

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2007
7:15 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 No objections.

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **POSITIVE INITIATIVES: Bernon Heights Report on Positive Initiatives of FY07 – M. Tincknell, Principal**

Mrs. Tincknell reported on the positive initiatives going on at Bernon Heights. She said that students are writing poetry and books. Mrs. Duquette, a kindergarten teacher, had three of her students read their original writing pieces. A 5th grade student read her autobiography and another 5th grader read a poem that she had won an award for. Literacy Trainer Kim Mabray highlighted their literacy initiatives. She has conducted professional development at the school. She also discussed parent involvement initiatives.

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

- **Marlene Smith, WMS Teacher:** Asked for permission to put on the agenda for the first meeting in June the Jennifer Rivera Awards. Mr. Dubois said it was fine. She said one of her students asked the difference between deduction and induction. "We had a transfer in from Pawtucket. The student was having a lot of difficulty as an ESL student. He was having a difficult time reading and was tested to see what level he was at. He was reading between a first and second-grade level. What you read in a book isn't always reality."
- **Karen MacBeth, Principal of Savoie Elementary:** Spoke about the job description for the Director of Athletics and Wellness, saying that it was a perfect opportunity to look at that position and change it to meet our needs now—especially the wellness part of it. She thinks that grant-writing experience would also be helpful. "We need after school programs and this person can help collaborate with the Boys' and Girls' Club for those, for example. They could develop a partnership with the school district's pediatrician and participate in the Health and Wellness Committee." She spoke about development of intramural sports as well as the interscholastic sports for those who don't participate in them.
- **Richard DiPardo, 134 Huntington Avenue, WTG President:** As Senior Class Advisor, he extended an invitation to each WSC member to attend the Senior Class Commencement being held on June 20th. Tickets will be on sale next week. He spoke about the Director of Athletics and Wellness job description, saying that the key phrase is that this person will be evaluating people and providing strong leadership. "I have about four years left to go and I would like to see a department that is a leader. You need someone that's in charge and provides good leadership."
- **Donna Houle, 130 Ward Street:** At the last WSC meeting she spoke about Connected Math. After that meeting, her son came home with his homework for Math, which she described. She didn't think that the project he had to do will provide him with the knowledge he will need when he gets to the WHS. She thinks it's going to be an issue when he enters Honors Algebra next year. "He's not going to be ready."
- **Corey Brien, WMS Teacher:** Stated that his dad owns a construction company and he uses a lot of skilled workers. Mr. Brien was talking to his father about his skilled labor, and he told him that over the past few years

the quality of skilled labor is horrible. "We need to instill the value of hard work and discipline in spending money and a good work ethic. The possibility of instituting a pre-voke program at the WMS would help." He thinks we need to focus on some of the more hands-on things that these kids will need.

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Macera

Announced that May 9th is National School Nurse Day and recognized them for their hard work. Announced that April 27th was marked the first day of Bernon Heights Poetry Reception. She thanked the organizers of this event. Congratulated Mrs. Girard and her students at Globe Park School for the Math event at the school. They raised money to fight childhood cancer. Thanked the teachers who organized the Holocaust Remembrance Day at the WMS. At a recent RI SkillsUSA Awards Banquet, Mr. Riley, Principal of the WACTC, was presented with a lifetime honorary membership to SkillsUSA. She recognized the Athletes of the Week selected by The Call. Said that the WHS musical, Thoroughly Modern Millie, was extremely well done. "It could have been seen on Broadway and gotten rave reviews!" She also attended the Rotary Club's Award Ceremony for community service, which was given to Mr. Kevin Plouffe, the WHS Music Director.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 25, 2007 Open/Closed

Motion to approve: M. Williams

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve Consent Agenda with the following exemption: E. Nadeau

- *Purchases/Transfers over \$2,000:*
Wistow & Barylick, Inc./Promac – Removed by M. Williams

2nd: **M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)**

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments/
Non-Certified Appointments

Mr. Auclair asked Dr. Macera to describe the transition evaluators that were on the consent agenda for appointment. She explained that state law requires that there be transition coordinators and evaluators. Dr. Janet Sullivan added that we have a RI state improvement grant that pays for these positions. A follow-up study is done on students who have graduated in recent years and also on students who have dropped out. We are starting with students from 2004-2005. Mr. Dubois asked how these positions were chosen. Dr. Sullivan said that she did a posting. It was also placed in a newsletter for staff and a couple of people have approached her. She prefers to go to staff that have worked with these students, who are special education students. It's only for WHS staff.

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Fesco Fire Extinguisher/Annual Inspection/District/Local
RI Center for School Leadership/Professional Development/District/Title II
Wistow & Barylick, Inc./Promac/McFee/Local – Removed by M. Williams

3. Field Trip/Conference Requests

AYES Conference, Detroit, MI/WACTC/Perkins Grant
52nd Annual International Reading Association Conference, Toronto, Canada/Gov. Pothier, Coleman/Title 1
ASHA State Policy Workshop, Little Rock AK/McFee/American Speech-Language Hearing Association
National Catholic Forensic League Championship, Houston, TX/WHS Debate Team/

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXEMPTIONS TO CONSENT AGENDA:

PURCHASES/TRANSFERS OVER \$2000:

- ***Wistow & Baryllick, Inc. for \$6,428.63 for services rendered in the Promac case***

Ms. Williams noted that this payment was for two months of services and asked how much we have paid to date. Mrs. Goodman said she would send out the information in their Friday packet.

Motion to approve: M. Williams

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Approval of School Calendar 2007-08 – 2nd Passage

Mr. Auclair asked if it would be useful to have July and August included on future calendars. Dr. Macera thought it was a good idea and will look into it.

Motion to approve: A. Forcier

2nd: A. Auclair

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes **APPROVED**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Youth P.A.V.E. Project – Lt. Reis

Lt. Reis said they started the project two weeks ago in Lincoln and it has taken off beyond his wildest dreams. They have had two self-referrals. One young man said another kid was talking "stuff" about his mother on the bus and the young man's mother has cancer so he punched the kid in the mouth. He knew that was wrong and asked to be in the program. Mrs. Forcier thanked him for coming to present such a program and said she couldn't wait to get it started in the WMS. When asked what schools would be using the program, Lt. Reis said that it's totally up to us. "It's what the district needs. I think the younger we can get to these kids, the better. I would love to see an elementary and middle school piece," said Reis. He has started training a couple of other former police officers to do this. The fee of \$4,000 was for a pilot program. The fee for the WED will depend on how many classrooms will be running, etc. A parent asked if the program addresses cyberspace bullying. Lt. Reis said he is working to get some legislation passed about that right now. It's not a big part of the curriculum now, but it will be discussed. He described the five components of the program, which are: 1) Educating the professionals; 2) Educating the parents; 3) In-class 5 sessions targeting grade levels; 4) After-school class for targeted individuals; and 5) Victim component. Ms. Williams asked about tying in the cultural diversity problem. Reis said it's the foundation of the curriculum. The program addresses stereotyping and they also work with Youth Pride. Williams asked where the community events would be held because the WED has trouble getting people to these things due to transportation problems, etc. "If we have to go out into the community, we will do that," said Reis. Williams asked if there was a final amount of what the program will cost. Reis said, "Not yet." Dr. Macera added that the state is willing to fund the program because they would really like to see it at the middle school. Mr. Auclair asked if an employment contract would be needed. "Yes, of course," said Macera. It would be one like the WED has with CCF and the contract would come back before the WSC for approval. Mrs. Nadeau said she would be in favor of this program as long as administrators are included in the training. Reis said that they definitely are.

Motion to approve: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes **APPROVED.**

2. Approval of Food Service Contract Renewal

Mrs. Goodman said that this contract represents a 2.9% increase in the management fee, which is based on the price of \$.125 per meal. The contract does not reflect any increase in meal prices. Auclair asked how this would affect the revenues from the food service program. Goodman said that she doesn't think it will impact the program that much and it will still be self-sustaining.

Motion to approve: A. Forcier
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes **APPROVED**

2nd: E. Nadeau

3. Approval of Dunn Institute – August 25, 2008, at Woonsocket High School

Linda Filomeno reviewed what the Dunn Institute program is. They are requesting free use of the WHS and they will give 50 free spots and the remainder at \$10 each, which are usually \$20 each.

Motion to approve: M. Williams
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes **APPROVED**

2nd: A. Forcier

4. Approval of Director of Athletic and Wellness Job Description

Dr. Macera explained how this position would be funded. She has applied for obesity and wellness grants. She reviewed the job description, adding that it will not cost us beyond our budget. When asked what the salary would be, she said it would be an elementary principal's salary plus a stipend for varsity athletics. Mr. Auclair asked about qualifications and Dr. Macera said that **elementary and secondary administrator certification is required. Mr. Auclair pointed out that these qualifications are not shown on the job description. Dr. Macera said that they should be in there and will see that they are added.** Mr. Auclair suggested other changes, which resulted in the following **additions to the Duties & Responsibilities: #23) Implements state and federal mandates; and #24) Supervises the implementation of a comprehensive recess program.**

Motion to approve as revised: A. Forcier
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes **APPROVED**

2nd: A. Auclair

5. Approval of Secondary Coordinator for Alternative Programs (from Part time to Full –time – VLA)

Dr. Macera explained that Dr. Janet Sullivan and Mr. Ferry do an excellent job running their programs after their regular work day. However, there are six other districts who have expressed an interest in sending students to our VLA program. "We need a full-time coordinator for that program. It will be self-funded, and we have also applied for adult education program grant," said Macera. Mrs. Nadeau asked what the tuition would be for a sending district. "About \$5,000 per year per student," answered Macera. Mr. Dubois asked about running out of space for this program. Dr. Macera explained how the room currently being used would be divided and flex hours would be used. Mr. Dubois supports this as long as Woonsocket students are given first priority. Mr. Auclair asked that a booklet be compiled for students to see how they can get into this program—especially gifted students.

Motion to approve: M. Williams
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes **APPROVED**

2nd: A. Forcier

6. Approval of Automated External Defibrillator Policy – 1st Passage

Dr. Macera asked the WSC if they can template this policy for first passage. It must be adopted by the School Committee before July 1, 2007 to receive the free defibrillators. There will be more than one defibrillator provided. Auclair asked if the nursing staff have reviewed this policy. Dr. Macera said that the RI Interlocal Trust drafted it and the nurse coordinator has reviewed it, but all the nurses will review it also.

Motion to approve: M. Williams
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes **APPROVED**

2nd: E. Nadeau

CONFERENCES:

- **Woonsocket High School Positive Initiatives FY07, Facts & Focus Report-WHS & VLA - G. Nasuti, Principal, M. Ferry, C. Lerner, Dr. Sullivan, M. Valencia, Music Dept. – K. Plouffe**

Mr. Ferry outlined future plans for the Virtual Learning Program. They currently have 54 students in the program. Six students have finished the program. He spoke about a meeting he has next week regarding a program for gifted students and adult education. Mr. Auclair mentioned the need for something to help our ESL students. Mr. Ferry explained that the remedial programs they are working on are actually capable of being adapted for ESL use also. Dr. Carol Frisk said that the Great Gains for Women Program for young ladies that she is running at Citizens Elementary has been very successful so far. Dr. Sullivan praised the efforts of Michelle Valencia and gave her credit for the success of the FOCUS and FACTS programs at the WHS. She explained what the two programs are. Mrs. Forcier thanked every adult that is going above and beyond to give all our students the education they need. When asked how long the FOCUS program has been running, Dr. Sullivan said it started last year for a couple of months. It costs about \$10,000 to \$15,000 per student, which is a significant savings to the district. FACTS started a little later. Mr. Nasuti commended them also and spoke about the music program. He introduced Kevin Plouffe, WHS Music Director. Plouffe said that he is in his 12th year at the WHS. He introduced Lisa Alves and Jeff Ethier and explained their duties. He discussed the electives that the music department offers and noted their many accomplishments and activities participated in. Mrs. Forcier stated that she went to every band concert they have had, except for one that they had on a school committee meeting night. She asked if they could try to not put them on those nights. Plouffe said that they try not to, but it's not always possible. Ms. Williams asked how many students have to leave their music program because their grades aren't up to par. Plouffe didn't know the percentage because they don't have a data system in place to keep track of that information.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

-
- **Special Education Re-Organization Presentation per RIDE Review – C. Lerner, Director of Special Ed.**

Carole Lerner discussed the restructuring process, saying that not all self-contained classrooms will close at the WMS. The STRIDES program no longer exists in its original form. It has been incorporated into the Feinstein Program. Mr. Auclair asked where the gifted and talented students would be placed. Dr. Macera explained that there are accelerated classes for each grade level. "They are one particular team per grade. That is how it has been and that's how it will continue," she stressed. Auclair asked about heterogeneous grouping. Dr. Macera said, "We pay for counselors and staff to review all the records and grades of the students and recommend them for clusters. That is the bulk of the work that the guidance counselors do over the summer." Auclair would like to get a copy of the criteria the counselors use to determine where students will be placed. Dr. Macera will try to get that for him. Mrs. Nadeau asked what type of disabilities the ten IEP students would have. Lerner said they have a variety of disabilities. "We think it will be a transition for students who may have trouble transitioning from the elementary level to the WMS in 6th grade. "What's happening to the behaviorally disordered kids?" asked Nadeau. Lerner told her that many of them were projected to go back to the regular classroom. Others will be offered positions at the Feinstein Academy, which is not a self-contained program. They will go into the STRIDES modified program at Feinstein. She said that it's not just BD students at Feinstein. "We have been working on this new special education program for three years. All the kids with IEPs have been analyzed, etc. We have consulted with other districts that have been doing it. We are the last ones on the block to do it; that's why we have the pressure from the state. It has worked out very well for other districts," said Lerner. When asked when Providence implemented it, Dr. Macera said they did it about three years ago. "In Pawtucket it has worked out very well according to their superintendent and their test scores for special education students prove it," explained Macera. Ms. Williams doesn't want the regular education students to fall behind because of the inclusion of the special education students. Dr. Macera explained that with this model, students get taught by a teacher with the expertise in that subject area with the support of the special education teacher. Mr. Auclair was concerned about how teachers will be hired for these positions. Macera explained that a job fair will be held and positions will be filled by certifications and seniority.

Motion to receive and place on file: A. Forcier
Motion to adjourn at 10:45 p.m.: M. Williams

2nd: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)
2nd: **A. Auclair/E. Nadeau
(Unanimously approved)**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle
WSC Recording Secretary