

CONSENT AGENDA

C. Roberts would like to take separate the Personnel Actions and Field Trips. J. Donlon would like to take New England School Services separate under Purchases over \$2000.

Personnel Actions: Certified Appointments/Non-Certified Appointments

C. Roberts would like the Teacher and the TA to move at the same time (together) for the am/pm kindergarten classroom and not at different times.

Motion to approve to have the kindergarten teacher transfer on 10-15-12: C. Roberts

2nd: A. McGuire-Forcier Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes (CR, AM, JD) 2 No (VP, EN)

Motion to approve the rest of the personnel action: C. Roberts 2nd: V. Phongsavanh (Unanimously Approved)

Field Trip: Education First Tours/Europe-France, Spain and Italy/WHS English Grade 10-12/Parent’s Paying, Student Fundraiser

C. Roberts asked if there is grant funding involved. Kristen-Jo DiLorenzo, WHS Teacher, said she applied for several grants. C. Roberts asked if the grants carry any stipulations for homework. K. DiLorenzo said no; they can receive an ELO credit; this is optional; they only have to do the work assignment if they want the opportunity to receive an ELO credit.

Motion to approve the field trip: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: V. Phongsavanh Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

Purchases over \$2000:

J. Donlon said there were repairs made at the WHS by the New England School Services for \$3,542.00 coming out of the lunch revenue account; what repairs were made. G. Donoyan said there is a gate in front of the cafeteria that closes off the kitchen area which is very old and required repairs. C. Roberts asked to have an update of the status of the lunch fund by the next School Committee meeting; he would like to see how it is progressing.

Motion to approve the consent agenda as a whole: E. Nadeau 2nd: J. Donlon Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

Communications: None

Committee Reports: V. Phongsavanh stated the Strategic Planning Committee met last week which 24 members were present; G. Donoyan helped facilitate this process; this is a start to realign ourselves with the rest of the State; getting ourselves on a level where we can have a foundation of learning and thriving in the school department; have a great group of people with so many ideas; they will make this a very transparent process putting everything on our website; the first step we will be going through is the needs assessment; there will be a lot of questions about what this school department needs, what the committee wants us to do, and what the opinions of the committee are. G. Donoyan said there are a lot of people who want to see the WED thrive, there are a lot of wonderful parents and people who want to see the City of Woonsocket go back to the greatness it once had; there is a student from the WHS on the committee who will be voicing the needs of the student body; if anyone has any questions, ideas, or comments they can send a letter to us, reach out to any member that is on the committee or the School Committee and we will make sure your voice is heard; the committee has a homework assignment which is due soon and we will be scheduling another meeting soon.

A. McGuire-Forcier said there will be a grading policy meeting on Monday, October 15th at 3:00 p.m. at the WHS Principal Conference Room; anyone who is interested can attend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discussion/Vote of St. Mary’s Home for Children purchased services – G. Donoyan, C. Lerner

No vote was taken, only a discussion. After a lengthy discussion regarding Feinstein vs. St. Mary’s, the committee requested a workshop session with the Special Education Department to better familiarize themselves with the department since they represent a large percentage of the students and the budget. C. Roberts would like a copy of the contract or purchased services to review. A. McGuire-Forcier would like to review their test scores to see if they did better than last year and she still wants to know why the prices have changed drastically from last year until now.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Reconsideration of STEM Coordinator Position – E. Nadeau, G. Donoyan

E. Nadeau read her memo she sent to the School Committee advising them that she would like to reconsider her vote of September 26, 2012 and change her vote to yes.

Motion to reconsider the STEM Coordinator position: V. Phongsavanh 2nd: J. Donlon
Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes (VP, EN, JD) 2 No (CR, AM)

Motion to approve the job description for the STEM Coordinator: J. Donlon 2nd: E. Nadeau
Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes (VP, EN, JD) 2 No (CR, AM)

2. Discussion/Approval of Facilities Use Waiver Request – V. Phongsavanh

Motion to table: V. Phongsavanh 2nd: C. Roberts (Unanimously Approved)

3. Discussion/Vote to return Second Avenue and Fifth Avenue Schools back to the City – J. Donlon, G. Donoyan

G. Donoyan presented a timeline to the School Committee. P. Fontaine said the list of materials for auction will be presented to the Committee for approval at October 24th School Committee meeting. If approved, the public auction will take place on November 8th. Committee noted that this should be done at P. Fontaine's convenience when staff is available. C. Roberts does not want to rush to turn Fifth Avenue back to city just in case we may need to use that building again.

4. Budget Commission Update – G. Donoyan

G. Donoyan stated starting next week D. Eaton from the Budget Commission, R. Malafronte, and each department's director will meet to have a thorough revisit of the each one's budget; the Budget Commission is looking to find cuts. C. Roberts said to G. Donoyan that whatever she presents to the Budget Commission should be given to the School Committee as well.

Conferences: None

Superintendent's Report: G. Donoyan would like to read the report and the greetings that she shared with faculty on orientation day; thinks it is important that everyone hears the same message that she gave the teachers and principals on Monday. Each day brings with it another set of challenges such as fiscal, personnel, instructional, bussing, special needs, technological, and operational. In the process of dealing with the challenge, like scaling a mountain, each team member brings to the mountain a set of skills that when joined together forge a trail toward solutions. With every monumental challenge, because lately there are no small challenges, those folks always, yes always, consider what is in the best interest of our students. They ask critical questions such as: What is the effect on students learning? How can we help our students succeed at higher levels by doing a or b? Which faculty member can shed light on how this affects teaching and learning? How does this effect student safety? Can we determine the intended and unintended consequences that effect student learning? How can we be assured that student's are receiving the best educational experiences possible? What are the blockades to success? We focus on students, their achievement and safety. We are planning for the future, through strategic planning, charting the course for our district. On October 3rd, we held our first strategic planning meeting. I was thrilled that nearly 25 people attended that meeting, listening, sharing, and conversing about the present moment. While we spoke of the present condition of our education department, I was impressed that every one of those attending focused on how to improve the situation. There was no argument, there was no grandstanding or finger pointing or blaming. Everyone recognized the challenge ahead, but everyone on that committee voiced how they were ready to improve the system for our students. They also understood that the community benefits when the schools are improved. What is important is that the strategic planning community members, parents, students, non-profits, WED teachers and Administrators, School Committee members, and others are focused on the future, focused on rebuilding, focused on positive change, focused on how to improve our city. Focus is to identify what needs to be done immediately, in the short term and long term to drive improvement in Woonsocket. That meeting gave me hope, and I wish to let others know there is hope for a better future. No matter how big the mountain, we'll succeed in reaching the top. We recognize it'll be a challenge, but as the British poet Robert Service said, It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out; it's the grain of sand in your shoe.

Motion to accept on file: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: J. Donlon (Unanimously Approved)

School Committee Good and Welfare:

C. Roberts: He asked G. Donoyan if there were enough calculators for the NECAP testing at the WMS because he was told that they did not have enough for the students so none of them used them. G. Donoyan said that is not accurate; we had enough calculators. L. Filomeno said we do not have enough calculators in the district for all of the children to use them at the exact same time; there are enough calculators for instructional purposes but not enough for this massive testing; we went to the other schools in the district like Pothier and the children were also told to bring calculators from home if they had one; several teachers purchased calculators on their own for the testing; there were enough calculators throughout the district for the testing. C. Roberts thanked the teachers and staff that made that contribution; this points to what we always talk about with the funding formula; there is no reason why we are short calculators while Barrington is funding iPads; thanked the two vice principals at the WMS for extending an invitation to go to the schools to give an inspirational thought over the intercom during the morning announcements for the kids; hopefully this had some sort of impact and maybe we will see some positive results.

J. Donlon: Passed.

E. Nadeau: Passed.

V. Phongsavanh: Passed.

A. McGuire-Forcier: She said the issue about substitutes has been an issue for some time; does not know an easy fix to this unless you increase the substitute salary which is not in our budget; we are aware of the situation and how hard the teachers are working in keeping the kids safe. When the STEM or RTTT federal money starts drying up who is to say that RIDE is know going to say these positions are now mandated, then there is no federal money, and this now has to come out of local funds so there are concerns. Family Resources got in touch with her again this year and they want to support her and her sister to educate all the children with the Good Touch Bad Touch Program from Pre-K through Grade 5; their goal to make sure every child in Woonsocket is trained in body safety, child abuse, sexual abuse, bullying, cyber bullying; thank you to the Rotary and the Woonsocket Prevention Coalition for all their help to make sure that all the children in RI have the opportunity to take this program.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:25 p.m.: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: V. Phongsavanh (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully Submitted:

Kimberly Blais, WSC Recording Secretary