

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011
7:15 PM – OPEN SESSION
Woonsocket Middle School @ Hamlet
60 Florence Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Call to Order by Mr. Dubois.
Moment of Silence
Pledge of Allegiance

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

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

Susan Galvin, 73 Carey Court, Woonsocket: Had a big complaint about the uniform policy, in that we have one, but that it's not being enforced. She is at all of the schools every afternoon at dismissal time because she is a bus driver. "There is about 80% compliance at the elementary schools, but at the middle school and high school, if there is 50% compliance I would be amazed. The girls may be wearing gray shirts but they are cut down to their belly-buttons and the boys' pants are still down around their knees. If you are going to have it, enforce it. Don't make your authority a joke." She spoke about the technology versus health education issue and is upset that the younger students are going to lose technology. "In order to even out the playing field for all children in this city, these kids need technology. Many of these kids don't have access to it at home."

Heath Neal, Elementary Technology Teacher, Woonsocket: She spoke about the elimination of elementary technology program. She was disheartened to hear about it and believes that our kids will not have the same opportunities as the children did this year. "When this program was started, we didn't even have a computer lab in each building." She recounted the history of the elementary technology program. They now have beautiful labs in almost every elementary school. She urged the WSC to find a way to fix this situation, referring to the statement on the district's webpage that says students will be educated with the latest, cutting-edge technology. She referred to the letter sent to Dr. Gerardi supporting a Health Technology Program and asked that they find a way to implement it. "As a result of Dr. Gerardi's administrative decision, all the elementary students will receive 80 minutes of physical education and little exposure to technology." She asked that the WSC to alter this decision.

Dr. Gerardi: Stated that Ms. Neal knows it was over a month ago that he met with her about Health Tech. "She knows that I was to approach RIDE about finding a way to make that happen. It's unfortunate that people are trying to blame one person. The administrative team was consulted, and the Athletic Director as well. This was the best solution that the team came up with—not Dr. Gerardi as he leaves. It was a difficult decision for me because I am a certified technology teacher. We are also facing a possible Caruolo suit and we have to prove that we have no programs that other districts have. If we have a program that other districts don't have--which in this case they don't—it would hurt our case."

Karen Smith, Technology Teacher at Citizens and Pothier Elementary Schools: Said that they all understand the importance of technology in today's society. "We need to be in compliance with state mandates for health requirements, but we also need to look to the future with technology—not go backwards."

Michelle Fafard, 5th Grade Teacher, Woonsocket: Spoke about the need to maintain the elementary technology programs. Spoke in support of a Health Technology Program.

Diane Engels, WED Nursing Department Chairperson: Commented on having a health program available. "It's mandated and having it provided with technology will meet that mandate. It's a bonus all the way around."

Denise Auclair, PAC Co-Chair: She said that whenever she hears the words "Caruolo Action" it's like nails on a blackboard to her. "All it means is that our kids are being screwed!" She listed all the things that have been cut so that we can make it look good if we go for a Caruolo action. Her big concern is—"What happens if the City can't give us any more money? We will be left with nothing!" Auclair spoke about the lack of communication from the administration. She has been trying to get answers as far as the middle school graduations to no avail. "Why are

they being held from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.? That is not parent-friendly. We are frustrated because you are cutting these things and now we can't even go to the graduation!" She spoke about having the transition Moving Up Day for 8th graders going to the high school *before* school gets out—not during the summer in case parents are on vacation and miss it. "Parents are feeling like they don't matter."

Amanda Turner, Home Schooling Parent from Pawtucket: Spoke about how glad she is about making the decision to home school her daughter. Her daughter is working on a Girl Scout badge and has to use technology for research. She doesn't understand why they are even having this discussion tonight about cutting the elementary technology services. "Even my 14-year-old daughter knows that cutting technology education and not utilizing dual teaching methods makes no sense!"

Jessica Frechette, Globe Park Elementary Special Education Teacher: Announced that the new handicapped-accessible playground at Globe Park will be built this Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. They have plenty of volunteers coming to help, including members of the fire department and police department. She extended an invitation for the opening ceremony to everyone, saying it will be held on Saturday, June 18th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Globe Park School.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Robert Gerardi

Dr. Gerardi congratulated over 50 award winners from the Woonsocket High School Athletic Awards Dinner. He noted that our top award winners included: 1) Providence Journal All-State Selections: Jessie Charette, Giovanni Heredia, Oswald Torres, and KayInn Pitts; 2) Most Versatile Female Athlete Award went to Katelyn Kerrigan and Most Versatile Male Athlete Award went to Kevin Reyes; and 3) Female Student Athlete Award went to Samantha Plante and Male Student Athlete Award went to Jessie Charette. He congratulated all our athletes. Gerardi reported that the following teachers graciously gave of their time and expertise to complete a project for the Innovation Model for Educator Evaluation, identifying critical issues and concerns for general education teachers working with English Language Learners. He recognized Beth Pennachio, Kevin McCarthy, Stephanie Roberts, and Heather McVeigh. He also recognized the contributions of Janessa Allen, who worked with Linda Filomeno through each of the 3 tasks assigned as a "Think-Pair-Share" Partner.

Motion to receive and place on file: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Dubois/E. Nadeau (Unan. Approved)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 25, 2011 OPEN/CLOSED; March 23, 2011 Open Revised

Motion to approve the March 23, 2011 Open Revised: VP

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

Mrs. Forcier asked that on the May 25th Closed Session, under Litigation, the pros and cons discussed by Atty. Ackerman regarding pursuing the lawsuit against the City be included in the minutes. Mrs. Majewski asked that the recording be checked to see if a vote was taken on her motion to table the Family Planning item (New Business #3). She said she had spoken to Ms. Belisle and she will check the recording to verify whether or not a vote was taken.

Motion to Table the Open/Closed May 25, 2011 Minutes: L. Majewski

2nd: E. Nadeau

(Unanimously Approved) TABLED

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve Consent Agenda with the following exemptions: E. Nadeau

*Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000: Pearson Learning removed by L. Majewski

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Personnel Actions

Certified Appointments/Non-Certified Appointments

2. Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000

Apple, Inc./Computers/WACTC/Perkins Grant

M.D. Stetson, Inc./Janitorial Supplies/Facilities/Local

National Geographic School Publishing/Ed. Supplies/WMS,WHS/Title III Grant

Pearson Learning/Ed. Supplies/Grants & Assessment/Title I Grant – removed by L. Majewski

CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

3. **Field Trip/Conference Requests**
4. **Home Schooling Requests**

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

1) Purchases/Transfers Over \$2,000: Pearson Learning for Ed Supplies – Title I Grant (\$12,371.92)

Mrs. Majewski asked if this requisition was for our current e-Learning program. Mrs. Filomeno explained that it is from Title I grant funds for the elementary level and is a data system to track student performance and will give us reports by school, classroom, student, etc. "We have been using it for the last five years on reading levels. "So this system is already set up so it won't be time-consuming for teachers to learn?" asked Majewski. "Yes. This particular requisition is for all the elementary schools for 136 classrooms of up to 25 students each," explained Filomeno.

Motion to approve exemption: L. Majewski

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mrs. Majewski requested that the uniform policy be placed on the next agenda. She said that the subcommittee has met and has some suggestions for discussion. She commented that people don't know whether someone has gotten detention or not because it's a personal thing between the student and the administrator assigning it. "It's not something you can see," she said. Majewski reported that SELAC met and discussed ESY. Their next meeting will be in October on the first Thursday of the month. She announced that the Curriculum Committee is meeting on June 20th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion/Approval of Houghton/Mifflin Harcourt Science Fusion 1-Yr. Pilot Program- R. Gerardi

Dr. Gerardi highlighted the fact that our administrative team and teachers are doing everything they can to save the WED money and provide students with the most up to date curricular materials. He noted that the Woonsocket Middle School has been invited to participate in a science curriculum material pilot study for the up-coming 2011-2012 school year. This is similar to the Math Curriculum Pilot at WHS that we participated in. He explained that as with the math curriculum pilot study at WHS, free initial training and subsequent follow-up training for teachers will be included. Free student assessments and final reports from the study on the effects of the program will be provided. And at the end of the study, all the science teachers will acquire the science curriculum materials. In addition, all participating teachers will receive a \$600 product voucher and all participating schools will receive a \$1,000 product voucher from Houghton Mifflin over the two years. This pilot will complement our study of the standards for the Dana Center in science. Mrs. Majewski asked if this is renewable after a year. "Yes, we are in it for two years. For a year we are part of a study. They provide training for all the teachers," said Gerardi. "Will this grant require us to make additional purchases once this is done? It happened before that we had to keep buying these kits with another pilot that we did," noted Majewski. Ms. DiModica said, "No, it won't require us to keep purchasing new materials." "Will there be enough supplies for each cluster or will they have to share?" Majewski asked. DiModica explained that each teacher will get their own materials. "When we did the CMP2, we received 30 books and they were expected to share them. I just wanted to make sure this isn't the same setup," said Majewski. Dr. Gerardi noted that a vote was not necessary. This item was placed on the agenda for discussion only.

2. Discussion of FICA Alternative Program/Substitutes- S. Busby

Mrs. Busby reported that she was approached about this program by Tim Duffy of RIASC (RI Association of School Committees), of which we are a member. "It was used in the Massachusetts district that I was in and it has also been used in Connecticut. It saves the district their portion of FICA. The funds that the temporary employees would be paying would go into a 401A account. Upon completion of work for the school district, they could collect those funds

right away. The benefit for Woonsocket is that we would save about \$107,000 next fiscal year if we implemented this for all temporary employees. The RI Department of Administration is looking to implement this program. I think it would be a great program for us and benefit the employees as well," explained Busby. "What would determine whether a district was a qualified employer?" asked Mrs. Majewski. "Mr. Duffy is going to meet with me in more detail about it. A law was passed recently rescinding a law that was passed in 1953," said Busby. "Do employees elect to become part of this program or do we choose this program for them?" asked Majewski. Busby said that we would choose this program for all temporary employees instead of FICA. "How does this program affect laid-off employees?" asked Majewski. "It would not impact them. This would only be for temporary employees. I would like to implement this program for the next fiscal year," said Busby. Mrs. Majewski asked for a workshop on this when Busby gets all the information. Busby will see if something can be arranged with Mr. Duffy when he comes in. "This is not something that requires school committee approval. It's an administrative decision," said Busby.

3. Discussion/Approval of Interim Superintendent Salary Range- L. Majewski, E. Nadeau

Mrs. Majewski reported that she had requested Dr. Gerardi to contact RISCA to see what kind of payment arrangement is made with interim superintendents. They were informed that it's usually a per diem rate based on the yearly salary. "The money is in the budget to pay someone this amount to fill in and we can do a range based on the current superintendent's salary which would come to \$574.71," said Majewski. "How long would this person serve as interim?" asked Mrs. Forcier. "Until someone is appointed permanently. We can't give a definite date. You never know if candidates will drop out or what have you. We may offer it to someone and they decline, like what happened when Dr. Gerardi was appointed," said Majewski. "Even if it's for two months—that's almost \$600 a day. That's \$24,000. We have someone who could fill in now with the qualifications to be superintendent and is obligated by contract to do so if necessary," said Forcier. "We have in the performance audit the recommendation that we have a deputy superintendent and that it's needed. We have seen from the past that one person cannot do both jobs. We need both positions. When we don't have someone in those positions, things fall through the cracks. I am advocating keeping those two positions in place and hiring a person as interim superintendent until a superintendent is in place. We have already interviewed and gone through the process. All I'm asking for is approval of the salary," said Majewski. Mrs. Forcier noted that she has a different view of having a deputy superintendent and now we have instructional leaders who could help out with the curriculum duties. "The auditors told us to get rid of instructional leaders, but we found out that we would lose money if we went back to the old way. I won't be supporting this salary for an interim superintendent. I think it's unnecessary to hire someone else. It's a waste of \$24,000 or more," said Forcier.

Mrs. Nadeau reported that when she, Dr. Gerardi and Stacey Busby met with RIDE recently, they were very concerned that we were losing our superintendent. "They strongly recommended that we hire an interim, do a search and hire a seasoned, experienced superintendent. Those words are as important today as they ever were because of what we have experienced as a district over the last three years. We learned a bitter lesson that we have to be prepared at all times for whatever comes our way. You have a right to disagree, but it's a mute issue because we have already formed the interviewing committee, interviewed and checked references. Mrs. Majewski and I did not vote in that process. It was the other people on the screening committee that came to that conclusion. The money is there because Dr. Gerardi will no longer be here. This district needs two people. The duties of the deputy superintendent and superintendent are very different. Dr. Macera insisted that she could do both jobs and it caused a huge mess that we have been cleaning up every since," said Nadeau. "Not once have I questioned the process of the subcommittee. That isn't what it's about. Dr. Macera didn't have instructional leaders. And since when do you listen to RIDE when they tell us how to spend our money? Do you realize that our elementary schools ran out of paper this year? What I don't want to see is Dr. Gerardi leave, then Mrs. Busby leave shortly thereafter like in the previous administration, and we find out we are in a deficit! Mrs. Busby, do we have a balanced budget for this fiscal year?" asked Forcier. Busby told her, "Yes, we do." "Do we have a balanced budget for next fiscal year?" asked Forcier. "Yes, we do," answered Busby. "Then why the hell are we talking Caruolo? Can you explain that to me?" asked Forcier. Mrs. Nadeau said that we don't know what the General Assembly is going to do with the budget. "We don't know what is coming down the pike. What if they cut us \$2 million?" asked Nadeau. Dr. Gerardi explained that there's a major concern that the pension contributions will be raised and that could cause our budget to go out of balance and cause us to go to a Caruolo action. "There is also the issue about maintenance of effort by the City. We have continually said that we are concerned that the state will decrease our revenue this month and then we won't be balanced for next year," said Gerardi.

Ms. Phongsavanh asked if the \$574 included fringe benefits. Mrs. Busby told her that we would be responsible for FICA, and FICA Med. She doesn't believe we would pay benefits to an interim person. Phongsavanh asked what the timeline looks like to appoint a permanent superintendent. Mrs. Majewski explained that the process of posting the position in-house for two weeks and advertising online and elsewhere, reviewing resumes, interviewing, and then ultimately recommending someone for appointment takes time. Then there's the possibility that the person recommended declines the position, like what happened the last time a superintendent was needed. "Anyone that

applies for interim is welcome to put their name in for the superintendent search," said Majewski. "But you hope to have someone by September?" asked Phongsavanh. "Yes, but it could be longer," said Majewski. Phongsavanh said she couldn't support this because it makes more sense to her to put Mr. Garceau in as interim right now and we would be saving \$24,000 plus. "There also isn't any school during the summer," noted Phongsavanh. Mrs. Majewski explained that there's a lot that needs to be done to get ready for a new school year during the summer and programs will be running. "Do you believe that Mr. Garceau doesn't have a real job on his own?" asked Mrs. Nadeau. "He has help now with the instructional leaders and it's going to be during the summer. You guys hired him. He would be able to prove himself as acting superintendent," said Forcier. "Don't you think the instructional leaders have their own work to do?" asked Nadeau. "Yes, curriculum duties. Dr. Macera said that the curriculum work was a large part of the superintendent's job," said Forcier. Mrs. Majewski asked to make a motion to approve the salary.

Mr. Dubois noted that most of the previous discussion really pertained to Item #4 under New Business and suggested bypassing this item and going to that item first. There were no objections to returning to this item after #4 was discussed.

4. Discussion/Approval of Appointment of Interim Superintendent – L. Majewski, E. Nadeau (Taken Out of Order)

Mrs. Majewski reported that at the last meeting, there was extensive discussion about doing a search for an interim superintendent and the need for one. She recounted the process that has taken place regarding the search for an interim superintendent, saying that all the candidates were asked the same identical questions. She noted that the screening committee consisted of Mrs. Busby (Finance Director), Jonathan Gallishaw (Technology Director), Ken Duva (Assistant Special Education Director), Kathleen Lombardo (Human Resources Director) and Richard DiPardo (WTG President). She and Mrs. Nadeau facilitated the questions. They did not vote. "There was a top runner and a second runner up. There were 9 applicants for the position and 5 were interviewed. Mrs. Nadeau had with her the responses for all the references for the top candidates. Mrs. Majewski reported that Ms. Susan Lusi was the unanimous choice of the screening committee for appointment as Interim Superintendent and listed her qualifications. "She is currently the Superintendent of Portsmouth Public Schools and has been through some of the same problems we have. Her contract there ends June 30th," noted Majewski. Ms. Phongsavanh said it's actually the first time she has heard of this person and feels left out of the process. She doesn't have her resume and had to go to McFee to look at the resumes. She said that with other positions they've appointed, such as Directors or Principals, they have always gotten their resumes. "I think people are confused about what the duties of the subcommittees are. I know you are, Mrs. Forcier," said Mrs. Nadeau. "No I am not. I've been trained properly," replied Forcier. "You went in to McFee on the last day of the posting, got the names of the applicants and did a Google search on each one," said Nadeau. "Yes, which we all should do," said Forcier. "That was highly improper. Do you know that until Mrs. Majewski and I went in last Wednesday, we didn't know who applied? Mrs. Forcier prepared a packet on every person that applied whether they made the cut or not. I know personally that Mr. Dubois, Mrs. Majewski and I returned the packet you sent unread because we felt that we would be unduly influenced by newspaper articles. Nobody on that subcommittee wanted to read that information. Human Resources said that this has never entered the process before. Every applicant had a blurb about them except for one," said Nadeau. "There was nothing there," maintained Forcier. "Nothing there? Okay. There is something and we were all aware of it, and that candidate was interviewed along with all the other candidates. I also know that you went one step further and in the opinion of many people it could be interpreted as blackmail," said Nadeau. "Explain yourself! If you are going to make an accusation such as that!" exclaimed Forcier. Mr. Dubois allowed Mrs. Nadeau to explain. "A candidate put their name in. It was Dr. Gerardi's father," said Nadeau. "I BLACKMAILED DR. GERARDI'S FATHER???? ARE YOU ON DRUGS???? Point of order!!! You crossed the line Mrs. Nadeau! Point of order!!! She made an accusation towards me. That is not allowed!! Run the meeting Mr. Chairman!! Point of Order!!!" exclaimed Mrs. Forcier. Mr. Dubois allowed Mrs. Nadeau to continue her explanation. "You Googled information on this person and then you said that you would let this information out. It was a personal thing and you did it to the superintendent, who has always been good to you, but I guess you don't appreciate that. But you were talking about his father on a very personal level. The candidate withdrew his application," noted Nadeau. "I spoke to Dr. Gerardi after his father withdrew—no knowledge of him withdrawing. Dr. Gerardi, did I not?" asked Forcier. "Dr. Gerardi called me to tell me he withdrew AFTER. I DON'T LIE!!" said Forcier. Dr. Gerardi said he called her after she showed him that information. "And I had no knowledge of the withdrawal. Am I right?" asked Forcier. "Yes," said Gerardi. "And did I not say to remove that information immediately?" asked Forcier. "Yes, you did," said Gerardi. "So you owe me an apology Mrs. Nadeau!!!" said Forcier. "You don't do business like that," said Nadeau. "No, you're the one that's dirty. What she just said is rude, unprofessional and untrue. She made it up. Dr. Gerardi and I had a conversation since it was brought up to me and because it was withheld from the school committee. Everything was tight-lipped on all this. Information needs to be shared. Subcommittees are open to the public! It's all five of us and the most important job is that of the superintendent. There shouldn't be gag orders put on people, which there is. The information on the person up for appointment tonight is pretty damn good! It's everyone's responsibility on this committee when it comes to budgets and the superintendent. One letter I received said that I was interfering with the subcommittee's

work. I was NOT interfering. I was doing my job and doing the research, but accusing me of blackmail and lying about it is not going to be tolerated. Don't mistake kindness for weakness. You can try and bully everybody else, Mrs. Nadeau, but I will rise above. I have class. I don't make accusations I can't prove. Prove blackmail. Dr. Gerardi just proved you in a lie. My point is that we have someone already on contract that we can have fill in for a few weeks to save \$24,000 while we search for a superintendent. That money can go towards buying paper for the kids," said Forcier. Mrs. Majewski reiterated that at the last meeting, they were told to start a search for an interim superintendent and ultimately, a superintendent. "Mrs. Forcier, you said that you have never interfered with a subcommittee. I disagree based on the letters we have received. It's difficult to do our job in an equitable manner when this is going on. If we are going to get interference and political games going on, it makes it impossible to get things done and to do what's best for the district. I will not have any more interference and the nonsense that went on tonight because I am doing my job. I want to do it justly and fairly and do it for the kids," said Majewski. "Sharing information is our job! There is nowhere that said you had to use the information. Last time we talked I said the same thing about using someone we already have," said Forcier. Mrs. Majewski asked the chairman to move the issue because Mrs. Forcier had made this point several times already.

Mrs. Nadeau recapped what the process was when Dr. Gerardi was hired and noted that they had a search committee of almost 20 people. She doesn't know where they will find someone who hasn't been sued. "God has not applied for the job. Just because you are a superintendent, you are in a position to be sued. It doesn't mean you did anything wrong. We were sued by the City because we are in a position to be sued. Does that mean we did anything wrong? The reason we didn't have toilet paper and copy paper when we opened schools is because the City wouldn't pay the bills. They still aren't paying some bills. There's an outstanding bill for out-of-district tuition. We have no control over that. It could happen again this summer because the City seems to have a problem handling our money during the summer months. Just let us do our job. You don't have to like it. I didn't vote for the Family Planning," said Nadeau. Forcier said she will not support the appointment of an interim superintendent. "Since Mrs. Nadeau brought it up about the committee of 20 people to hire Dr. Gerardi, why only 5 people on this committee to hire an interim? No parents were included, teachers, etc. There was no blackmail. I Googled his father and never blackmailed him. The accusations made tonight were very unprofessional," said Forcier. "Last time we did the resumes, we had a small subcommittee look at the resumes. Mrs. Majewski and I did not vote. Five professional people made the selection—not us. We did not vote! Five people did that. If anyone is upset, question them. Question their integrity! They did the ranking. We didn't do the ranking. It is what it is. It's called the democratic process," said Nadeau. Mrs. Majewski added that they were criticized last time by people saying they had too many people on the search committee. Mr. Dubois couldn't believe the number of phone calls and emails he has received from all sides involved in the process of hiring an interim superintendent for two months. "It's incredible the amount of mudslinging and rumors going on. The people involved in it should be ashamed of themselves. It's over-the-top and crazy! I did feel that one of the candidates may have felt slighted by the makeup of the committee and the makeup of the committee was changed. Being on the school committee and subcommittees is sometimes a thankless job. We give up our time to sit through six hours of interviews, give up a day of work, and all we get is criticized. It was a fair process and I will support the recommendation," said Mr. Dubois.

Motion to accept the recommendation of Susan Lusi for Interim Superintendent: L. Majewski
2nd: E. Nadeau **Roll Call Vote: 3 yes – 2 no (AF/VP)**
APPROVED

3. Discussion/Approval of Interim Superintendent Salary Range- L. Majewski, E. Nadeau (RETURN TO THIS ITEM)

Mrs. Majewski recommended that they approve the interim superintendent's salary at a daily rate based on the salary of \$140,000 per year, which is \$10,000 less than Dr. Gerardi's salary because she will have a deputy superintendent. Whether or not fringe and benefits will be paid will be determined at a later meeting. At \$140,000 per year, the daily rate would be \$538 per diem.

Motion to approve a salary of \$538 per day based on a yearly salary of \$140,000 a year: L. Majewski
2nd: E. Nadeau **Roll Call Vote: 3 yes – 2 no (AF/VP)**
APPROVED

5. Approval of Funds for Superintendent Search, L. Majewski, E. Nadeau

Mrs. Majewski noted that for the last superintendent search, \$10,000 was allocated and they used only \$4,000. They are requesting \$7,000 to be set aside for this purpose. They will be posting on School Spring and Teacher, Teacher. Mrs. Majewski asked that if any committee members want something specific for the subcommittee to look at that they put it in writing. She asked that there be no Googling of any candidates and no interference from others. "This

is a free country and I am free to Google whoever I want to Google—including myself!" said Mrs. Forcier. Mr. Dubois noted that he has gotten many requests to be on the search committee and they will do their best to have all entities represented on this committee.

Motion to set aside \$7,000 for the superintendent search: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Dubois

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes. APPROVED

CONFERENCES: None

Mrs. Majewski asked that a conference be scheduled on the FICA Alternative Program when Mrs. Busby has that information.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Gerardi

Gerardi was pleased to report that the principals have been reminding their students that not only the colors of the dress code are important, but appropriate clothing is also important even though the warm weather is here and everyone would prefer to dress more comfortably. He announced the WACTC Awards ceremony and the WHS graduation scheduled for next week. He is looking forward to attending those events and sharing those special moments with our outstanding school community.

Motion to receive and place on file: A. Forcier

2nd: E. Nadeau (Unanimously Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:

A. Forcier: As far as the elementary technology goes, she agrees with the Health/Tech Program proposal and would like to learn more about it. She spoke to Jonathan Gallishaw and he said that they can meet over the summer to see how they can make this work. "It's not totally dead." She said that the performance audit recommended a time study for all the maintenance department and she asked to get a time schedule to start that. "As many people are aware, we lost another good principal. I would like to put on the agenda to give the principals contracts or whatever they feel is appropriate." She agrees with the 8th grade graduation being inconvenient for parents and she has issues also. Her daughter is graduating and some family friends she has known since they were in diapers. There is also a school committee meeting that night, but family comes first and people like to go out and eat with their family after something like that. She liked it better when it was at the high school. She was told that it was so more people could be invited, but now she's hearing that it's only 2. Forcier asked Dr. Gerardi to look into this issue. "As far as the dress code goes, we can give the kids detention, but they say they don't care. We can't kick them out of school. We will try implementing some new ideas over the summer. As far as the 8th Grade Transition Orientation, I realize people go on vacation and maybe we can look at doing it during the school year."

E. Nadeau: Passed.

V. Phongsavanh: She thanked the police and fire departments for their hard work last night in the mill fire and for keeping us safe. She lives in the Fairmount area and it was the worst fire she had ever seen.

M. Dubois: He noted that Mrs. Forcier requested two items for the next meeting agenda, but she mentioned that she wouldn't be at the meeting due to the 8th grade graduation being the same day and her daughter is graduating. Forcier told him to move the items to the meeting in July.

L. Majewski: Said she isn't sure about the purpose of the maintenance department time study because they did cut seven positions in that department. Since Mrs. Forcier asked about adding contracts for principals onto the agenda, Majewski asked that Forcier put in writing exactly what she has in mind to make it clear for the contract subcommittee. "They want contracts!" said Forcier. "Are you talking about 1-year contracts, 2-year contracts, etc." said Majewski. Mrs. Majewski thanked Mrs. Nadeau for all the work on the interim superintendent subcommittee. Majewski said she found this meeting very distressing, adding that she has always tried to work professionally.

Motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.: A. Forcier

2nd: M. Dubois (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Secretary