

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2008
7:00 PM-OPEN SESSION
WACTC – RM. 303
MULTIMEDIA LAB

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

Roll Call:	Marc Dubois, Chairman	Present
	Michelle Williams, Vice Chairwoman	Present
	Eleanor Nadeau	Present
	Anita McGuire-Forcier	Present
	Linda Majewski	Present

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

Allen Auclair, 24 Florida Street: Wanted to recap on some of his suggestions about the funding for the education department. First, would be to have the unions reopen negotiations and discuss some of the salary items. He would like the committee to consider the suggestion of a joint superintendent with our surrounding communities. He suggested consolidating resources between the city and the school department such as custodians, clerical staff, maintenance programs, business programs, and technology to reduce duplications between the city and it's departments. Mr. Auclair stated that he sent out a couple of requests and never received a response regarding personal literacy plans. Each year in December the district has to submit district reports and school reports to RIDE on the PLP's that we have. He would like them posted on the website to have the information available to the public. He contacted RIDE and received a response from Sharon Osbourne and Roy Sitesinger. He asked them what is meant by the following statement which can be found in the PLP guidelines: The PLP process must be initiated on behalf of the student in accordance with district policy as determined by the local education agency (LEA) when students are identified as not reading at grade level through a screening and/or periodic progress monitoring. Mr. Auclair interprets district policy to mean that the school committee shall have a policy pertaining to the PLP process. The WSC does not have such a policy. Mr. Auclair said Mr. Sitesinger responded that districts should have a school committee level policy that describes their plans for such reform issues as outlined in the performance based regs. including graduation requirements and infrastructure requirements eg: ILP's and PLP's. The school committee should upon the recommendation of the superintendent adopt a policy that describes the implementations of PLP's and ILP's. He also asked are the school and district PLP reports as required by the PLP guidelines considered public information? He would like to ask the district to post these documents if they are public information. Mr. Sitesinger's response to this was that the forms for the ILP's and PLP's and the process described how they would be implemented and used over time are certainly for public consumption. Any forms with a student's name or where a student's identity can be determined would not be public information. The PLP forms applied to the state do not have the student's name. Sharon Osbourne confirmed this and it applies to grades K-12. Mr. Auclair spoke with Mary Ann Snider last week after hearing Dr. Garcia discuss the demographics at WHS. He tried to find out the breakdown of the drop out rate of 30%. Mary Ann Snider told Mr. Auclair that Dr. Macera should receive a report in May on the disaggregated data on the drop out rate at the WHS. By late June this should be made available to the public. Mr. Auclair would like a copy of this report. Dr. Macera responded to Mr. Auclair that on tonight's agenda under conferences Linda Filomeno will be presenting on the PLP plans. This would not be posted on the website without being presented to the school committee first. Dr. Macera stated as far as funding, we should be concentrating on the fair and equitable funding formula. Woonsocket would gain 13 million dollars.

Bill Legare, 664 Front Street: On tonight's agenda is the 2nd passage to approve the upcoming school year calendar. Half of the school busses operated the week before Labor Day this school year. If the calendar could be coordinated with the Catholic Regional Schools this would save a lot of money.

John Boudreau, Vice-President of WTG, 74 Beach Road, Cumberland: Would like to speak about the bid award for life insurance on tonight's agenda. He is concerned because one of the bids would save the school department money but would give the retirees an increase of over twice the amount they have been paying. Right now they are paying about \$44 for a \$10,000 life insurance policy. The other bid would be with Keough Kirby. A few years ago, Mr. Boudreau and Mr. DiPardo had to meet with Keough Kirby over the death of a former member. This person had been battling a disease and was out of work for almost a year on sick time. When it came time to collect from the insurance policy, the company refused because they were considered inactive. Keough Kirby fought with the insurance company for them. After many months of negotiating they did pay the policy. The point is sometimes the people you deal with is just as important as the price paid. If you could take this into consideration, he would appreciate it.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – Dr. Maureen Macera, Superintendent

Pleased to announce that on Thursday, March 27, 2008 students from the WACTC attended the R.I. Skills U.S.A. Competition at the Rhodes On The Pawtuxet. Our students won gold, silver, and bronze medals. The gold medal winner will travel to Kansas City to compete in the national competition in June. Dr. Macera congratulated all the students who competed. Their outstanding performances are well-noted and best wishes to their continued success. Also, congratulations to the WACTC students who participated in the 3rd annual Your Voice, Your View. It is an advertising contest sponsored by Day One in Providence. Keavin Smith, Jennifer Jackson, and George Velazquez received first place in the radio portion titled Just Ask. We look forward to hearing their ads on 92ProFM and Hot106 which will air throughout the month of April. We are very proud of these students and their accomplishments. An agreement was reached between the WACTC construction students and Gilbane to do onsite internship work with the construction of the WMS. This is a very exciting opportunity. Also, we received a Safe Schools Grant. This is a \$320,000 grant that will emphasize on the safety of our students to and from school. Dr. Macera thanked the WPD for the expert way they handled today's situation. Because of them, an 11-year-old girl is safe and reunited with her family.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Open & Closed Sessions of March 12, 2008

Motion to Approve: M. Williams **2nd: E. Nadeau & A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)**

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

EXEMPTIONS:

2. **Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000**
Phonak/Extended Service Plan-Audiometer/Sp. Ed./Local: Removed by L. Majewski
3. **Field Trip/Conference Requests**
Future Business Leaders of America Leadership Conference/Atlanta, GA/WHS/Student Funded: Removed by L. Majewski

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

said this is a good suggestion. Mrs. Forcier would like added to this policy to follow what is written in the student's IEPs. Dr. Macera stated that law is stronger than policy.

An amendment was made to include in bullet #1 that all IEPs will be honored: A. Forcier

2nd: E. Nadeau

An amendment was made to include parent signature: L. Majewski

2nd: E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote (including two amendments): (MD/yes; MW/yes; LM/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes.

Motion passed.

**Motion to approve the School Calendar 2008-2009 – 2nd Passage: M. Williams
Majewski & E. Nadeau**

2nd: L.

It costs an additional \$18,000 this school year to provide bussing to the Catholic Schools because they start before Labor Day. Michelle Williams suggested that if the Catholic Schools are not willing to start school after Labor Day next school year that maybe the following year we should go back to starting school before Labor Day which we used to do. Dr. Macera stated that we have a significant number of families that go away out of the country for the summer and they do not return until after Labor Day.

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; LM/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Land Purchase for WMS Project – Joel Matthews: E. Nadeau

2nd: A.

Forcier

Catherine Ady from the Department of Planning and Development spoke in place of Joel Matthews. The city was awarded \$600,000 grant money on the ground field program clean-up plan on Monday. First she would like to request to approve the resolution of the land purchase for the WMS project. This piece of land is the final piece of property that the city needs to purchase for the WMS project. It is the big mill that is closest to Morton Avenue and it includes the two small historic buildings. The City Council on Monday did approve the same version of this resolution. It is now before you. The price negotiated with the property owner is \$975,000. This is slightly more than we had estimated. Our appraisal came in for \$930,000; however, their appraisal came in for \$4.4 million. The negotiation was very successful and very amicable with the property owners. This will avoid the issue of eminent domain. There are a couple of stipulations with this purchase and sales agreement. There is one tenant left in the main mill building called Cool Air Creations. The agreement is that they can stay on free of rent until August 31, 2008. They will still have to maintain insurance and keep up the maintenance of the building. This will work out with our demolition construction schedule. It was also approved by the City Council to waive back city property taxes and fees for 3rd and 4th quarter. Mrs. Majewski asked if Mr. Ackerman had a chance to review this. He had not. Dr. Macera formally requested to have Joel Matthews forward this resolution to Mr. Ackerman.

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; LM/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

Discussion of Vehicular Traffic Plan and Pedestrian Restrictions for New Woonsocket Middle School Campus – Gilbane/Joel Matthews

Joanna Kripp, Senior Project Manager of Gilbane Building Company gave a presentation of how the construction should move along. She also explained the vehicular traffic plan and pedestrian restrictions that will take place. Mrs. Forcier asked if they could avoid closing Villa Nova Street. This will add additional bussing. Dr. Macera requested a two-week notice of any traffic changes to inform parents and arrange needed transportation. Mrs. Nadeau suggested having a shuttle bus at certain stops to pick up students. Mrs. Forcier, Ms. Nadeau, and Mr. Fontaine agreed to be on a committee.

2. Resolution and Support of a Bill submitted by Lisa Baldelli-Hunt concerning acceptance of gifts and grants

Lisa Baldelli-Hunt said she would be happy to submit legislation regarding the school calendar if the window is still available. She is here tonight because she submitted an act relating to education – compulsory attendance. This would allow the school committee to accept any donations, gifts, grants, equipment, supplies, and materials from basically anyone. Coventry is the only other community in the state who has this act. Mr. Dubois thanked Mrs. Baldelli-Hunt for starting this. Mr. Ackerman questioned if there is anything in this legislation that this would not affect the maintenance of effort by the municipality. For example, the city could not say the committee has received \$500,000 from a donor; therefore, that would be considered part of the city's contribution to the education department. Mrs.

Baldelli-Hunt said any donations would definitely not be counted in as part of the funds received for the school department.

Motion to approve this resolution and support of a bill: A. Forcier 2nd: E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; LM/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes. Motion passed.

3. BID AWARDS:

#08-10 Life Insurance

Dr. Macera recommended Keough Kirby. Keough Kirby would be more expensive to the school department but it would be most fair to our retirees. It is the right thing to do.

Motion to award to Keough Kirby from Sun Life as the carrier at a blended rate of \$.435 per thousand dollars of insurance: E. Nadeau 2nd: A. Forcier

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; LM/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes.

#08-15 Exterior Doors – Savoie

Motion to award to New England School Service of Medford, MA for the total amount of \$30,894: M. Williams 2nd: M. Dubois

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; LM/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes.

#08-16 Roof Repairs – Pothier

Mr. Fontaine explained that as you enter the main foyer in Pothier there is a large portico. At least three companies have already repaired this portico and it still leaks. The damage has compromised the roof area around the portico. This bid was sent out to repair and remove about 100 square feet of wet insulation that is now under the rubber roof of the portico. They will make new seams and seals around the portico. We will get a 2-year guarantee on the repairs done.

Motion to award to Patrick J. McKenna Roofing, Inc., for the total amount of \$14,750: M. Williams 2nd: M. Dubois

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; LM/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes.

#08-17 – Roof Repairs – WHS

Mr. Fontaine said they have been replacing the roof of WHS section by section. This is a continuation of that process. This roof will have a 20-year warranty.

Motion to award to Diversified Roofing, Inc., for the total amount of \$88,000: M. Williams 2nd: L. Majewski

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; LM/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes.

#08-18 – Ryobi Printing Press

Motion to award to Advanced Print Technologies of East Providence, RI for the total amount of \$21,425: A. Forcier 2nd: E. Nadeau & M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: (MD/yes; MW/yes; LM/yes; EN/yes; AF/yes) 5 yes.

4. Discussion of District Strategic Plan as Approved by RIDE – L. Filomeno

Linda Filomeno said that RIDE has allowed a 3-year District Strategic Plan. The plan is dated July 2007 – June 2010. We are to resolve and update it between the three years. In addition to these action plans,

Dubois: Asked if the OT's working for the NRI Collaborative would be allowed to work a second job. Dr. Macera said that is not in their contract. Mr. Dubois thanked the WPD for their quick response today. He was disturbed that this happened at 7:30 a.m. and found out about the incident at 4:00 p.m. from a radio station calling for a comment. He wished Miriam good luck.

Majewski: Stated that we really need our own superintendent. Joint superintendents work with communities that are already regionalized. She is concerned that DHS has stopped providing reimbursement for the services our guidance counselors and school psychologists provide. She would like to make sure that the schools are notified that they are open on April 22nd. She would like the school signs to state that school will be open on April 22nd. She would like the coaches to stay with students at outdoor fields until they are picked up. She is concerned about the cleaning at WMS. It has come to her attention that teachers bring in their own brooms. Dr. Macera and Mr. Fontaine spoke about the lack of cleanliness in some areas of WMS. This issue is being addressed. Mrs. Majewski wished Miriam well and she will be sorely missed.

Motion to adjourn at 9:45 pm.: A. Forcier
(Unanimously Approved)

2nd: E. Nadeau

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Gatta, WSC Recording Sub