

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007
7:00 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

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE: Mr. Dubois announced that Bill Legare of Valley Transportation was present now, but has to leave early and asked anyone with an issue to address it under Public Good & Welfare.

- **Cindy MacNeill, PAC Co-Chair:** Spoke about the Parent Involvement Policy and how disappointed the PAC was that it was not put into the handbooks this year. She said that parents put a lot of time and effort into this policy and to see it not go into effect this year was very upsetting. MacNeill noted some changes that were made and distributed them to the WSC members. Dr. Macera told her that the policy was to be an insert into the handbook because the books went out to be printed before it had been approved. She said that the principals were supposed to send a letter out about it. She assured her that it will go out to the parents.
- **Carmen Boucher, Parent:** Stated that she has a child at the WHS and confirmed what Cindy MacNeill had said and the fact that the Parent Involvement Policy was not inserted into the handbook. She asked if the principal could also send it out to parents via email also, if an email address has been provided.
- **Donna Houle, 130 Ward Street:** Asked about some postings and if the staff in those positions have been replaced. Dr. Macera told her that they have been—for the most part. Houle asked about the start times at the WHS and that the handbook says the late bell is at 8:10 a.m. Dr. Macera explained that classes start at 8:10 a.m., and there's a warning bell at 8:03 a.m. The students have to be in class by 8:10 a.m. Houle then asked if schools will be open on October 9th if there's a primary election. Dr. Macera told her they would be open. Dr. Macera said that schools will be closed on November 6th for Election Day. Houle mentioned that the door at the WHS has not been open at 7:40 a.m. for students to go in. Dr. Macera will talk to Dr. Garcia about it.
- **John McLaughlin, South Main Street:** Asked about the position on the agenda that was tabled regarding changing a 10-month position to a 12-month position. He also asked, under the Free Public Information Act, for the salaries of staff of the WED for the next WSC meeting.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera thanked Always Learning for the donation of educational materials from their store to the WED. They have gone out of business. She thanked faculty and staff for a smooth school opening and wished the students good luck this year.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 20, 2007 Open/Closed

Motion to approve: M. Williams 2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve Consent Agenda with the following exceptions: M. Williams

- *Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000: Dell Computers, Norton & Assoc., Shannon Mazzarella by A. Auclair*
 - *Field Trip/Conferences: Camp Edward removed by M. Dubois & NAFEP Board Retreat removed by A. Auclair*
- 2nd: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)**

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Braver, Certified Public Accountants/Audit 07/McFee/Local
Danny Richardson Sawmill/Supplied/WMS/Local

Dell Computers/Computers/WHS/Technology/Local Art. 18 REMOVED

Document Technologies, Inc/WMS/ Mailer Project/Local
Kids First/Food Safety Inspection/District/Lunch Revenue
McZip Printers/Elem. Handbooks/District/Local

Norton & Assoc./Speech Services/Sp.Ed./Local REMOVED

RI Interscholastic League/Membership 07-08/Athletics/Local
Rick's Musical Instruments/Purchases/Repairs/WHS/Local

Shannon Mazzarella/Nurse on Bus /Spe. Ed./Local REMOVED

Wistow & Barylick/Promac/District/Local

3. Field Trip/Conference Requests

Camp Edward, Cape Cod, MA/ARJRROTC/WHS/ROTC Funds – Lt. Col. Dan Richards REMOVED
NAFEPA Board Retreat, San Francisco, CA/McFee/Title I & II Grant REMOVED

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Motion to approve payment to Dell Computers: A. Auclair ***2nd: A. Forcier (Unan. Approved)***

Mr. Auclair asked about bidding requirements for this purchase and the two funding sources. Mrs. Goodman explained that the purchase is through the Master Price Agreement list for the state; therefore, this purchase doesn't have to go out to bid. Dr. Macera stated that the computers for the E-Learning Academy were made possible by a \$20,000 donation from Alan Shawn Feinstein.

Motion to approve payment to Norton & Associates for speech therapy services.: A. Auclair
2nd: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

Mr. Auclair asked what this payment was for. Mrs. Goodman explained that this was a previous contract and she anticipated renewing their services again this year. Dr. Macera said that their prices are much lower than anyone else's prices. Auclair asked where the contracts are maintained for the WED. Mrs. Goodman told him that the originals are filed in her office.

Motion to approve payment to Sharon Mazzarella for nursing services on the bus: A. Auclair
2nd: A. Forcier (Unan. Approved)

Dr. Macera explained to Mr. Auclair that this is a substitute position because there are two nurses out on leave. Mrs. Goodman added that we are out to bid right now and the bids will be opened soon. Mr. Dubois asked if Sharon is credentialed to be in the position. Mrs. Goodman told him that she is.

3. Field Trip/Conference Requests:

Motion to approve trip to Camp Edward, Cape Cod, MA by the AFJROTC: M. Williams
2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

Mr. Dubois asked Sgt. Pinckney if he wanted to say anything, but he said that he was here in case there were any questions about the trip.

4) WMS Building Update – Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera reported that Joel Matthews is working with Mayor Menard on the various contracts and she has every confidence that they will do what's in the best interest of the city in that regard. She is very grateful to the Mayor and Mr. Matthews and the Building Committee. "As far as you know, there is nothing to prevent going ahead with this project?" asked Mrs. Nadeau. Dr. Macera answered, "No." "There has been some talk on the talk shows to the contrary," said Nadeau. "After listening to the talk shows and from articles in the paper, I assume that the cleanup is going to be an issue," added Ms. Williams. Dr. Macera told them that the last communication she had was at a meeting with the Building Committee members. "It was that they haven't had any surprises. It's a very good thing that there's a thorough review of the materials there," said Macera.

CONFERENCES: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Macera spoke about the Medicaid issue with relation to bussing, adding that she asked staff at the orientation to contact their legislators to push for a funding formula for next year.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD AND WELFARE:

Williams: Asked about peanut allergies and how the WED is dealing with it. Dr. Macera told her that we have taken out anything in the menu involving peanuts. There are peanut-free areas in the cafeterias and peanut-free classrooms. Sodexo is peanut-free district-wide.

Auclair: He noticed that there were 25 home schooling requests on the agenda tonight and was surprised to see that high a number. Spoke about his ad hoc focus group on homework. He would like to discuss this further with the administration. Spoke about PS&I contract with the state for the WMS and thinks it should be coming before the WSC for renewal.

Dubois: Congratulated everyone for the mostly smooth opening of schools. Noted that 80 children were dropped off at Pothier School without being registered, saying that it amazed him. Urged all the parents to take the time to read the handbooks instead of just signing them. Said that the WSC appreciates Mr. Legare's effort with all the changes in the bussing this year, noting that Legare comes to all the meetings even though he doesn't have to.

Forcier: Reported that she got a call from a parent saying that her child was told he couldn't bring a peanut butter sandwich to school. Dr. Macera said that we can't control what a child brings from home. Forcier wanted to know why we aren't asking the Mayor for money to bring back the teacher assistants. Dr. Macera said she is trying to find other ways to balance the budget. "We don't have to ask now, because we may really need the money down the road. There are a couple of issues out there that are still unresolved," Macera explained.

Nadeau: Asked Dr. Macera if the principal's mentor at the WMS has returned. Dr. Macera told her that she has and that it was a RIDE directive to have her come back for 30 days. This number of days is one-third of what she normally did. There is also someone at the WHS because they are under PS&I for one year. Nadeau asked if the letter of commitment was ready yet. "No. Hopefully it will be ready by the end of September," Macera said.

Next meeting to be held on Sept. 26th.

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle
WSC Recording Secretary