

WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2012
7:00 P.M. – OPEN SESSION
Woonsocket Middle School @ Hamlet
60 Florence Drive
Woonsocket, RI 02895

Call to Order by Vimala Phongsavanh

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:	V. Phongsavanh	Present
	E. Nadeau	Present
	A. McGuire-Forcier	Present
	C. Roberts	Present
	J. Donlon	Absent

Good and Welfare: None

Recognitions and Announcements –G. Donoyan - The College Crusade of Rhode Island would like to commend Mr. Raphael Diaz, Principal and his staff at Citizens' Elementary School for their assistance in enrolling 19 new Woonsocket Crusaders this past school year. Thank you for helping Woonsocket Students with critical college access and the readiness skills to succeed. The staff and students at the Woonsocket High School and the Career & Technical Center have raised \$700 that has been shared between the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute & Caring Bridge, an organization that works with families in crisis. As of October 22nd, the WHS and the Career & Technical Center has also raised funds to support the Math Team, Honor Society, Science Olympiad, and prostate cancer research. The USDA Summer Food Service Program provided meals to needy Woonsocket children this past summer. Six WACTC students volunteered which allowed the school district to have a successful 2012 program through their hard work and effort. These student volunteers helped provide 9,200 nutritious meals to our children. Ellen Shalvey, General Manager of Sodexo School Services and the Woonsocket Education department is pleased to honor these students for all their hard work and dedication to help make a difference for Woonsocket's children. The volunteers are as follows: Lenny Alvarez, Paola Castro, Ranishia Jordon, Alphaeus Omoniyi, Jessaleen Phimmahom, and Brittany Plante. G. Donoyan recognized and presented Chairwoman Vimala Phongsavanh with an award from the RI After School Plus Alliance; she received the 2012 Lights on After School Championship award which is an education initiative fostered by the United Way of RI; she is recognized for her work and commitment to children to improve the lives of those children and youth in RI through after school and summer learning programs; this award is very fitting and thanked her for doing such a wonderful job.

Motion to receive on file: A. McGuire-Forcier **2nd: E. Nadeau** **(Unanimously Approved)**

Approval of October 10, 2012 Open/Closed Minutes

Motion to Approve: A. McGuire-Forcier **2nd: C. Roberts** **Roll Call Vote 3 Yes** **1 Abstain (VP)**

Consent Agenda – Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda: C. Roberts **2nd: E. Nadeau** **Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes**

Communications – None

Committee Reports - A. McGuire-Forcier said the next Grading Policy Committee will meet on October 29th at 3:00 p.m. at the WMS Principal Conference Room; the committee will be working on a teacher survey to find out how teachers go about grading because each teacher grades differently and also requested a copy of their syllabus that they hand out; urges WMS and WHS teachers to complete survey. V. Phongsavanh stated the Governance and Policy Subcommittee has met two times and there was a work session with department chairs on October 15th to discuss the draft copy of the Administrative Contracts; there is a lot of work that needs to be done; the draft is a work in progress; a lot of feedback from administrators. G. Donoyan stated upon the request of the School Committee she forwarded the draft contract to the Budget Commission which will be discussed Thursday during executive session; will continue to work with all parties; nothing has been finalized; will keep everyone up to date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Motion to Table: V. Phongsavanh **2nd: E. Nadeau, C. Roberts** **Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation and Discussion of the Second Rwanda Field Trip – G. Donoyan, J. Marzini, A. Cosentino

J. Marzini presented the second annual Rwanda field trip proposal for the Committee's approval. The students from last year's trip gave a presentation/description of their experience on the trip to Rwanda. J. Marzini requested approval from the School Committee to pay for the substitutes needed for the classrooms.

Motion to Approve the field trip without any funding for substitutes: A. McGuire-Forcier **2nd: E. Nadeau**
Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes

2. Discussion of draft Administrative Contracts – V. Phongsavanh, G. Donoyan

Motion to Table: V. Phongsavanh 2nd: C. Roberts Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes

3. Discussion/Vote to refer to the Budget Commission to increase Substitute Pay – A. McGuire-Forcier

After a lengthy discussion the Committee agreed to have a workshop in order to have a more concrete plan before presenting to the Budget Commission.

Motion to Table: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: V. Phongsavanh Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes

4. Discussion/Approval of Job Description for Race to the Top (RTTT) Grant Project Manager – G. Donoyan

G. Donoyan stated this individual will be working specifically on RTTT/RIDE initiatives; the position has been approved and is fully grant funded through RTTT at \$54,000 a year, 40 hours per week. C. Roberts requested R. Ackerman to get a letter in writing from RIDE to clarify what role the Committee does or does not have in grant funded positions so they can have this on record. A. McGuire-Forcier stated she sent a letter to Carolyn Dias from RIDE requesting same; still waiting for letter from RIDE.

Motion to Approve: C. Roberts 2nd: A. McGuire-Forcier Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes

5. Discussion/Approval of Job Description for Material Preparation Specialist – G. Donoyan

G. Donoyan stated in accordance with IDEA, we have a student that requires transcription of materials in Braille and large print; federal guidelines in the IEP requires that we hire someone to do this; it is local funded not IDEA; IDEA does not fund this position because it would be a supplanting issue. C. Learner stated this position is required until the end of this school year and will be reevaluated every year for the IEP.

Motion to Approve: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: V. Phongsavanh Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes

6. Discussion/Approval of Job Description for e-Learning Manager – G. Donoyan

Motion to Table: C. Roberts 2nd: V. Phongsavanh Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes (VP, EN, CR) 1 No (AM)

7. Discussion/Vote to hire recommended counsel for Special Education – G. Donoyan, R. Ackerman

G. Donoyan stated she met with attorneys from Taylor, Dwayne, Barton, and Gillman to discuss ways the firm could assist WED and R. Ackerman in some of the potential cases coming up in Special Education; they presented a preliminary plan and budget. The Committee would like G. Donoyan to get bids from at least three other firms.

Motion to Table: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: V. Phongsavanh Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes

Conferences – G. Donoyan stated she attended a conference on Monday with A. McGuire-Forcier. She noted that the RI Foundation supported a national speaker, Dr. Jeanne Oaks and the Providence School Department and the WED were identified and asked to sit on a panel to discuss and share with the entire State of RI the expanded learning opportunities here in the city; she recognized L. Filomeno for doing a wonderful job with Rebecca Greenwald from Riverzedge; Woonsocket has been a leader in this area. A. McGuire-Forcier said she attended the 2012 Institute for Public Leadership Conference on Monday with G. Donoyan and City Council President John Ward.

Superintendent’s Report – G. Donoyan - Pass

School Committee Good and Welfare

J. Donlon - Absent

E. Nadeau – Pass

A. McGuire-Forcier – She stated she voted no to table the e-Learning position because WED needs this position now and we need to post as soon as possible.

C. Roberts - Pass

V. Phongsavanh – Pass

Motion to Adjourn at 8:18 p.m.: C. Roberts 2nd: A. McGuire-Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully Submitted:

Kimberly Blais, WSC Recording Secretary