

MINUTES

WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2007

7:30 PM – OPEN SESSION

Woonsocket Area Career & Technical Center

Multimedia Room 303

Called to Order by Chairman Marc Dubois

Moment of Silence (Remembrance of Elaine Maculan)

Pledge of Allegiance

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

PRESENTATION: Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera presented a recognition award to Mr. Robert Gruetzke, Integrated Math Teacher at the WACTC, for his 9 months of service in Iraq.

RECOGNITIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera announced that Alan Shawn Feinstein visited Pothier School and gave each student a ticket to the Imax Theatre in Providence. She recognized Tracy Doire for being selected for the Board of School Nurse Teachers. Thanked CVS Corporation for allowing the WED to go to their warehouse and pick up various school supplies for our buildings, such as partitions, white boards, furniture, etc. We are allowed to go there every Thursday at 9 a.m. to see if there's anything we can use.

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

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

- **Linda Majewski, 51 St. Hughes Street:** As a member of the Parents Advisory Council, she thanked Allen Auclair for his service and for always following up on their concerns.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Revised Closed Minutes 10/10/07 & 10/24/07 Open/Closed

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- *Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000: NRI Collaborative – Removed by A. Auclair*

2nd: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments
Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

AD & D Welding & Boiler Works/WMS/Boiler Repairs/Local
Atlantic Elevator/Repairs/WMS/Local
Dell Computers/Equipment/Sodexo, WHS, WMS/Lunch Revenue
Follett Library Services/Ed. Supplies/WMS/Get Ready Library Grant
Northern RI Collaborative/VLA Enrollments/Feinstein/Local – Removed by A. Auclair
Scott Foresman/Ed. Supplies/Savoie/Local
Velocity Solutions/Tech Support/Technology/Local

3. Field Trip/Conference Requests

National Title I Conference, Nashville, TN/McFee/Professional Development/Title I

4. Home Schooling Requests

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- **Northern RI Collaborative - \$8,050.00**

Mr. Auclair said he thought we were getting away from using the Northern RI Collaborative. Dr. Macera told him that the only E-Learning program for elementary and middle school levels is the Virtual Learning Academy from the Northern RI Collaborative. "It's for the elementary and middle schools' access to all the programs. We are looking at programs that we can run ourselves," said Macera.

Motion to approve: A. Auclair

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) **Revised Busing Variance for Medical Waivers Policy –Second Revision - 2nd Passage– D. Engles**

Motion to approve: M. Williams

2nd: A. Forcier

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

2) **Approval of Cyber Bullying Policy - P2-21.1A – 2nd Passage – J. Gallishaw, A. McGuire Forcier**

Motion to approve: E. Nadeau

2nd: M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) **Approval of After School Programs for Request for Rental Reduction due to State Budget Cuts –Dr. M. Shallcross,(Kids Klub), Mr. George Brainard, (YMCA)**

Mr. Brainard made a presentation regarding the impact of the state's budget cuts on childcare programs and eligibility of children. Dr. Macera said that this rental reduction would be considered for all after school programs. This request pertains to custodial fees for extra hours. It was offered for a custodian to work a later shift with a pay differential, but there were no volunteers. Dr. Macera noted that the YMCA provides swimming lessons to our Feinstein students at the YMCA. Dr. Shallcross asked for a waiver of the overtime fees for custodial work. Dr. Macera said that when Mr. Fontaine reviewed the rental fee policy, the custodial union staff felt that overtime should be paid. She added that if we have a snow day, Kids Klub keeps one school open for kids whose parents still have to work. Also, kids that aren't picked up from school on time are bussed to Kids Klub until a parent comes instead of being taken to McFee, as in the past. "Something has been worked out with the weekend security person to cover these hours. I would like to see very strongly that Kids Klub be able to stay at four sites because there's a need. She could give \$8,000 in scholarships over a period of time for students who are no longer eligible," suggested Macera. "Since we have already paid our people, I will not support waiving these fees. We could give them a no-interest payment plan," suggested Nadeau.

**Motion for request of rental reduction according to the agreement that the administration has agreed to:
A. Forcier**

2nd: M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion Approved.

Motion to allow Kids Klub to pay the overtime fees with a payment plan over a year with no interest: E. Nadeau

2nd: M. Williams

Motion to Amend to repay within 18 mos.: E. Nadeau 2nd: M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion Approved.

2) Approval of Multi – Certified Job Description – Dr. Macera

Motion to approve: A. Forcier

2nd: A. Auclair

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

3) Approval of Accredited Virtual High School (Special Honors and Advanced Placement Courses for Gifted/Talented Students, Courses NOT offered at WHS & WACTC) – M. Ferry

Mr. Ferry stated that he is working with the guidance counselors right now to see about offering these courses to students who have nothing else to take. They would be offered to Juniors and Seniors. Linda Majewski asked who accredits the courses offered. Ferry said that the Dept. of Education accepts them, as well as the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Motion to approve: A. Forcier

2nd: A. Auclair

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. Motion approved.

4) Feinstein Middle School Program for Girls – Change in Location – Dr. Macera, C. Lerner

Dr. Macera read her memo to the WSC for the public. Due to the unexpected increase in the number of elementary enrollments, especially in Kindergarten, Grade 3 and 4, five new teachers and teacher assistants had to be hired. A new class for Autistic children needs to be placed at Citizens, forcing the move of Child Outreach to Second Avenue in the space now occupied by the 16 Middle School girls. After a meeting with the staff and faculty of the Feinstein Schools, it was felt that the Middle School girls could be moved to the second floor of Social Street School. Mrs. Nadeau asked whether the boys and girls would have to be separated in the new alternative middle school if one school is for boys and one is for girls. She heard that Feinstein has offered to pay for uniforms. Dr. Macera confirmed that he has. Nadeau asked how it can be done for them and not at the regular middle school. "It can be done on a volunteer basis and part of the privilege of going to the Feinstein School will be to sign on for that," explained Macera. Dr. Macera noted that there has been a dramatic decrease in disciplinary problems at the WMS since the beginning of this year due to the Special Education Dept. reorganization, the Feinstein Academies, and the addition of the assistant principal at the WMS and three case managers.

Motion to approve: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

5) Approval of FY07 In\$ite Report –M. Goodman

Mrs. Goodman explained the report, which shows the breakdown of expenditures for FY2007 for the WED as compared to the state averages in FY2006. Dr. Macera added that we are consistently the lowest in the state in leadership costs. She believes that RI should regionalize its schools because it's such a small state.

Motion to approve: M. Williams

2nd: A. Auclair

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

6) Approval of Sub-Rate for hourly positions when subbing in the program until appointed by School Committee – (per Contract rate)

Dr. Macera explained that in order to get Highly Qualified Staff for our students it sometimes requires placing certified individuals in positions prior to their official appointment because of the cycle of WSC meetings. She requested paying the teachers an hourly rate of \$30/hr. per contract and teacher assistants an hourly rate of \$10.15 as per contract until they can be appointed. This would only be required in unusual circumstances.

Motion to approve: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

7) Approval of the Integration of Fourteen (14) Principles of Professionalism within the School Committee Ethics Policy – 1st Passage –Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera read the Code of Ethics out loud for the public, as well as the 14 Principles of Professionalism. She asked that they be added to the School Committee Code of Ethics since it has been approved for the staff over which they govern. Mr. Auclair referred to General Law 16-2-9.1 and said he had wanted it to go a little bit further. "It says that 'we shall adopt'," clarified Auclair. Atty. Ackerman said the Law can be interpreted to mean

"follow the rules". "They may be saying, 'This is the rule. You are to follow it whether you adopt it formally or not," said Ackerman.

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

2nd: A. Auclair/M. Williams

CONFERENCES: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Macera

Congratulated all the successful candidates for school committee. Thanked Mr. Dubois for the remembrance of Elaine Maculan, her former secretary. She said what a fine secretary Elaine had been. The Valley Breeze and Tom Ward told her that they would be very happy to fund the State and National Spelling Bee for us. She thanked Mr. Ward. She also clarified a misrepresentation of facts in The Valley Breeze and applauded their willingness to correct it.

Motion to approve: E. Nadeau

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:

Forcier: Thanked the public for voting her in for another two years. Thanked Mr. Auclair for his dedicated service for the past four years, saying she would miss him. Asked if the presidential primary is held in March, if schools will be open. Dr. Macera said that once the date in March is set, she would request that schools be closed and a day be added at the end of the year. Forcier also thanked Tom Ward for funding the spelling bees.

Nadeau: Thanked the voters for putting their trust in her. Welcomed Mrs. Majewski. Thanked Mr. Auclair and added that she thinks we will be seeing him during Public Good & Welfare at future meetings.

Williams: Thanked Mr. Auclair for his service and the voters for voting for her. Spoke about regionalizing RI schools. "There was a time when Cumberland, Lincoln and Woonsocket tried to regionalize to have a library and they couldn't do it. They each wanted the library to be in their community. There are some people out there thinking outside the box, but do I think I will see it in the next ten years? I don't think so." Mentioned an article regarding uniforms in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "They are trying it, but it's too soon to see if it's working." She asked why it's so hard for us to do it. Dr. Macera explained that there are groups out there that are against it. "We are trying to get legal representation at the state level to get the law changed," said Macera. Williams spoke about the state testing program and how unfair it is. Wished everyone a nice holiday. Congratulated Linda Majewski.

Auclair: Congratulated the successful candidates. Thanked everyone who supported him through the last four years. Thanked his mother and his daughter for supporting his efforts all this time. "It has been a privilege and an honor to serve this community." He suggested that the new WSC put some time aside to have some regional literacy workshops so that we can best appropriate the resources. He recently learned from Ken Swanson that in regards to special education regulations, school committees will have more responsibility. Thanked Mrs. Forcier for her commitment to professional development training. "Someone told me they were sorry because I didn't make it back on the school committee. I said, I'm not dead yet." He gave out his phone number and told people they could contact him.

Dubois: Thanked the voters for re-electing him. Congratulated Mrs. Majewski on her election. He noted that he did give Linda the opportunity to shadow the WSC tonight, but she declined. Thanked Bill Legare for his cooperation, saying, "It was hectic the first couple of weeks with the bussing changes, but it has since died down." Extended condolences to the Maculan family, saying that he worked with Elaine's husband for 20 years in the police department. He noted that he's a strong supporter of uniforms for when we open the two new middle schools. He worked at the training school and said that they all wear uniforms. "Ninety percent of the kids prefer to wear them." He told Mr. Auclair it has been a pleasure working with him. "At times we had differences about what a WSC member should and shouldn't do, but we both had the same goal." Wished him luck. Announced that the next WSC meeting is on December 19th.

Motion to adjourn at 9:55 p.m.: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Secretary