

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012
5:45 PM – OPEN SESSION
McFee Administration Building
108 High Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Call to Order by Mrs. McGuire-Forcier.

Roll Call:	Anita McGuire-Forcier, Chairwoman	Present
	Vimala Phongsavanh, Vice Chairwoman	Present
	John Donlon	Present
	Eleanor Nadeau	Present
	Christopher Roberts	Present

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution Authorizing City Review of WED Finances – A. McGuire-Forcier

Mrs. McGuire-Forcier read the resolution in its entirety regarding a slight change in the resolution that was approved hiring Mrs. Dina Dutremble to work in the position of Interim Executive Director of Finance and Operations. The new resolution states that Mrs. Dutremble will be retained by the City of Woonsocket to provide necessary financial analysis and other related services relating to the Woonsocket School Department's financial situation. The superintendent is being directed to provide all necessary information and access to information required by Dutremble to complete her work in as timely a manner as possible. Mrs. Dutremble will be required to provide periodic reports to the WSC, the Superintendent, the City Finance Director and the Mayor. It takes effect immediately upon passage. "Why was this changed when we had already voted on it?" asked Mrs. Nadeau. "It changed because of some issues that Mrs. Dutremble had and it actually works out better because now the City will pay for it," explained Mrs. McGuire-Forcier. "The reason why she didn't like the original arrangement was because she didn't want to report to the Superintendent, isn't that correct? There has to be an explanation," asked Nadeau. McGuire-Forcier said she wasn't in the room when it was discussed and didn't feel comfortable getting involved in "he said, she said". She told Nadeau she was free to ask Mrs. Dutremble or the superintendent. Dr. Donoyan explained that the understanding of what she would expect and what Dina would expect were different.

Motion to approve: C. Roberts	2nd: J. Donlon
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes.	APPROVED

2. Resolution Establishing Committee on Financial Efficiencies & Solutions – C. Roberts

Mr. Roberts read the resolution to establish a Financial Efficiencies and Solutions Sub-Committee in its entirety. He reported that Mrs. Gallogly likes the notion of the City and the School Department at least investigating combining the finance and business offices. He mentioned two other communities that have done this successfully. "This subcommittee would investigate the possibility of this happening to save us money. They would work with a similar subcommittee on the city side in order to do that," said Roberts. "Who is on the Finance Subcommittee—you and Mr. Roberts?" Mrs. Nadeau asked Mrs. McGuire-Forcier. "Yes," answered Forcier. "Then why do we need to vote on a separate committee for this?" asked Nadeau. "Because we are doing this in conjunction with the City Council," explained Forcier. "You already have this authority as the Finance Subcommittee members from the WSC. This is redundant," said Nadeau. "This shows the City that we are being transparent and showing the City that we are making an effort to consolidate and save money wherever possible," said Forcier. "We have looked into this in the past. Some of these things have already been reviewed, so you are going to rehash them?" asked Nadeau. "The performance audit was done by one auditing firm and it wouldn't be just the finance and business departments being reviewed. It could be looked at for Human Resources, Payroll, and other services," said Forcier. "We did a performance audit and filed those findings. I just don't want to see the school committee's responsibility given away to anyone else," said Nadeau. Mrs. McGuire-Forcier agreed with Nadeau. "What if something passes by the school committee and not the City Council? What happens then?" asked Nadeau. "They would both have to agree," said McGuire-Forcier. "Good luck with that one!" said Nadeau. "Who is going to be on these subcommittees?" asked Phongsavanh. McGuire-Forcier said that they want to have people from all sides. "Certainly anyone with a finance background would be good. We don't know how many members we would have on it. There would be at least Mr. Roberts and myself from the school committee and two members from the City Council," said McGuire-Forcier.

Motion to approve: C. Roberts
Roll Call Vote: 5 yes.

2nd: J. Donlon
APPROVED

Motion to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.: C. Roberts

2nd: V. Phongsavanh (Unan. Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, WSC Recording Secretary