

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2006
8:35 PM – OPEN SESSION
Woonsocket Area Career & Technical Center
Multimedia Room 303

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 Recognitions and Announcements out of order: M. Dubois All members consented.

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: WMS Recognitions – Students of the Quarter presented by Dr. Patrick McGee. Dr. McGee announced the students by name and had them stand. They each wore a T-Shirt that they were presented with for their achievement.

****PRESENTATION OF RECOGNITION AWARD FOR MEGHAN MINOT FOR NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL IN SKILLS USA – Dr. Lynne Bedard** (*This presentation was done during the break between the Open and Closed Sessions*)

Mr. Dubois also welcomed back Mary Keegan.

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

- **Richard DiPardo, WTG President:** Presented the WSC members with a copy of the new contracts that were just printed.
- **Charlene Dwyer, WMS Teacher:** She took a trip last year to Washington D.C. and is looking for approval again for that trip on tonight's agenda. She had a former students speak about his experience last year. He wished everyone could have the chance to go on a trip like this.
- **Michael Cahill, Vice President of Woonsocket Redskins:** Spoke regarding a request to waive rental fees for use of school facilities. "We are asking for our cheerleaders to use the gyms once it gets dark outside. It's safer for them. We charge the lowest registration fees in the state. We have many expenses to pay out of that such as insurances and uniforms. We hold fundraisers to get them special stuff like jackets. We are a poor organization and provide a good, healthy environment for 300 kids."
- **Donna Houle, 130 Ward Street:** Spoke about going to parent/teacher conferences and finding out that the 8th Grade Math students are now doing Connected Math and have to share books because there aren't enough. They are using 7th Grade books for 8th Graders. She spoke to Dr. McGee who spoke to Mr. Gagnon. She was told that her son would meet the GLEs and be prepared for 9th Grade. A meeting was held with Dr. Macera and she was told not to worry. She contacted Mr. Auclair and he said to contact the state. The state representative she spoke to said she would check with the department head and someone would get back to her. She was told it was fine for them to use two sets of books—the 8th Gr. and 7th Gr. Series. Her son is halfway through the year and is still on the first 7th Grade book. Houle doesn't remember any Connected Math program being approved by the WSC and asked that this program be suspended for now until the WSC can review it and put it on a future agenda. Dr. Macera told her that Connected Math is a state-sponsored program. "When the state indicates to us that this is a program that we should take advantage of and paid for all the books, the state supercedes the district. We would not have done this program unless we were instructed by the state to do so," said Macera. She said that she has set up a meeting with Judy Keeley, Mary Canole and Houle.

- **Marlene Smith, 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher at WMS:** Spoke about the issue of highly qualified teachers being in many ways unfair because there are some teachers that do not have to meet this requirement because they do not give grades. "This requirement by the state is unfair. The non-highly qualified teachers make the same pay as the highly qualified do. As far as heterogeneous grouping goes, we all have it this year. The state says we have to do it. Our teachers have a variety of students of various ability levels in their classrooms. In regards to progress reports and the 1-4 rating system, my #1 may not be the same as another teacher's #1. Lastly, RIDE's expectations leave a lot to be desired by their requirements. The state is free to make up its own parameters of what it is to be highly qualified. This is not anything personal. It's things that need to be addressed in the future. I just wanted to inform the public about these issues."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 15, 2006 OPEN/CLOSED

Motion to Approve: A. Auclair

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve Consent Agenda as amended with the following exemptions: A. Forcier

- *Certified Personnel Appointments – Robert Stewart: E. Nadeau*

2nd: **A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)**

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments
Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Apple Computer/Computers/District/Local
Benchmark Education/Ed. Supplies/Savoie/Local
CDW-G/Projector/WMS/Local
Dell Computers/Computers/WHS, Mt. St. Charles/Title II/Grant/Local
Follett Library Services/Books/WMS/Local
Good Shephard Catholic School/Prof. Develop/Grants & Curr./Title II
Heinemann/Ed. Supplies/District/Title V
J.L. Faria/Gym Doors Repair/WHS/Local
K-12-Discount/Tech Equip./Harris/McFee/Local
Ocean St. School of Gymnastics/Rental/Athletic Dept/Local
Oticom, Inc./Maint. Agreement/Speech/Local
Oxford Univ. Press/Ed. Supplies/WMS/Title II Grant
School Dude. Com/Software training/WHS/Local
T.D. Curran/Tech. Equipment/Bernon, Gov. Pothier/Citizens/Local
Tech Depot/Tech. Equipment/District/Local
Wistow & Baryllick, Inc./Promac/McFee/Local

3. Field Trip/Conference Requests

2007ASCD Annual Conference & Exhibit Show/Anaheim, CA/George Nasuti/WHS
Holocaust Museum, Washington DC/WMS/Fundraiser

4. Home Schooling Requests (3)

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXEMPTIONS TO CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve appointment of Robert Stewart as a full-time Social Studies Teacher at the Feinstein Academy at Masters Step 2: E. Nadeau

2nd: **A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)**

Mrs. Nadeau asked whom Stewart was replacing. Dr. Macera explained that he would be replacing Natalie Brennan, who will be going back to the middle school. She will be working with 6th grade students in the STRIDES program.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bid Award:

- **07-09 Window Treatments-Bernon Heights Elementary**

Motion to award to The Blind King of Providence, RI, for the amount of \$4,975: M. Williams
2nd: E. Nadeau/A. Auclair Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; AA/yes; MW/yes; AF/yes; EN/yes) PASSED.

- **07-10 Hydraulic Elevator Cylinder Replacement – WHS**

Motion to award to Atlantic Elevator of Seekonk, MA, for the amount of \$49,000 with a \$400 hourly rate for drilling jack hole if necessary: M. Williams
2nd: A. Auclair/E. Nadeau Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; AA/yes; MW/yes; AF/yes; EN/yes) PASSED.

- **07-11 HVAC Preventative Maintenance-3yr. Contract**

Motion to award a 3-year contract to New England Mechanical Services, Inc., of Pawtucket, RI, for the amount of \$171,158: M. Williams/E. Nadeau
2nd: M. Dubois Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; AA/yes; MW/yes; AF/yes; EN/yes) PASSED.

- **07-13 WACTC Electrical Work – Culinary Room**

Motion to award to Freelance Electrical of West Greenwich, RI, for the amount of \$10,000: M. Williams
2nd: A. Auclair Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; AA/yes; MW/yes; AF/yes; EN/yes) PASSED.

2. Approval of Math-A-Thon – 5th Avenue

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

Diane McNeil, Principal, explained that the children get a booklet with Math problems that are age-appropriate, and people can pledge an amount per Math problem that the children complete. The money will be donated to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

3. Amendment of Principals' Contract; Elimination of Automatic Roll-over Clause

Motion to approve: E. Nadeau 2nd: A. Auclair
Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; AF/yes; EN/yes; MW/yes; AA/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

4. Adjustment for Principal Wages to Equal Teacher Contract Increase

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Maureen Macera, Superintendent

Congratulated WMS's Deb Ostram and students of the quarter. Congratulated the WHS Music Department for an outstanding holiday concert. Congratulated the 4th graders and Miss Girard for collecting for Brian's Food Pantry. Governor Pothier is participating in the Feinstein Academy's Food Pantry Program. They will hold a holiday concert tomorrow and will charge a \$1.00 donation to be donated to the food pantry. Extended her best wishes to the WSC and staff for a wonderful holiday. Mr. Dubois asked if we needed to take the last item tonight from closed session. Dr. Macera said it could wait.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams 2nd: E. Nadeau/A. Auclair (Unan. Appr.)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE

Nadeau: Passed and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Williams: Happy Everything to Everyone!

Auclair: Happy Holidays! He would like to meet with Ms. Filomeno and Mr. Fontaine.
Dubois: Wished everyone Happy Holidays and the best in the New Year.
Forcier: Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Motion to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.: M. Williams/A. Auclair

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle
WSC Recording Secretary