom, what about the loss of leadership? The challenges are enormous.

Chairman Dubois stated that it wasn't the School Committee who created the black cloud. The School Committee is expected to be fair and honest and public. The original contract should have been read on

record and reviewed by attorney but that wasn't done. He has full confidence in Dr. Macera and the staff at McFee.

**Motion to approve the amended copy of the settlement and release agreement that Mr. Ackerman holds**  
MD Second: MB

Mr. Ackerman asked that each member review the final copy and have the Chairman and Dr. D'Acchioli sign it and not have to worry about the minutes. Each member, including Dr' D'Acchioli reviewed the revised agreement.

**Roll Call Vote (AA-Yes, MB-Yes, MD-Yes, JW-No, MW-No) Motion passes.**

Dr. D'Acchioli stated for the record that he is leaving Friday but Dr. Macera asked him for a week for transition, which would be next week and he will count the five days towards the eight agreed to. The School Committee agreed.

Mr. Bileau left at 9:57 P.M.

Chairman Dubois stated that the Performance Based Graduation Requirements conference has been postponed to the next regular meeting.

Dr. Macera stated she just spoke with the mother of the student regarding the bussing appeal on the agenda and she had to leave and that she has to carry her five-year old and she is going to look into the walking school-bus program and see if there is a parent or two who can walk her seven and eight year olds to school.

Chairman Dubois stated that is it isn't resolved, to please place it back on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve the Open Minutes and Closed minutes of October 12, 2005**

**MD Second: AA**

(All Yes, MB-Absent)

Mr. Auclair stated there was a minor correction under his G&W on page 7 where 'IPAY' needs to be change to 'IPAE, the Institute on Poverty & Education Awareness'.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Personnel Actions:** (See Attached)

Certified Appointments

Non-Certified Appointments

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

**Local**

Dell Computers/Warranty/District/Local-\$2,763.27

Konica/Meter Usage/McFee/Local-\$5,000.00

Mary Silva, CAGS/Evaluation Services/Sp. Ed./Local-\$20,000.00

Norton & Assoc., Inc./OTS/Sp. Ed/Local-\$51,000.00

Shilepsky, O'Connell/Promac/McFee/Local-\$16,769.85

Simplex Grinnell/Fire Alarm Repairs/Globe, Gov. Pothier/Local-\$3,194.30

**Grant**

Daniel Kafalas/Field Trips/District/Grant-\$2,000.00  
Dell Home Systems/Computer/Mt. St. Charles/Grant-\$3,543.00  
The Education Alliance/Support Services/Citizens, Savoie, Harris/Grant-\$13,000.00  
Tech Depot/Printer, Scanner/WACTC/Grant-\$2,034.00

**Field Trips/Conference Request**

Close-Up for New Americans, Washington, DC/WHS/Fundraiser  
KSA Field Hockey Conference, Orlando, FL/WHS/Fundraiser

**Home Schooling Requests** (4)

Chairman Dubois stated that the agenda shows three Home Schooling Requests when in fact they have four and to correct that.

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction MD Second: AA**  
(All Yes, MB-Absent)

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mr. Auclair stated that he had asked to amend the by-laws concerning the Committee not acting on contracts unless it is the final contract. He asked that it be placed on the next agenda for discussion purposes. Mr. Ackerman has done some work on that language. Also, with the change to the WMS promotion policy, it was his understanding that starting next year, a student would have to pass all four subjects rather than three to be promoted and he would like this on the next agenda, as well.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**CONFERENCES:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion to approve Bid Award #06-02 for PTAC Unit-WHS to Automatic Temperature Controls of Cranston for \$6,595.00**  
(All Yes, MB-Absent) **JW Second: MD**

**Motion to approve Bid Award #06-04 for Fire Alarms & Sprinkler Inspection & Testing to Simplex Grinnell of East Providence in the amount of \$8,180.00**  
(All Yes, MB-Absent) **MD Second: AA**

Dr. D'Acchioli stated that per school-committee policy, any non-union vacancies are brought to the School Committee who sets the wages for the position even though it is paid through a grant. Mr. Riley is asking that the salary be increased to 22K, which will be absorbed by the grant. He cautions the Committee to base pay on what the grant will pay.

Mr. Riley was present and explained that the job description for this position had changed in the fact that they have to do a lot more reporting to the State and it is a regional position and this increase has been approved by four other Superintendents of Districts where their kids are sent to Woonsocket. It was, also, approved by RIDE. So, the increase in pay is based on the increase in added duties. This position has not been filled for the last three weeks and they need to provide the State with the numbers. This has not even been posted yet. It is paid through Perkins funds. If the grant is eliminated, so is the position.

**Motion to approve the Job Description for Area Telecommunications Integrator at the new salary  
MD Second: JW  
(All Yes, MB-Absent)**

Mr. Riley stated that there was a question about a position that was listed on the agenda at the last meeting and even though no action is being taken tonight on that, he wanted to answer the questions the Committee had at that time. The evaluator position is paid through Federal funds and the evaluating must be done by an outside evaluator and they evaluate the whole program, the process and visit many times to meet with staff members, complete the evaluation and report to RIDE. It's approximately one hundred hours of work. They have hired the same person for the last four years and Ms. Corrente is a former director and her salary of \$4,800 hasn't changed and many other evaluators receive higher compensation. Originally, it went through the normal bid process and it is a requirement of the Federal government grant money and the report goes to RIDE.

Mr. Ward asked why the State doesn't have someone to do this function. Mr. Riley believes it because one person could not handle all nine districts and they are all part-time positions.

Dr. D'Acchioli stated that there is a legal dispute in Jamestown that could have statewide implications regarding independent contractors or declared a regular employee.

Mr. Ward stated that Johnston just went through an IRS audit with the same circumstances and they deemed the position as an independent contractor.

Mr. Auclair regarding the Code of Ethics, stated that last week, he hosted a professional-development workshop here at the WACTC and Jason Grammette from the Ethics Division attended. It was not posted because the meeting was for school-department personnel only. He wanted employees to feel comfortable asking questions. You may not always agree on issues but there is a better understanding now. He thanked all who attended. There was no cost for this meeting and there are a lot of resources available within the State. He will be continuing professional-development events and on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in this room, there will be a presentation by the education partnership and reporting on teachers' contracts and restoring balance and it will be videotaped. If you are planning on attending, please let him know due to the maximum capacity of the room of 66. His number is 762-2639 or you can find it on the WSD website.

**RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Dr. D'Acchioli began with a hearty thank you to the Woonsocket Youth Soccer Association for their generous donation of a brand new lawn tractor for Barry Field. Their maintenance staff and athletic teams were most grateful.

Congratulations to Jeffrey Ouimette and Jennifer Savage for being nominated for the Wendy's Heisman Award for outstanding athlete. Just being nominated is an honor. Good luck Jenn and Jeff.

Thanks went to Mrs. Denise Rodgers for conducting a successful parent workshop entitled, How to Prepare a Book Report at Bernon Heights School. The Bernon Heights PTO continues to plan and conduct evening workshops to promote school to home involvement in order to promote academic success.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Since the last meeting, Dr. D'Acchioli had the opportunity to attend the annual RIPEC dinner. The Governor and other dignitaries made their annual pitch for the State to lower spending. He cautioned against these blanket appeals and ask that their elected leaders confine their advice to focus on specific areas. Woonsocket's needs and spending patterns differ greatly from most suburban communities, so generalizations simply do not work.

He had a section of his report regarding the current FY06 budget; however, since there will be a special work-session on Nov. 2, his remarks are unnecessary.

On to a lighter note, a successful pep rally was held the high school last Friday. An easy win on the football field on Saturday may it a great weekend despite the weather.

Yesterday, most schools in the district at some points in time lost electrical power and telephone service. McFee had difficulties with sending and receiving email. Fortunately, the down-times were tolerable and they were able to conduct school business, primarily from their cell phones.

Amidst the electrical problems, teams of educators were performing “classroom walk through” sponsored by UCLA and the Education Alliance at Brown University. This program, similar to the University of Pittsburgh’s “Learning Walks” is designed to improve instructional practice. The UCLA model is more teacher-focused, whereas the Learning Walks are geared more to training administrators. This program is jointly funded by RIDE and specifically targets the Citizens, Savoie and Harris schools.

Tomorrow, he will be meeting with RIDE officials under Progressive Support and Intervention of their Middle School. Mr. Berman, Mr. DiPardo, Dr. Macera and others will be accompanying him. He will provide details by Friday’s packet.

Since his active time in Woonsocket is limited, he closed by saying thank you to the students, staff, school and district administrators, residents, and supportive City officials who have collectively allowed him the opportunity to lead the Woonsocket Education Department. He leaves with deep pride in the accomplishments amassed over the last nine years and, again, thanks all who helped make that possible.

**Motion to receive and place on file said Superintendent’s Report and Recognitions and Announcements**

**JW Second: AA**

(All Yes, MB-Absent)

Chairman Dubois suspended the rest of the agenda and adjourned the meeting at 10:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise St Germain  
Secretary to the School Committee