

MINUTES  
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009  
7:45 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

Chairman Dubois had Dr. Gerardi report on the two votes taken in Closed Session. Dr. Gerardi reported that the WSC authorized himself and Mr. Dubois to write a letter to the City Council including the FY10 Quarterly Budget Report, requesting that we resolve the projected shortfall with a 5-year deficit reduction plan as an alternative to requesting all the funds in this fiscal year. They also authorized the Chair and Dr. Gerardi to respond to the Auditor General with the FY10 Quarterly Budget Report and an update on how we intend to resolve the deficit by requesting this deficit reduction plan.

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**PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:**

**Donna Houle, 130 Ward Street:** Houle announced that the next meeting of the School Success Coalition will be on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Family Resources. She announced that the PAC will be hosting a "Meet the School Committee Candidates" night at the WHS on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 p.m. The PAC also wants everyone to save the date for November 21<sup>st</sup> for the grand opening of the new middle schools. Houle also announced the upcoming parent/teacher conferences.

**Linda Filomeno, Director of Literacy:** Announced that she is once again looking for donations for the annual Spelling Bee. There are seven schools to fund at \$99 each. The funds are needed by tomorrow or there is a late charge. She wanted to go ahead and register the district with the hopes of receiving enough donations. At least seven people told her they would donate the \$99 each by the time she sat down.

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

Dr. Gerardi thanked Dr. Garcia and the students who contributed to the NECAP Pep Rally. He also recognized Terry Curtin and CCF for receiving a \$3.3 million federal grant for early-childhood reading programs.

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

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 23, 2009 OPEN/CLOSED**

Motion to approve: L. Majewski 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Williams (Unanimously Approved)

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda with the following exemptions: A. Forcier**

*\*Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000 – Carolina Biological, Frontline Placement Technologies, Paul V. Sherlock Center On Disabilities, Public Consulting Group, RINET – Removed by L. Majewski*

*\*Field Trip/Conference Requests – Natl. Teachers of English Annual Conf. – Removed by L. Majewski*

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**1. Personnel Actions**

Certified Appointments/Non-Certified Appointments

**CONSENT AGENDA (continued)**

**2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000**

***Carolina Biological/Ed. Supplies/WMS/Local – Removed by L. Majewski***

Dell Computers/computers/WACTC/Perkins Grant

***Frontline Placement Technologies/Sub Dial System/Technology/Local – Removed by L. Majewski***

Hibiscus Software/Prof. Dev/Prof. Dev./School Improvement Grant

Konica Leasing/Copier Leasing/Bernon,WHS/Local

Nancy Cirka/Contract Services/Sp. Ed./Local

***Paul Sherlock Center/Contract Services/Sp. Ed/Local- Removed by L. Majewski***

***Public Consulting Group/Contract Services/Business & Sp. Ed./Local & AARA Grant – Removed LM***

RI Interlocal Trust/Workers Comp & Liability Ins/Bus. Office/Local

***RINET/Electronic Portfolio/WHS,WACTC/Local- Removed by L. Majewski***

Robinson & Clapham/Legal Fees/Bus. Office/Local

Virtual High School/Prof. Dev./e-Learning/Local

**3. Field Trip/Conference Requests**

Woonsocket High School Music Department, Williamsburg, VA/WHS/Fundraiser

***National Teachers of English Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA/McFee/Title II Grant – Removed by L. Majewski***

**4. Home Schooling Requests**

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

- **Carolina Biological for WMS educational supplies: \$7,675.59 local funds**

Mrs. Majewski asked Stacey Busby if this was paid for by the PRIMES Grant. Mrs. Busby explained that the initial kit was supplied, but the remaining supplies we pay for.

- **Frontline Placement Technologies for the substitute dial system: \$7,825.00 local funds**

Mrs. Majewski asked Dr. Gerardi to explain this item. He said it was for a substitute calling system online and will save the district money and provide us with a larger pool of substitutes.

- **Paul V. Sherlock Center On Disabilities for consulting services: \$5,400.00 local**

Mrs. Majewski asked what this was for. Busby explained that this is for a vision orientation and mobility teacher for a blind student.

- **Public Consulting Group for special ed contract services: \$50,000 local / \$39,150 AARA Grant**

Mrs. Majewski questioned this expenditure and Mrs. Busby explained that it's a 3-year contract for electronic IEPs.

- **RINET for electronic portfolios for the WACTC & WHS: \$11,414.00 local**

Mrs. Majewski questioned the 1756 per pupil cost for this because she believed most of the seniors already have their portfolios done and most of the juniors are mostly done. Dr. Gerardi explained that they want to make the portfolios totally electronic. "Right now, they are only partially electronic. The freshmen are starting to do their portfolios also," said Gerardi. Majewski didn't feel we should pay for students who already have theirs done. Dr. Gerardi explained that RINET could just charge a flat fee, but this is the way it's done in every district. Mrs. Busby will check on this issue with Mr. Gallishaw.

**3) Field Trip/Conference Requests:**

- **National Teachers of English Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA: Title II Grant**

Majewski asked if there was any money left for the new Coordinator of English to also attend. Mrs. Filomeno explained that the RI Writing Project is paying for Ms. Pendergast and Ms. Gasparro to attend except for registration and meals.

Motion to table the RINET Purchase: L. Majewski	No Second. Motion dies.
Motion to approve the other four purchases removed by Mrs. Majewski: 2 <sup>nd</sup> : M. Dubois	A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)
Motion to approve the National Teachers of English Conference Request: 2 <sup>nd</sup> : A. Forcier	L. Majewski (Unanimously Approved)

**COMMUNICATIONS: None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Mrs. Majewski reported on the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Commissioner hosted by the PAC. She thanked Sodexo for donating the food for the event and the WACTC Culinary and Baking students who served it. Majewski thanked the PAC Co-Chairs for hosting the event also. She reported that SELAC is hosting Leslie Patterson on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The School Success Coalition's next meeting is on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Discussion/Approval of Maintenance of Efforts Response – Atty. Richard Ackerman (TABLED)**

**2. Budget Quarterly Report – Ms. Stacey Busby**

Ms. Busby reviewed the latest budget that was provided for the public, noting that we have found \$1.9 million in a salary line item during this budget process through the Consolidated Resource Plan by moving some kindergarten positions out of the local budget into grants. Mrs. Nadeau was very glad to see the uniform chart of accounts, adding, "I guess we have the state to thank for this." Dr. Gerardi explained that now the state will be able to compare our expenditures with those of other districts. Mrs. Nadeau thanked the Dept. of Education. She thinks this is one good thing they have done. Mrs. Forcier asked about the Consolidated Resource Plan deadline, saying she thought it was due in May. Mrs. Filomeno explained that it has been resubmitted three times and now it has finally been accepted.

**3. Resolution for Rejection of Proposed Bill for Binding Arbitration – Mrs. Majewski**

Mrs. Majewski read the resolution that was written using the template that was provided to them.

Motion to approve: E. Nadeau  
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Majewski  
APPROVED

Mrs. Nadeau mentioned that East Greenwich did the same kind of resolution and asked how many other districts are doing it. Dr. Gerardi said that the Superintendents' Association was requesting it last week. Mrs. Majewski knew of four other communities that have done it.

**CONFERENCES: None**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Gerardi**

Gerardi announced that on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> the WACTC Construction students will hold an Open House between 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. to view the new house they constructed on Front Street in Woonsocket. This house has been sold and the new owners will be moving in at the end of November. Anyone who would like to attend should contact the WACTC. The students will give a presentation on why they went green, materials used, etc. After the presentation, there will be a school bus ready to transport you to Front Street for a tour of the new house.

Motion to receive and place on file: M. Williams

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

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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:**

**A Forcier:** Congratulated CCF for getting the grant. Thanked the PAC for their hard work for “Meet the Commissioner” Night. She was impressed with the Commissioner and said she seems serious about getting a fair funding formula passed. Forcier mentioned the fair funding formula again and said there seems to be a battle in Woonsocket between the WSC and the City Council over the budget. “It’s the state’s fault. It shouldn’t be them against us. We should work together to get a fair funding formula. We aren’t mis-spending our funds and I welcome an audit to prove it!”

**E. Nadeau:** “We voted to present to the City Council a plan for a deficit reduction of approximately \$3.2 million over 5 years. We are still looking for other areas to cut. If it’s approved, it will eliminate the need for a supplemental tax bill and a Caruolo Action, which will affect our bond rating. I don’t see why anyone would be against it. This is something good for all of us in Woonsocket.” She urged the City Council to pass this so we can move forward. She commended everyone who worked on this and finding the reductions.

**M. Williams:** Thanked Ms. Busby, Ms. Lerner, Ms Ryan and Ms. Filomeno for their work on the CRP and finding this \$1.9 million in savings. Spoke about the fair funding formula. “It’s not fair that our kids don’t get what the other suburban communities get. It makes me angry when I walk by the new middle schools to think that the new art rooms and band rooms won’t be used because we can’t afford those programs. We need to try to go to the General Assembly and lobby for them to change the law. It’s so blatantly unfair it’s ridiculous! It’s beyond the Caruolo Act, the City Council and the WSC. We go through this every year! The urban communities need to band together and storm the State House. Make a stand and let them know that we won’t take it anymore!”

**M. Dubois:** Thanked the PAC and Commissioner Gist for her visit, saying that she was willing to take on all their questions. Thanked the PAC for hosting the debate on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned the absence of the middle school band in the Autumnfest Parade, adding that it wasn’t the same without them.

**L. Majewski:** Congratulated the Steering Committee on the great Autumnfest and everyone who volunteered to help. Congratulated David Soucy on being Grand Marshall. Asked Ms. Busby for a list of schools with Konica service contracts and the dates they expire. Mentioned the upcoming Shelter Walk. “With the two new middle schools and lots of grass and sidewalks, do we have a budget for that?” she asked. Dr. Gerardi will check with Mr. Fontaine about it, but he’s sure that he has a plan. Parents have asked her for an information night on the new middle schools regarding traffic flow, parent nights, etc. She congratulated everyone on the NECAP Pep Rally. She referred to Page 3 of the Qtrly. Budget Report and noted how we have kept our budget the same for the past three years.

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.: A. Forcier

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Secretary