

Communications: V. Phongsavanh stated WISE is in the process of completing framework; it was presented to the advisory board yesterday; there are some adjustments to be made; hoping that after their meeting in December she can present this to the School Committee. Next meeting for WISE is November 26th at 4:30 p.m. at the McFee Administration Building. In her full-time job at – SEDC-SEA they are currently organizing a national leadership conference which is actually the first of this kind for South Asian community in New England; many times you hear that teachers, social workers and support staff do not understand our culture so there are many requests for culture competency trainings; this will be a good way to bridge the gap and understanding; great opportunity for teachers and administrators to attend this event; this event is scheduled for December 6th and they have 20 guests speakers from around the country.

Committee Reports: V. Phongsavanh said the Strategic Planning Committee is meeting on October 15th at 4:30 p.m. at the WMS – Hamlet Building, Room 124 and another meeting has been set up for November 27th at 4:30 p.m. at the same place. Administrative contracts will be reviewed by the entire Committee on November 20th at 5:00 p.m. at the McFee Administration Building. There will be an attendance policy which will be introduced at the next School Committee meeting for 1st passage; currently working with RI Kids Count and their policy analysis.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I. None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval/Vote to appoint Director of Curriculum – G. Donoyan

G. Donoyan read a letter of recommendation to appoint Dr. Patrick McGee to the position of Director of Curriculum.

Motion to Approve: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: J. Donlon

C. Roberts asked what the start date is and will Dr. McGee still be part of the evaluation process for the WMS for this year. G. Donoyan said the start date will be December 1st and she is sure that Dr. McGee will never give up his connection with the WMS. C. Roberts stated there is a certificate for curriculum and as part of the contract will Dr. McGee be pursuing this certificate. G. Donoyan said she thinks he has his certificate and is sure that was one of the many certification that were necessary and if he does not have, she is sure that there is some way of ensuring that he does. C. Roberts would like the motion amended that he is responsible to get this certificate within some sort of time frame. G. Donoyan believes it was not a requirement for this position within the job description; it was one of the recommended or preferred certifications. C. Roberts stated he fully supports Dr. McGee but would have a problem with the Director of Curriculum not having the State's curriculum certificate.

Motion to amend the approval that Dr. McGee has six months to obtain the certificate: C. Roberts 2nd: J. Donlon
Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes (AM, JD, CR) 2 No (VP, EN)

J. Donlon stated he has known Dr. McGee for a while and he is more than capable for this position; glad to see that we are hiring and promoting from within; he will be supporting him for this position. A. McGuire-Forcier echoed what J. Donlon said and congratulated Dr. McGee and knows that Woonsocket is in his heart and he will move us forward. V. Phongsavanh stated she looks forward to working with him and thinks he will do great.

Motion to Approve: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: J. Donlon Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes (VP, AM, JD, CR) 1 No (EN)

2. Approval/Vote to appoint Race to the Top District Educator Effectiveness Administrator – G. Donoyan

G. Donoyan read a letter of recommendation to appoint George Nasuti to the position of the Race to the Top District Educator Effectiveness Administrator.

Motion to Approve: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: C. Roberts, J. Donlon

C. Roberts asked what the start date is. G. Donoyan stated December 1st. J. Donlon stated he has known G. Nasuti for a while and he is more than qualified for this position; he is a dedicated educator; he will be supporting G. Nasuti for this position. A. McGuire-Forcier echoed J. Donlon; thinks he is more than qualified for any position our district would offer; concerned that he will not be working with the children; he has changed a lot of children's direction in life; she will support him with any position he applies for. V. Phongsavanh congratulated him; the students who presented tonight shows how capable your students are; enjoys working with him and thinks he is one of the best leaders in this district; happy that the Superintendent has a team around her to support her and help her.

Motion to Approve: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: C. Roberts, J. Donlon Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

3. Discussion/Vote to approve e-Learning Full-Time Teacher job description and to post for said position – G. Donoyan, J. Gallishaw

J. Donlon said this position evolved from the e-Learning Coordinator position; after discussion with the e-Learning teacher there was more of a need for a e-Learning teacher with focus of mathematics; the salary was reduced to a teacher salary and took away the coordinator position; he and other people from the WHS can fill in the other parts of the coordinator position as well as the e-Learning teachers.

Motion to approve the job description and to post for the position: V. Phongsavanh

2nd: A. McGuire-Forcier, J. Donlon Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

4. Discussion/Vote to approve e-Learning After School Teacher job description and to post for said position – G. Donoyan, J. Gallishaw

Motion to approve the job description and to post for the position: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: J. Donlon

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

5. WED Financial Update – G. Donoyan, V. Phongsavanh

G. Donoyan sent the Committee an email regarding the quarter report; the finances of the WED have been an absolute paramount interest of all stakeholders; we have been working extremely hard at re-aligning our recording; with the help of R. Malafronte and T. Mallozzi we are able to finally generate our first quarter expenditure that is our general fund in reference to the \$66.6M budget; for the record, given that the tools and the financial package that we have, we are able to show our budget to actual expenses; our budget is \$66.6M and we have year to date (as of the end of October) expended \$7.8M; we have encumbrances of \$7.9M with the availability of \$50.9M; if we continue on this track for the next three quarters and not exceed our year to date spending, we should be aligned with no deficit; does caution everyone to understand that what we can control we do control but if we can't, we can't; since the beginning of the year we have lost 50 special education students but 90 have come into the school district; there is a net affect plus 40 and these children are high special needs; out of district placement, additional nursing, and TAs are some of the issues that are the costs of the unknowns. Braver and Company (auditors) are in place at this time and have commented to her that there is an improved disposition in our financial department as well as all of the reporting we have available to them. C. Roberts would like the controller to attend School Committee meetings until we have a director; would like her to begin attending at the next meeting in December,

6. Discussion/Vote to bid for Special Education Department Audit – G. Donoyan

G. Donoyan stated in your packets is the first proposal of the special education audit; RIDE suggested that we undergo an audit of special education department's functions and programs. G. Donoyan is requesting to go to out to bid; this is instrumental even though it may cost us some money to have this done; it will justify what we do as being correct and will identify areas of oversight or something that we can be a little bit more efficient with; the proposal you have in your packet is actually led by the former RIDE Special Education Director and his colleague; this is a cost but also in the long run a cost saving. C. Roberts suggests making a motion to approve posting for a bid not for the actual audit.

Motion to approve posting for three bids but not for the actual audit: C. Roberts 2nd: A. McGuire-Forcier

A. McGuire-Forcier asked if RIDE wants us to do this audit. G. Donoyan stated RIDE and she has discussed the fact that because of the federal guidelines we are not in the position to say yes or no to certain oversight in special education; they suggested she find someone to do that kind of work. A. McGuire-Forcier stated we had a performance audit a couple years back and we didn't have much movement on it; this is going to cost over \$15,000 so it will have to go to the Budget Commission; we need at least three bids before we move forward to the budget commission. C. Roberts noted it is very important that we have our work session with the special education department while this is out to bid.

Motion to approve posting for three bids but not for the actual audit: C. Roberts 2nd: A. McGuire-Forcier

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

7. Discussion/Vote of proposal for Special Education Legal Services – G. Donoyan

G. Donoyan stated there is another proposal in their packets for review with quotes; this makes two bids to date. A. McGuire-Forcier suggested going out for more bids. C. Roberts agrees to put it out for bid but requests at this time to designate Steve Robinson, who already represents us, as the go to person should something happen within the next 60 to 90 days while we are going through the entire bid process; he recommends that we not pay his monthly fee, propose to the Budget Commission that we are comfortable with Attorney Robinson and would like him to be authorized for the next 120 days while we go through the formal bid process.

Motion to designate Robinson and Clapham as our preferred special education attorney for the next 90 days while the Superintendent goes out to bid for those services: C. Roberts 2nd: A. McGuire-Forcier Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

Conferences: G. Donoyan stated she and V. Phongsavanh attended a conference in Boston sponsored by the District Management Council; it was a full day looking at all the needs and resources of school departments in light of shrinking budgets.

Superintendent's Report – G. Donoyan: Every day presents a challenge. Hurricane Sandy certainly caused devastation in many communities yet we were thankfully overlooked. But the crisis of Sandy, the interruption of lives, the destruction and now the rebuilding is similar to our situation. Undoubtedly this school department wants to rebuild itself, wants to provide progressive and challenging opportunities to its students. However, road blocks continue to slow us down. I ask the community to stop and consider the dedication of the employees who are holding us up and how we are working to fix the problems of prior administrators. But we need tools and the community needs to learn to trust. WED is doing its best to rebuild and strengthen the educational programming. Over time the community will learn to trust. We are making difficult resource allocations; the Budget Commission is not making it very easy for us in trying to find 10% cuts; words such as privatization, concessions have caused a lot of angst; we are trying to transform our fractured system. We should not cling to the status quo or to a set of operations, principles, beliefs, and assumptions that led us here. New ideas and solutions are sometimes interpreted as wild, odd or crazy. We are facing a big challenge, bigger than financial. It is the challenge to change. It should not take a crisis like Sandy to change our ways, a crisis is merely the greatest opportunity in disguise for us. Please join the challenge to change WED.

School Committee Good and Welfare

E. Nadeau: Would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

A. McGuire-Forcier: Congratulated Dr. McGee and Mr. Nasuti; although she did not approve those two positions, she does approve the people who were appointed; the children from Bernon who presented for us were cute and she would give them an A++; Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

V. Phongsavanh: Thanked the Veteran's Day Committee and the Museum of Work and Culture for a great celebration in honor of our vets; had the opportunity to speak and share her experience with the group; the junior ROTC participated in the flag folding portion of the event; once again they made us look really good; this year's theme was the War of 1812; the end result was that it brought prosperity to our country and especially to Woonsocket. Woonsocket faces a huge challenge and it is going to take a real change for anything to happen here; change is hard and it is uncomfortable but something really needs to give in our schools right now; she has been on the committee for three years now and we continue to move backwards; Woonsocket is not ready for the change we need because the powers that be have always been afraid of it instead of embracing it; last week's election left her puzzled about the future of this city; it appears that our country wants to move forward, locally we go backwards; the message of blaming our schools for our fiscal crisis and fiscal problems really sunk into our voters and it says the majority of our community does not value education, does not value democracy; it is not the spending it is the lack of funding; hopes the next committee really advocates for our children and works for solutions. Change will happen, it is not overnight but we are also relying on our community to support our schools. She looks forward to continuing the work started and looks forward for next year to make bold moves towards progress for our students and their families; wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

J. Donlon: Congratulated the 2nd Graders from Bernon Heights for doing an excellent job; has never seen 2nd graders read that well which is a great credit to the teaching staff at Bernon. Congratulated students at the WMS for attending a cancer awareness benefit that they had outside; they raised \$1500 for breast cancer; thinks it is a wonderful cause. Congratulated the football team on the wonderful job they are doing; big game on Thanksgiving Day in Cumberland; looks like they might be playing Cumberland in the Super bowl; urges anyone who can to attend the game to cheer on our team; wishes everyone a nice Thanksgiving.

C. Roberts: Stated everyone already covered everything that is happy and great that is going on in WED and echoes those feelings.

Motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.: C. Roberts 2nd: A. McGuire-Forcier (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully Submitted:

Kimberly Blais, WSC Recording Secretary