

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2006
7:00 PM-OPEN SESSION
WOONSOCKET HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
777 Cass Avenue

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

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

Dan Moran, 529 South Main Street: A private contractor who was a classroom nurse for the medically fragile room at WHS. He was told that his contract is not being renewed because of budget cuts. He feels strongly that this is not a budgetary issue.

Sharon DiSpirito, 139 Valley Street: Daughter is a technology dependant child in the medically fragile room at WHS. She is protected under General Law 23-13-26 and should have a nurse with pediatric intensive care assessment skills. Last year her daughter stopped breathing in the classroom and thank God a nurse was present because if not, she would not be here today. A full-time nurse is vital in that classroom. Her father recently passed away and in his memory donations were made to the medically fragile room at WHS and with this money, she would like to provide a picnic table.

Melissa Mendez & Erica Moore: Wanted to remind everyone of the “Back to School Celebration” being held at WHS on Saturday, August 19th from 10:00 to 1:00. At least 20 Woonsocket community agencies will be participating in this event. Each agency will be providing resources and information to the families. Woonsocket students will receive 700 backpacks and 1,000 plastic bags with school supplies inside. Sodexo will be providing refreshments. There will also be activities and entertainment.

Denise Auclair, Harris Avenue: Students entering WMS sixth grade are invited to attend WMS on August 21-24 from 8:00-12:00 to do various activities. A BBQ will also be held at WMS parking lot on August 24th from 5:00 – 7:00 for the families of students entering sixth grade at WMS. Sandra Costa from 21st Century Program is in charge of these events and may be reached at 767-4817. The building committee and the Gilbane Team are looking into all possibilities to make sure we will have a safe learning environment for our middle school children.

Carmen Boucher, PAC co-chair: Wanted to remind everyone that on August 16th at 7:00 there will be a PAC meeting at Harris School. They will be reviewing the past year and how to increase parent involvement in the district.

Jean Demhurst, Cass Avenue: Daughter is in the medically fragile room at WHS and they need a nurse in that room.

Donna Houle, 130 Ward Street: Concerned because there is still no 8th Grade reading specialist hired.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – Carole Lerner

Dr. Macera would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone for the flowers and contributions and condolences that were given to her and her family at this time of mourning. Congratulations to the Leo A. Savoie School for recently raising \$1, 891.37 for the 12th annual Pennies for Patients fundraiser. Kudos to Mandy Shurgot and Caitlin Charron for being selected to the RI All-State Girls Softball Team and Ronny Genao and Craig Pearce for being selected to the RI All-State Outdoor Track Team. Finally, congratulations to Dottie DeRemer for placing first in team dance at the national roller skating championship held last week in Lincoln, Nebraska.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 19, 2006 – OPEN SESSION

Motion to Approve: M. Dubois 2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

**MOTION TO TAKE NEW BUSINESS ITEM # 3 OUT OF ORDER: E. Nadeau
2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)**

NEW BUSINESS

3. Nurse/Teacher Plan

Diane Engles explained the placement chart for the nurse/teachers for the school year 2006-2007. Mr. Auclair asked Carole Lerner to read the school year 2006-2007 nurse/teacher plan summary. A. Forcier asked if one nurse would be able to handle 1600 students at WMS by herself. Carole Lerner answered they will send a float nurse to cover her prep period and lunch period and when she needs additional help. E. Nadeau asked what happens with the medically fragile room at WHS for a nurse. Diane Engles answered she will be with the students for the majority of the day. She would take her prep time at the end of the day and cover the WHS nurses prep time and during these times the students will be close by in their room. E. Nadeau asked why a nurse can't be present in that room at all times. There will be someone in the room other than lunch and prep times. At Globe, there is one nurse to cover three medically fragile rooms and she cannot be in more than one room at the same time. M. Williams asked how many students are in Room 222 at WHS (medically fragile room). There are six students. M. Williams asked what if there is an emergency in the nurses' office and the medically fragile room at the same time and there is only one nurse available. Diane Engles answered you would have to prioritize the situation. E. Nadeau stated that she does not feel comfortable voting on this tonight and she would like to personally observe the medically fragile room. M. Dubois requested Mr. Ackerman to look up 23-13-26 and make sure we are in compliance with this law.

**Motion to table this item until the next meeting: E. Nadeau 2nd: A. Auclair
Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; AA/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes)**

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve by E. Nadeau with the following exemption:

2. Purchases & Transfers Over \$2,000

Ayotte Printing, Inc./Printing Elementary Books/District/Local: Removed by M. Williams

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments/Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Allied Auto Parts/Educational Supplies/WACTC/Voc. Rev.
Allied Waste Services/Trash Removal/WACTC/Local
American Dream Com, Inc./Site Licenses/WHS/Comp. School Reform Grant
Auto Zone/Educational Supplies/WACTC/Voc. Rev.
CFR Speech Services/Speech Services/Summer/Special Education/Local
De Lage Landen/Leases/Konica/Year2/WMS/P S & 1 Grant
K & B Transmission/Van Repairs/Facilities/Local
New England School Services/Doors/Installation/WHS/Local
Stadium Systems, Inc./Reconditioning/Repair Athletic Equipment/District/Local

3. Home Schooling Requests

Mr. & Mrs. Marc Iannuzzi for Addison, Gr. 2 for the 2006-2007 academic year.
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Murphy for Judah, Gr. 6; Anson, Gr. 4; & Keegan, Gr. 3 for the 2006-2007 academic year.
Ms. Vivian Poulin for Nicholas, Gr. 6 for the 2006-2007 academic year.
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Robitaille for Christian, Gr. 5 & Jordan, Gr. 3 for the 2006-2007 academic year.
Mr. & Mrs. Reuben Johnson for Gheremie, Gr. 5 for the 2006-2007 academic year.

4. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment and Textbooks

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXEMPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA:

Purchases & Transfers Over \$2,000

Ayotte Printing, Inc./Printing Elementary Books/District/Local: Removed by M. Williams
M. Williams asked why would we spend almost \$3,000 at Ayotte Printing when we have a printing class at WACTC that should have the ability to print these. Carole Lerner said she would look into this.

Motion to table Ayotte, Printing, Inc.: M. Williams Approved)

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Auclair stated that the building committee met last Thursday and they decided to have the Gilbane Team go forward on their evaluation of two projects consisting of building two new middle schools. The two options are Barry Field/Elder Ballou Mtg. House Road or Barry Field/Alysworth Avenue. Their target population is 1,770 students. To renovate the existing middle school would cost 10%-15% more than to build a new school. The next meeting will be August 31st at City Hall and it will be open to the public. Anyone who has questions may contact Joel Matthews at City Hall.

CONFERENCES:

ESL Program Revised/Title 1, 3 and 4 Interventions/Elementary presented by Linda Filomeno

Linda Filomeno explained the restructuring of the ESL Program. The RI General Law 16-54 governs the educational programming and identification of students. Each child has a home language survey filled out by their parent before they enter school. If one or more of the five questions are answered “other than English” the child will be tested. Under both Chapter 16-54 and NCLB parents have the right to waive their child’s right to ESL programming. Students are identified as Limited English Proficient if they are limited in their ability to communicate effectively enough in English so as to impede their success in a general education program. ESL is the program adopted by the W.E.D. to service the needs of students who are identified as “not sufficiently proficient” in English to meet with success in the general education program. A. Auclair asked how this new plan benefit our students compared to our current plan. Linda Filomeno answered that at the elementary level the students will be with their ESL teacher all day instead of being unsupported for half a day. At the middle school the students will receive math and science with their ESL teachers present. There will not be too much change at WHS. She is hoping to keep two ESL study pals if the budget will allow it. Mr. Auclair requested to have a 90-day review on how this restructuring is working.

Reading Progress – DRA, PLP, Scholastic Read 180 Reports presented by Linda Filomeno

Linda Filomeno stated that intervention programs are currently funded under Title 1 funding and include Reading Recovery, Reading Specialists, T.I.M.E., and counselors/social workers. The results received from the summer enrichment programs show that the majority of students have remained constant or went up a level. They desperately need an 8th Grade reading specialist and hopefully can find the funding to get one. They are having a lot of success with the Read 180 program at the WMS and WHS. The students who are struggling readers, lack motivation, and need encouragement receive the intervention programs. These students are selected through assessments and teacher recommendations. Linda Filomeno read all of the DRA online scores for the elementary level by grade as Mr. Auclair had requested. E. Nadeau stated that she agrees we need an 8th Grade specialist but the money may have to be redirected from somewhere else and she would like this looked into. A. Forcier stated that she had read an article that a lot of students are lacking basic phonic skills and struggle with reading. Linda Filomeno has teachers being trained in teaching these skills and are especially being used in teaching grades K - 4. She mentioned the Reading Wars instruction to teach whole language as well as phonics. Right now, we are teaching a balanced reading instruction and helping students to build a better vocabulary level. Mr. Auclair would like to see all students receive dictionaries. Mr. Auclair asked Linda Filomeno to give periodic updates throughout the year on student’s reading levels. M. Dubois thanked Linda Filomeno for the two presentations and he is glad to see the reading scores are improving. He would also like to see the writing scores improve in the future. A. Auclair requested Linda Filomeno to go over the WMS reading scores.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approval of WMS Handbook – 2nd Passage

M. Williams stated that the chairman had made a request at the last meeting to have no visible underwear/no butts showing under the dress code section in the handbook. Pauline Papino said she would bring this to Mr. McGee’s attention.

E. Nadeau stated that skirt/dress length should be mentioned in the dress code section also. It was decided it should be no more than 2” above the knee while standing.

Motion to add the skirt/dress length no more than 2” above the knee for WMS handbook only: M. Williams 2nd: E. Nadeau Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; AA/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes)

E. Nadeau asked if we could get the employee's dress code reviewed. Pauline Papino said it would not be in the student's handbook.

A. Forcier stated that under the school bus conduct and rules section on page 12, #4 should state no pushing, shoving, shouting, & **no bullying**. This has already been passed to be in the handbook.

A. Auclair wanted to know if any consideration was given to increasing the promotion policy. Currently it is required to pass mathematics, English Language Arts, and social studies **or** science. He would like it to be required to pass all four subjects. Pauline Papino will make Mr. McGee aware of this.

Motion to approve 2nd passage of WMS handbook: M. Williams
Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; AA/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes)

2nd: E. Nadeau

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

1. Bid Award: 06-09 Athletic Uniforms

Sealed Bids for furnishing the W.E.D. with Athletic Uniforms were received on July 19, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., at which time they were publicly opened and read. After reviewing the bids with Bruce Villeneuve, Athletic Director, it is recommended that the bid be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, Grogan/Marciano Sporting Goods for \$11,091.58. Quantities were adjusted after bids were received to meet budgetary constraints.

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

06-10 Athletic Supplies

Sealed Bids for furnishing the W.E.D. with Athletic Uniforms were received on July 19, 2006 at 2:15 p.m., at which time they were publicly opened and read. After reviewing the bid, it is recommended that the bid be awarded to the lowest responsible bidders, as follows: Five Seasons Sports for \$631.96; Grogan/Marciano for \$6,324.95; Longstretch Sporting Goods for \$721.55; M-F Athletics for \$533.10; Riddell All American for \$1,137.45; Sports Supply Group for \$3,121.75; & Korney Boards for \$140.00. The total amount will be \$12,610.76.

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

2. Approval of Revised School Calendar 2006-2007

All districts and schools will need to modify their school calendar so that all schools are closed on September 12, 2006. In addition to school closing on that day, another day must be scheduled elsewhere in the year unless your district has more than the 180 day statutory allotment. At each general election as defined in section 17-1-2(2) and statewide primary as defined in section 17-15-1, all public elementary and secondary schools throughout the state shall not be in session. On the day of the general election and statewide primary, the use of school buildings or premises shall be restricted to use only as polling places for election purposes. Notwithstanding the previous provisions, school staff development days may be held.

Motion to approve: M. Williams 2nd: A. Auclair & E. Nadeau
Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; AA/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes)

4. Telephone Plan

We currently use Verizon for our regular telephone service and Nextel for our cellular service. This year will be the first year we have consolidated all of our cell phone usage to one cellular company. In the past, we have used Verizon Wireless and Nextel to accommodate our cell phone needs. We have also taken advantage of their "Walkie-Talkie" feature which has been a time saving tool in both the Technology and Facilities Departments. There will be four cluster networks of cell phones for the purpose of easier management, support and service. These networks are defined as the Administration Network, the Technology Network, the Facilities Department Network, and the last network is for personnel within the schools.

Motion to approve: M. Williams 2nd: E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; AA/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: None

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE

Williams: Expressed her sympathy to Dr. Macera and her family. In the Wall Street Journal, there was an article stating that the way we are testing is not accurate. All children cannot be average. We are teaching kids to write to pass a test not to write to write. As Mr. Auclair has pointed out that we are falling behind other countries. "No Child Left Behind" is not working to her knowledge, but we do it because we are told we have to.

Auclair: Expressed his condolences to Dr. Macera and her family. He would like to request that an item be put on the next meeting agenda for discussion purposes. He has been looking into requiring a mandatory syllabus for grades 1-8 which would detail what is expected of students in each grading period. He would envision this to be a tool for parents to help their children and as a daily tool for students to follow. He enjoys the discussions on how we are going to make things better and help our students.

Dubois: The next two school committee meetings will be held in WHS library. Congratulations to Savoie for raising over \$8,000. Congratulations to Dottie for winning two years in a row. He expressed his sympathy to Dr. Macera and her family.

Forcier: Expressed her sympathy to Dr. Macera and her family. Congratulated Dottie. Wished everyone a good night.

Nadeau: Passed.

Motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.: E. Nadeau

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Gatta
WSC Recording Secretary Sub

