

**MINUTES**  
**WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2006**  
**7:00 PM – OPEN SESSION**  
**WACTC –ROOM 303**  
**MULTI MEDIA LAB**

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

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| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Marc Dubois, Chairman | Present |
|                   | Allen Auclair         | Present |
|                   | Michelle Williams     | Present |
|                   | Eleanor Nadeau        | Present |
|                   | Anita McGuire-Forcier | Present |

**PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:**

- **Tammy Beaudoin, 6 Elizabeth Avenue, Woonsocket:** Addressed the WSC as a parent of two WHS students in support of keeping Donna Valentine at the WHS. Read a letter a support and gave it to the Committee.
- **Doris Paquin, 31 Transit Street, Woonsocket:** Also asked the WSC to reconsider keeping Ms. Valentine at the WHS, saying she has helped her granddaughter a lot with many problems she has had. She asked why they wanted to remove her and was told that Mr. Nasuti was not pleased with her. She then read the school's mission statement, adding that every student should feel that there's someone they can go to. "Without a woman in the office, some students don't feel comfortable going to a man with their problems." Paquin feels that this is a gender discrimination issue and feels that Donna Valentine is exemplary and doing a great job at the WHS.
- **Charles Sauders, Carnation Street, Woonsocket:** Spoke about Dr. Macera's new contract and that she expects to be compensated for the extra work she will be taking on in lieu of hiring a deputy superintendent. He referenced a recent article in The Providence Journal regarding this contract. He asked if the WSC has done its homework this time.
- **Jean Dee, Barker Avenue, Woonsocket, RI:** She teaches science at the WHS and said she sent a letter to the WSC and Dr. Macera in support of Donna Valentine that she read aloud. "Students and teachers feel that her door is always open." They feel her removal will decrease the effectiveness of the WHS administration and hurt morale.
- **Michael Bileau, Oregon Avenue, Woonsocket, RI:** Stated that back in September, there was no money and now they have the money for raises for the maintenance director, human resources director, etc. Spoke about Dr. Macera taking on the duties of the assistant superintendent and getting compensated, but that with the cuts that were made in the clerical and custodial staff, these people had to take on extra duties without extra compensation for it.
- **George Lacouture, Coe Street, Woonsocket:** Congratulated Dr. Macera, saying she is extremely professional. He also gave some history about the administration at the time when there was no assistant superintendent 30 years ago. "For 30 years, this school system has had an assistant superintendent. It disturbs me that Lincoln is thinking of doing away with their assistant superintendent. That position is critical in this district. I worked at McFee for four years. People are going to get burned out and leave. There is no school system in the state of our size that has no assistant superintendent. I don't want you to make the same mistake that was made two years ago. I live in the city. Something is going to suffer sooner or later. One person cannot be responsible for it all."
- **Richard DiPardo, 134 Huntington Avenue, Woonsocket:** He confirmed what Mr. Lacouture said, adding that he thinks Dr. Macera is doing a wonderful job in all the dealing he has had with her. He trusts her. "She has never lied to me. If she is willing to do it, let her go ahead. At the last WSC meeting, a speaker said something about the "jocks" at the WHS. I think Mr. Nasuti is doing a wonderful job also. A lot of the faculty believes in Mr. Nasuti and I don't want anyone speaking for me. There is an adjustment period going from the elementary to the high school level."

- **Carmen Boucher, Woonsocket resident, PAC Co-Chair:** Thanked Dr. Macera and Miriam Goodman for hosting the fundraiser workshop recently, saying it was extremely successful. There was representation from all the schools in the district. Mrs. Goodman made an excellent presentation, and changes are being made with the information they received. The next PAC meeting will be held on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the WACTC and the WMS will be on the agenda.
- **John McLaughlin, 632 South Main Street, Woonsocket:** He understands that the WSC spent many hours studying the contract for Dr. Macera and trusts that they are not making a mistake. He supports Dr. Macera because she has committed herself to this school district for several years and has worked very, very hard. She is totally honest, has class, and has bridged the gap between the WSC and the Mayor and City Council. He believes she is aware of the problems here and has a plan to deal with them.
- **Julio Acevedo, New Media student at the WACTC:** Thanked Dr. Macera for giving them a chance to have a job videotaping the WSC meetings and get paid for it. He feels that he has more responsibility – not just for the money. It will also help him in his future.

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#### RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – Dr. Maureen Macera, Interim Superintendent

Congratulated Eric Rondeau for being named The Call Male Scholar Athlete of the Week on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Eric is the senior captain of the High School Wrestling team. He leads his team by example and exemplifies this by his outstanding work ethics and grades. Mr. Gordon Davignon, music teacher at Savoie Elementary, put on a great Christmas Show. There was singing, poetry reading and dancing! Leo A. Savoie Spelling Bee Champions are: Grade 4 Winner Jacob Martin, Alternate George Cruz, Grade 5 winner Jacob Chipppo, Alternate Brianna Landry. Congratulated all participants. Dr. Macera said she would like the school committee to recognize Globe Park's resource teacher, Fran Pergola, for her unhesitating and skillful handling of Globe's evaluation team. Ms. Pergola took on the role of team leader when the position was vacated. She spent many weeks at the beginning of the school year working tirelessly to find the proper placement for students, making sure IEP's were current and accurate. She also ran ET meetings while attending to her own work as Globe's resource teacher. Ms. Pergola exemplifies teaching at its best. Eight students from the New Media program at WACTC have been selected by RIDE to serve as videographers and they will videotape classrooms throughout Rhode Island for a statewide curriculum project. They are Adam Gaulin, Edward Ortiz, Dan Rampenthal, Julio Acevedo, Jen Hilton, Matt Aucoin, Sheena St. Pierre, and Dennis Aumentado. Thanked everyone involved in this great program.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

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

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#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 12/21/05 OPEN/CLOSED & 1/4/06 CLOSED

Motion to Approve: M. Dubois

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

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve with amendment to the appointment of Amy Bernier: M. Dubois  
2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Auclair/M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

1. **Personnel Actions** -Certified Appointments: **Amend Amy Bernier to Science Teacher, Gr. 8, WMS, TBD**  
Non-Certified Appointments

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

Advanced Construction Technologies Corp./Repairs/WMS/Local  
Apple Computers/Server/Savoie/ Local  
J.S. Flemings Associates, Inc./Air Conditioner/McFee/Local  
Gem Plumbing/Repairs/WMS/Local  
Kids Klub, Inc./Tutoring/District/Grant  
Lakeshore/Supplies/District/Grant  
Leap Frog/Ed. Supplies/Grant  
Motors, Hoists & Controls, Inc./Basketball Backboards/WHS  
Tech Depot/Printer/Savoie/Local



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

Dr. Macera thanked the WSC and the audience for their affirmation. She spoke about the pre-contract negotiations for the unions, saying the administration has already had a meeting with the WTG & Local 1137. They will shortly do the same with the paraprofessional union. She is grateful to the bargaining units for being very cooperative.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

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

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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE**

**Dubois:** Congratulated Dr. Macera. Said he received a great email from Kevin Hazard, parent of a Harris student. He praised Tom Hazard, Principal at Harris, for doing a great job, saying he should be nominated for outstanding principal of the year. Dubois also got a phone call from Julie Francis, who put on a Reading Recovery presentation at the last meeting, telling him that Senator Chaff will be visiting Governor Pothier School to participate in the Reading Recovery Program there. Dubois will be judging a spelling bee at Harris School also.

**Forcier:** Congratulated Dr. Macera. Thanked Mr. Berman and Mrs. Tincknell on getting the Free Breakfast program off to a great start. She announced an upcoming Safety Committee Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 2 p.m. at WMS.

**Nadeau:** She wanted to keep it short and get out of the meeting at a reasonable time. Congratulated Dr. Macera, saying it's a pleasure to work with the great staff at McFee. She's looking forward to working with Ms. Williams on the Negotiating Committee also.

**Williams:** Congratulated Dr. Macera, adding that there were many complaints about the prior superintendent that you couldn't find him after 1 p.m. "Even the Mayor said that. That's not so with Dr. Macera." She spoke about the poverty level and the free breakfast program not being a handout, referring to an article in The Providence Journal stating that more children are living below the poverty level. She read the income level you have to be below to qualify for assistance. She announced a new committee for adult education that she's on. Told people to call Dr. Lynne Bedard at 767-4667 if they are interested in joining.

**Auclair:** Congratulated Dr. Macera. Announced the district spelling bee to be held at Harris School on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. Wished the students good luck. Thanked Dr. Macera, Miriam Goodman and the PAC for the workshop on fundraising that was held. He attended the WHS's school improvement team meeting, adding that there's a lot of good things happening. Auclair is really looking forward to working with them. He asked if the complete budget was posted at Harris Public Library. Mrs. Goodman told him it is posted as it was approved in September. Auclair asked about a scheduling a workshop for the WSC with the truant officers. Dr. Macera has spoken to them and is still coordinating schedules. As far as his request for student reading levels in Grades 4-8, she told him that the DRA reports were overdue to the state. She will have Linda Filomeno make a presentation on this topic and prepare a comprehensive report. Mr. Auclair wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.: M. Williams

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle  
WSC Recording Secretary