

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005
7:15 PM – OPEN SESSION
WACTC –ROOM 303
MULTI MEDIA LAB

Called to Order by Chairman Marc Dubois
Moment of Silence
Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:	Marc Dubois, Chairman	Present
	Allen Auclair	Present
	Michelle Williams	Present
	Eleanor Nadeau	Present
	Anita McGuire-Forcier	Present

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

- A student who was expelled from the WHS wanted to know whom he should see about an appeal. Dr. Macera told him to go to the McFee administration building to see either Mr. Emerson or her. He lives at 104 Sayles St.
- **Richard Doucette, St. Cecile Street, Woonsocket, WHS Teacher:** Addressed the WSC regarding a rumor the teachers at the WHS heard about the non-renewal of Donna Valentine's contract, saying they feel it's too soon to judge her on a non-renewal. He stated that she is a very professional person and highly regarded by many of the WHS staff. She was part of the NEASC visit a few years ago and the WHS ended up doing very well. Doucette said that there are a few teachers from the WHS present to show their support for her, adding that right now they see a lot of emphasis on sports. "We don't want our school to become a school of jocks. We have heard that the new assistant principal would be another person involved in sports. The teachers want to be considered in the process of choosing a new assistant principal and would like to have an open forum with Dr. Macera in January."
- **Holly Gray, 50 Front Street, Woonsocket, 5th Gr. Integrated Teacher at Globe Park School:** Addressed the WSC regarding the possibility they may lose their principal, Lisa Brissette. She and her colleagues don't understand why. Gray spoke of her knowledge of Mrs. Brissette and her career in Woonsocket. She spoke of the fact that Globe Park is a high-performing elementary school. In spite of Mrs. Brissette's absence, Gray maintained that the school is running pretty smoothly because she taught them how to run it that way. Gray spoke very highly of Brissette and the fact that she expects her staff to work hard. Gray presented a letter from the teachers that couldn't be present tonight, adding, "We don't know what our school will do without her."
- **Cynthia Archambeau, 333 Bernon Street, Woonsocket:** Stated that she is the parent of five children, who have attended a few different schools. She said that Mrs. Brissette is the best principal they have ever had. One child has separation anxiety and Mrs. Brissette took him into the school and showed him around. "She said her door was always open and it was. He's at the WMS now and doing well. I credit her with that." Archambeau stated the kids are asking about her. She stated that many more parents would be here tonight, but there was a Christmas concert they had to go to. She asked the WSC to please keep her.
- **Mr. & Mrs. Virella, 182 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket:** They also heard rumors about Mrs. Valentine and went around getting signatures on a petition to keep her at the WHS. Mr. Virella doesn't understand why the administration always wants to get rid of someone who wants to help people. He said that Valentine has helped his son, Luis.
- **Carmen Boucher, Bernon Hts. PAC Co-Chair:** She announced that they are sponsoring a workshop on January 5th, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the WHS on the Dos & Don'ts of Fundraising. Miriam Goodman will be participating in this workshop, which is being held to help the parent/teacher organizations become more effective. She invited everyone to attend and wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.
- **Mrs. Macejewski, St. Hughes St., Woonsocket:** Said she was surprised to hear about the non-renewal of Donna Valentine's contract, adding that there are some sensitive issues that come up at the high school level and girls prefer to talk to a female administrator. Macejewski reported that Valentine has handled these issues

very professionally. She also asked Dr. Macera about the physics program. Dr. Macera said she will speak to her privately about it and will have Janet Miele come and speak about it at a future meeting.

- **Marlene Smith, WMS Teacher:** Wanted to thank whoever made the decision about the lavatory situation at the WMS. She said there was a lot of graffiti in the lavs. "It doesn't take 27 minutes to go to the lav. My girls take 6 minutes. Thank you to whoever changed that." Smith also thinks there should be more of an emphasis on those students who are coming to school to learn and she sees that beginning to happen.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – Dr. Maureen Macera, Interim Superintendent

Congratulated Ms. Janet Miele for being selected as a finalist for the 2005 Presidential Award. Janet is one of three Rhode Island state finalist for the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science teaching. The goal of the Presidential Awards is to identify and recognize highly qualified teachers. As part of this process, awardees will take part in a weeklong series of networking and professional development activities in Washington, DC. Janet's exceptional teaching efforts have made her a top contender for this prestigious award. She wished her the very best and continued success in her professional teaching career.

Gave kudos to Woonsocket High School Music Department for putting on a spectacular Holiday Concert. Thanked Ms. Alves and members of the Chorus and Band for their hard work. Also recognized the following students for their outstanding achievements: Jr. High Honors Chorus - Rebecca Frueh; Jr. High All-State Chorus - Marissa Silva; Sr. High All-State Chorus - Sara Andrade, Krystle Poirier, Bethany Riel, Hilary Switzer, Sarah Tellier, Thomas Labonte, Randy Laskowski, Eric Long, Adam Trudel, Justin Winn; Jr. High Honors Band - Kayla Gamache, Pamela Goyette; Jr. High All-State Band - Michael Berard; Sr. High All-State Band - Kurt Christel.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 12/7/05 OPEN/CLOSED

Motion to Approve: A. Auclair

2nd: E. Nadeau/M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to *approve with the exception of the following:*

- **Lowe's Requisition by E. Nadeau**
- **Disposal of Obsolete Equipment by A. Auclair**

Motion to approve made by M. Dubois

2nd: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)

1. **Personnel Actions** -Certified Appointments/
Non-Certified Appointments

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

LOCAL FUNDS

Apple Computers/Computers/Bernon, Citizens,
Harris
Home Care Services of RI/Nursing Services/Sp.
Ed
Shilepsky, O'Connell, Casey/Promac/McFee
Tech Depot/Computer Equip/WMS/WHS
Visconti & Boren, Ltd./Promac/McFee
WACTC/Printing/District
Wistow & Barylick, Inc./Promac/McFee
Worthington Direct/Easels/Harris
Wright Group/Supplies/Globe

GRANT FUNDS

ASAP Software/Software/WACTC/Grant
Dell Computers/Computers/WACTC/Grant
Great Source Education/Supplies/WMS/Local/Grant
Jane Kondon/SALT Review/District/Grant
Scholastic/Ed. Supplies/WHS/Grant
Valley Transportation/Bussing/District/Grant
Wilson Language Training/Workshop
Materials/Sp. Ed/Grant

LUNCH REVENUE

Manville Mech. Services/Freezer Repair/Savoie

VOC REVENUE

Cool Air Creations/Shirts for Child
Studies/WACTC
Kamco Supply/Renovation Materials/WACTC

3. Field Trip/Conference Requests

National Title I Conference, Dallas, TX/McFee/Title I

4. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment - Removed

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXEMPTIONS TO CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion to approve purchase order for **Lowe's Home Center** to buy sheds for Citizens & Harris Elementary Schools for a total of \$2,167.20: A. Auclair

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

Mrs. Nadeau asked why we are buying sheds when we have carpenters on the payroll for the district and a construction program at the WACTC. Mrs. Goodman explained that the students in the Construction Program at the WACTC are working on a variety of other projects. They are building a house for the Woonsocket Housing Authority. There is only one carpenter for the district and he has a variety of projects to do already. Mr. Fontaine explained that the sheds are needed now because we are transporting the snow thrower to the schools when needed. There were also things stored in the boiler rooms that are not appropriate. He said that projects are done in-house whenever we have the opportunity to do them.

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- Motion to approve the disposal of obsolete equipment: M. Williams

2nd: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)

Mr. Auclair asked if any of the equipment was useable. Mrs. Goodman explained that once the list is approved, it goes up for auction, which is done through the local newspaper. Mr. Gallishaw added that most of the computers that are disposed of have been taken apart for spare parts. The others could be used for entertainment value. He is open to any programs that anyone knows about that could use them.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter from Jonathan Gallishaw regarding the installation of security cameras for WHS was read by Dr. Macera. Mrs. Nadeau thinks the cameras are long overdue. Mrs. Forcier asked if students could be consulted about where some cameras should be placed. Mr. Gallishaw has spoken to the administrators about trouble areas, but had not considered the students, which he now intends to include. Mr. Dubois asked about the cost to design and set-up a system at the WMS next year in light of the possibility of a new middle school in 2008. Gallishaw can get him information on how much would be lost if it's installed in the WMS and then a new building is opened.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Dubois

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Auclair had requested a membership composition of the School Improvement Teams. Dr. Macera is working on that. He said he also spoke to her about getting the reading levels of Grade 4 and Grade 8 students for last year, because it seems that they are way below reading level. Auclair also asked that he and Mrs. Nadeau be included on the subcommittees for Strategic Planning and Promotion Policy.

CONFERENCES

- **Presentation of Recycling in Schools – Peter Fontaine, Director of Facilities**

Mr. Fontaine reported that the district is recycling in every school except one. Currently, paper is being recycled at all the school except the WMS. They should be on line in January. Some schools have the kids pick up the recycling and others have the teachers put the bins outside their classroom door on a recycling day. The high school and the WACTC are also doing bottles and cans. It's a good learning experience for the kids to carry on into adulthood. Mr. Dubois thanked Mr. Fontaine for coordinating this effort.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

• **Presentation and Update of School Dude System – Jonathan Gallishaw, Director of Technology**

Mr. Gallishaw and Mr. Fontaine explained how this new work order system is being used for the maintenance department. A history of how the work orders used to be done was also given. A multimedia presentation was conducted which highlighted these points. School Dude is also being used for technology work orders and facilities scheduling. There are many modules that can be added on to it. The system will be evaluated and modifications will be made in July of 2006. We will continue the training of users, which will add to its efficiency. If a work order is rejected, the person is notified by email. The cost of the system is \$2,995 for each module per year, but the WED does not have to maintain a server or personnel to back it up. That is all done by School Dude. Mr. Fontaine reported that 1048 work orders have been received by Facilities since September. He meets each week with his staff to look them over. They review the work orders from the previous week to see where they are. They average 60 to 80 work orders per week, besides calls that come into the office. The new system helps with accountability. He said it's a great way to track everything. He can log on and ask a question of other facilities directors across the country. Mr. Auclair asked if there was a preventative maintenance work order system. Mr. Fontaine told him that they haven't gotten that far yet, but intend to.

Motion to receive and place on file: A. Auclair

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. **Universal Breakfast Pilot Program Update:** Dr. Macera reported that eight criteria have been developed for evaluation of the program, which were included in her letter to the WSC. Mrs. Nadeau asked about supervision at the WMS. She was told that Mr. Berman is mapping out a plan for supervision right now. They are using teacher assistants who have volunteered to do it for the time being. Mrs. Williams asked for more copies of the fliers to hang them up. Macera said they can be mailed to churches, shelters, etc. Mr. Auclair was impressed with the variety of items they are offered, noting that the WSC enjoyed a sample of them prior to tonight's meeting. They are averaging about 100 kids at Bernon Heights right now, said Mr. Dubois. He is concerned about people volunteering to cover supervision in the beginning, but what about in the long term? Dr. Macera reported that Kids Club will provide assistance at Bernon Heights. About 250 students are participating at the WMS.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Approval of Feinstein Foundation Fundraiser**

Motion to approve: M. Williams

2nd: E. Nadeau/A. Forcier

Roll Call Vote: MD-yes; MW-yes; AA-yes; AF-yes; EN-yes Passed 5-0.

Mr. Dubois approved this item under the condition that no one would be turned away from the concert if they couldn't donate. He was assured that they wouldn't.

2. **Bid Award: #06-04 Medicaid Billing Services**

Motion to award the contract for Medicaid billing services to Public Consulting Group of Boston, MA: E. Nadeau
2nd: M. Williams Roll Call Vote: MD-yes; MW-yes; AA-yes; AF-yes; EN-yes Passed 5-0.

3. **Adjustment of Duties, Responsibilities and Compensation for Human Resource Director**

Motion to approve: A. Auclair

2nd: M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: MD-yes; MW-yes; AA-yes; AF-yes; EN-yes Passed 5-0.

4. **Adjustment of Duties, Responsibilities and Compensation for Facilities and Security Director**

Motion to approve: M. Williams

2nd: M. Dubois

Roll Call Vote: MD-yes; MW-yes; AA-yes; AF-yes; EN-yes Passed 5-0.

5. Proposal of New Policy: P2-3.1 Contracts – First Passage

Motion to approve with the addition of ***“at a regularly scheduled meeting. School committee members will have a copy of the contract prior to the meeting in enough time to review it.”*** at the end of the paragraph:

A. Auclair

2nd: M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: MD-yes; MW-yes; AA-yes; AF-yes; EN-yes Passed 5-0.

6. Capital Assessment/Budget Plan FY07

Motion to approve: M. Dubois

2nd: A. Auclair

Roll Call Vote: MD-yes; MW-yes; AA-yes; AF-yes; EN-yes Passed 5-0.

Mr. Fontaine stated that he will submit a new 5-year plan in February. He noted that the WED gets reimbursed 80% on all capital projects. He reviewed changes he has made to the current 5-year plan for FY2007. The elevator for McFee has been eliminated, as well as the truck for Bernon Shop. His has scheduled Bernon Heights for a new roof. Citizens will also get a new roof over the foyer. Pothier was scheduled for a fire alarm upgrade as well as Harris, but both are new schools and don't need it so that cost has been removed. He has added paving for Harris. He has scheduled Coleman School to have the interior painted by an outside contractor during the summer. Fontaine plans to schedule one school per year for interior painting. At Savoie, he noted that if we pass one more test for groundwater filtering, we no longer have to pay that expense. The WMS needs a new floor scrubber, as well as security cameras. The upgrade of the fire alarm system there still needs to be done even if we vacate the school a year from now. The WHS needs a floor scrubber and to have the lighting upgraded now. The lower level drop ceiling and lights need to be done, as well as the elevator being repaired. Bernon Shop needs to have the overhead doors replaced. Barry Field needs field renovations very badly. The WACTC Construction Program will be doing the dugouts and concession stand.

Ms. Williams asked if the painting at Coleman can be done by the ACI as part of a work-release program. Mr. Fontaine said that might be feasible, but some expense for materials will still be incurred. Mrs. Forcier spoke with the Mayor about the City helping us with the fire alarm upgrades and parking lot lighting. She asked if we get money from the City for those items, if the funds that were allocated could be used to light Barry Field. Mr. Villeneuve, Athletic Director, got quotes for lights at Barry Field. They are very costly, but we are one of a few communities that don't have lights to play night games. Quotes ranged from \$100,000 to \$150,000. It would be used for football and girls' field hockey games. Mrs. Nadeau asked why an outside contractor is needed for the field renovations at Barry. Mr. Fontaine explained the condition the fields are in and that it's a complicated process to get them back to where they should be. She noted that we aren't the only ones who use that field.

Mr. Auclair asked about the boiler replacements at Second Avenue and Fifth Avenue Schools and whether we should use gas or oil. Mr. Fontaine said the two schools are small so the cost will not really be prohibitive using either. When asked what an air lift was, he explained that it's a device to change lights in auditoriums, parking lots, etc. We are renting one right now. Mr. Auclair asked if while the wiring is being done for cameras at the WMS, if lines for communications wiring could also be put in. Dr. Macera said that Jonathan Gallishaw has been working on that and looking at a Nextel system. A proposal will be presented for improving the communication at the WMS in the near future.

Mrs. Forcier wasn't comfortable with the idea of prisoners coming in to work in the summer. Mrs. Nadeau said she had worked at the State House where they had landscapers come and do work. They were from a minimum-security prison. Mr. Dubois, being a retired policeman, explained that the men must be low-security, non-violent, non-sex crime inmates in order to do work details. He added that he was glad to see that new curtains and blinds will be going in at Bernon Heights. "It's important for visitors to see this. Some cosmetics need to be addressed," he said.

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

She said her family thoroughly enjoyed the concerts at the WHS and the WMS. She also explained the protocol for school cancellation in light of the recent snowstorm. "Right now, the procedure is that we tap into the Mayor's private weather service. At 4:30 a.m., I receive a phone call from Mr. Fontaine, who has been in touch with the highway and maintenance departments. He confers with the bus company also. I confer with surrounding community superintendents. I then confer with Mr. Dubois. A big concern is for parents who would have to leave children home alone. Kids Club has offered that on an emergency basis, they would watch kids for parents who must go to work on a snow day." Dr. Macera asked for everyone's understanding in this matter.

Motion to receive and place on file: A. Auclair

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE

Auclair: Congrats to Ray Bacon on his induction to the Hall of Fame. Thanks to everyone involved in Physics First curriculum. He put in a call to Dr. Flaherty about school committees not being included in training on initiatives coming down from the state. He asked for training on new high school proficiency requirements. Congrats to WHS football team on a great season. Wants to schedule a workshop with the truancy officers and the truancy court magistrate to help curb the amount of truancy. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dubois: Thanked Sodexo for the presentation and samples given to them tonight. He was impressed with the menu. Glad to see that the recycling campaign is taking off. Thanked the people who donated blood at the WHS on Dec. 7th. Reported on a strong letter to the editors of The Call and The Providence Journal written by a WHS Student Council Member that was published recently. It concerned the negative press the WHS gets and none of the good acts that are taking place are reported. He read parts of her letter. He asked about the turnout at Saturday morning detention at WMS. Dr. Macera said it has been good. Cory Brien, the teacher, said three students out of 9 attended the first session. Last week he had 9 out of 21. He said there are some kinks to work out with getting the work from the teachers for them to do. He asked if we are required to provide breakfast because some teachers have been getting them donuts. Some parents are having problems bringing the students in also. He said he was honored to take the position because he wants to be part of the changes in the school. Mr. Dubois wished everyone a Happy New Year and Merry Christmas.

Forcier: Thanked everyone who supported her by voting. Thanked the Music Boosters. Thanked the principals for meeting with her and wished everyone happy holidays.

Nadeau: "The first thing you will notice is where the superintendent sits. Not in between us with a laptop and their head down ignoring everything." Nadeau wants the administration building to be user-friendly. She wants us to be accessible. "I am very happy to serve on this committee and that the former superintendent is not here." She wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Williams: Thanked Sodexo for the food put out tonight and explained what a Super Donut was. Commended Dr. Macera and her staff for a phenomenal job. She said the communication is great and hopefully it's a whole new era. She spoke about an article in the paper regarding free breakfast and it being another "hand-out". It angered her because, as she explained, there are many "working poor" in this city who aren't eligible for assistance and are having a hard time paying the high rents, heating bills, etc. and trying to feed their children. The free breakfast program will help those who don't qualify for assistance because they are just over the income limit. "I know because I used to be there. It's not a free hand-out!" She wished everyone happy holidays.

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

2nd: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle. Recording Secretary