

**MINUTES**  
**WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2007**  
**7:25 PM – OPEN SESSION**  
**Woonsocket Area Career & Technical Center**  
**Multimedia Room 303**

**Called to Order by Chairman Marc Dubois**  
**Moment of Silence**  
**Pledge of Allegiance**

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Marc Dubois, Chairman	Present
	Allen Auclair	Present
	Michelle Williams	Present
	Eleanor Nadeau	Present
	Anita McGuire-Forcier	Present

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**PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:**

- **Richard DiPardo, 134 Huntington Avenue:** Spoke about his resignation as WHS Senior Class Advisor and that the senior classes for the eight years he was advisor are giving a 10-station, portable computer lab to the WHS as their class gift. The value of it is approximately \$11,000.
- **Linda Filomeno, Director of Literacy & Professional Development:** She spoke about the PRIMES Grant that is on the agenda for approval tonight, saying it's the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the grant. It was originally called PRIME TIME. She noted that these grants have allowed us to provide a tremendous amount of professional development for teachers in the district. In addition, it provides opportunities for teachers to work with students and parents in after school programs.
- **Donna Houle, 130 Ward Street:** Stated that she was very disappointed that the CMP II Program and the GEMS Program weren't listed for approval. "It should have been on for approval last November." She clarified what Mr. Paul Gagnon said at the last meeting about her statements under Public Good & Welfare not being true. She said that she was asking questions—not making statements. She reviewed the questions she asked at that meeting and stressed that she was not stating mistruths.
- **John McLaughlin, 632 So. Main Street:** Read a letter he was submitting to the WED requesting the 2004-2005 salaries for staff for the next WSC meeting.
- **Linda Majewski, 51 St. Hughes Street:** She quoted General Law regarding grants. "It seems that grants are applied for, books are received, etc., before the grants are approved." She thinks that the WSC should see the instructional materials that are received to apply for grants ahead of time.

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**RECOGNITIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Macera**

Dr. Macera extended her sincere thanks to the Autumnfest Committee for asking her to be a judge for the parade. Commended everyone who serves as a mentor in the district.

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

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 24, 2007 Open/Closed**

Motion to approve: A. Auclair 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

- *Certified Appointments – 2 P.E. Health appointments removed by A. Auclair*
- *Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000 – Norton & Associates & School Dude removed by A. Auclair*
- *Field Trip/Conference Requests – American Association of School Librarians & NE Assoc. Of Technology Teachers' Conference removed by A. Auclair*

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)**

**1. Personnel Actions**

*Certified Appointments/ - 2 Phys. Ed. Health appointments removed by A. Auclair*  
Non-Certified Appointments

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

Apple Computer/Computers/WMS/Library Grant  
CCF/Contract FY08/WMS/Curriculum & Grants/COZI, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant  
Good Shepherd/Prof. Dev./Curriculum & Grants/Title II Grant  
Highsmith, Inc./Ed Supplies/Good Shepherd/Title II Grant  
Pawtucket Memorial Hospital/Contract Services/Spec. Ed/Local  
*Norton & Associates, Inc./Contract Services/Spec. Ed./Local – Removed by A. Auclair*  
*School Dude/Maintenance Service/Technology/Facilities/Local – Removed by A. Auclair*

**3. Field Trip/Conference Requests**

*American Association of School Librarians, Reno, NV/WMS/Article 18 – Removed by A. Auclair*  
*NE Association of Technology Teachers' Conference, Worcester, MA/WHS/Article 18 – Removed by MW*  
RI Teacher at Sea Program, URI, Narragansett, RI/Prof. Development  
Woonsocket High School Music Department, Williamsburg, VA/WHS, Music Boosters, Fundraisers

**4. Home Schooling Requests**

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:**

**1) CERTIFIED APPOINTMENTS: (2) 1.0 PE / Adaptive PE / Health positions for the district**

Dr. Macera explained that we have had a greatly increased enrollment in the elementary schools. Keith Lazarski is being appointed to do physical education at the Feinstein Academy. Sean McClellan will be added to the WHS staff because there are overages in the physical education classes there. The elementary physical education teacher was covering the Feinstein Academy, but due to the increased enrollment, that's no longer feasible. Mr. Auclair asked about the lack of position numbers for these positions. Dr. Macera explained that the clerk who assigns the numbers has been out.

Motion to approve: A. Auclair

2<sup>nd</sup>: E. Nadeau/M. Williams (Unan. Approved)

**2) Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000:**

- **Norton & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$60,000**

Mr. Auclair asked if there is a contract with them. Mrs. Goodman told him that there has been a contract, and we will be entering into a new one for this amount.

Motion to approve: M. Williams

2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)

- **School Dude.com in the amount of \$8,197.50**

Mr. Auclair explained what each of the charges are for.

Motion to approve: A. Auclair

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

**EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA CONTINUED**

**3) Field Trip/Conference Requests:**

- **NE Association of Technology Teachers' Conference, Worcester, MA**

Ms. Williams asked why we are approving the person to spend the night when Worcester is 25 minutes away. Linda Filomeno explained that Ms. Starring's meetings extend well into the evening. She believes Starring will attend meetings from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The conferences usually start around 8 a.m. and Ms. Starring is also part of the conference committee. She is on the board for the Association. Mr. Auclair mentioned the fact that for trips using Art. 18 funds, it's always the principals who sign the requests and no one else from the School Improvement Team. Dr. Macera stated that Ms. Filomeno attends every single SIT meeting and the chair and the principal approve these expenditures. "When other districts don't properly utilize their funds, the state reallocates them to Woonsocket because they know we will utilize the funds. It's because they know we spend our money according to what we are supposed to do," stressed Dr. Macera. Dr. Macera explained how the Article 18 money is allotted and is to be used. Ms. Filomeno said that the WHS had not elected their SIT Chair yet and that may be why only Dr. Garcia had signed the request. She added that the SITs in both cases voted on whether or not to submit these professional development requests. Gail O'Rourke should have signed off for the SIT at the WHS until they elected a chair. She noted that many of these requests are time-sensitive and need to be processed expeditiously.

Motion to approve: A. Forcier

2<sup>nd</sup>: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

- **American Association of School Librarians, Reno, NV**

Mr. Auclair had the same concern for this request as he did for the NE Association of Technology Teachers' Conference request regarding the sign-off by the SIT Chair.

Motion to approve: A. Auclair

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

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**COMMUNICATIONS: Bus Appeal (Was held in Closed Session)**

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS: None**

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Approval of Revised Busing Variance for Medical Waivers – 2<sup>nd</sup> Passage** – D. Engles, Dr. Yasigian, C. Lerner

**TABLED.**

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) **BID AWARD:**

- **#08-08 – Registered Nurse for Bus of Medically Fragile Students**

Mr. Auclair asked if Maxim Staffing Solutions have a bid surety and he was told by Mrs. Goodman that they do.

**Motion to approve award to Maxim Staffing Solutions for \$35,280: M. Dubois**

2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Forcier

**Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.**

- 2) **Approval of Spelling Bee Costs:** Linda Filomeno

Ms. Filomeno explained that there is now going to be a fee of \$99 per school to participate in the National Spelling Bee. It would be \$1,000 for all of our schools to participate and the schools don't have the funds. Filomeno asked the WSC if they wanted to approve the money for this or if they just want to do our own spelling bee instead. She thinks the kids get more out of our own level than at the national level. Her secretary does it up very nicely by providing the food, trophies and dictionaries on her own. Dr. Macera recommended that we allocate the funds to do our own spelling bee instead of paying to participate in the national one.

**Motion to approve spending \$99 per school to participate in the National Spelling Bee: A. Forcier**

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams

**Roll Call Vote: 5 no. Motion denied.**

**3) Approval of CMP2 Connected Math Project: Paul Gagnon**

Dr. Macera read a memo she sent to the WSC stating that the CMP2 (Prime Time Grant) was approved by them WSC on June 14, 2006, under Purchases over \$2,000, to which backup documents were attached. She also provided a sheet showing the breakdown of funds received by the WED from these grants. Mr. Auclair was concerned about what the primary outcome measure of the program will be. "The GLEs are the curriculum, endorsed and fully recommended for our schools by the Board of Regents. There are strands (topic areas). The GLE is the blueprint for what is taught in the NECAP. My background is in curriculum. In RI, we now say 'GLEs' instead of 'curriculum'," explained Dr. Macera. "So the NECAP scores will be used to assess the success of the CMP2 Program," observed Auclair. Dr. Macera said that we should see significant improvement in the Math scores and reported that California has re-instituted the revised CMP2 Program. Auclair said he would like to see this come back before the WSC at the end of the school year for continuation approval. Ms. Williams has a problem approving a program that is aligned with our state test when all the state tests across the country are different. "You don't really know how your state compares because the tests are all different. We are looking through a distorted lens," she noted. Dr. Macera agreed with her and spoke about her frustration at there not being a GAP test. "The way things are now, the urban communities are penalized because of their high numbers or special needs students," said Macera. Mrs. Filomeno added that this program lines up with most of the state tests in the country. Williams asked if Filomeno could get evidence from the publisher about how well their program is working. Filomeno said she will try. Mr. Dubois asked why the GEMS-NET Grant wasn't listed for approval tonight. Dr. Macera told him that she may have misunderstood what they wanted. She told them that GEMS-NET is a Science grant. ***Dubois asked that any program that needs the WSC's approval be listed under New Business.***

**Motion to approve the CMP2 Program for the 2007-2008 School Year: A. Forcier**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Dubois** **Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion Approved.**

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**4) Change of Authorizing Authority for NRIC Executive Board: Dr. Macera**

Dr. Macera recommended not approving the proposed changes, which she read aloud. She said that a meeting was held last week, but the changes were not voted on due to lack of a quorum. Mr. Auclair asked if a school committee member can attend the meetings. She said they can attend, except for an executive session. "Right now, we have primarily BD children at the NRIC. We are exploring other possibilities at this time for these placements. However, if we remove all of our students from NRIC, we may forfeit any settlement should the NRIC dissolve," said Macera. She has requested information on the amount that Woonsocket has contributed to the Collaborative since its inception back in the early 1980's.

**Motion not to approve the proposed changes: M. Williams** **2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Forcier**  
**Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion Approved.**

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**CONFERENCES: None**

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Macera**

She reported that she received word that we will get \$100,000, which can be used for a Reading Specialist at the WMS for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. The remaining funding will be allocated for use at Harris Elementary for after school programs. In regards to the WMS Building Project, she announced that the WSC will have responsibility for approval of all contracts and drawings, etc. The first meeting for contract authorizations will be held tomorrow afternoon. The responsibilities of the Building Committee and the City Finance Director were also outlined in a communication she received from Joel Matthews.

Motion to approve: E. Nadeau **2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)**

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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:**

**Auclair:** He contacted Pat Dubois regarding a grant for children experiencing homelessness. He found out from Bill Legare that there are some fuel costs that are not included in the contract and asked how that is handled. Mrs. Goodman explained that the formula is stated in the contract. Last year, it was approximately \$43,000. This amount has been budgeted into the transportation budget. Auclair asked the school committee to initiate a legislative breakfast to meet with legislators before they go into session. He thinks that the Culinary Arts Program at the WACTC would be able to provide the meal and make money for their program as well. He also has concerns about elementary PLPs. He wants to know who decided the elementary PLP protocol.

**Dubois:** Thanked the Autumnfest Steering Committee. Added that everything went according to schedule. There were some concerns from parents regarding schools being open on primary day, especially since former felons now have the right to vote and having access to the schools. He urged whoever is here on the WSC in two years to consider not having school on that day.

**Forcier:** Agreed with Mr. Auclair about the Legislative Breakfast, adding that November is a better time to have it and she thinks they should still plan it no matter who is sitting on the WSC. Thanked the students who worked the breakfast for the homecoming on Saturday. Mentioned that three lunch ladies told her there were going to be some changes in their salaries, but the changes haven't happened yet. They don't work for Sodexo. Dr. Macera said that they are supposed to have a pay increase and she will look into it.

**Nadeau:** Glad they were having WSC Good & Welfare and thinks they should have it at every meeting. "We should leave the last half hour for Good & Welfare. It should be mandatory. The public wants to hear where we stand on the issues." She got many calls from parents at Bernon Heights with concerns about the voting being held during school. She said that the Mayor intervened and the voting tables were moved. A parent suggested planning a professional day on that day in case there's a primary. She wants to know Woonsocket residents that have worked for the WED from 2003 to now that are teachers. Commended Bernon Heights on their excellent school bulletin.

**Williams:** Stated that someone from out of district covered for Dr. Macera while she was out and asked if anyone in district has the appropriate superintendent's certification. Dr. Macera said that Pat Dubois has it, but she already has a lot on her plate. "There aren't a lot of people that want to do my job," said Macera. Williams congratulated everyone who volunteered for the Autumnfest. Congratulated Mrs. Nadeau for walking the entire parade route.

Motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.: A. Auclair

2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle  
WSC Recording Secretary