

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2006
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

MOTION TO TAKE NEW BUSINESS ITEM #3 OUT OF ORDER: M. Dubois
2nd: M. Williams **Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; AA/yes; MW/yes; EN/yes; AMF/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Review of Updated Contract Proposal for Gilbane Building Company and Ai3

Joel Matthews, City Planning Director, introduced the representatives from Gilbane and Ai3 and explained that the architect (Ai3) would be a subcontractor working under Gilbane during this project. Ai3 is also doing the Lincoln Middle School. Mr. Matthews explained that this presentation is just a review of the contract that has been proposed but has not yet been finalized. Ai3 would be doing the site analysis, taking into consideration sun movement, wind direction, and other environmental factors that would affect the learning environment. Ventilation and lighting considerations and noise levels will also be addressed, as well as technology integration and energy efficiency. Their buildings are completed on time and on budget. Titas Sitnik, Gilbane's Chief Estimator, explained the process of estimating the costs related to the building process. Mr. Matthews stated the they don't have enough information to begin to decide what the new building or buildings will be – a new high school, two new middle schools, etc. "These people will help us to do that. The contract will address two phases—the evaluation phase which runs from today to the bond referendum and the building phase in which Gilbane will be the only company we are contracting with. Ai3 will be a subcontractor for Gilbane. The funds for the first phase will be coming from the gambling revenues. We had a very successful project with Gilbane for Harris School and the Building Committee is extremely excited to have both of these companies working with us. The contract is being reviewed by both Richard Ackerman and the City's attorney," said Matthews.

Mr. Auclair noted that all the finalists were very talented and, as a member of the Building Committee, he is very confident in Gilbane and Ai3's abilities. He congratulated them on all their hard work to get up to this point. Ms. Williams thanked them for their presentation and said she was impressed. Mrs. Mary Keegan, a member of the Building Committee, was on the last school building committee. She said that once they got Gilbane to do Harris School, they did not have one problem. Gilbane took care of everything. Keegan is very impressed with them and said they are honest. She hopes this process isn't held up any longer. Mr. Matthews added that there were eighteen members on the Building Committee and before the meetings, there were usually eighteen people waiting outside the door five-minutes before they started. There was almost perfect attendance at every meeting and it was a diverse group of people. "Joel Matthews was the best chairman we could have had," said Keegan.

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE: None

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – Dr. Maureen Macera, Superintendent

Congratulated Ellen Ebiwa and Isaiah Hector, WHS 9th Gr. Students, for winning a grant from the Providence Performing Arts Center Scholarship program. Each student will receive a scholarship up to \$500.00 to attend a local summer art education program. Both plan to participate in programs at the RiverzEdge Arts Project. Gave kudos to Craig Pearce for being selected to All-American honor status for Indoor Track in the 25lb. weight throw. Craig also won his event at the State championship. Gave kudo's to SKILLS USA STATE WINNERS at the WACTC for the 17 Gold Medals they won along with 8 Silver medals and 1 Bronze medal. All the Gold medal winners will be going to national competition in Kansas City. Coach Jon Paquin, Coach Scott Paquin and members of the Hockey Team

were selected to receive the Rhode Island Hockey Officials Association Sportsmanship Award. Congratulated them. Kudos went to Nora Schachte, senior at Woonsocket High, for being honored with a John H. Chafee Heritage Award. She is President of the Woonsocket High School River Club and has worked on a number of various projects for the Heritage Corridor Commissions' Volunteer Park program. Congratulated members of the Smile Club and teacher Mr. Mike Ferry and Ms. Leclare for their participation and recent exhibit at the Clean Water Festival held at Rhode Island College. It was the first time that Woonsocket participated at this festival. Congratulated the "Villa Novan Newspaper" Advisor, Ms. Tina Silva, and students, along with "The Call" newspaper, for their collaborative efforts to produce a weekly section in the local newspaper. This collaboration will be continued for next school year while members of the Call's staff will work with our students in producing a quality supplement to their newspaper. Congratulated to Assistant Principal, Mr. Carnell Henderson, and Dr. Michael A. Coady, Chief Cardiothoracic Surgeon, and the staff at Landmark Medical Center for involving our students in the Landmark Medical Center Mentoring Project. They have opened numerous opportunities for students from WHS.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

2nd: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 3/22/06 OPEN & CLOSED

Motion to Approve: A. Auclair

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA:**Motion to approve by M. Dubois with the following exemptions:**

- **Purchases & Transfers Over \$2,000**
Trapeze Software Group / Maintenance Fee & Software for District – Local: Removed by A. Auclair
Valley Transportation – Athletic Transportation – Local: Removed by A. Auclair
- **Field Trip/Conference Requests**
Woonsocket Debate Team, Chicago, IL – WHS, Fundraiser Money: Removed by M. Dubois

2nd: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments
Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Audio Concepts/ Mt. St. Charles/ Audio Visual Equipment/ Title 4
Auto Zone/ Parts & Supplies/ WACTC/ Voc Revenue
ASCD/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 4
Benchmark Education/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1
Dell Computers/ Computers/ Mt. St. Charles/ Title 2
Exemplars/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1
Frog Publications/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1
Great Source Ed. Group/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1
Heinemann/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1
Lakeshore Learning Materials/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1
Marilyn Burns Ed. Assoc./ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1
Marilyn McShane Levine/ Ed. Supplies/ Grants & Curr/ Title 2
Mondo Publishing/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 3
Monsignor Gadoury School/ Prof. Dev./ Monsignor Gadoury/ Title 2
N.E. Mechanical/ Compressor Replacement/ WHS/ Local
N.E. School Service/ Steel Door/ McFee/ Local
Pearson Education/ On-Line Mgt. System/ District/ Title 5
Perfection Learning Corp./ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1
RI Ctr. For School Leadership/ Prof. Dev./ Grant & Curr./ Title 2
RM Educational Software/ Supplies & Software Licenses/ WMS, WHS/ Technology/ Title 2
Scholastic/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1
Steps to Literacy/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1
Summit Learning: Math/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1
TriMark United East/ Grill & Accessories/ District/ Lunch Revenue
Wistow & Barylick, Inc./ PROMAC/ McFee/ Local
Wright Group/ McGraw-Hill/ Ed. Supplies/ District/ Title 1

3. Field Trip/ Conference Requests

11th Annual Senior Project Institute/ Myrtle Beach, SC/ WACTC/ Article 18

4. Home School Requests (1)

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Iannuzzi for Addison, Gr. 1, for remainder of 2005-2006 school year.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXEMPTIONS TO CONSENT AGENDA:

**Motion to approve the following Purchases/ Transfers Over \$2,000 and the Field Trip Request: M. Dubois
2nd: E. Nadeau/A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)**

PURCHASES/TRANSFERS OVER \$2000:

- ***Trapeze Software Group / Maintenance Fee & Software for District – Local: Removed by A. Auclair***
Dr. Macera explained that this is a computer program to develop bus routes for the city and this expense is for the annual software management agreement. She said it's an incredible benefit to have this program.
- ***Valley Transportation / Athletic Transportation – Local: Removed by A. Auclair***
Mr. Auclair asked if this expense is above and beyond the regular contracted amount. Dr. Macera said that this expense is factored into the budget for up to 5 years, which is the duration of the contract.

FIELD TRIP/CONFERENCE REQUESTS:

- ***Woonsocket Debate Team, Chicago, IL – WHS, Fundraiser Money: Removed by M. Dubois***
Mr. Dubois explained that the Debate Team qualified to attend this trip out of 10 competing high schools and commended them for their accomplishment.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Update on Universal Breakfast Program Analysis – Bernon & WMS**

Dr. Macera gave the report, saying that there is an increase in participation. "If it keeps operating at a deficit, do we have an opportunity to no longer support it?" asked Mrs. Nadeau. Macera said that we do have that option. When asked why it's operating at a deficit, Macera pointed out that more children that are free and reduced lunch are participating, but more kids that could pay for breakfast are participating as well. Ms. Williams asked for clarification on the cost per meal. Mr. Auclair asked how active the Childhood Poverty Campaign has been in assisting us with the program. Macera said they have been very active about coming to the middle school and contacting us about if there is anything they can do. "Do they have any suggestions for erasing the deficit?" asked Auclair. Mrs. Forcier asked if the figures include the cost of extra help that was hired to conduct the program. "It does," answered Macera.

Motion to receive and place on file: A. Forcier

2nd: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

CONFERENCES:

- **Presentation of Truancy in Woonsocket Schools by Robin Corrigan, Andy Barnes, & Roger Picard**

The Truancy Court Magistrate was present at the meeting to give an overview of what Truancy Court is and how it operates. She explained that the truancy hearings were previously held at the Family Court in Providence and the students would have to miss school to attend court. Summonses are sent out to parents of students to come to court. They can be fined \$50 per day for each day their child misses school and/or given jail time. A child cannot be jailed for not coming to school. If a parent has violated an order, it's possible they could be incarcerated. She said that the Family Court is very impressed with the Truancy Court here in Woonsocket. Andy Barnes conducted a PowerPoint presentation of which the WSC members had a copy for their own use. Mrs. Forcier asked how many days a child has to miss to be referred to court. Mr. Barnes said it's ten days for the beginning of the year at the WMS. "They may not go to court if they are achieving and missed that many days, however," said Barnes. Mrs. Forcier said she knows a parent who brings her 17-year-old son to the WHS every day and drops him off in the Principal's Office, but he still manages to walk out as soon as she leaves. She has had these problems with him since middle school. "Some children are very difficult to address. We don't have a mental health component yet. Court is the last resort,"

said Barnes. Dr. Macera added that the social service agencies have waiting lists. Mr. Auclair asked if truant officers are ever asked to give input to the disciplinary code. Mr. Barnes has made suggestions and Ms. Corrigan was very involved in the Transitional Program from the WMS to the WHS, as well as provided input on the attendance policy in the handbook. Mr. Dubois asked why the police aren't serving the summonses. Mrs. Corrigan said she has been a truant officer here for 12 years and the police have never served them. Barnes added that they are constables and will call the police if they feel they need assistance.

Carmen Boucher, parent, stated that she was very disappointed to hear that the school department picks and chooses which students go to Truancy Court. She asked if the hearings are recorded and was told that they aren't. There is a written record. Barnes noted that there are 6500 students in the district with three truant officers. Boucher asked if there are enough resources for these kids so that some students don't fall through the cracks. "Of course, we need more resources," said Corrigan. Dr. Macera said that the mental health resources are there in the community also.

Motion to take New Business Item #1 Out of Order: M. Dubois 2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Walk-A-Thon for March of Dimes – Donna Vescera, Leo Savoie Elementary School

Ms. Vescera said that the PTC for Leo Savoie is concerned that being restricted to holding it on a weekend will greatly reduce their support. Dr. Macera explained that there are guidelines from the state regarding instruction time. "If an employee collects money for any fundraising, then it's subject to federal audit. It's better to have these things run by the parents. I will see if there is a way around having the fundraiser on the weekend. I'll get directions from RI Department of Education on what they will allow," said Macera. Ms. Williams asked about field trips being held during school time and it's allowable. Dr. Macera explained that they are supposed to be related to the class and have an educational value.

Motion to approve the fundraiser: M. Dubois 2nd: E. Nadeau
Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; AA/yes; MW/yes; EN/yes; AMF/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

CONFERENCES (continued)

• **Presentation from 8th Grade Teachers regarding Washington Field Trip Proposal**

The WMS 8th Grade teachers were seeking approval to take 50 students to Washington D.C. to visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum and to visit with Congressman Patrick Kennedy or Senator Jack Reed. This would be a 1-day trip, leaving early morning and returning that same evening. Mrs. Nadeau asked about how they can raise the estimated \$6,500 needed. The teachers said they have written letters to Oprah, The Alan Shawn Feinstein Fdn., have applied for grants and are conducting fundraisers. Mr. Auclair mentioned that the school dept. has the video satellite technology to virtually visit the museum if they can't get the funding.

Motion to approve: M. Dubois 2nd: M. Williams
Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; AA/yes; MW/yes; EN/yes; AMF/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS (continued):

2. Appointment of Assistant Principal at WMS FY2007 (Replacement)

Motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Pauline T. Papino as Assistant Principal at the Woonsocket Middle School commencing Fiscal Year 2007: E. Nadeau

2nd: M. Williams Roll Call Vote: (MD/ yes; AA/ yes; MW/ yes; EN/ yes; AMF/ yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

Dr. Macera read her letter of recommendation for Mrs. Papino. She noted that this is a 10-month appointment beginning July 1st. There were three other applicants and two of them withdrew. Mr. Dubois said that Ms. Papino

has been the biggest cheerleader at the WMS since he has been here and thanked her for everything she does. "It's unfortunate that the former superintendent didn't present her name to them for previous appointments," he added.

4. Approval of Youth Pride Program – Bruce Berman, Bruce Villeneuve & Gina Lambert

Motion to approve the Youth Pride Program: M. Williams 2nd: E. Nadeau
Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; AA/yes; MW/yes; EN/yes; AMF/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Berman, WMS Principal, said that they are looking to get the Youth Pride Program back into their curriculum at the WMS for all 8th grade Health classes. Dr. Macera said that RIDE fully supports this program, which educates students about different sexual orientations and issues surrounding them. A former student testified that he experienced difficulties at the WHS because of his orientation and had to transfer out to another school because of it. He believes it was because others were not properly educated and thinks if students learned more about these issues at the middle school, it would help their cause at the high school level. He missed out on a lot of opportunities. Isabel Rodrigues, another student, does training in schools. She said that kids get to listen to kids. They are more receptive because they can relate easier. The training helps promote a bully-free environment added the nurse at the WMS Health Hut. Mr. Auclair asked about students whose parents don't want them to be in this type of workshop. The teacher sends a letter home and gives them the option not to allow their child to attend. Alternative arrangements are made for those students. Mrs. Forcier suggested a survey before the program and a survey after to see if there are drops in bullying.

5. Review of Beverage Policy for Schools – Michelle Williams

Motion to approve: M. Williams 2nd: E. Nadeau
Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; AA/yes; MW/yes; EN/yes; AMF/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

Dr. Macera reported that the state legislature passed an act regarding beverages and snacks in schools which states: *Effective January 1, 2007, the sale or distribution of carbonated soda, beverages containing added sweeteners, and high fat and/or high sugar snacks shall be prohibited in all RI elementary, middle, junior and senior high schools.....*

The WSC members think this is great. Dr. Macera said that it has passed through the House and is up before the Senate. She thinks Ms. Williams's policy is a great policy.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Maureen Macera, Superintendent

She thanked Carmen Boucher and Tony Gabriel on the PAC Workshop that was held on the 10th. Her husband attended and was very impressed. Thanked the members of the WSC for being there. As far as the preliminary NECAP results, Woonsocket schools mirror the state average.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams 2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE

Forcier: Thanked the PAC for the workshop. She attended the Pasta Dinner for the Kimball Family and said there was a great turnout. Thanked everyone for their support. She went to the Severe/Profound room at the WHS and was amazed at how we can educate kids with these disabilities. "We're doing a great job." Thanked the WHS & WMS for the wonderful band concerts. Spoke to Owen Bebeau regarding the cameras for the WHS. They are working on securing a grant for that. Asked if there was something we can do for the elementary kids to help prevent bullying in the lunchroom.

Nadeau: Commended the PAC on the workshop. She looked around and saw the faces of some legislators and they were in awe. Glad to see Mrs. Papino finally got her appointment. "She never gave up, even though she didn't get even an interview."

Williams: Thanked Tony, Carmen and the whole PAC on the workshop. Said a Minority Concerns Meeting was held, which had a good turnout, but they would like to have it moved to somewhere in the community. The idea of school uniforms came up from the parents. She attended a SELAC Meeting on 504's. Mentioned an article in Time Magazine called **Drop-Out Nation** and the idea of alternative schools.

Auclair: Thanked the PAC. Congratulated Mrs. Papino and wished her well. Thanked the Truant Officers and Magistrate McCaffrey for their presentation. Asked if he and Mrs. Nadeau can meet with Dr. Macera regarding the NECAP results prior to her presentation at a WSC meeting. Thanked the Woonsocket Call for allowing the Villa Novan to publish in their newspaper. Asked the status of where we are in the Institute for Learning.

Dubois: Thanked Tony and Carmen for the great workshop and the whole PAC. Thanked Mrs. Goodman and Dr. Macera for their presentation. Thanked the Truant Officers and Magistrate McCaffrey for their presentation and for the wonderful work they do. He asked if there was a typo in the Kids Count Report where it says that 90% of our students were suspended in 2004. Dr. Macera said that it had to be an error, but that she will look into it. He went to the parent/teacher conferences last Thursday and reported that there are 26 kids from the WACTC going to Kansas City to compete in SkillsUSA National Competition. He read their names and wished them good luck.

Motion to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.: M. Dubois

2nd: A. Forcier/ E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Secretary