

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010
7:00 PM – OPEN SESSION
Woonsocket Area Career & Technical Center
Multimedia Room 303

Call to Order / Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:	Marc Dubois, Chairman	Present
	Eleanor Nadeau, Vice Chairwoman	Present
	Linda Majewski	Present
	Anita McGuire-Forcier	Present
	Vimala Phongsavanh	Present

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

Richard DiPardo, 134 Huntington Avenue, WTG President: Reported that he and Jack Boudreau have been very busy working on the Race to the Top Grant. They spent the day on Monday reading the grant. "There was a meeting yesterday for reading and limited questioning of the Commissioner. Most of the unions are not in favor of this grant. The Commissioner has contacted us to see if there are changes that can be made to make it more palatable. At this time, there have not been enough changes made. The biggest problem they have with it is that 51% of the teacher evaluations will be based on test scores. Teachers have no control over that. Most of the other locals in RI will not approve the grant unless this is changed. I will not sign unless these changes are made," he said.

Cindy Stepanian, PAC Co-Chair: She didn't see the Race to the Top Grant on tonight's agenda. She was told that it was discussed at a work session held last Wednesday night. Stepanian asked if Woonsocket opted-out. Mr. Dubois told her we didn't. Stepanian announced a PAC meeting next Wednesday night at the WACTC at 6:30 p.m.

Donna Houle, 130 Ward Street: Announced that the next School Success Coalition meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28th, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at Family Resources. A light supper and child care will be provided. The next SELAC meeting will be held on February 4th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Hamlet Building. David King will be there to answer questions.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Robert Gerardi

Dr. Garcia, WHS Principal, announced that Woonsocket High School, along with five other high schools including Barrington, Chariho, Coventry, North Providence, and South Kingstown, have been recognized by The New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) for working diligently towards implementing the state's secondary regulations. The NESSC and RIDE were impressed with our school's leadership in a number of areas, particularly in providing students with multiple pathways. Dr. Gerardi gave kudos to our hardworking teachers and administrators. On behalf of George Nasuti, Gerardi recognized our football team members and their coaches again with additional good accolades. He congratulated Head Football Coach Carnell Henderson for being named the Providence Journal's "Words Unlimited Schoolboy Coach of the Year." Coach Henderson will be honored at the 64th annual awards banquet held on February 21, 2010 at the Radisson Hotel on Post Road in Warwick. He also congratulated Jordan Barr, Luis Heredia and Travis Gagne for being selected to the Providence Journal's First Team All State Football Squad. He noted that having three members selected to the first team all state squad is a rare honor and reflection of the level of leadership and athleticism within our high school football program. On behalf of Dr. Bedard, Gerardi recognized the Construction Technology Program on their receipt of a \$500 award from the Conservation Services Group for building the Energy Star Certified home on Front Street. The money will be used to help defray costs for students to enter Skills USA competitions at the state and national level. On behalf of Peter Fontaine and Jonathan Gallishaw, Gerardi recognized their staff for the hard work and long hours they put in over the Christmas break to make sure the schools were ready on opening day. Gerardi thanked them on their behalf. He also commended Wesley DeChristofaro for capturing the long jump title at the recent RI Classic Track and Field Invitational held in December with a winning personal best jump of 21 feet 11-1/2 inches. Gerardi thanked Pauline Papino's Consumer Science students for their outstanding work for "Because He Lives Ministries" with their donation of toys for Christmas to the Ministry.

Motion to receive and place on file: A. Forcier

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REVISED 11/18/09 OPEN/CLOSED; REVISED 12/2/09 OPEN; 12/16/09 OPEN/CLOSED

Motion to approve: M. Dubois

2nd: L. Majewski

Mrs. Majewski had revisions on the Open Session of the 12/16/09 Minutes. Mrs. Nadeau noted that she should also be listed under the Personnel/Contracts subcommittee of the WSC. Mrs. Majewski had revisions under the discussion/approval of the RI Educator Code of Professional Responsibility.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES W/ CORRECTIONS: (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

**Personnel Appts. – Certified Positions (ARRA Funded) – Removed by L. Majewski*

**Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000 – Perkins-Funded and ARRA-Funded Consultants removed by LM; NRI Collaborative removed by LM; NRI Community Services, Inc. removed by MD.*

**Field Trips/Conference Requests – removed by LM*

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments/Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Andrew Riley/Consultant/Grants & Curriculum/Perkins Grant – removed by LM

Carl F Chiulli/Consultant/Grants & Curriculum/Perkins Grant – removed by LM

Dennis Ballou/Consultant/Grants & Curriculum/Perkins Grant – removed by LM

Elaine Hazzard/ Consultant//Sp. Ed/AARA Idea Park B Grant – removed by LM

Kenneth Decubellis/Consultant/Grants & Curriculum/Perkins Grant – removed by LM

Mt. St. Charles Academy/Ice Rink Rental/Athletics/Local

NRI Collaborative/Prof. Development/Sp.Ed/IDEA Grant – removed by LM

NRI Community Services, Inc./Counseling Services/Grants & Curriculum, Sp. Ed/Title IV, School Support

IDEA Grant – removed by MD

Rosemarie Riendeau/Consultant/Sp. Ed/AARA Idea Part B Grant – removed by LM

Sandra Paquette/Consultant/Sp.Ed/AARA Idea Park B Grant – removed by LM

Suzanne Russell/Consultant/Grants & Curriculum/Perkins Grant – removed by LM

3. Field Trip/Conference Requests

Alton Jones – Elementary Outdoor Science Weekend, URI, Kingston/Harris Elementary/SMILE Club Grant- removed by LM

2010 Statewide Afterschool Networks Conference, San Diego, CA/McFee/Matt Foundation Grant – removed by EN

4. Home Schooling Requests

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

1) Personnel Appointments (Certified Positions) – ARRA-Funded

Mrs. Majewski said she was thrilled to see that we are hiring Literacy Coaches using ARRA funds. She asked about the step they are being hired at and if these were contractual rates. Mrs. Filomeno explained that these two positions are being hired contractually but being paid through ARRA funds. They are contractual through the end of the school year. There were not enough candidates except for the two people recommended for appointment tonight and they are retired and will only receive retirement benefits. They are also being hired at .4 a position each. Mrs. Filomeno and Mrs. Busby didn't know if they had to be hired at that step since they are retired. "Why Step 10?" asked Mrs.

Nadeau. Dr. Gerardi explained that it's probably because that's the step that they were at when they retired. "We were going to hire a full-time person with benefits and the requirements for a Literacy Coach, but it would have to be at Step 7 at least. They need at least 7 years of experience. We are saving money this way because we don't have to pay fringe benefits. There were no other candidates," said Filomeno.

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

- **Andrew Riley, Carl Chiulli, Dennis Ballou, Kenneth DeCubellis & Suzanne Russell, Consultants – WACTC/Perkins Grant**

Mrs. Majewski asked Dr. Gerardi what the role of these school-based coordinators is. He said that these are positions that have been around a while and are paid out of the Perkins Grant. They support the career center programs in the other high schools in the region to get students excited about attending our programs at the WACTC. Majewski noted that most of these people are retired and asked if they are still getting fringe benefits. Mrs. Busby explained what happened with these positions being taken off of the WED payroll and now being paid as consultants so that they aren't receiving benefits. Dr. Gerardi noted that the plan was for them to be hired as consultants this year instead of employees, but there was a problem with the transition back in September.

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- **Elaine Hazzard, Rosemarie Riendeau, and Sandra Paquette, Special Ed. Consultants – ARRA Funds**

Mrs. Majewski asked what their job duties are because she is concerned about getting more direct services for the students with these funds. Carole Lerner explained that they are in the process of interviewing some direct-service positions right now. She explained that the consultants are part-time positions (90 hours) for RTI – one consultant for each level in the district. "They have very defined duties with no benefits," said Lerner. Majewski asked for copies of the job descriptions and an overview of their plans for the WHS and the middle schools with the RTI. Mrs. Lerner said that the plans are really still in formation and it's a huge undertaking. Mrs. Majewski asked if the positions were posted. Lerner explained that consultant positions are not posted. She said they looked for people who met the qualifications needed. Mrs. Nadeau didn't like the fact that these positions weren't posted because they are consultants. She believes that these positions go to a select few and there may be other people out there that aren't given a chance. Mrs. Lerner didn't agree with her because she posted 17 ½ positions that she had no applicants for. Nadeau thinks that is because it's where they are being posted. "They are posted internally and in The Providence Journal, among others. Some of the people hired took this training and have since retired and we know they have it. We have a very specific mandate and a short time to fill that mandate. We don't have time to train people," explained Lerner. "You are not building the economy. You are providing people who are making a nice retirement with a part-time job! It's almost like supplanting. Once these ARRA funds run out, I don't want to see these names in another part-time position," said Nadeau.

3) Field Trips/Conferences:

- **Alton Jones – Elementary Outdoor Science Weekend, URI, Kingston, RI**

Mrs. Majewski asked if all of the adult volunteers have had BCI checks with fingerprints. She also asked who the transportation vendor is. Dr. Gerardi said that we get special rates from Durham so he assumes it will be them. He will make sure on the BCI checks also.

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- **National Statewide Afterschool Networks Conference, San Diego, CA**

Mrs. Nadeau said that if Mr. Garceau can't make it, she would be happy to go. Dr. Gerardi said that he was originally asked, but Mr. Garceau is going in his place. Nadeau said that it is a wonderful learning experience for a new WSC member.

Motion to approve NRI Collaborative: M. Dubois Approved by 4 yes to 1 abstain (L. Majewski)	2nd: A. Forcier
Motion to approve NRI Community Services: L. Majewski Approved by 4 yes to 1 abstain (M. Dubois)	2nd: E. Nadeau
Motion to approve remaining exempted items: M. Dubois	2nd: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mrs. Majewski reported that SELAC will meet the first Thursday of February at 6:30 p.m. She announced the upcoming School Success Coalition meeting and said they'll be working on a "Family Matters" conference in Woonsocket. Mrs. Nadeau asked if there was a School Uniform committee meeting scheduled. Majewski said they will schedule one for this month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Approval of School Committee Policy on Staff-Student Fraternization Policy – 2nd Pass- A. McGuire/Forcier

Mrs. Majewski suggested adding "or senior administrator" after "principal" in the 2nd paragraph. Others thought that "appropriate administrator" would be more suitable.

Motion to approve with the addition of "or appropriate administrator" after the word "principal" in the 2nd paragraph:
M. Dubois

2nd: L. Majewski

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion Title I Allocation for FY10- R. Gerardi

Dr. Gerardi reported that Siobhan Ryan met with Colleen Hedden from the RIDE office of Title I to go over the school eligibility for next year. He gave a simple description of Title I eligibility, saying that when a school reaches 40% free and reduced lunch reporting, it is eligible as a targeted Title I school. When a school reaches 50% free and reduced lunch reporting, it is eligible as a school-wide Title I program. However, if a school reaches more than 75% free and reduced lunch reporting, it has to be a school-wide Title I. He explained that until this year, the WMS was Title I eligible but we have chosen not to make it a Title I school for several reasons—the most important being because Title I funds are distributed evenly by the student population of eligible schools. Therefore, having a large school like WMS in the mix would take the majority of funds away from the elementary programs that we have already established and that have helped the elementary schools maintain their academic success. Unfortunately, Siobhan and Colleen confirmed that WMS has reached 76% free and reduced lunch reporting. Next year based on Federal regulations we will have to qualify WMS as a Title I school next year. The ramifications of this is that next year only WMS, Colman, Fifth, Citizens, Pothier, and Harris will qualify for Title I funds. This year we had just gotten all of the elementary schools to qualify and next year Savoie, Bernon and Globe will not qualify for Title I Services and support. Now the most important concern is the financial impact of this is that the WMS will now reduce the elementary funds by approximately \$750,000. At first he thought it might be as much as \$1,000,000, but Ms. Ryan provided a more detailed chart which shows the actual Federal Spreadsheet that determines which schools get funds and how much. Gerardi explained that we cannot change the calculations that the federal government requires us to use. The current Title I funds support Title I Intervention teachers like Reading Specialists, Time Teachers, and the second half of all day Kindergarten. Because the Reading Specialists and Time teachers perform state-mandated functions like PLP reporting and Parent Involvement, the only non state-mandated positions are the 10 teachers that provide the second half of all day Kindergarten. Since we are beginning the budget process for next year, he said he would discuss this at greater length in his report. While we were successful at reducing our budget from roughly \$64 million for 08 and 09 to \$61 million in FY10, he is not confident that we will be able to comply with all of the state and federal mandates and keep our budget level, or within local approvable increases within the 4.5% cap. Therefore, he cautioned that we must prepare a budget that may be defensible in court. He recommended discussing the options tonight and believes that the WSC will ultimately agree that we are forced by federal regulations and the current fiscal crisis to eliminate all day kindergarten and vote on this at the next WSC meeting.

Mrs. Nadeau asked what services the WMS would receive if it becomes eligible. Ryan told her they would be supplementary services. "So because the middle school is now determined as Title 1, that pulls the money away from the other schools?" Nadeau asked. "Yes," answered Dr. Gerardi. "I will never vote to go back to half-day kindergarten. That's a step backward. Half-day kindergarten is absolutely useless! In the winter-time, by the time they get undressed, it's time to go home! You might as well eliminate it all together!" exclaimed Nadeau. "You probably all feel the same way," said Gerardi. "All of these figures could change drastically if they close the Bourdon Blvd. housing project like they have been talking about," said Nadeau. Dr. Gerardi said that even if that happens this

year, it wouldn't affect the funding until 2012. "As the poverty rate increases, there isn't a formula that would increase the funding?" asked Mrs. Majewski. Ryan said that eventually the funding would increase. Mrs. Majewski asked that the WSC write a letter to RIDE saying that if the Title 1 funds are decreased, we would have to eliminate all day kindergarten. Dr. Gerardi said he met with them and told them that. "Is there any money available through early intervention programs?" asked Majewski. Ms. Ryan said that we would have to explore that and Mrs. Lerner said it may be considered supplanting. "Once we pay for something with local funds, it becomes the district's responsibility," said Dr. Gerardi. "Are we giving any percentage of our Title 1 funds to private schools?" asked Majewski. Ryan told her that we will be, but that it's a small amount. Majewski asked if we could spread the services between two schools. "In some degree you could between the elementary schools that are Title 1, but not at the ones that don't qualify," said Gerardi. "We need to write some letters to our congressmen about this as a school committee," thought Majewski. "These percentages are figured on October 1st?" asked Mr. Dubois. Ms. Ryan said, "Yes. They won't be calculated again until October 1st of the next school year now." "Do they strictly go by income and not performance?" he asked. "Yes. Strictly by income. They don't consider test scores," said Ryan.

2. Discussion WHS/WMS Scheduling and FY11 Budget Implications- R. Gerardi

Gerardi reported that last year scheduling at both the WHS and the WMS was examined to determine if we could find a savings. At the high school we determined that we could not change the schedule model without significantly impacting instruction, but we made an effort to eliminate any courses that had low enrollment levels. This year Jonathan Gallishaw investigated and found free tech support from Star Base, the company that provides our student information system. They hired Mrs. Susan Donavan to be their consultant. She was a central office employee for the city of Brockton, Ma and did all of their scheduling using the Star Base program. Brockton is an urban community that also uses a block schedule, making her an ideal candidate to support our administrative team working on the schedule this year. The goal is to tighten up the schedule even more and hopefully remove some of the inherent issues with the block schedule as identified by the SIT. Last year at WMS we were able to change the schedule model from a seven period day to a six period day at a savings of the cost of 3 to 8 elective teachers. Unfortunately, this eliminated the band during the school day model and it eliminated 2 TDT periods for each teacher. The TDT periods are a contractual obligation and the Union could have grieved it. Gerardi commended the union leadership for agreeing to an Memorandum of Agreement that we could maintain the six period schedule as a cost savings measure this year but that in FY11 we would have to go back to a seven period day. The new WMS Title I funds may be used to provide the elective teachers needed for that seventh period as long as we create that period as an enrichment period. We will likely be able to bring back band and chorus during the day, a foreign language program, and possibly a math ramp up program for students not meeting proficiency on the NECAPS. Gerardi does not see any major changes or savings in the scheduling process for next year. He feels that as the impact of the shift in Title I funds at the elementary level is determined, he foresees the need to increase the number of Reading Specialists, Time teachers, and possibly guidance or social workers at the elementary level with local funds due to the PLP and Parent Involvement mandates in the schools that lost Title I funding. Mrs. Majewski asked how AP classes will be affected. Gerardi said that Mr. Ferry will be addressing the WSC tonight about these advanced classes with smaller numbers. Majewski said she heard that some teachers are telling students that there will be no Honors classes next year. "I am talking about elective classes—not classes they need to meet their college requirements," explained Gerardi.

3. Discussion School Start Times and Busing for FY10- R. Gerardi

Gerardi explained that last year they attempted to reduce bussing costs by enforcing elementary district lines, but unfortunately, that effort did not reap the financial benefits they expected. The new bus contract did help to reduce that cost, just not as much as they would have liked. During a meeting with Durham executives, Peter Fontaine asked them how we could reduce bussing costs. They suggested a plan that was outlined in the WSC packets tonight. They explained that it takes 14 buses to transport the middle and high school students and the same 14 buses plus 5 for a total of 19 buses to transport the elementary students. If we change half of the elementary schools to an earlier start time, we can then provide the same amount of bussing with fewer buses. This could provide another \$500,000 more in savings as was estimated last year. The plan is only preliminary because he would have to meet with the School Committee Transportation Sub Committee and Durham to finalize a proposal and would ultimately need to gain approval from the WTG. Mrs. Majewski spoke about students requiring special education bussing and whether there's duplication of services. She was told that there's no duplication of services in the district. Mrs. Forcier pointed out that when the WMS students come out after the high school student, they get attacked. "It used to happen before the times were changed. The high school students would have ½ hour to get to the middle school," she said.

4. **Discussion and vote whether to amend School Committee policy and Facilities Policy and all other policies prohibiting alcoholic beverages on school property and to permit alcoholic beverages to be served at the Woonsocket High School for the event sponsored by CCF to be held on February 6, 2010.– R. Gerardi**

THE REQUEST WAS WITHDRAWN.

CONFERENCES:

PLP REPORT – Linda Filomeno

Mrs. Filomeno said that they presented their report to RIDE on how many students are reading below grade level and noted that we still have a significant number of students reading below grade level in each grade. Mrs. Majewski asked if we have data on how many of the kindergarten students went to preschool programs. Filomeno said they could collect that information if it's needed. She reviewed the report by grade and noted what a child is expected to achieve at that grade level. "Our mobility rate in Woonsocket is about 31% and involves not just kids moving in and out of district, but also within the district. This is a big factor," said Filomeno. She noted that numbers go down in the 10th through 12th grades because these students start dropping out. Mrs. Nadeau asked if spelling comes into play for any of this. "No, not for this report. That comes into play for the writing assessment," said Filomeno. "When I was in school, there were no special education services. You either made it or you didn't. We didn't have all these special services. You could count the number of kids who had problems in school. Not like now, where it has become the norm," said Nadeau. Filomeno noted that the standards have also been raised over the years. "For kindergarten, it used to be to develop social skills. Now, it has a standard to meet," added Dr. Gerardi. Mrs. Majewski noticed that there seems to be a bigger gap between the 8th and 9th grade. "I don't have the answer for that, but I believe that some of the programs that have been put into place at the elementary schools are finally having some effect. These numbers are down from other years," said Filomeno. Mrs. Forcier noted that the students in Grade 6 were the first ones to have all day kindergarten and their reading levels are higher. "The kids in the 7th grade had half-day kindergarten and worse numbers. It shows right there what a difference all day kindergarten makes!" said Forcier.

WHS After School Program Name Change: Maggie Koosa (She wasn't present.)

Instructional Technology Update – Mike Ferry

Ferry thanked the committee for their support for all the new initiatives that they have implemented at the high school. He thanked Jonathan Gallishaw, Jonathan Fantasia and the staff as well. Ferry reviewed the new components that were put into place (RIEPS). "Since Sept. 1st with electronic attendance, we have saved one pallet of paper." He noted that on-going professional development in the use of this new program is provided every week. Ferry spoke about the StarBase upgrade, saying teachers will be able to access their grade book and monitor classes from anywhere through a portal. They are working through some of the kinks in the ParentLink absenteeism reporting program. E-Learning courses have been integrated into the high school catalog this year. He discussed how 8th grade students who are age-inappropriate for the WMS being able to take their 8th grade classes with e-learning. He is working on expanding this program. The Virtual High School program has 15 seats available per semester for AP courses such as AP English, AP Statistics, Engineering Principles, etc. Mrs. Forcier thanked Mr. Ferry for his hard work and has heard that the state is trying to grab him away from us. "The state doesn't have any money! They have asked me to sit on an advisory board," he said. "We have been very lucky that Mike had this expertise in the state. I'm glad he has been able to educate the Dept. of Education on this program. I don't think RIDE realized the benefits of it," said Gerardi. "RIDE is looking at doing a virtual charter high school for home-schooled kids," said Ferry. Mrs. Majewski feels that we should be charging RIDE for this expertise. She asked if the parents will be able to access the Star Base from home. Mr. Ferry said they will be able to see it, but that's it. "Do you have remedial reading programs for homes? Do we have the capacity to do it?" asked Majewski. "Capacity is the question. I'm limited by the number of seats I have. I have 30 seats wherever they are working from at the time. We purchase portals / seats," Ferry explained. "Do you have any ideas to expand the middle school e-learning so kids that have Day 11 can access that?" asked Majewski. "I would love to get it in the middle school. I'm ready to start tomorrow. You get the cash and take the leash off me and let me go!" announced Mr. Ferry. "Is any of this reimbursable through E2T2?" asked Majewski. Dr. Gerardi told her that we only get reimbursed for hardware.

SUPERINTENDENTS THEORY OF ACTION – R. Gerardi (TABLED)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Gerardi

Gerardi noted that he included several additional documents in the school committee packets tonight. The first document is a chain of emails that starts with the commissioner's weekly field memo to superintendents from January

4th and includes an email response from the superintendent of Smithfield that is a compliment regarding the commissioner's direction in the Race to the Top Application. Her response is that they will keep us updated. He wanted to note that there are other communities that are eagerly participating with the commissioner in her initiatives. What he feels is even more important in the Field memo is actually listed under "Other". It explains that the Rhode Island Civil Rights Roundtable will hold a forum on racial and ethnic disparities in education. The event will be held on Sunday, January 17th, at 4:00pm at the University of Rhode Island, Providence Feinstein Campus, Paff Auditorium, 80 Washington street Providence, RI. The event is free and open to the public. He has emailed Attorney Robinson about this to determine if we should attend but that does not stop any citizens of Woonsocket from attending this event and expressing their dismay that urban and affluent communities get an unfair additional portion of state funding and Woonsocket urban students suffer! The second document is another email from the Commissioner that says Thank you and FAQs in the subject line. He has been made aware of the fact that the commissioner has been working with the union state leadership on language in the RTTT grant that might make the union leaders more amenable to signing the MOU. She has invited superintendents and state union leadership to attend this second reading in an effort to garner more union support. She wanted Dr. Gerardi to thank Vice Chair Nadeau and school committee member McGuire Forcier for attending the first reading. By charter he noted that we must have a budget request to the Mayor's office by March 1st. The Business Manager is working on a second quarter report for the next scheduled school committee meeting. Shortly thereafter, he recommended that a budget workshop be held in the 1st week of February because he believes we will be faced with a huge challenge to reach a balanced budget. He listed the facts that he predicts will make it challenging. He is hopeful that they will explore all options including negotiations with the union and leaving GHGRI to find additional savings that will be necessary to try and balance the FY11 Budget.

Motion to receive and place on file: E. Nadeau

2nd: M. Dubois(Unanimously Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:

L. Majewski: Thanked Peter Fontaine and John Gallishaw for their hard work to get the middle schools ready. She thanked the custodians, staff and Dr. Gerardi as well. She had requested that the portfolio reviews be done earlier this year and wants to know the status of junior and when the seniors are being reviewed. Dr. Gerardi will get her the details. She noted that guidance at the high school level is usually open later for parents to come in with students to do scheduling for next year. She was concerned about the 8th graders choosing their courses for 9th grade because the counselors go there and just give them some information. She would like to see something more done so that parents can have some input.

Forcier: She asked that a memo be sent to the PAC about the Human Rights Forum at URI that Dr. Gerardi mentioned.

E. Nadeau: Asked Dr. Gerardi for the dollar amount of out-of-district costs for kids that have to be placed outside. She said that if she has a choice between all day kindergarten and out-of-district placements, we need an alternative program to put them in. "We are just wasting money. We might as well just throw it out the window. The kids with IEPS get help. The delinquents spend our money and we get no return on that. The kids in the middle just go along."

V. Phongsavanh: Said she made some calls to community leaders about the all day kindergarten. She is ready to work with community-based organizations to look at that. She also praised Dr. Garcia for his work on the ELO.

M. Dubois: Said he was very upset with the Woonsocket Call for the headline in Sunday's paper about the booze issue to raise cash. He and Joe Nadeau have a long history and he says that it was not to make headlines. "Because of the bad publicity that might come from the request, the organization withdrew its request. If you read the article, it was not a request by us, but many people just read the headlines." He went to the middle schools and noticed how quiet it was and what a great environment it is. "There has already been some vandalism by a student who threw an egg at the wall." He wished everyone a health and prosperous new year.

Motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.: L. Majewski

2nd: A. Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Secretary