

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 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

RECOGNITIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera presented the 2007 ING Unsung Hero Award to Christine Rivard. She thanked the people involved in the development of the PAC Parent Involvement Policy. She welcomed home Robert Gruetzke, an Integrated Math teacher at the WACTC, after returning from service in Iraq for 9 months. Macera also announced a Coat Drive being conducted by Mr. Mike Ferry. All donations can be made until November 22nd. Announced that Beth Starring received a Teacher Excellence Award from the New England Association of Technology Teachers (NATT) at the 70th Annual NEATT Conference on October 12, 2007 and congratulated her.

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

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

- **Angela Lemoine, PTA President, Leo Savoie Elementary School:** Spoke about their first fundraiser for the year. She wants to get approval for the money prizes for the students who participate in the fundraiser. Dr. Macera said she would have to confer with Atty. Ackerman about it because she just found out about this fundraiser. Ackerman said he would have to see the law before he could answer her question. Mr. Dubois advised Lemoine that a vote couldn't be taken because this item is not listed on the agenda for a vote. They need a week's notice to put it in the newspaper. Dr. Macera said she will try to contact Mr. Pontarelli at the state about it.
- **Donna Houle, 130 Ward Street:** She asked when the next WSC meeting was—if it was Nov. 14th or Nov. 21st. She also asked about the hiring of a reading specialist for the WMS. Dr. Macera said that there will be one for the WMS on the next agenda for appointment. She signed an emergency waiver for that person today and added that they are having trouble finding people who are dually certified. Houle spoke about the PSATs being given the other day and her son having to sit in his history class for 3 ½ hours. She asked if they can be given on a Saturday like they were before. Dr. Macera informed her that the state mandated it and there's nothing she can do about it. Houle asked if the kids taking the test can be taken somewhere else and let the other kids go to their regular classes. "Part of preparing students for college is that they will be sitting in classes that are two and three hours long," said Macera. She hoped that the teachers had made arrangements for the other students to keep them engaged.
- **Kelsey Scott, National Honor Society Member:** She presented Dr. Macera and the WSC members with an invitation to the Induction Ceremony for the members of the National Honor Society at the WHS.
- **Linda Majewski, 51 St. Hughes Street:** Asked if they could have the advisory opinion on the fundraisers sent to the PAC so that it can be disseminated to the other PTOs, music departments and athletic departments before they start planning their fundraisers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 10, 2007 Open/Closed

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- *Personnel Changes –PASS TA transfer – Removed by E. Nadeau*
- *Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000 –Sally Morris - Removed by E. Nadeau*

2nd: A. Auclair (Unanimously Approved)

1. Personnel Actions

- Certified Appointments
- Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

- Apple Computers/Computers/District Elementary/Technology/Article 18
- CCF/21st Century Contract 08/Curriculum & Grants/21st Century Grant
- Dell Computers/Computers/WHS/Technology/E2T2 Grant
- Follett Library Services/Supplies/Ed. Supplies/WMS, Harris/Get Ready Lib. Grant
- Judith DiMeo/Contract Services/Sp. Ed/Accept Grant
- Lego Robotics/Robotics/WHS/Technology/E2T2 Grant
- Lesley University/Prof. Dev./Prof. Dev./Local
- Marshall Cavendish/Ed. Supplies/WMS/Get Ready Lib. Grant
- New England Ed. Consultants/Evaluations/Grants & Curr/Title 1,III, Lib.,21st Grant
- Sally Morris/Reimb.Med. Cov/McFee/Local – Removed by E. Nadeau***
- Sgiacca & Picgrilli, Esq./Legal Services/Sp.Ed./Local
- Sonitrol Security Camera/WHS/Technology/Local

3. Field Trip/Conference Requests

- New England Art Education Conference, Hyannis, MA/Mt. St. Charles/Title II Grant
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Assoc. Convention, Boston, MA/Harris/Self Funded
- Advance Placement Pilot workshop, Worcester, MA/WHS/East Conn/CAN Grant
- NEATE Annual Fall Conference, Nashua, NH/WACTC/Article 18
- NELMS Conference, Sturbridge, MA/WMS/Self Funded
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Assoc. Conf./Boston, MA/McFee/ASLHA

4. Home Schooling Requests

5. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

1) PERSONNEL CHANGES (FYI):

Mrs. Nadeau asked about the teacher assistant being assigned to the PASS Program at the WMS and whether she would be starting right away. Dr. Macera told her that there are some teacher assistants that are bumping others as a result of transfers, so she wasn't sure when this person would start.

Motion to approve the personnel action: A. Forcier

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

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

• **Sally Morris – Reimbursement for Medical Coverage**

Mrs. Nadeau asked why we are paying this. Mrs. Goodman explained that if a retiree has a spouse that has medical benefits, then they can get their coverage through their spouse. We are paying for the cost of that benefit—the former employee's contribution to their spouse's plan.

Motion to approve: E. Nadeau

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Mr. Auclair had requested a meeting with the city and the state legislators. He asked that the WSC Chair keep the other members informed regarding that request. Mrs. Nadeau thought it would be difficult right now because everyone is campaigning. Mr. Auclair has spoken to people and it seems that the week before Thanksgiving would be good because it's after the election. Mrs. Williams doesn't feel it's necessary to feed people. "We are in tough financial times. Why should we spend that money?" she said. Auclair said that as long as the meeting happens, that's what is important to him. Mr. Dubois asked if this meeting would have to be posted. Atty. Ackerman told him, "Yes."
- Mr. Dubois announced, at the Mayor's request, that the Woonsocket Police Department will be holding an open house on October 27th for the public. Tours will be given, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**1) Revised Busing Variance for Medical Waivers Policy –Second Revision - 1st Passage– D. Engles**

Diane Engles noted the changes that Dr. Yasigian asked be put into the policy, such as: Children should use the set bus stops and not have special bus stops put in.

Motion to approve: M. Williams

2nd: A. Forcier

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS:**1) Approval of Cyber Bullying Policy P2-21.1A to align with Bullying Policy – J. Gallishaw**

Mr. Gallishaw said he has done some research on this subject and has trimmed down the policy to deliver the message that bullying is bullying—even in its cyber form. After the word "bully", they have put in cyber bullying throughout the policy. He said that the state is still working on their policy. Mrs. Forcier noted that the reason we didn't want to wait for the state is that we are having a problem with this in our schools. She asked that the teachers be told to read this policy out loud in homeroom and in advisories after its second passage. Ms. Williams asked what happens if a student is not in school and violates this policy. Gallishaw told her that it would then be a police matter.

Motion to approve: M. Williams

2nd: A. Auclair/E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

2) Approval of GEMSNET and First Steps Program (District) P. Dubois & Linda Filomeno

Motion to approve: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Dubois

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

<p>Mr. Gallishaw noted at this point in the meeting that the next WSC Meeting is scheduled for the 21st of Nov., which is his fault. Dr. Macera asked that it be changed to the 14th and it will be advertised.</p>
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3) Approval of Food Service Assistant Job Description and Salary Adjustment – Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera read a memo she had written to the WSC. She said that the food service assistants will not be responsible for washing floors. "They will spot clean, but we have custodians to wash the floors. The custodians will be notified of that by Mr. Fontaine tomorrow," she said.

CONFERENCES: CCF Presentation for After School Initiatives – T. Curtin, M. Men

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera thanked all faculty, staff and parents for completion of the NECAP testing, saying everyone put forth their best effort. She noted that Miriam Goodman has conducted workshops in the past on fundraisers for parent organizations and she will ask that she do that again. She thanked the PAC and Mr. Webb, along with his Graphics students, for their help in mailing out the new Parent Involvement Policy.

Motion to approve: E. Nadeau

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:

Dubois: Congratulated Ms. Rivard on her ING Award. Thanked the PAC for the forum that was held last evening for the WSC candidates. Wished everyone good luck and urged everyone to get out and vote. GO RED SOX!

Forcier: Thanked the PAC for the forum. Cleared up an announcement that she made last night. Urged everyone to vote.

Nadeau: She asked if there was an administrative practitioner at the WACTC yet. Dr. Macera told her that they have someone in mind, but they have to replace that person first. She signed an emergency certificate today for her replacement. Nadeau thanked the PAC for the forum.

Williams: She heard that the dishwasher at Globe Park School has not been working since last year. She was also informed that in the new wing of Globe Park, there are some complaints about mold in three classrooms. Dr. Macera will have Mr. Fontaine check these complaints out. Williams has also gotten complaints about the quality of the food and someone said there was a worm in a girl's food. In regards to the number of un-enrolled students showing up on the first day of school, she suggested coordinating with the housing developments because each tenant has to list the children on their lease. "Maybe our truancy officer could cross-reference this information." Dr. Macera said that when they do a mailing, the ones that come back are given to the truancy officer to check out. Williams thanked the PAC for the forum. Wished everyone good luck on Nov. 6th.

Auclair: Thanked the PAC. Thinks that the forum will be broadcast on Cable Channel 17 next Wednesday at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Announced the Board of Regents Meeting at 4 p.m. at the Shepherd's Building in Providence tomorrow. Reported that he lives near Citizen's Elementary and the bushes are growing all over the place. He has wanted to go over there himself and cut them. Dr. Macera will talk to Mr. Fontaine about it. Mr. Auclair offered his help also. Urged everyone to get out and vote. GO RED SOX!

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.: M. Williams

2nd: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle
WSC Recording Secretary