

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments/ - Gr. 7 Science removed by E. Nadeau
Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Allied Auto Parts/Auto Parts Supplies/WACTC/Voc. Revenue
Auto Zone/Auto Parts Supplies/WACTC/Voc. Revenue
Dell/Server Warranty/District/Local

Follett Software Company/Support Service Agreement/District/Local – removed by A. Auclair
Nextel/Phone Service/District/Local – removed by A. Auclair
RI Network for Ed. Technology/RINET Service/District, WHS/Local/Grant – removed by A. Auclair
Stadium System, Inc. Equipment Recondition/Athletic Dept./Local
Woonsocket School Lunch/Food Service/District/Local

3. Home Schooling Requests (6)

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Personnel Actions: Certified Positions – 7th Gr. Science Teachers @ WMS

Mrs. Nadeau spoke about a student teacher (unnamed), who did her internship in Woonsocket and also lives in Woonsocket. This person, who should have been appointed in that position, is a Step 2 or Step 1 teacher and substitutes in the position. Her evaluations were good. Mrs. Nadeau described how the interviews were done at the WMS and how they were done differently for the principal of the WHS. She will be voting no on both positions because she thinks sometimes someone is shot down just because of personal reasons and it's not fair. "What good are evaluations if it doesn't matter if they're good or not?" she asked. Dr. Macera spoke to Dr. McGee and the person was slated for an interview at her request. She will be happy to get more in-depth at another time because of confidentiality issues. Dr. Macera apologized that Dr. McGee wasn't present at the meeting tonight. She said there is no patronage under her watch. Mrs. Nadeau would like to have that discussion with Dr. McGee.

Motion to Table appointments for both 7th Gr. Science positions at the WMS: M. Dubois
2nd: E. Nadeau/M. Williams Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion Approved.

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000:

Motion to approve payment to Follett Software Company: A. Auclair 2nd: E. Nadeau (Unan. Approved)

Mr. Auclair asked what this was for and he was told that it's to maintain the library system throughout the school district.

Motion to approve payment to RI Network for Education Technology, Inc.: A. Auclair
2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

Mr. Auclair asked what this payment was for. Mrs. Goodman explained that it was for Internet service for the district and digital portfolios at the WHS and WACTC. She also explained the funding sources.

Motion to approve payment to Nextel Communications: A. Auclair 2nd: E. Nadeau (Unan. Approved)

Mr. Auclair asked how many employees have cell phones. Mrs. Goodman told him there are 35 cell phones and that we will be rebated \$10,693 next year because of the e-rate discount. Dr. Macera stated that when the former superintendent was here, there were 48 cell phones.

COMMUNICATIONS: None
COMMITTEE REPORTS: None
UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Bid Award: #08-07 Evaluation of the 21st Century Program – M. Goodman

Motion to approve award to New England Educational Consultants for a total of \$54,000 for a 3-year term as follows: 2007-2008 - \$18,000; 2008-2009 - \$18,000; and 2009-2010 - \$18,000: M. Williams

2nd: M. Dubois

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

2) Report and Approval of Universal Free Breakfast Program – M. Goodman, M. Roy

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

2nd: A. Forcier

Mr. Roy, Food Service Director, said that, in his opinion, the program has been a success and he feels that they can continue with the breakfast program. Dr. Macera added that the food service program has realized \$157,000 this year in profits and commended Mr. Roy and his staff. Mr. Auclair asked about tracking the link between the breakfast program and student achievement. He thought there was going to be some data to track this. Dr. Macera told him it would be difficult to track this correlation and that the major reason we did this program was because it's the right thing to do. "Inferentially, there's a positive effect," she said. Auclair claimed there has to be some way to determine whether our students are benefiting from the program. According to Macera, elementary test scores dramatically improved. Mrs. Nadeau asked about the a la cart milk and the cost. Roy said that the price is the same for everyone regardless of eligibility. Nadeau spoke about if a student brings a lunch and they have to buy milk, some kids don't even have the 45 cents for that. Mrs. Forcier said that the nurses have told her they get less students with headaches and bellyaches and that might be a way to track the program's success. Everyone thanked Mr. Roy for helping out during the campaign and Mr. Dubois noted that the food was not paid for by the WED.

3) Report and Approval of Classes.com Program – Mike Ferry

Motion to approve Classes.com Program: A. Forcier/M. Williams
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

2nd: A. Auclair

Mr. Ferry explained that our program is adequate for our current needs, but not for the future. He researched other programs and Classes.com was the only one that met all the requirements. This was the only program that allowed us to use our own teachers. Dr. Macera added that the program is for Grades 9 through 12. There are also some courses for gifted students. Mrs. Williams questioned whether we are doing enough for gifted students, mentioning an article she had read. Ferry told her that we are light years ahead of everyone else in the state. He is constantly looking for grants. The VLA will still be used for the WMS and elementary, but other programs will be looked at.

4) Renaming of Virtual Learning Academy to Feinstein E-Learning Academy – Mike Ferry

Motion to approve the name change: M. Williams
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

2nd: A. Forcier

5) Renaming of Social Street School to Feinstein Learning Academy at Social Street School – R. Ferguson

Motion to approve the name change: M. Williams
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

2nd: M. Dubois

Dr. Macera noted that Mr. Feinstein gave us \$10,000 for equipment at Social Street School. Mrs. Nadeau is very grateful for Mr. Feinstein's generosity, but unless he donates the money for a whole building, (one of the middle schools, for example), she doesn't think his name should keep being put on any more buildings. As far as she is concerned, those buildings belong to the taxpayers.

6) Change in School Committee meeting of Sept. 12, 2007 to Sept. 11, 2007 as a result of Religious Holiday – Dr. Macera

Motion to amend that the WSC meeting be held on **Monday, Sept. 10, 2007**: M. Dubois

2nd: E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

Since the change for a recent meeting to a Monday night worked out well, the WSC decided to change the date of the Sept. 12th meeting to Monday, Sept. 10th instead of the 11th.

7) WSC Minutes Discussion – A. Forcier

Mrs. Forcier suggested that the WSC take the minutes like the City Council does and just record the votes and have the videotapes as a backup because they are 100% accurate. Mr. Auclair asked what the law requires. Atty. Richard Ackerman read the law. Auclair noted that the minutes also get posted on the Secretary of State's website. Ms. Williams asked, "If someone was offended by something that was said, can they use the videotape or the secretary's minutes?" Atty. Ackerman said that they can usually be subpoenaed. Mrs. Nadeau disagreed with Mrs. Forcier and Mr. Auclair. When she votes against something, she always gives a reason. She likes the fact that the minutes can be available for them to review. She thinks we owe the public more than a "yes" or "no" on issues. "It's a way of showing people that we are working on their behalf," said Nadeau. Mr. Dubois and Mrs. Nadeau supported keeping the minutes the same.

Motion to change the way the minutes are taken: A. Forcier

No Second. Motion dies.

CONFERENCES:

- **Woonsocket Mentoring Program – Stacy Thomas**

Ms. Thomas explained the program, how the students get selected, and the screening process for the mentors. She noted what schools the program is being operated in and how many mentors there are. She stressed the importance of support from businesses in the area and outlined the long-term goals of the program. Mrs. Nadeau asked what the criteria were for choosing a mentor. Thomas said that they just have to be an easy-going person that enjoys children. All the mentors are trained beforehand. They meet for only one hour a week.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

2nd: A. Forcier (Unan. Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD AND WELFARE:

Nadeau: She requested that the \$9,100 that the WSC saved by not joining the RIASC be used to pay for a .5 teacher assistant. Dr. Macera said that they still need to pay benefits, but that they are looking at how to bring back teacher assistants with the money from the building monitors. Nadeau spoke about Mr. Duffy from RIASC calling her and berating her at home twice about a quote that was in the Woonsocket Call. She thinks he is scared that we set a precedent by not joining and now other communities will follow. He wanted her to make a retraction.

Williams: Thanked the taxpayers for voting for the middle school, adding that it was a step in the right direction. She noted that the Woonsocket City Council took a stand years ago and didn't continue to belong to the RI League of City Councils because they couldn't afford it.

Auclair: Thanked the city for doing the right thing in approving the bond and thanked everyone who worked so hard on the proposal and to get it passed. He would like permission to implement the "Key Work of School Boards".

Dubois: Said it was nice to see Dr. Garcia this evening. Thanked all the voters. Said that Mrs. Nadeau called him last week about Mr. Duffy calling her at her home. He called Atty. Ackerman and had him call Mr. Duffy warning him not to call any school committee member at home. He can come back to address the WSC at a meeting. Dubois spoke to Mr. Legare about the bus cards being mailed out. Dubois also announced that he would be running for school committee again.

Forcier: Thanked everyone for voting and everyone who worked. Spoke about her vision for our schools.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.: M. Williams

2nd: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle
WSC Recording Secretary