

NEW BUSINESS: (taken out of order)

3. Discussion/Approval of Revised FY10 Budget – 1st Passage: Dr. Gerardi

Dr. Gerardi noted that he provided the WSC with a revised WED FY10 budget that complies with the City Council appropriation. In order to comply with the level funding that was approved, drastic measures had to be taken. A description of the items that he and Stacy Busby were able to identify as above the BEP was also provided, noting that they should, therefore, be cut from the FY10 budget. Included in these cuts were: 1) all sports except for track and field in which both boys and girls can participate, 2) athletic supplies, and 3) athletic uniforms. These cuts amounted to \$178,003. The textbook account was cut by \$234,637. All student activities were cut with the exception of chorus, class advisors Gr. 8 through 12, RI Honor Society, National Honor Society, band, drama, senior high publication, and VICA for a reduction of \$49,461. Saturday Detention was cut for a savings of \$2,000. Gerardi has also included a memo to the RI Commissioner of Education requesting waivers that include cuts that we have already made but are technically not in compliance with Board of Regents regulations. Unfortunately, these cuts only reduced the deficit from approximately \$6,900,000 to approximately \$6,000,000. He reviewed the cuts and gave his rationalization for each. He also read his letter to Commission Gist in its entirety. Gerardi also included a memo to the Woonsocket Teachers Guild in regard to Concessions that will be needed in order for this budget to comply with the City Council's FY10 budget which would require a concession from the Teachers' Union for 40 furlough days (days worked without a per diem payment) for FY10. The request for 40 furlough days amounts to \$6,084,033 in savings to the district. He also included a memo to the Mayor and the City Council that will be sent to them should this amended budget be passed tonight. Gerardi said it wasn't his wish to put this budget forward, but he felt compelled by RI GL 16-2-21.4 Section (b) to forward a budget within 30 days that complies with the city appropriation. Having analyzed the WED budgets for over a year, he can find no other expenses that are above and beyond the BEP or normal operating costs for a school district in the State of Rhode Island. In the letter to the RI Commissioner of Education, she is being asked to overturn our decision as only she has the authority to do so. He reminded the school committee that we are compelled by law to provide this amended budget and we must pass it within the 30-day timeline. He recommended that they approve the amended budget as presented and the letters that have been written in advance to notify all constituents of the amended budget.

Mrs. Nadeau asked how the outcome of the first Caruolo lawsuit would impact this budget. "If the judge determines that we did not mismanage our money, he can order the city to raise taxes to cover the deficit by sending out a supplementary tax bill. We would still have a \$3.2 million deficit left for FY10," said Gerardi. Mr. Dubois was disappointed with the City Council level-funding the school department again for the 8th year in a row. "The parochial schools have asked for \$15,000 in textbooks because we are required to replace their textbooks every five years, but our students have textbooks that are ten and twelve years old!" he said. Mrs. Majewski asked when the 30-day deadline was up and she was told by Dr. Gerardi that it was July 22nd. She made a recommendation that, should the union reject the proposal for the 40 furlough days, we not cut the sports and try to come back with something else. Mrs. Forcier noted that if we keep sports in, we risk losing the Caruolo action. She asked if the administrators will be included in the 40 furlough days. Ms. Busby told her, "Yes. It would be a 20% pay cut for everyone." "The Governor did it to balance his budget and the legal advice we got was to follow the Governor's lead. Our hope is that the Commissioner will overrule us on the sports," said Gerardi. Mrs. Forcier said she called the Commissioner's office and spoke to David Abbott. "Their answer was that it's why we have the BEP when she brought up how we will have 5-year-olds walking to school and no sports or extracurricular activities," she said, urging everyone to call the Commissioner and attend a meeting being held by the Board of Regents on August 6th. "We need to go as a big group and speak under Good & Welfare at their meeting. None of us wants to do this and pass this budget tonight," said Forcier. All the other school committee members expressed the same sentiment. "It's not us. It's the laws in the state," said Williams. She thinks parents should contact the state representatives in the suburbs and tell them how they feel about their kids not being able to have the same things that the kids in the suburbs get. "We need to call and explain to them what our kids don't have that their kids have," she said. Mrs. Forcier is upset that the state has level-funded us for the third year in a row, yet the state representatives say they want a fair funding formula. Mr. Dubois reiterated that they don't want to do this, but they have to abide by the law.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED FY10 BUDGET: M. Williams
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

2nd: M. Dubois
APPROVED FOR 1ST PASSAGE

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve Consent Agenda: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments/Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Bank of America/Copier Leases/McFee, Fifth, Pothier, Harris, WACTC/Local
Diane Vachon/Nursing Services/Sp. Ed./Local
Dr. Terry Harrison Goldman/Student Eval/Sp. Ed./Local – FY09
Konica/Copier Usage/Bernon, Citizens, Globe/Local
Lindenmeyr Munroe/Paper FY10 Printing/District/Local
Sue Prentiss/Physical Therapy Services/Sp. Ed./Local
Trapeze Software Ohio, Inc./Transportation Software Maint./District/Local
Virtual High School/Annual Membership Fee/e-Learning/Local

3. Field Trip/Conference Requests

Otis Air Base-Cape Code, MA/WHS/AFJROTC

4. Home Schooling Requests

5. Redistribution of Obsolete DRA Kits (Title I)-L. Filomeno

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mrs. Majewski reported that there was an article in The Call about the school uniforms. She thanked the Uniform Committee for working tirelessly for six months to put together a prototype. She also thanked the PAC for their work and congratulated them on their 5-year anniversary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Caruolo Action Plan Update - Dr. Gerardi

Dr. Gerardi announced that we have a court date scheduled on Monday, July 20th, at Superior court with Judge Proccasanti to address the FY09 budget Deficit. Once the case begins being heard, he will have more to report. At the last court date, the City asked for a continuance in hopes that the City Council would solve our problem by passing the Mayor's proposed FY010 budget. That did not happen and the bills did not get paid. Gerardi and the WSC are concerned that the City will ask for another continuation which will only delay the process and cause the taxpayers to pay more money in legal fees and less time on solutions to reasonably reduce expenses.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. BID AWARD: S. Busby, Business Manager

• **#10-17 Roof Repairs – WHS**

Motion to approve the award to Patrick J. McKenna Roofing, Inc., for a total of \$207,400: A. Forcier
2nd: M. Dubois Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. APPROVED

• **#10-11 Food Service Program**

Motion to approve the award to Sodexho School Services: A. Forcier/M. Williams
2nd: E. Nadeau Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. APPROVED.

• **#10-06 Nursing Supplies**

Mrs. Majewski asked if any of these supplies are covered by Medicaid reimbursements. Ms. Busby will check into it and let her know.

Motion to approve the award to Medco Supply Co., William MacGill & Co, Geriatric Medical, and Supreme Medical for a total of \$11,949.20: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Williams

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. APPROVED.

- **#10-03 Athletic Supplies / #10-04 Athletic Uniforms / #10-05 Athletic Medical**

These bids were not awarded due to the vote taken on the FY10 Budget tonight which cut the sports program, except for track and field.

2. Appointment of Administrative Positions – Dr. Gerardi

- **Director of Instruction & Administration**

Dr. Gerardi read his recommendation letter for Mark C. Garceau for appointment as Director of Instruction & Administration. He added that there had been some discussion in preparation for the contract negotiations that, because this position is a Superintendent-certified position, a standard Superintendent- level contract of 2 to 3 years should be entertained. In light of these discussions, Gerardi's contract was sent to the school committee for reference as a model. Since there may be details that need to be worked out, he recommended that the school committee members forward their recommendations to the Chair, Mr. Dubois, so he can sit with the Appointee and iron out the details in the final contract. Mr. Dubois thanked everyone on the interviewing committee for all their hard work.

Motion to approve the appointment of Mark C. Garceau: E. Nadeau

2nd: L. Majewski

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. APPROVED.

- **Director of Grants and Assessment**

Dr. Gerardi read his recommendation letter for Siobhan Ryan for appointment as Director of Grants, Professional Development and Assessment. He added that the school committee would like all new administrators to be placed on the same contract schedule and terms as the principals who are in the middle of a two-year contract. Therefore, Siobhan Ryan will be given a one-year contract with the same terms as all of the other principal contracts. Mr. Dubois again thanked everyone on the interviewing committee for their time.

Motion to approve the appointment of Siobhan Ryan: E. Nadeau/L. Majewski

2nd: M. Dubois

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. APPROVED.

- **Information Technology Coordinator**

Dr. Gerardi read his recommendation letter for Michael Ferry for appointment as Information Technology Coordinator/Computer Curriculum Coordinator. Because the school committee wants all new administrators be placed on the same contract schedule and terms as the principals who are in the middle of a two-year contract, Mr. Ferry will be given a one-year contract with the same terms as all of the other principal contracts.

Motion to approve the appointment of Michael Ferry: A. Forcier

2nd: E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. APPROVED.

3. Approval of Revised School Calendar 2009-10 – Dr. Gerardi

Dr. Gerardi noted that the primary revision on this Revised School Calendar for 2009-2010 is that the teacher professional development day was moved again from September 14th to September 8th. He noted that the WED has been trying to coordinate our calendar with RIDEs implementation of the Dana Center grant where a large number of teachers and administrators are expected to participate. By doing this, we will save money on substitute teacher expenses and lessen the impact on students' instructional time. Also, a request was made by the WHS principal and the Director of the WACTC to move the graduation date closer to the end of the year. They cited the lack of underclassman work when the seniors leave early and the perception that the school year is over. Also, a small concern was raised in regard to seniors who come back while school is still in session and cause problems with the underclassmen in that last week of school. Mrs. Majewski had him look into the idea of combining the February and April vacations into one March vacation. Gerardi read her email to him as well as the response he received from RISSA. Ms. Williams asked about extending the school day and if it was ever done. Gerardi has heard of it, but has never seen it implemented. Mrs. Majewski thought that the April vacation option that was suggested by RISSA might be a good idea; where, in serious circumstances, days would be taken from the April vacation on a real-time basis. "It gets very warm in June, usually, and most of our classrooms aren't air-conditioned. I'm also concerned about the exam schedule and the graduation date," said Majewski. Gerardi told her that the seniors would take their exams

earlier, but Majewski felt that doing that would cause more stress for the staff at the WHS because there's so much going on.

Motion to approve the Revised 2009-2010 School Calendar as submitted: A. Forcier
2nd: M. Dubois Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. APPROVED.

4. Approval of ELEM/WMS/WHS Handbooks – 1st Passage –Linda Filomeno/ Dr. McGee /Dr. Garcia

Elementary Handbook: Linda Filomeno

Linda Filomeno noted five changes to the elementary handbooks. Mrs. Nadeau asked how they intend to address the dress code in the handbook. Filomeno explained that the dress code in the handbook will be listed the same way it is in the policy. Nadeau thinks we need to strengthen our existing code. Mrs. Forcier asked about bussing language being left in. Dr. Gerardi told her that it was the original plan not to include it, but that has changed. Mrs. Majewski noted the different times for the start of school (Page 1). Filomeno said it was an error and that they all start at 9:15 a.m. Bill Legare told them that the busses can't have the kids there by 9 a.m.

Motion to approve the 2009-2010 Elementary Handbook: M. Dubois
2nd: M. Williams Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. APPROVED.

Middle School Handbook: Dr. Patrick McGee

Mrs. Majewski asked if they could add **#6) Parent Input** under the Academic Placement section on Page 6. On Page 15, she asked that it be noted that Foreign Language can be taken through e-Learning under the Encore courses. On Page 23, she asked that the Exit Criteria for middle school students to enter the high school be added under the Promotion Policy. Mrs. Nadeau told McGee that his dress code should include whatever is in the elementary handbook and asked that he sit down with Mrs. Filomeno to make sure that they coincide. Mr. Dubois suggested staggering the dismissal times at the two new middle schools to alleviate the traffic jams. Dr. McGee said that they now let the walkers out at a different time from the bus students and that has helped over the past two or three years. Mrs. Forcier asked if a decision has been made about how the students will be divided up. Dr. McGee told her that the 6th and 7th Graders that will be moving already know what building they will be going into. Siblings have been placed in the same building.

Motion to approve the 2009-2010 Middle School Handbook: L. Majewski
2nd: M. Dubois Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. APPROVED.

Woonsocket High School Handbook: Brian Bouley

Bouley noted that the Clubs & Activities section is pending. On Page 6, Mrs. Majewski asked that under the Attendance Policy, a sentence be added at the end to read: ***Student and parents should speak with the guidance counselor to determine next steps.*** Majewski also asked about the VAASA club and whether it could still operate since it doesn't cost any money. Mr. Nasuti assured her that he would run it as long as he is here. Majewski had a couple more changes under Page 28 for students requesting an Early Decision and on Page 29 regarding the age being 18 now for intervention for students who have excessive unexcused absences. Mrs. Nadeau asked that the dress code be tightened up. Mr. Dubois asked how many times a student can be kept back. He was told that they couldn't be kept back more than once. Dr. Gerardi said that sometimes students are socially promoted due to age in the middle and elementary schools. Mr. Dubois often wondered how kids could come before them for hearings and they see that they haven't been kept back more than once with 90 days of absences in a school year.

Motion to approve the 2009-2010 WHS Handbook: A. Forcier
2nd: L. Majewski Roll Call Vote: 5 yes APPROVED

5. Approval of Lease Agreement for Parking lot located at 136 High Street – S. Busby, Business Manager

Questions were raised about whether the City might consider a waiver of the revaluation of the lot back to residential from the new commercial designation because it will cost us four times as much to lease it because of the tax increase. Dr. Gerardi said he believed that Mr. Strom had explored that possibility and if anyone could have done it, he could have because he had worked for the City prior to coming to the school department. Mrs. Majewski wanted to table the vote to see if there was a chance we could get it changed.

Motion to Table: L. Majewski 2nd: No Second.

Motion to approve: A. Forcier 2nd: M. Dubois
Roll Call Vote: 4 yes – 1 no (LM) APPROVED

6. Approval of Lease Agreement for Social Street School to NRIC –Dr. Gerardi

There was a question about whether this lease would provide revenue for the City or for the WED. Mr. John Ward, who arrived later in the meeting, believed that this is revenue for the school department—not the City—because the building is still going to be used for educational purposes. The NRI Collaborative will be responsible for the maintenance of the building.

Motion to approve: A. Forcier
Roll Call Vote: 4 yes – 1 abstain (LM)

2nd: M. Williams
APPROVED.

CONFERENCES: None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Dr. Gerardi

Dr. Gerardi said he was thankful that the school committee has taken a tack of exploring only legal options that respect the laws, regulations, and contractual obligations during this difficult year even though our financial concerns have not yet been answered through the political process. He finds it very disheartening to have to make the cuts to public education when some members of the City Council had multiple opportunities to resolve these issues and did not vote with the majority of the council to do so. Gerardi is confident and hopeful that ultimately the courts will step up to resolve our financial issues and force the state politicians to serve all of the members of its state--not just those in the wealthy communities.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

2nd: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:

L. Majewski: Welcomed the new candidates that were appointed tonight. Mentioned for the public and parents that her computer has crashed and she will be unavailable by email for a week or two. She wished everyone a wonderful summer.

A. Forcier: Congratulated everyone on their appointments. Thanked the parents for supporting the school committee during these hard times. “We need to work together and make an appearance at the State House.” She thanked everyone who helped make the PAC successful and congratulated them.

E. Nadeau: Welcomed the new administrators. “You are very brave to take these positions on. You must love a challenge. The measures we took tonight are something we don’t enjoy doing. These measures are anti-education, but we are required by law to take them. Many of us think it’s an attempt to destroy public education.” She told people to call City Councilors Roger Jalette and Stella Brien and ask why they are trying to destroy education.

M. Williams: Welcomed the new appointees. Thanked Dr. Gerardi and Stacy Busby for their hard work. “It’s really very difficult. Hopefully, some of these laws will change next year. These laws we are bound by.”

M. Dubois: Congratulated the new appointees. Thanked Dr. Gerardi and Stacy Busby for their hard work and said, “Hopefully, the appointments tonight will help free Dr. Gerardi up to do other work.” Congratulated the Cumberland School Committee for not joining the RIASC like the WSC has done for the past two years. “We were the first district to opt-out of this membership.”

Motion to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.: M. Williams

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Secretary