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**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Discussion/Approval of new positions funded by ARRA: Dr. Gerardi**

He noted that this is on the agenda for discussion only because it is Federal Funding that must be approved by RIDE and we are obligated to take it as long as we continue to take the other Federal and State aid that we receive. These positions will be posted subject to grant funding for one year only. Some of the ARRA positions, supplies, and technology have been already approved for hiring or purchase by the school committee at past meetings. At their last meeting the school committee expressed concerns about the nature of these federally funded positions and what happens if the federal government decides not to continue the funding. Will the local community have to pick up additional funding? Dr. Gerardi explained that the Federal Government required us to apply to RIDE for these ARRA funds in a similar fashion that we apply for our Consolidated Resource Plan (the CRP). The Federal Government and RIDE have guidelines that they expect us to follow. Those guidelines are why Carol Lerner identified the projects that RIDE expected us to fulfill when creating each of these positions. Mrs. Lerner also wanted to use this money for one-time expenses like textbooks, technology and instructional supplies, but RIDE stressed that the intent of these Federal funds was to primarily create jobs. As a result, only a smaller portion of the funds could be used in those other areas. Regarding the responsibility of the local community to continue to fund these positions if the federal money dries up, these positions will be posted as subject to grant funding or as one-year only positions so the WED isn't obligated to keep these positions after the funding is over. Also, many of the positions are for short-term needs. The technology position that is posted is required to provide the teachers with professional development and initial set up and debugging of the new Medicaid program, EZ IEP program, and ED PLAN program, which will actually save us money in the long run. After the set up, training and beginning implementation is done, there will be no need for that position to remain. Mrs. Nadeau asked when these positions would be posted. Gerardi told her, "As soon as possible." "So a year from now in January, they will no longer have a job? Do we know we have the funds for 18 months since we have to send out layoff notices in March?" asked Nadeau. Dr. Gerardi told her, "Yes. It makes more sense to post them for 18 months." "Are these union positions?" asked Nadeau. Gerardi explained that some are and some aren't. "If they say *per contract*, then they are," he said. "If a person is hired who isn't from within the system, what do they start at?" she asked. Dr. Gerardi told her that if they have been working somewhere else for 4 or 5 years in RI, they must be hired at Step 3, otherwise it would be at Step 1. Mrs. Lerner explained the consultant positions for Mrs. Nadeau and noted that they are called in as they are needed. Carol Lerner explained that the way they figured the steps for the positions is that some positions are more difficult to hire and therefore, they offered it at higher step. Mrs. Majewski asked if they can have an RTI conference between the high school and middle school. Dr. Gerardi gave kudos to the school committee for caring enough to asked for a conference on this issue. Mrs. Forcier thanked Carole Lerner and Linda Filomeno for answering some questions she had.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.: A. Forcier

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Clerk