

MINUTES

WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2008

7:20 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	Present
	Anita McGuire-Forcier	Present
	Eleanor Nadeau	Present
	Linda Majewski	Present

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera congratulated Claire Laquerre for being named as a Presidential Scholar in Math and Science. Macera was in attendance at the reception when she received this award and was extremely proud. Macera extended condolences to Alan Shawn Feinstein on the passing of his son. Congratulated Roger Picard on his recent election to the Senate. Announced that the students at Leo Savoie raised over \$1,000 for Pennies for Patients. Recognized all the school/nurse teachers during the week of May 4th through 10th during National School Nurse week. She announced that the WHS Music Department received trophies for all their ensembles at their competition in Williamsburg, Virginia. Dr. Macera recognized a 9th grade WHS student who recently had his book published. Also recognized the students who participated in the RI Urban Educational Symposium. Linda Filomeno made a presentation to these students at this time, saying that these students all got up and addressed the panel at the symposium, which isn't an easy thing to do at their age.

Motion to receive and place on file: MW

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimous)

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE: None

Mr. Dubois told anyone that had a bussing issue to see Bill Legare because he can't stay until the end of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Open/Closed March 26, 2008 and April 9, 2008

Motion to approve: M. Williams

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- *Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000: Discipline Associates, No. RI Collaborative, Univ. of MA Medical School – Removed by L. Majewski. Vortex, Wistow & Barylick removed by M. Williams*
- *Field Trips/Conference Requests: Connecting the Mind, Brain & Education Seminar – Removed by L. Majewski*

2nd: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments/
Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Discipline Associates/Professional Dev./Harris/Local, Title II – Removed by L. Majewski
Ducharme's Auto Body/Repairs Box Truck/Woonsocket School Lunch/Lunch Revenue
Lakeshore/Educational Supplies/Testing/Elem. Summer Enrichment /Title IV
New England School Services/Repairs/Social Street/Facilities/Local
No. RI Collaborative/Prof. Dev./Coleman, Harris, Citizens, Globe, WMS/Title I, Title V-Removed by Majewski
Pearson Learning/Educational Supplies, DRA Testing/District/Title I & Title V
Saddleback Education Publishing/Educational Supplies/WHS/Title V
Teachers Paradise.com, Inc./Ed. Supplies/Literacy, Prof. Dev./Title IV
University of MA Medical School/Med. Admin.FY08 /McFee/Local – Removed by L. Majewski
Vortex/Asbestos Abatement/WMS Inspection/Facilities/Local – Removed by M. Williams
Wistow & Barylick, Inc./Legal Services/McFee/Local – Removed by M. Williams

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE:** Mrs. Majewski reported that the process is continuing. The application date closed on April 18. Ten people have reviewed all applications. They have had a good deal of consensus as to who should be interviewed. There will be a meeting tomorrow night with the interview team to review questions. Majewski gave an agenda for this meeting to the WSC members tonight. Mrs. Nadeau added that there has been some media interest regarding when something should be written about this search. She noted that they will release information when they are ready and the media should contact her to get the information straight and accurate. Mrs. Majewski announced that a SELAC meeting is being held tomorrow night. Mr. Dubois felt that the superintendent search seems to be more important than the presidential elections. "We have had a group that feels excluded. Some think we have too many people on the committee and some think there's not enough. Not everyone can be pleased. I have full faith in Mrs. Nadeau and Mrs. Majewski in the running of the Search Committee. I fully support what they are doing. Mrs. Nadeau will be the spokesperson for the committee to the media," said Dubois.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Adjustment in Substitute Teacher Pay Rate – Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera informed the WSC that an increase in the substitute pay has not been increased in 10 years and we are having a very difficult time getting subs. We have the lowest pay rate of all the surrounding communities. She proposed raising the day-to-day rate from \$65 to \$75 and keeping it at that rate until day 91. Macera has instructed Kathy Lombardo to place another ad for substitutes in the Sunday paper. Mrs. Nadeau asked if we have enough money in the budget. "Last year we came in \$200,000 under the estimated budget," said Macera.

Motion to approve: A. Forcier

2nd: E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

2. Approval of 504 Policy per Office of Civil Rights – **1st Passage** – Dr. Macera, C. Lerner

Carole Lerner explained that this new policy came about as a result of a compliance settlement. This proposal has been put together and has to be approved by the Office of Civil Rights as well as the WSC. Mrs. Majewski asked how long it would be before a referral can be made. She was told that the RTI Team would determine that on a case-by-case basis. She also asked what would happen if a parent denies consent. Lerner explained that they cannot do an evaluation without written consent. "If a parent is determined to be medically neglecting a child, a referral must be made," said Lerner. Majewski also asked if a definition can be included under #9) Eligibility. She also noted that a few of the forms were not attached. Majewski wants added that a Complainant will be given a written copy of the decision. She asked what the makeup of the Hearing Committee was. Lerner said that they haven't determined that yet. Majewski also pointed out that the WSC level is missing before a complaint goes to the Commissioner's office. Dr. Macera told her that this is a very rough draft.

Motion to approve: M. Williams

2nd: E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

3. Discussion of City Audit Report – Braver – Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera said she is very proud of the district. We have seen enormous savings in our health care costs due to changes worked out with the unions in the current contracts. The audit report gave us an A+ mark in the way we manage our funds, for which she gave credit to Miriam Goodman. Macera mentioned a letter she sent out to parents to advocate for a fair funding formula in the state. "We stand to gain \$13 million in revenue if this formula passes. Tuitions for special needs students will be weighted with this new formula like it's done in every other state." She asked for everyone's help in advocating for this. Mrs. Majewski asked if the committee is writing a letter for support of this funding. Dr. Macera will have her secretary draft something for them. Mrs. Forcier asked if this can be placed on the next agenda for a resolution.

4. Approval of Elementary Handbook 2008-09 – **1st Passage** – Dr. Macera/K. MacBeth

Dr. Macera noted that this handbook would be printed in an 8 ½" x 11" format because parents complained about having trouble reading it in the smaller version. Mr. Dubois noted that the changes that they have are not in red on their copies. Therefore, the WSC members didn't know what revisions were made. Dr. Macera will have Doty print their copies in color next time.

Motion to Table: M. Dubois

2nd: E. Nadeau/M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

5. Memorandum of Agreement between St. Joseph's Church, Good Shepherd and WED – Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera noted that Item #4 will begin in 2008 – not 2007. This agreement is a shelter-in-place provision in case of an evacuation. It was brokered by the City. Mr. Dubois asked if there was any cost involved. Dr. Macera told him “no”. He thanked St. Joseph's and Good Shepherd School. Mrs. Majewski wondered if all the kids will fit in the gym there. Her kids attended there at one time and she knows how big it is. Dr. Macera said that Savoie School will also be used as well as the parking lot and the church.

Motion to approve: E. Nadeau

2nd: A. Forcier

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

6. Non-Renewal of Attorney Contract – M. Williams/Dr. Macera

This item was discussed under Closed Session per Atty. Ackerman's request and WSC approval.

CONFERENCES: NONE

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Macera

Dr. Macera reported that for the next four meetings she is planning with the directors and principals to get everything important attended to.

Motion to receive and place on file: E. Nadeau

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:

E. Nadeau: Expressed her sympathies to the family of Karyssa Lindsay and said she has the students in that class in her prayers because of all the loss they have suffered.

M. Williams: Passed.

M. Dubois: Expressed his condolences and concerns for the students at Globe Park. He announced that counselors are available for them. Announced that a ceremony for Savannah Smith is being held on the second Thursday in May at Globe Park.

L. Majewski: Extended her condolences to staff and students of Globe Park School. She asked if the staff reports at the same time on Friday mornings at the WMS because she has had complaints that there are no staff around outside on Friday mornings. Dr. Macera will address it with Dr. Magee. Majewski asked about the tardy policy at the WHS. Dr. Macera said that the number of tardies has reduced from 200 to 5. “It's had an extremely positive effect,” said Macera. Majewski asked if that policy can be put on the agenda to be included in our handbook. She congratulated the WHS Music Dept.

A. Forcier: Congrats to the WHS Music Dept. Said she has been doing research on the fair funding formula, adding that people have been calling the radio shows saying they are suing the state. “This formula isn't going to cost us any more money. What we have will just be distributed more fairly. We need to make some noise. Providence has filed a lawsuit as a school committee. We should all get together and make it happen!”

Motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Secretary