

MINUTES

WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 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

Roll Call:	Marc Dubois, Chairman	Present
	Michelle Williams, Vice Chairwoman	Late – Arrived at 8:30 p.m.
	Anita McGuire-Forcier	Present
	Eleanor Nadeau	Present
	Linda Majewski	Present

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

- **John McLaughlin, South Main Street:** Stated that a good friend of his died last week, Bobby Doyle. He asked for a moment of silence on his behalf. *(A moment of silence was held.)*

RECOGNITIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Macera

- **Presentation of Funds to Kevin Plouffe, Music Teacher, WHS to Band Boosters for Band Uniforms – Pearl Plante**

Pearl Plante, member of Union St. Jean the Baptiste Women's Chapter along with other members, made a special presentation to Mr. Plouffe of money they raised (\$1,058) for band uniforms. Paul Plante, member of the Mixed Chapter of Union St. Jean the Baptiste, presented him with \$820 that they had also raised.

Dr. Macera announced the passing of Coach Doyle, who was a track coach at the WHS for 14 years. He will be sadly missed. Congratulated Fifth Ave. School for receiving a \$5,000 check from Alan Shawn Feinstein for their essay contest to the Good Deeds Program. The monies will be used to build a playground for the students. Dr. Macera spoke about the students at Kevin Coleman School performing two stagings of "Reader's Theater" at the Friendly Nursing Home and at Fifth Avenue School. Congratulated Kyle Nordby for being named the WHS "Feed Your Team" winner for November by Papa Gino's. He was nominated by the WHS Athletic Dept. for his ability to "feed" his football, wrestling and baseball teams, along with the community and school at events. Congratulated Keith Spardeo, WMS Gr. 6 student, on the winning greeting card design he submitted to a contest run by the Valley Breeze. His design was featured on the Gift Guide section of the newspaper. Dr. Macera announced that Woonsocket has four members serving on the RI Speech-Language Hearing Association. Melanie Clark, Brenda Mallicoat, Tom Landry and DeAnne Owre were congratulated and wished good luck in their positions. Dr. Macera announced that on January 18th, Globe Park will be hosting a Community Read Day. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Lisa Cheever, Globe Park PTA before January 2nd. Dr. Macera wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Open & Closed Sessions of 12/10/07

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- **Non-Certified Appointments:** Removed by L. Majewski
- **Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000:** Apple Computer, Auto Zone, Dell Computers, Nettie Alexander, RI Hydraulics – Removed by L. Majewski
- **Field Trips/Conferences:** National Title I Conference, Reading Recovery Council Conference

2nd: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments

Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Apple Computer/Computers/Equip./Harris,WMS/Local – Removed: L. Majewski
Auto Zone/Educational Supplies/WACTC/Voc Revenue – Removed: L. Majewski
Dell/Computers/Equipment/District/Local – Removed: L. Majewski
Follett Library Services/Educational Supplies/WMS, Citizens/Get READY Library Grant
Fotodyne Incorporated/Educational Supplies/WHS/Perkins Grant
Highsmith/Educational Supplies/WMS/Get READY Library Grant
Keystone Information Systems, Inc./Software Implementation/Expenses/Business Office/Local
Marshall Cavendish/Educational Supplies/WMS/Get READY Library Grant
Nettie Alexander/Consultation Services/District/MSP PRIMES Grant – Removed: L. Majewski
Rhode Island Hydraulics/Lift Repair/WACTC/Local – Removed: L. Majewski
Tech Depot/Computers/Equipment/Coleman/Local
Woonsocket Police Department/Police Detail/WHS/Progressive Intervention Support Grant
World Book, Inc./Educational Supplies/District/Get READY Library Grant

3. Field Trip/Conference Requests

National Title I Conference, Nashville, TN/Globe Park/Title I Grant – Removed: L. Majewski
Air Force ROTC Drill Meet, Lassalle Institute/Troy, NY/Gov. Funded
Reading Recovery Council Conference, Columbus OH/Citizens Memorial/Reading Recovery Grant – Removed: L. Majewski
National Title I Conference, Nashville, TN/McFee/Title I Grant – Removed: L. Majewski

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Nadeau asked about field trips and whether or not all of them come before the WSC for approval. Dr. Macera explained that only the ones that are overnight come before the WSC. Nadeau reported that parents were concerned about a movie field trip that the WMS was scheduled for. Dr. Macera told her that that field trip has been cancelled. Students were to go see the movie, "The Golden Compass". Mrs. Nadeau noted that it's a very controversial movie and it was a poor choice by the teachers.

EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

1) Non-Certified Appointments: Hourly, Stipend & Extra-Curricular Positions

Mrs. Majewski asked if Susan Lanctot is a certified teacher. She was told that she is a Teacher Assistant. Dr. Macera added that there is a certified teacher also for Saturday Detention at the WMS. For the appointment for Child Outreach Screener, Majewski asked if there is a certified person screening with this person. Dr. Macera told her that the screeners are trained by Ms. Ziepniewski and are very well qualified.

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

• Apple Computers - \$5,432.05

Majewski asked where these computers will be used and how many are being purchased. Mrs. Goodman indicated the locations and quantities, which were listed on the requisition in their packet.

• Auto Zone - \$4,900.00

Majewski asked if the supplies go out to bid. Mrs. Goodman explained that they did not go out to bid and that this is a local company.

• Dell Computers - \$2,963.70

Mrs. Majewski asked if we have a discount program set up with this vendor. Goodman told her that they are on the state vendors list.

• Nettie Alexander - \$4,852.64

Majewski asked what this consultation is for. Linda Filomeno explained that she is an employee of the state and her job is to work with Woonsocket as the liaison between the state and Woonsocket. It is paid through a grant.

• RI Hydraulics - \$2,350.00

Majewski asked what kind of lift was being repaired. Goodman explained that it's an existing lift in the auto shop.

3) Field Trips/Conferences:

- **National Title I Conference**

Majewski noted that three people are going to the conference and two of them are listed with a room and board of \$861. She asked if that was per person and why do they each need their own room. Dr. Macera said that is the amount for each person for the number of days (4 days total). Mr. Dubois asked if the people attending could double up. Linda Filomeno explained that she and Pat Dubois are doubling up and Pat's conference request was already approved. One male teacher was going to attend, but can't go now so they may be able to have the two women stay in one room.

- **Reading Recovery Council Conference**

Majewski asked for a copy of the Reading Recovery budget and more information on the program.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE EXEMPTIONS FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: A. Forcier
2nd: L. Majewski (Unanimously Approved)

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Linda Majewski noted that Denise Auclair is the new co-chair of the Parents Advisory Council with Cindy McNeill. Their next two meetings are January 16th and March 19th. Mr. Dubois asked that the next agenda include the assignment of the WSC Subcommittees. Majewski asked for consideration of a new committee for Literacy, saying that parents seemed to be very concerned about the number of students below reading level during the last campaign.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1) **Approval of the Integration of Fourteen (14) Principles of Professionalism within the School Committee Ethics Policy –2nd Passage –Dr. Macera**

MOTION TO TABLE: E. Nadeau

2nd: L. Majewski Roll Call Vote: 4 yes.

Mrs. Nadeau noted that Linda Majewski wasn't present for the first passage and she should be allowed to absorb it before voting tonight. Nadeau also has problems with some of the wording in the Code of Ethics. Dr. Macera told her that the Code of Ethics is already part of the School Committee Policy and was passed previously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Approval of SC regarding Post Prom Parties and Teacher Relations- Shanna Molina-WHS Student, Dr. Bedard and Lisa DeCristopharo**

Victor Ramos for the Task Force on Substance Abuse spoke about a four-day conference that was held at Bryant University on teen spirit where students were challenged to come up with an action plan to help prevent teen substance abuse. One of the best ideas was the post prom party presented by Shanna Molina, who attended the conference. Shanna spoke about the event that is planned. It is her Senior Project for the WACTC. She wanted to do something on a subject she is adamant about. She did a survey with students. The police department thought that it would be better to hold a post-graduation party than post prom party. Mr. Dubois asked if there was a location selected yet. Shanna said that they thought the WHS would be the best place.

Motion to approve allowing them to plan an event: L. Majewski

2nd: E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote: 4 yes

Mrs. Majewski suggested contacting the Burrillville High School because they have had these events for years. They could provide information about where they get their funding. Mr. Ramos said that the Task Force does have some funding through grants for events like this.

CONFERENCES:

- **Title I Evaluation Report – Mr. Gerry Richards**

Mr. Richards spoke about the disconnect between what teachers are teaching and the tests the state gives. He commended the standards-based report cards. They did a correlation between the NECAP tests given in the Fall of '06 and what the students studied in the Spring of '06. He distributed the conclusions of that evaluation along with recommendations, such as implementing a pilot program at the WMS that would use performance-based report card rubrics instead of traditional report cards.

- **State Wide Curriculum – Linda Filomeno/Jonathan Gallishaw**

Linda Filomeno gave a PowerPoint presentation demonstrating how to navigate the RIDE website to get information on curriculum. Teachers are walked through the process on orientation day and given the User's Guide to the RI Statewide Curriculum. *Michelle Williams arrived at this point.*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera summarized her thoughts and reflections on the middle school project. She said that the City Council met last week regarding the middle school project and asked many questions regarding the location. She thanked everyone involved in working to see that this project comes to fruition. When she attended the Christmas Concert last night, she was informed about Senator Montalbono's comments that maybe the state can't fund this project. She was outraged. "The public in this city have spoken loudly about this project. The community needs this project. The children need this project. As superintendent, I am asking for our elected officials to honor their promises." In regards to the Title 1 Report and the emphasis on standard-based report cards, she noted that we have a committee working on this. Today she was informed that the alternate assessments have come in 3's and 4's for our developmentally delayed and special needs children. She is meeting tomorrow morning to discuss with the faculty at the WHS about adding service learning to their graduation requirements. Wished everyone a very fine, restful holiday season.

Motion to approve: A. Forcier

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:

Dubois: Welcomed Linda Majewski to the WSC, saying he looks forward to working with her the next two years. Regarding the statements made by the Governor and Senator Montalbono, he doesn't see how they can go back on something that was supported by the House and the Senate and a referendum voted for by the people. He asked Dr. Macera to let Mr. Fontaine know that at Citizens School there are no rails or lighting on the cement steps. Dubois feels that it's an accident waiting to happen. He asked Bill Legare about the bus rides last Thursday during the snowstorm. Legare said that the last bus arrived back in the yard by 5:30 p.m. and that everyone arrived home safely. Dubois said that they didn't receive one complaint and asked him to commend the drivers. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Majewski: Thanked the voters for putting faith in her. Thanked Mr. Legare and Dr. Macera for making sure the kids got home safe last Thursday. Asked if we have a video policy at the WMS. Dr. Macera told her that Pat McGee said they do. The videos must be related to the GLEs & GSEs and must be approved by the principal. Mentioned that there used to be a college planning night in October at the WHS and it hasn't been done in the last two years since Mr. Maloney left. She would like to see something instituted earlier in the year. In regards to choosing courses for next year, what has typically happened in the past is students are taken into the auditorium and given the course selections and parents aren't able to see what their kids are taking. She would like to see a night where the parents can come with the kids to choose their courses. Dr. Macera said she will speak with Barbara Dipardo. Many times, the course selections are given to the students to take home and the parents don't get them. Spoke about a homework policy and would like to see discussions take place regarding this. She mentioned that she's uncomfortable with the seating arrangements for the WSC because she can't see the faces of the people she has to make decisions with. Asked if there was any way to arrange the tables in order for that to be accomplished. Wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Forcier: Went to the special meeting with the City Council last Thursday and felt that all the unknowns were answered. Said that if the project isn't completed on the Hamlet Avenue site, the old WMS would need to be updated to fire code for about \$4 to \$5 million. We won't get reimbursed for that. She is very happy with the decision that the City Council made to keep the location at Hamlet Avenue. Thanked the band and chorus for the Christmas Concert. Congratulated 5th Avenue School on their award of \$5,000. Thanked the band, select chorus and ROTC who

participated in the WSC Inauguration Ceremony. She got calls about the sidewalks not being cleared. Her prayers go out the family of Ray Boucher. Dr. Macera said that Mr. Fontaine has been in contact with Mr. Annarummo regarding the sidewalks. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Nadeau: Asked if anything had happened regarding the 11 students involved in the fight at the WHS. Dr. Macera told her that the rest of them took part in hearings with Mr. Emerson and the WHS administration. Nadeau said she would like to know the results of those hearings. Wished everyone happy holidays.

Williams: Apologized for being late. Said she attended her daughter's Christmas Concert. Spoke about the man hit on Cumberland Hill Road, saying that she almost witnessed a student get hit off of Kendrick Avenue. "Something needs to be put at this intersection. One lane of cars may stop and then the other car in the next lane doesn't. Maybe a police officer at the middle school could work there at dismissal time."

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.: A. Forcier

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Secretary