

MINUTES  
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009  
7:00 PM – OPEN SESSION  
Woonsocket Area Career & Technical Center  
Multimedia Room 303

**Call to Order / Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance**

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

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**PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:**

**Chris Beauchamp, 37 Meadow Road, Woonsocket, City Councilor:** Apologized to the WSC and to Dr. Gerardi for some of the comments that were made to them during the meeting on Monday night. "It was disrespectful and unnecessary. We all need to work together."

**John Ward, Getchell Avenue, Woonsocket, City Councilor:** Said he was disappointed on Monday night because he had hoped to get the supplemental tax passed. He knows what the outcome will be because he experienced it when he worked in another community. Ward assumes that the WSC will have to go to court and soon after, the Mayor will have to hire an auditor to have an audit done, which will take time. "When you hit June 30<sup>th</sup>, the fiscal year is over. It's pointless to be in court fighting it, because the bills will need to be paid. If we had taken the action to approve the minimum funding that the WED needs for next year, the most that the City can up the tax bill is set and we can only raise \$13 million, not the \$15 million needed. Salaries aren't going to go down. Benefits aren't going to go down. Heat, electricity, transportation costs, etc., aren't going to go down." He believes that as far as Medicaid reimbursements go, the WED will not be reimbursed for administrative expenses after July 1<sup>st</sup>. We won't get much in housing aid reimbursement because we haven't had much capital improvement. Ward listed all the tax increases that the City is going to have to raise next year for various items. He expects that when July gets here, Atty. Ackerman will just have to update the Caruolo Action to approximately \$7 million instead of the \$3.6 million the WED needs right now. He believes that the WSC must ask the union leadership to make meaningful concessions because when supplies are taken out of the school department budget, it's already over budget for next year with just the remaining purchased services, salaries and fringe benefits. "Nothing will change otherwise. It took four years in Johnston when I was there and the cost went up by \$6 million. This cost will double in two months."

**Evelyn Loggins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Community Representative:** Said that she was at the last meeting for her older daughter who was getting an award. Her third grader was also present and Loggins thought that Mrs. Nadeau was very disrespectful when speaking about students, parents and teachers, etc. She mentioned how Nadeau spoke about the "culprit" who pulled a fire alarm at the high school and about parents who didn't know how to dress and that's why their kids don't know. Loggins asked Nadeau where she was when the money for textbooks was being cut from \$800,000 five years ago to \$35,000 now and told her to remember her name because she will be running for school committee. Mrs. Nadeau rebutted her comments, clarifying what her comments were at the last meeting.

**John McLaughlin, South Main Street, Retired Teacher:** Said he believes that Bill Legare put in the lowest bid for bussing for the WED, but may not get the contract because the state wants to consolidate routes and bussing services. Legare agreed. "It's very possible that even though he can provide lower cost services, we may not be able to use him," said McLaughlin. He added that there are state representatives that can help us and we need to call them. He has always pushed for a budget where everyone can see where the money goes. McLaughlin said he has property in Maine and everyone gets a budget and can plainly see where the money goes. "Not the case in Woonsocket. It makes me very suspicious." He spoke about a research paper he did a few years ago on how much each town was spending on education from their property taxes. "Every other town spent twice as much on education as Woonsocket did." He believes that most of the property taxes are going to the municipal side and that the public needs to see what the budgets are. McLaughlin referred to what Mrs. Nadeau had said about the child with the pants below his rear end, saying that she was speaking in a very compassionate way.

**Marissa Silva, Chorus and Band Member at WHS:** She spoke in support of the music department at the WHS, saying it's the students at the WHS who will be the future taxpayers in Woonsocket and leaders in the community. She thinks the City Council is forgetting that. She has had many opportunities at the WHS and has won many competitions as part of the music department. She has sung at many functions throughout her high school career. The program has prepared her for her chosen career path in music. Silva spoke about the value of music in education.

**Wesley Wynekoop, WHS Band Member:** Wesley spoke about how music has influenced him and that he has been accepted in the study abroad program "Up With People". He spoke about the impact that Mr. Plouffe and the other music teachers have had on him and feels that upcoming musicians won't have the opportunities that he had. He worries about what will happen to the high school if the one good thing is taken away. "It's one of the positive things you read about in the paper instead of all the negatives."

**Dennis Auclair, 24 Florida Street:** Auclair stated that he had asked this WSC to create a vision of what they expected the school department to look like five years from now. He hasn't heard from anyone. He's not for raising taxes, but he is for improvement. Auclair read from an article that he had found regarding performance versus entitlement.

**Junior and Chorus Member at the WHS:** Stated that she also plays three sports and how these activities motivate her in school. She spoke about her opportunities to try out for All-State Chorus and what a great experience it was for her. Sports help her keep her grades up. She can't imagine coming to school next year without these activities. She feels they will also help her get into college. She heard parents at the City Council meeting the other night say they wanted taxes to be raised if it means keeping these programs for their kids. "We are the future of this city."

**Jill Badeau, 127 Atlanta Street, teacher, landlord, parent of two students in Woonsocket schools:** Both of her children went to parochial school until 8<sup>th</sup> grade, but they wanted to go to the WHS for high school. She was happy they chose the WHS because of the opportunities they had with sports and the other activities there. "They have flourished in Woonsocket and they could have gone anywhere." She has told people how great the school is and how glad she is that they go to a multicultural school. "I am very scared about what's going to happen to them now. As a teacher, I was hired in Cumberland even though I had put in an application in for Woonsocket. I wasn't called. After three years in Cumberland, Woonsocket found my application and called me and I came." She said the teachers work hard and spend their own money on supplies for their kids. "They just want to get compensated for what they do." As a landlord, she tries to convince her tenants to stay in Woonsocket and send their kids to it's schools, but it's getting harder and harder.

**Brittany Lawson, WHS student athlete:** Brittany said she has participated in many sports in track and field and has even been accepted to Ivy League colleges because of her sports accomplishments. She is working on getting scholarships. Sports have had a big influence on her because without them, she wouldn't have had a way to go to college. Brittany said she's passing all of her classes and never would have without track and field. To have it taken away in her last year would be terrible. She wants kids to have the same opportunities that she has had.

**Lee Meyer, Cherry Hill Avenue:** She went to the City Council meeting on Monday, adding that she's a WHS graduate of 1973. "It troubles me to see where we are. I'm on the fence with the tax increase. Without a good school, we will lose our town." She had some excellent teachers at the WHS and is now a manager at one of the biggest companies in this city without a college education. "We need to take a good hard look at where we are going. I have no kids in this system and I use very few city services. We cannot let this city die."

**Richard DiPardo, 134 Huntington Avenue, WTG President:** DiPardo mentioned that Brittany Lawson was one of his last students. He loves to see citizen participation, but likes to see the facts be expressed as well. "The teachers in Woonsocket care deeply about their students. I retired in December, but stayed until the end of January without pay because I felt it was the right thing to do. At the City Council meeting, I kept hearing that we don't know what goes on in the real world. The numbers of the school department deficit are real. Mrs. Nadeau, Attorney Ackerman and myself go a long way back. On Monday night, the City Council had a chance to make an act of good faith and they failed the test." DiPardo thanked Mr. Ward, Mr. Fontaine and Mr. Schneck for doing the right thing. "The other four votes had already been cast, so they could have easily changed their vote to make it unanimous, but they didn't. They have my vote for whatever they run for." He thinks the WED is doing a wonderful job and has made great strides. "There hasn't been a labor dispute since the early 1980's. After what happened on Monday, I will not go back to my members again. There was no act of good faith shown. Unless there is some movement from the City side that will show an act of good faith, then this process will work out in court. There seems to be a culture here in the city to let the courts settle things so no one has to take the blame. Blame the court!" DiPardo reminisced about how former Mayor Charles Baldelli came to speak to one of his classes years ago and what he said to his students. DiPardo doesn't think the citizens of Woonsocket were properly represented on Monday night. "These kids deserve it, they need it, and the teachers work hard to provide it."

**Linda Filomeno, Director of Grants & Literacy:** Informed the public about the WED's test scores in response to comments made by Allen Auclair. She said that from 2005 to 2008, all of our scores have gone up with one exception. A more detailed report will be given at a later date. In Math, out of other schools with the same demographic, Woonsocket students didn't score badly in comparison. "Other districts with much less poverty than us scored lower than we did. This is the result of the hard work by teachers, teacher assistants, administrators and other staff in this district. It's a privilege to work with them."

**Jean Bodnick, Bourassa Avenue:** Spoke as a business owner, homeowner and parent, saying it's very difficult to get up and speak out when you have a business. She congratulated everyone for rallying the troops and getting the children and parents here. Bodnick asked why the school department has to file a lawsuit, saying she knows that Dr. Gerardi inherited this problem and giving him credit. She got a call from a guy who said that his daughter told him that sports and music will be cut. Her daughter is a WHS senior and told her about the sports and activities being cancelled and that school may have to close early. Bodnick thinks that threats of closing school early are a scare tactic. She told the kids that there are some sacrifices that they might have to make. "The parents are making sacrifices too." She spoke to some new teachers and they said they don't agree with everything the unions do but they don't want to be the odd man out. "Everyone should be paid what they're worth, but everyone has to make sacrifices." She commended all the City Councilors because it wasn't easy for them either. She knows that those who voted against have gotten harassed. "Taxpayers can't afford to pay any more," Bodnick said as she held a "TEA" Party sign and added that her prayers are with the WSC and City Council.

**Diane Hosanco, parent:** Said she's against the school uniform policy because her daughter loves pink and purple and she would have to tell her daughter that can't wear those colors to school anymore.

**Normand Piette, Bluestone Drive:** Noted that everyone applauded the people who were supportive of the supplemental tax bill. He really appreciated that girl who spoke from her heart (Brittany Wilson), even though it was very difficult for her. Piette said he's part Indian and told her that she's a warrior because she had courage. "She's a product of this system and that says a lot of good about it." He thinks we all want the same things for our kids. His kids are grown and gone, but he knows he needs to pay his fair share to make the system work. "The idea of 36 school districts in a state this size is ludicrous. Everyone says it's about the kids and if it's about the kids, they've been getting the short end of the stick for a long, long time. Very little goes to supplies and books and the things they need. We have to do better. Think out of the box. We need to do business differently because it's not working."

**Keith Gillette, student:** He doesn't think they should cut anything because he goes to band and wants to be able to do the things that all the other speakers were able to do.

**Donna Houle, 130 Ward Street, Change Leader for RIPIN:** Said she was delighted to see everyone here tonight. "The only way to have change is to continue to come and participate in the process. The more involved everyone is, the more our students will benefit." She asked about listing the purchases over \$2,000 again on the school committee meeting agenda. Dr. Gerardi told her they were taken off to save money for the advertisements in the paper, but they can be put back on for the public copies at the meeting.

**Diane Dicoste, WHS Music Teacher:** Said she got an email from her daughter saying that she won't be able to graduate until September and won't be able to go to college in the fall and get her scholarships. Dicoste thinks it's a scare tactic and doesn't think it's fair to them. "They don't need to be worrying about this kind of thing in their last year."

**Jeff Hardy, Carnation Street:** Thinks communication is key. He remembers when TAs were going to be cut a few years ago and they rallied a bunch of people and they were rehired. "The two middle schools were a hard sell, but people rallied and they were approved." He asked what the unions have given up. "The guy paying the tax bill doesn't know. Maybe if he did, then the vote would go the other way."

**Ms. Forcier, 210 Cottage Street:** "We need to send a message to the City that it needs to fund the schools. The City didn't fund the schools for almost ten years up until recently. Everyone brags about not getting a tax bill and now you get one and you complain! Come on people!"

**Tracy Belliveau, teacher:** She sat at the City Council meeting and people spoke that didn't know what has gone on because they don't come to meetings where all their questions were discussed. It really angered her. The supplemental tax bill would cost most people in the city about \$200. She doesn't think that's much. "I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> year teacher and don't make a lot of money. I was just disappointed about the people that spoke that night."

**Lisa Alves, WHS Music Teacher:** Commended the WSC and said she was also very frustrated about the City Council's and the public's lack of understanding of the problems we are facing. "Students have been speaking at meetings for months." She reminded everyone that as of right now, music and art have been placed outside the regular school day at the middle school next year.

**Bill Schneck, Woonsocket City Councilor:** Said that they have had meeting, after meeting, after meeting and knew what the choices were. The vote took him off guard and he was taken aback. He said the people who didn't want a supplemental tax bill won't be happy when they get their tax bill in July. Schneck noted that Woonsocket has the third highest tax rate for businesses in the state. "We aren't very business friendly in this city." He spoke in support of the sports and music programs and thinks they can continue until the end of this year, but maybe not next year. "If not, there will be a big "For Sale" sign on this city."

**Michelle Denton, WMS Music Teacher:** Denton informed everyone that there are RI College students who come and do their internships here that may need to be told we may not have a music program next year. She's going to ask the City Council to come to her room and tell her students there will no longer be music.

**Denise Auclair, Harris Ave., PAC Co-Chair:** Thanked parents and students for the respect they have shown at the City Council and WSC meetings, adding that the students spoke from the heart. She stressed the need for communication, because she was listening to the radio talk shows today and is still shaking from what she has heard. Auclair asked about the May 18<sup>th</sup> school closing date rumor going around. She asked that a letter be sent home to parents when something is finalized. "These rumors need to be settled."

**Dr. Gerardi, Superintendent:** He stated that there was a misrepresentation in the paper of something that was said at the meeting Monday night. "Teachers are reading what was in the paper. It can't happen. There are laws. We can't just close schools down." He assured everyone that school will go on and students will get their diplomas. "There was a mis-statement at the City Council meeting, which wasn't from the school department; and I knew it might be a problem when it was said."

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**RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Robert Gerardi**

Dr. Gerardi spoke about Harris Elementary School students marching in a Vocabulary Parade dressed as vocabulary characters. He announced that Mr. Joseph Nasif has been hired by the RIDE to be a consultant to study our leadership capacity. Mr. Nasif was the former Superintendent of Schools in Cumberland as well as interim Superintendent working in Lincoln and Woonsocket in the past. He has been a Professor at Providence College for many years as well. Gerardi is glad to have the support of such a seasoned professional. He thanked the Mayor's staff and the City Council for allowing us to request the Supplemental Tax at Monday night's City Council Meeting. Gerardi addressed concerns that school will be closed due to lack of funding in May or that students will be deprived of a diploma. He stated that while comments made at meetings that sometimes seem frightful to the adults and students, it's important to understand that we are in uncharted territory and that many of those concerns are just speculative. He assured students and parents that, ultimately, the law and the state and local officials will resolve our problems. Education is a state responsibility according to the Constitution of the United States and it will be upheld.

Motion to receive and place on file: E. Nadeau

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 8, 2009 OPEN/CLOSED**

Motion to approve as corrected: A. Forcier

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

Mrs. Nadeau noted that one of her concerns regarding the Science Safari on Pg. 6 was that ***"They only received the request two weeks ago and she wanted to know where the funding for the substitute was coming from."*** This sentence to be inserted after *"Seeing the dire straights we're in, even if she is self-funding the trip, we would have to provide a substitute."*

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

- *Personnel Actions: FOCUS Teacher shared position – removed by L. Majewski*

2<sup>nd</sup>: **A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Personnel Actions
  - Certified Appointments/
  - Non-Certified Appointments
2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000
3. Field Trip/Conference Requests
  - MATSOL Conference, Leominster, MA/McFee, Coleman Citizens/Title III Grant
4. Home Schooling Requests

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**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:**

**PERSONNEL ACTIONS: Hourly, Stipend and Extracurricular Positions**

- **Jean Capitumini, FOCUS Teacher for English (WHS) position shared with another teacher**

Mrs. Majewski wanted to know who that position is shared with because only one person was listed to be appointed. Dr. Gerardi didn't have the information at the time, but will get it for her.

**Motion to approve pending a conversation with Dr. Gerardi: L. Majewski  
2<sup>nd</sup>: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)**

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**COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1. Corrective Action Plan/Caruolo Act Update - Dr. Gerardi**

Dr. Gerardi provided the School Committee with a draft of the letter he was asking for approval to send to the Auditor General, which he read. In addition to this letter, he said we must now prepare for a Caruolo Action and prepare data our attorney will need in order to prepare the documents for court. Gerardi researched a Caruolo Action and what it means for sports and extracurricular activities with other districts that have already been through or are currently going through a Caruolo action. They said that although these activities do not fall under Contracts, Law, or Regulations, they interpreted these activities as deemed to be required by virtue of it always being there. He noted, however, that interpretations are tricky and can be quickly overruled by a judge, so it will be a gamble on our part. He believes that because we have already paid the \$4,300 fee to be members of the Interscholastic League, that we have an obligation to finish this season and that a judge would find it unreasonable for us to forfeit games with other district members of the interscholastic league. Also, he believes that if you withdraw from the interscholastic league, you are banned from participation for 2 years after that. Therefore, he recommended that we do not cut sports and activities for the duration of this school year and continue to look for other cuts and savings as we proceed through the rest of the year. He cannot promise that these activities will be spared in next year's budget as he looks at scheduling for the high school next year. Because of the City Council's vote on Monday not to fund the deficit for FY09, we will have a larger deficit to budget for in FY2010. Under those circumstances, it is highly likely that we will be involved in a Caruolo Action for 2010. Therefore, he requested that the school committee authorize him to pursue the following potential cuts for 2010: 1) The elimination of all general education bussing as Pawtucket did 30 years ago. Only students with disabilities as required by federal law would receive bussing. This could be a million dollar savings in our 2010 budget; or 2) Bussing redistricting which would require many elementary students who are currently being bused to schools outside of their walking distance to their neighborhood school to now attend the neighborhood schools that they can walk to; and 3) Auditing all alternative programs to determine cost effectiveness and consider termination of some or all of those programs; and 4) Reviewing the cost effectiveness of the Kindergarten teacher's assistants.

**At this point (9:30 p.m.), a break was taken to allow the videotape to be changed.**

When the meeting resumed, Dr. Gerardi said that a couple of students had approached him during the break requesting that we hold off filing for Caruolo and try to have another meeting with the City Council. He said that it's not out of the question, but that right now, he has to file a Caruolo Action because by law we have to have a balanced budget. Mrs. Nadeau noted that at least one person on the City Council needs to change their vote in order to avoid a Caruolo Action. "It's going to cost the City more in the long run," she said. Mrs. Williams didn't agree that children should have to sacrifice their education, as someone had said during Good & Welfare. She urged people to turn out like they did tonight and Monday night when the legislature is considering a fair funding formula. Mrs. Forcier agreed and doesn't think parents should put up with their kids having to sacrifice their education. "Even if we get the tax increase, we won't even be close to providing our kids with an equal education compared to Lincoln, Cumberland, North Smithfield, and don't even mention Barrington! We were promised a fair funding formula before the state put a tax cap on and they lied to us. We need to show up at the State House when the fair funding formula comes up and let our voices be heard. I have been saying for two years that we should sue the state for a fair funding formula," said Forcier. "If we don't invest in education today, we reinvest in poverty tomorrow. There are no winners in this situation. If people think there was a victory on Monday, they're wrong, because the students will still lose, we will still educate them and the bill will still have to be paid," said Mrs. Majewski. Mr. Dubois said that up until recently, we were level-funded by the City for ten

years. He thanked the three councilors who voted in favor on Monday night. He spoke about the other tax bills coming for the water treatment plant and trash fees. He feels that the most important thing should be our kids. Dubois said it was great to see twenty-six people speak under Public Good & Welfare tonight.

Motion to authorize Dr. Gerardi to send the letter to Mr. Almonte: M. Dubois  
2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams/A. Forcier Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

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**2. Approval of School Calendar 2009-2010 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Passage - Dr. Gerardi**

Dr. Gerardi informed the WSC that no changes had been made since 1<sup>st</sup> Passage and recommended approval.

Motion to approve the 2009-2010 School Calendar: M. Williams 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Dubois  
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

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**3. Approval of School Uniform Recommendations – 2<sup>nd</sup> Passage - Linda Majewski**

Mr. Dubois recommended approving this item and then putting footwear on it at a later date. Mrs. Majewski said that the Uniform Committee will be meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> and will review this issue also. Mrs. Forcier said that she would be voting “no” because she believes footwear should be part of the package and Mrs. Nadeau agreed with her. Some WMS Faculty members pointed out to her that if students are all wearing one color shirt, if a kid gets in trouble, they can’t be identified by what they were wearing which can be very helpful in some cases. They suggested that each grade level have a different color shirt. “Many people think the enforcement of this total dress code is going to be very difficult—especially at the WHS. They have trouble enforcing the dress code now! They don’t have the staff. The weak point is at the high school. It’s a very difficult building to manage and would be hard to do it all at once,” Nadeau said. Mrs. Williams thought that being able to wear a different color shirt would be a good idea. Dubois asked about the students at the WACTC and whether it would apply to them and what about the kids that are bussed there and take classes at the high school. Mrs. Forcier heard concerns about the maroon shirts, but is concerned that if kids are allowed to choose a color, the gangs will be wearing their colors. “It’s a reality. Maybe we can do a maroon shirt and a white shirt,” said Forcier. Since there were many questions to be answered, a motion to table was made.

Motion to Table: M. Dubois 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams  
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. TABLED.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Appointment of Director of Administration and Finance – Dr. Gerardi**

While they had several qualified candidates, Dr. Gerardi reported that they have not resolved the terms of hiring for their first choice at this time. He asked that this item be tabled for the next meeting.

Motion to Table: M. Dubois 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams  
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. TABLED.

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**2. Discussion of Woonsocket High School Scheduling – Dr. Gerardi**

To find more savings in the FY2010 budget, Dr. Gerardi has worked closely with the secondary principals and guidance counselors to review the scheduling of the High School and Woonsocket Area and Career Technical Center next year. Their mission was to only run classes at near maximum staffing ratios of 30 students in a class. They found that they could reduce the teaching staff by a net total of 7 teachers, which includes the elimination of the Secondary Supervisors. Fortunately, RIDE has funded a consultant, Joe Nasif, the former Superintendent of Cumberland, to do a Leadership Capacity Study. He will be looking at alternative solutions to the secondary supervisor model.

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**By unanimous consent, the Supt.’s Report and WSC Good & Welfare were taken out of order.**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Dr. Robert Gerardi**

He had the opportunity to visit the E-Learning academy and saw students doing great work. He met with national e-learning representatives and they called our program a model in New England. He was very proud of that fact, but was dismayed and saddened that this program, which helps students graduate on time and saves the district money in the long run, may have to be sacrificed because of short-term funding solutions or lack of solutions.

Motion to receive and place on file: L. Majewski 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unan. Approved)

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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:**

**L. Majewski:** Extended her condolences to Mayor Menard on the loss of her daughter. Thanked Dr. Gerardi for clearing up the rumors about school closing early. She asked if they could have a list of retired personnel and those that will not be replaced by June. She also asked about when they would be seeing the FY09-10 budget. Thanked Mr. Ward for all his hard work and repeated, "If we do not invest in education today, we will reinvest in poverty tomorrow."

**A. Forcier:** In regards to Mr. Auclair's comments about more money not being the answer, she said, "Let them take money away from Barrington and East Greenwich and see how they feel." She thanked the members of the City Council and told Dennis Auclair that he has heard from her about the vision for the district. She attended the same workshop as he did.

**E. Nadeau:** Commended everyone who attended the City Council meeting, saying it was like the "Christians vs. the Lions". "All the students were very respectful. When Dr. Gerardi got up to say something, Larry Poitras, Principal of the Good Shepherd School and a talk show host, asked him what his address was. Three elderly ladies behind us were heckling him. If the students had done that, they would call the talk show the next day and say how rude they were and that kids were never like that in their day!" She agrees with Mr. DiPardo and his stand on reopening the contracts next year if the City had shown good faith and they didn't. She thinks they should accept that challenge. "Do the brave thing – not the political thing!"

**M. Williams:** Said she remembers that Dr. McGee recently reported here the test scores at the WMS and how they all went up. She doesn't know where Mr. Auclair is getting his numbers, but they are incorrect. She commended everyone who spoke tonight, especially the kids. She apologized for not being at the City Council meeting Monday and the last WSC meeting due to a personal family situation. Williams asked Atty. Ackerman if in his recollection there was a city in the state going Caruolo and having to cut sports and extracurricular activities. He told her, "Ultimately, there are bills that have to get paid. Routinely these things get sent to be worked out and to mediation by the judge. In the old days, only the BEP was funded, but now they may not be cut because they are already in the budget," he said. "If this supplemental tax was passed, the kids, parents, and teachers wouldn't be worrying. We haven't had a tax increase in ten years. It's about time!" she said.

**M. Dubois:** Expressed his heartfelt sympathy to Mayor Menard. Thanked Chris Beauchamp for coming to the last two meetings. To the other WSC members and Dr. Gerardi, he said, "We have been getting beaten up a lot. I suggest everyone keep their head up high. We are all taxpayers too and we were elected to advocate for our children." He hopes there is a ray of light and that this doesn't have to go to court. To Ms. Loggins, he said, "I don't feel that the words 'culprit' or 'appropriately dressed' are offensive to anyone. When you ran for school committee a couple of years ago, I helped you and I hope that what you did here tonight wasn't your way of campaigning. Don't make this a smear campaign."

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**CONFERENCES:**

School Success Coalition Presentation- Brandeis University & United Way-D. McGaw, D. Houle

Darlene McGaw from Family Resources and Alan Melchior from Brandeis Univ. reported on a project that was funded by the United Way of Rhode Island, which involved a survey of parent involvement in the school and what steps schools are taking to increase this involvement. Two surveys were provided – one for parents and one for teachers. Mrs. Forcier thought that parents should be asked what shift they work or how many jobs they have, because it makes a big difference whether they are home or not.

Motion to adjourn at 10:40 p.m.: A. Forcier

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Secretary