



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

<b><u>Local Funds:</u></b>	Apple Computer/Computers/WMS	10,410.00
	Konica Minolta/Meter Usage/WHS	15,000.00
	Mentor, Inc./PIP 2006/WHS	7,500.00
	Mt. St. Charles/Rink Rental/Athletics	10,000.00
	Power Equipment/Generator Service/Facilities	2,533.61
	Scholastic Books/Books/Globe Park	2,489.17
	Shilepsky, O'Connell/Promac/McFee	54,130.72
	Simplex Grinnell/Fire Alarm Repairs/Facilities	4,460.00
	Wistow & Barylck, Inc./Promac/Business Office	9,575.67
<b><u>Grant Funds:</u></b>	Apple Computers/Computers/District/Technology/Title II	5,558.00
	Dell Computers/Computer/WACTC/Technology/Perkins	6,223.47
	Konica Minolta/Leases/WMS	8,496.00
	Mentor, Inc./ESOL & Computer Instructors/Even Start	28,050.00
	Mt. St. Charles/Workshop/Mt. St. Charles	2,700.00
	POSitouch/System Mgt. Station/Burrillville High	9,959.00
	Salve Regina Univ./Staff Dev/Consulting/WHS	2,800.00
	Scholastic/Reading 180/WMS	2,489.17
<b><u>Lunch Revenue:</u></b>	Equipment Environments/Cafeteria Tables & Benches/Bernon, Citizens, WHS	47,858.70

**3. Field Trip/Conference Requests:**

University of Pittsburgh Institute for Learning/Pittsburgh, PA/Title II  
National Staff Development Council, Philadelphia, PA/ Title I & II  
Institute for Learning, Pittsburg, PA/Article 18

**4. Home Schooling Requests:**

M/M William Pugsley for William, Gr. 4  
M/M William Lacroix for Kasia, Gr. 2  
M/M Jeffery Moison for Matthew, Gr. 1  
M/M Andre Carpentier for Amy, Gr. 10 & Lauren, Gr. 9

## END OF CONSENT AGENDA

### EXEMPTIONS TO CONSENT AGENDA:

**Motion to approve the Personnel Actions (Certified Appointments/Non-Certified Appointments): J. Ward 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Bileau (Unanimously Approved)**

Mr. Ward said he had asked the Chairman to enact a budget amendment to reflect the action tonight related to the recall of the teacher assistants, but he didn't see it. He knows that the plan is to use \$160,000 from CDBG funds, but wanted to know if a conclusion had been reached about whether or not we will be reimbursed \$128,000 of this money next year. Dr. Macera has been having almost daily conversations with the Mayor's office to clarify this issue. She cannot clarify where the reimbursement will come from at this time since the Mayor has been on vacation. Dr. Macera spoke about there being a wide variety of CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) with varying degrees of reimbursements. "We will realize a savings of probably at least \$40,000 in connection with an electrical contract," she reported. Mr. Ward stated that he is concerned about not receiving the \$128,000 reimbursement from the block grant next year. "The teacher assistants may be funded through the carryover funds of our Title I allotment. I know we will have the money along with what the Mayor gives us to recall the teacher assistants," Macera stated. "The housing aid will still be reduced by \$128,000 from capital expenditures if the expenditure doesn't qualify for reimbursement. You may make it up in other areas, but next year you will have \$288,000 to make up in the budget," Ward stressed. Dr. Macera said she is working on getting the money from other sources in the capital projects funds.

Mr. Ward pointed out that the line item for Light & Power in the budget for next year is \$690,000, which they chose to raise, along with the line item for Fuel. He reviewed the expenditures for these items since 2003 and asked Mrs. Goodman what rate the City is offering through the consortium. Mrs. Goodman said that they didn't know yet, but that it may be at the most 9.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. "If it is, \$690,000 is not going to cover it. You could be looking at \$800,000 for electricity next year," cautioned Ward. "We aren't in a deficit situation at this point for 2005," said Goodman when asked by Ward. She said they are still reviewing the draft statements from the auditors right now.

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**COMMUNICATIONS: None**

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS: None**

**CONFERENCES:**

**Reading Recovery Presentation – J. Francis**

Julie Francis, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, gave a presentation on the Reading Recovery Program in Woonsocket. She explained that Reading Recovery specialists work with small groups of children who are low performing 1<sup>st</sup> graders. The program focuses on early intervention, one-on-one instruction, daily 30-minute lessons and the five essential components of reading instruction. Reading Recovery started about 15 years ago in Woonsocket. Ms. Francis invited people to come to Pothier School to see what they are doing there. She showed a short video of a teacher working with a student one-on-one. Kindergarten teachers are asked to recommend students who are low-performing. The lowest-performing children are selected for the program. An assessment is also done. The student will continue to make gains on their own and running records and data are kept on each child. The student will possibly be referred to special education services. Their progress is followed throughout their education in Woonsocket. 65% of children in Woonsocket who have had a full program have met the full criteria. The success rate in the state of RI is 75%.

**Motion to receive and place on file: M. Dubois**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Bileau (Unanimously Approved)**

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**Performance Based Graduation Requirements – G. Nasuti, WHS Principal**

Mr. Nasuti gave the WSC members a draft informational pamphlet labeled, "Graduation Portfolio Preparation Guide". He stressed that it changes daily and is only a draft. It was developed to explain how sophomores this year would graduate by their senior year. He noted that 26 credits will be required and the number of Math credits has increased by one. An end-of-course assessment is also required, which usually consists of a common task counting for 50% of the final exam. GSE's need to be met. Proficiency Portfolios will be required which include six core areas mandated by the State. The portfolio is a collection of the student's best work. The state requirement is one piece for each area, but the WHS requires two from each area. There are six learning expectations from which two pieces will be required from each of those areas. A Review Committee will review all of the junior portfolios and meet with the students. The WHS is in the process of developing this system. Mr. Gallishaw has put in a proposal to the State to get an electronic portfolio system in Woonsocket in order to manage 2000 portfolios. Without this electronic system, implementation will be much more challenging due to the large number of physical portfolios in the building. Students are ultimately responsible for their portfolio.

Mr. Nasuti posed some questions that were probably on everyone's mind such as, "Who determines graduation?", "What happens if a student loses their portfolio?", etc. The WHS has started informing parents about the portfolios and new requirements. Portfolios can be worked on during advisory periods with teachers. Mr. Nasuti would like to sit down with the WSC and the superintendent regarding these changes. Mr. Ward asked about a foreign language requirement for basic graduation, and Nasuti told him it's required for college prep students only. "Do you see this as nationwide? If someone moves here from another state, what happens?" asked Williams. Mr. Nasuti reported that not only in other states, but every school district does it differently. "We don't have the answers yet. It will be extremely difficult," he said. "How does this match up with the colleges and universities?" asked Auclair. "Colleges are still going to ask class rank, GPA, etc." he said. Nasuti said they are assisting us in implementation. The WHS is still using numeric grading, but some common tasks and portfolio work are graded on rubric. When asked how it will affect special education and ESL students, Nasuti said these classrooms are teaching the same standards. They take it with extra help and it may take these students more time to meet the standards.

**Motion to receive and place on file: M. Dubois**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unanimous Approved)**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Discussion of WMS Promotion Policy –**

Mr. Auclair clarified why he wanted this item placed on this agenda. Dr. Macera said that Mr. Berman would like to discuss this with the staff first. "They are tightening up on all the requirements," said Macera. Mr. Auclair had heard that kids are telling their teachers they don't have to pass their class to get promoted.

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

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### **2. Discussion of BY LAWS**

Mr. Auclair said this item pertains to employment contracts that the WED has entered into. The basis of this discussion was so that the WSC doesn't take action on anything other than a final version of a contract. Mr. Ackerman informed him that this would be more of a policy than a By Law. Mr. Ward suggested that they put in a provision to require that the contract be provided to the WSC within a specified number of days prior to the meeting. He also suggested imposing a requirement that contracts can only be acted upon during a regularly scheduled school committee meeting so they are part of the public agenda.

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### **3. Discussion of Universal Breakfast Program – MOVED TO DECEMBER'S WSC MEETING**

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Maureen Macera, Interim Superintendent**

Dr. Macera thanked the school committee for the reception this evening. She thanked the Mayor for providing the supplies for Flag Day and helping to address the issue of the teacher assistants. She reported that a \$225,000 grant was awarded under Title I for pre-school slots in the Fairmount schools. Twenty slots and bussing is provided and the slots are housed at Kendrick Avenue School. Some tutorial positions have been posted for any interested retired teachers. She reported that the paraprofessional job fair went very well and explained how it worked. "It looks like all the TA's that had been given notice were recalled." Professional Development Day also went very well. There was a PBS video streaming and teachers were accessing them. She was also pleased to announce that the State notified the WED that we have the lowest per pupil cost on regular students in RI, as well as the lowest special education per pupil cost. "Sixty cents of every dollar makes it to direct instruction in the classroom." She announced that she met with the PAC last week and it was a fun meeting. They have agreed to help get parents and students to cooperate in filling out the free and reduced lunch forms. Mrs. Goodman will hold a workshop on fundraising for the PTOs.

**Motion to receive and place on file: M. Bileau**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)**

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

**M. Dubois:** Thanked everyone involved with the Flag Retirement Ceremony this past Saturday. He was upset about the lack of coverage that this event received. They cited a lack of reporters on the weekend when he called about it. He announced the Open House tomorrow night at the WACTC before the parent/teacher conferences. Mr. Dubois stated he was very offended by a comment made by a City Council member about this new school committee being "scary". "It's inexcusable," he said. Welcomed Dr. Macera on board as Interim Superintendent, saying that the lines of communication have been wide open. Wished Mr. Ward luck on the City Council and added that Mr. Bileau will be missed on the WSC. Congratulated Eleanor Nadeau and Anita Forcier-McGuire on their appointment to the WSC.

**J. Ward:** Thanked the Mayor, Scott Gray, and everyone involved for the flags and ceremony on Saturday. Thanked whoever voted for him in the election, saying he has a great interest in matters of finance and won't stop asking questions. Congratulated all the successful candidates. Thanked M. Bileau for serving his two years, saying he thought he did a wonderful job. Mr. Ward said he enjoyed the last ten years on the WSC and thinks significant progress has been made. Thanked past and present school committee members he served with. Thanked administrators, business manager, union officers, and others he dealt with over the years. A special thanks was given to Bill Legare of Valley Transportation, who is always there for us. Thanked Mary Keegan, the sixth member of the school committee, for being his conscience. Thanked Richard Ackerman. Thanked his wife and kids for supporting him. "Good night and God Bless."

**M. Williams:** Thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Thanked Mr. Gray and his students. Thanked Dr. Macera for wanting to fill in as Interim Superintendent. Thanked the voters for their support and everyone who ran for office, saying it's a lot of hard work. Congrats to the girls' field hockey team. She's happy to hear that Globe Park School received a recycling award. She attended the Globe Park and Bernon Heights PTO meetings. She hopes that people will attend the fundraising meeting that will be held.

**A. Auclair:** Thanked everyone for voting. Congrats to everyone who ran. "It's not easy." He noted that a lot more people came out this time to vote. "We have a voice in this country and we should use it." He thought the Flag Retirement Ceremony went very well and was very respectfully done. Thanked Dr. Macera for going with him two weeks ago to speak about the teacher assistants and work to restore them. "It showed the parents and everyone there the determination that there is to make this district successful." He was at the WMS yesterday for parent/teacher conferences and he saw enthusiasm. He thinks it will be a good year for that school and mentioned his discussion with Mr. Berman about the mission statement being a little too lengthy. Thanked Dr. Macera for the presentation she made at the PAC meeting. He was asked about the \$55,000 received from the city and where it went. Mrs. Goodman told him it was for 17 half-time teacher assistants for Grade 1. Mr. Auclair asked if Mr. Fontaine could make a presentation at the next meeting on School Dude. He also requested what the total expenditure is to date for the Promac litigation. Thanked Mr. Bileau for serving the community well. Congratulated Mr. Ward and wished him good luck. He is looking forward to the next two years and is very hopeful because the lines of communication are opening up with the City.

- Mr. Ward reported that at the Johnston School Committee meeting last night, they discussed the KidEducation clothing bins being placed at all the school for fundraising purposes and social awareness. Funds are generated for the school systems from these bins and the donations. Johnston approved the proposal. He'll give the information to Mrs. Goodman in case Woonsocket would like to try it.

**M. Bileau:** Thanked Mr. Gray, saying his efforts are greatly appreciated. "It has been an honor and privilege to serve on this committee. We didn't always agree, but left as friends." Wished all the members well and good luck. Thanked the people of Woonsocket for allowing him to serve. He truly enjoyed it. Spoke about John Ward who has spent ten years on the WSC, saying he deserved a round of applause.

**Motion to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.: M. Dubois**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle  
Substitute WSC Recording Clerk