

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006
7:00 PM-OPEN SESSION
WACTC – RM. 303
MULTIMEDIA LAB

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

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

MOTION TO TAKE RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OUT OF ORDER: M. Dubois 2nd: M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; AA/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Presentation of the Jennifer Rivera Awards – Marlene Smith

The awards given tonight are in memory of a 15-year-old girl named Jennifer Rivera who lost her life because she was willing to testify in a murder trial about four years ago. The WMS cluster teachers have selected the award recipients. The following students received awards from their teachers: Julio Gomes, Melissa Colon, Tara Senick, Gregory Cotnoir, Nicole Boucher, Sarah Hayes, and Brooke Souza. A special award was also presented to Sandra Gasparro, WMS ESL teacher. This award was called “Most Beloved Citizen of WMS”. Marc Dubois thanked Mrs. Smith and all of the wonderful students and teachers at WMS. He said he is proud of all of them and congratulations.

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE

Denise Auclair, parent: Stated that the City Council meeting was not shown on television from the night of the budget meeting. Those who could not attend had to find out the information second hand. She found out that the reason it was not broadcast was because the meeting was not on a regularly scheduled City Council Meeting night. She is waiting for a workshop/informational night on the Bird Flu. She stated that the school nurses are a priority and asked if they would be coming back next year. Her son will be going to the WMS in the fall and she asked if there would be a sixth grade orientation.

Richard DiPardo, 134 Huntington Avenue: Publicly commended Dr. Macera, Miriam Goodman, Kathie Lombardo, Richard Ackerman, and the WSC for the good work on the contracts for the teachers and teacher assistants and approving the new start after Labor Day. He invited the WSC to the WHS Senior Commencement. Marc Dubois asked, “Why is it held after graduation this year?” It was booked late.

Carmen Boucher, PAC Co-Chair: A registered letter was sent to the Governor, which was received on May 26th, requesting a meeting to discuss a budget proposal of state aid to W.E.D. There is still no response. A copy was sent to the Mayor’s office, Marc Cote, Roger Picard, Roger Badeau, Todd Brien, and David LaRoche. Roger Picard and the Mayor did respond but we need the date from the Governor to meet.

Pauline Papino, 7th Grade Vice-Principal: The New York Field trip will be this Saturday. She reminded Dr. Macera to be there at 5:30 a.m. The WMS raised \$1,091 for the Feinstein Hunger Campaign. Mr.

EXEMPTIONS TO CONSENT AGENDA:

Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Person Prentice Hall/Books/WMS/RIDE GRANT: *Removed by A. Auclair*

This is a grant to purchase math textbooks for WMS.

Education Electronics/Calculators/WMS RIDE GRANT: *Removed by A. Auclair*

This is a grant that was received last week. Calculators will be purchased for WMS.

Home Schooling (I): *Removed by A. Auclair*

Ms. Wendy Drinkwater for Alexis, Gr. 2, for remainder of the 2005-2006 school year.

A. Auclair wants it stated in the approval letter if the student being home schooled will be taking the standardized test. Right now it is an option and part of the agreement between the school department and the individual student being home schooled.

Motion to approve: A. Auclair

2nd: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Williams did e-mail invitations to Providence and West Warwick School Committee members and she called Newport and Pawtucket regarding getting together to ask for more state aid funding for the budget. So far, she received one response from the chairwoman of Providence School Committee in which said that they tried this last year and it fell on deaf ears. Hopefully she will hear from others soon, so they can get together and make plans.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

CONFERENCES:

1. Presentation of School Age Coalition – Kid’s Klub – T. Fontaine

The coalition’s purpose is to bring all of the school age daycare facilities in Woonsocket together. They meet four times a year. Their goal is to collaborate with Woonsocket childcare facilities to enhance the development of children for the City of Woonsocket. The coalition members include: Tracey Fontaine and Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith (Kid’s Klub), George Braynard (YMCA), Melissa Flaherty (YWCA), Dan Grabowski (Boys’ and Girls’ Club), Deb Perry (YWCA), Katie Sudol (Hamlet Learning Center), and Debra Tien (Connecting For Families and Children). Tracey Fontaine then described the many services Kid’s Klub offers. George Braynard (YMCA), Melissa Flaherty (YWCA) and a representative from Connecting For Families and Children described the many services their facilities offer.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

2. Presentation of Woonsocket Back to School Celebration – Neighborhood Health Plan

Erica Moore spoke of the Back to School Committee; which consists of 13 members in Woonsocket. The committee is responsible for planning, organizing, and fundraising for the Back to School Celebration being held on August 19th from 10:00 to 1:00 at WHS. There will be tables with information available for families. Sodexo will provide free food. Entertainment and music will be also provided. The families are asked to visit each table and they will then receive a free backpack filled with school supplies for each student in the family. They need the support from the community to do this by sponsoring the ad book. They are also looking for volunteers. Their next meeting will be June 7th at Thundermist Health Center from 10:00 to 11:00.

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

3. Presentation of Special Education Re-Organization – Integrated, Inclusion, & Alternative Education Program

Carole Lerner, Special Education Director, presented a power point presentation explaining the changes in the special education classrooms for the 2006-2007 school year. The philosophy is that all children can learn and they should spend the least amount of time possible on a bus. They should be in their neighborhood school being educated with their friends and neighbors. She explained the following elementary services: resource, intensive resource, inclusion resource, primary and/or immediate self-contained, and medically fragile. She explained the new Learning Academy at Second Avenue School. Its purpose will be to transition the elementary students with behavior issues back to Woonsocket schools. There is room available upstairs to expand this program to the middle school level with time and success. There will be alternative programs offered to WMS students who are at risk for failure due to attendance, poor grades, inappropriate school behavior, in violation of truancy court orders, and who have been suspended for more than 10 days or the remainder of the school year. Alternative programs will also be offered to WHS students who are returning from out of district placements, returning from RI Training School/DCYF placements, placed out of school for zero tolerance violations, or older students in need of recouping credits for graduation. Carmen Boucher asked if the T.I.M.E. teachers would be affected by these changes. Linda Filomeno answered that they would not. Michael Capaso, Principal announced that he has met with the Globe Park staff for a two-hour meeting to discuss these new changes. The hardest part of these new changes will be working out the schedules, but they must meet the student's IEP requirements. Dr. Macera added that in the teacher's new contract, they have added an additional 15 minutes to their day from Monday –Thursday. With this time, the teachers will be allowed common planning time. It will be a required 15 minutes to be used for professional development, and this time must be documented.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of WHS, WMS & Elementary Handbooks – 1st Passage

The chair made a motion to approve WHS, WMS, & Elementary handbooks-1st Passage and open for discussion. 2nd: A. Auclair & M. Williams

Donna Valentine, Assistant Principal of WHS, came to represent the administrative staff and the faculty members who helped put the WHS handbooks together. Mr. Dubois would like to add to the dress code that no visible underwear and no parts of the buttocks are showing. They would like to see uniforms at WHS. Dr. Macera would like whatever dress code changes are made in WHS also be changed in WMS. Ms. Forcier questioned if flip-flops and sandals are allowed in WHS. They are allowed in WHS but not in elementary for safety reasons. Ms. Williams does not think mini skirts and sleepwear should be allowed. Ms. Forcier would like to add bullying to the bus conduct rules in section 4. Mr. Auclair asked if the handbook correlates with the district policies because he doesn't want any conflicts.

Mr. Capaso, Principal, represented the discussion of Elementary handbooks. Mr. Dubois would like the same changes that were just discussed to be added to the Elementary handbooks also. Mr. Auclair likes the new promotion policy. Mr. Dubois asked the revised school calendar be in each handbook.

Regarding WMS handbooks: Ms. Forcier does not think cell phones should be listed in the same category as weapons. Mr. Auclair asked if it is noted in the handbooks about the video surveillance on the buses. He would also like the 30-day absence limit be reviewed. Dr. Macera will revise this policy for the 2nd

passage. Mr. Auclair inquired about changing the promotion policy. Mr. Dubois and Dr. Macera said this would require a policy change and a sign off from the state.

The chair made a motion to accept the changes to the WHS, WMS, & Elementary Handbooks.

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

2. Approval of Summer School Make Up Classes for WHS/WMS

The chair made a motion to approve and open for discussion. 2nd: E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; AA/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

Ms. Nadeau asked, what happens if a child needs to go to summer school and cannot afford it? Dr. Macera said the fees would be waived. Every child who needs to go to summer school will be able to. Mr. Dubois said there was no fee last year because they received a grant. Dr. Macera said they applied are still waiting for a grant this year.

3. Authorization and Approval for Weather Station at WMS – Channel 10

This request is to replace the existing weather station that has been at WMS for five years.

Motion by the chair to approve the weather station. 2nd: E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; AA/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Maureen Macera, Superintendent

Dr. Macera congratulated Donald Poli, Gr. 1 teacher at Globe Park School, for being honored with the “Teacher of the Year” award from Wal-Mart. She also commended Lisa Alves, Jeffrey Ethier, Kevin Plouffe, and the young musicians of the WHS Music Department for being wonderful ambassadors representing Woonsocket at the recent Williamsburg Music Festival. Kudo’s to Elizabeth Nguyen, Senior at WACTC, for being selected as the 2006 Tech Collective \$1,000.00 Scholarship recipient. Congratulations Elizabeth. Dr. Macera also congratulated Amy Linsamouth and Tip Malayphone from WHS for winning the third place radio commercial spot for their “Click It Or Ticket”, Buckle up Teens announcement. Michael Ferry has been selected as this years’ recipient of the Alfred L. Hawkes Award for Environmental Achievement. He has demonstrated his achievements many times and we are honored to have Mr. Ferry as a teacher in Woonsocket. Dr. Macera congratulated the Girls Softball team for winning their League Championship. She congratulated Samy Masadi for being the 2006 Valedictorian. Katarzyna Linek has been selected as Salutarian of the 2006 graduating class. Congratulations Katarzyna!

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE

Auclair: Congratulated the National R.I. Honor Society Inductees, the Valedictorian, and Salutarian. He thanked all who attended the City Council budget meeting. He and Ms. Forcier attended a RIAC workshop and their annual meeting. He requested a workshop in June/July to be presented by George Nasuti on efficiency based graduation requirements and high school reform. He congratulated all the award recipients of the “Jennifer Rivera Award”. He will not be attending the June 28th meeting. He requested an update on the reading levels of our students from Linda Filomeno.

Dubois: Thanked Marlene Smith and the wonderful teachers at WMS and the students who were presented the Jennifer Rivera awards. This is the third year in a row that the WACTC graduation night coincides with the Presidential Awards at the WMS. He thanked the elementary crossing guards for their hard work. On this Friday, at Globe Park School there will be a dedication of a butterfly garden in memory of

“Savannah”. He thanked whoever took the initiative to do this. He spoke to 50 kids regarding uniforms at WMS and about 80% of them are in favor of wearing uniforms. He attended Honor’s Night at WHS. Mrs. Sweeney is retiring. He asked Dr. Macera to check with Peter Fontaine regarding the Elementary Schools grass being so high. He congratulated the seniors who are graduating. He thanked WACTC because his daughter is graduating this year.

Forcier: Thanked everyone who supported Savannah Smith’s family. She thanked Mr. Ferry on the trout release. She thanked Ms. Lisa Jalette for inviting her to chaperone the semi-formal. She thanked Mrs. Sweeney for the honors night. She congratulated all who received the “Jennifer Rivera Award” and congratulated Mrs. Gasparro. Have a great weekend.

Nadeau: Passed.

Williams: She congratulated the Girls Softball team. They did a fantastic job. She attempted contact John Baxter, chairperson for the Pawtucket School Committee, who also works at the State House. She stated that they should go to the House Finance Committee and speak to them. She congratulated those who received the “Jennifer Rivera Awards”. It is impossible for her to attend the R.I. Association of School Committee’s Meetings because they are on Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m. She has requested that the meeting be recorded.

Motion to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.: A. Forcier 2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Gatta, WSC Recording Secretary Sub

