

**WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013**  
**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.**

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**Public Good and Welfare:**

**Mike Davis, High School Street** – He presented a resolution from the State of Rhode Island Providence Plantation congratulating and applauding Barbara Menoche for her outstanding service teaching and counseling young people; she received the counselor of the year golden apple award from the State House.

**Governor Pothier – Heather Neil, Elementary Technology Specialist** – She made a video with the students and the teachers of Pothier to showcase what they have been doing with technology throughout the year. **Jonathan Gallishaw, Director of Technology** – He said technology is wonderful; he stated people like Michael Sexton and Heather Neil make technology sing in the classroom.

**Superintendent Recognitions:** G. Donoyan announced WMS at Hamlet is proud to announce Students Aleena Khamphaseuth (grade 8), Sarah Payuer (grade 8), Justin Archambault (grade 8), and Tainalys Ortiz (grade 6) are in an Art Show at the URI Providence Campus. It's the 7th Annual Richard W. and Ronald S. Buteau Memorial Exhibit held by the Rhode Island Alliance for the Arts. Their artwork will be on display for the month of May and the Gallery Night reception and awards will be given out on May 16th from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We are so proud of you and your accomplishments. Chef Paul Jalaf and his Culinary Arts students won 2nd place at the South County Rotary Club Chowder Cook off on Saturday! The students are looking forward to competing again next year. The four recent bomb threats at Woonsocket High School caused anxiety and disruption of the school day, but there are many people to thank and recognize for their outstanding efforts. The faculty and staff helped to maintain order as they supervised their students on the way to and at the evacuation sites; administrators Peter Fontaine coordinated the evacuation protocol and kept communication open between the school and the police department; the Woonsocket Police Department, under the direction of Police Chief Carey, cordoned off Cass Avenue to make the street safer for the students, and police department personnel searched and secured the school; the Rhode Island State Police deployed the bomb squad; and Father Wooley, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, was accommodating and gracious each time his parking lot and field became an evacuation site and was besieged with people. A special acknowledgement goes out to the staff that assists our students with special needs during evacuations. These students require extra care and attention for a variety of special needs, including autism and medically fragile, and their wellbeing is a primary concern. During the evacuation to Cass Park, some high school students saw that it was difficult to push wheelchairs on the dirt surface, so they immediately offered their assistance. Their actions are commendable and indicative of the character of the student body of Woonsocket High School. Throughout all of the recent evacuations, faculty, staff, students, and community agencies showed remarkable resilience and respect and support for one another. They deserve our gratitude.

**Motion to receive and place on file: V. Phongsavanh                      2<sup>nd</sup>: E. Nadeau    (Unanimously Approved)**

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**Approval of April 24, 2013 Open Minutes:**

**Motion to Approve April 24, 2013 Open Minutes: A. McGuire-Forcier                      2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Roberts**

**Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes (VP, AM, CR)                      1 Abstain (EN)**

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**Consent Agenda:**

**Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda as a whole: V. Phongsavanh                      2<sup>nd</sup>: E. Nadeau                      Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes**

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**Communications**

**I. Woonsocket Post Grad Lock-In – Woonsocket Prevention Coalition – Victor Ramos**

V. Ramos stated he is here again this year to request permission to hold a high school overnight event known as the post graduation lock in; this is the seventh year of doing this; each year is successful; the seniors are locked in and safe; the police department is on board with this because of the reduction of calls they receive. At this time, he is also requesting permission to get blanket permission to continue this event every year; he said if there are any changes to the itinerary, he will come before the School Committee for approval. V. Phongsavanh said the Woonsocket Prevention Coalition can do this every year.

**Committee Reports – None.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Discussion/Vote on Human Capital Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Passage – K. Lombardo**

G. Donoyan stated in the Committee’s packets there is a memo and draft copy of the policy; we are no way near completion but wanted the Committee to know the progress at this point. C. Roberts asked if there is a timeline of when this will be completed. G. Donoyan said we thought this could be done in a month and as we get closer to a final product we recognize that there are a lot of different laws that have to be aligned; she said she will not give a definite date but by the end of summer they will have something for the Committee.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Discussion/Vote to Reduce Fees for the Challengers Cricket Club – P. Fontaine, G. Nasuti**

P. Fontaine said the Committee has a letter from the Cricket Club asking for a reduction in the fees that we are charging this year; one change in the price increase is that we always had custodians on duty on Saturdays and Sundays but that position was eliminated from the budget; there needs to be supervision/custodian on duty which adds to their cost for the fees; G. Nasuti said the custodian fee is \$35.00 per hour; he supports this cost; if the Committee does something to lower the cost it should be along the line of the rental fee and not to the cost of supervision. P. Fontaine said they always paid the rental fee but never the cost of the custodian because we always had a custodian on duty. C. Roberts asked if Woonsocket Youth is part of this or is it just an adult league. P. Fontaine said it is an adult league; their games take about 6 to 7 hours to play. C. Roberts asked G. Nasuti what modifications have been made to this field so everyone knows. G. Nasuti said a few years back the group built a pitch which is approximately a 30 yard cement platform with a turf rug on it; it is in the middle of the facility but we work around it; we do our best to stay away from that area because it can be dangerous. V. Phongsavanh said she will go with the fees that were put forth because it will just open up the gates for more of these requests; if it is not for the youths then we have to stay hard for our policies. C. Roberts asked how many days out of the year are they using the facility. P. Fontaine said approximately 20 days; April through the end of August. G. Nasuti said they are only allowed on the field when there is not a high school sport going on. C. Roberts said when they passed the fee rate last year it was mostly for people who use the field 1, 2, 3 times and not necessarily someone doing an entire season; there was discussion to talk with the season people; he said he would make a motion to approve this requiring the presence of a janitor and they rent it in a 6 hour block at \$325.00; we will back off the \$414.00 and charge \$325.00 for the 6 hour block; which is \$35.00 an hour custodian fee and \$20.00 an hour for the grounds for 6 hours which is a \$330.00 rental fee. A. McGuire-Forcier said this seems to still be a lot to charge.

Motion to reduce the fees for the Challenger Cricket Club to \$35.00 an hour for custodian fee coupled with a \$20.00 an hour fee for grounds for a total of \$330.00 per 6 hour rental block: C. Roberts 2<sup>nd</sup>: V. Phongsavanh

E. Nadeau asked if they play anywhere else or now what other places charge. G. Nasuti said this is the only place he knows of; they play at our place only. A member from the Cricket Club gave a brief background about the club and also stated there are grounds in Newport and in the Boston area; one of their goals is to try to get kids involved in this sport.

A. McGuire-Forcier said in their letter they state they can’t afford to pay more than \$200.00 so how are they going to afford the \$330.00 fee and it is four times more than what they were paying last year; she will not support C. Roberts motion and feels that P. Fontaine should sit down with them to see what is affordable. P. Fontaine said if the Committee motions to table he will sit down with them to discuss everything.

**Motion to table: A. McGuire-Forcier 2<sup>nd</sup>: E. Nadeau Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes (VP, EN, AM) 1 NO (CR)**

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**2. Discussion/Vote Relative to WACTC Tuition(s) – C. Roberts**

C. Roberts stated he put this on the agenda hoping that the Superintendent and R. Ackerman could give the Committee an update with our tuition spat with North Smithfield. R. Ackerman said there is no update; there is no money; we say they owe us \$242,000 and they say they owe us \$232,000; they are unwilling to pay us the \$242,000 until we release them from the claims or dispute of \$10,000; the last offer made was to give us the \$232,000 and we will discuss the \$10,000; they have not responded and it is about a week old. The next step is to go to the Commissioner and ask to set aside their money from state aid. C. Roberts stated he would make a motion to ask the Superintendent to request that money be reimbursed by the Commissioner from North Smithfield state aid to our account.

Motion to ask the Superintendent to request that money be reimbursed by the Commissioner from North Smithfield state aid to our account: C. Roberts 2<sup>nd</sup>: A. McGuire-Forcier

E. Nadeau asked if there is a way to prove they owe us all the money we are asking for. G. Donoyan said the \$10,000 deals with a few students who were North Smithfield residents that were homeschooled but came to the WACTC to use the e-Learning capabilities; we have all the evidence to support the amount owed. E. Nadeau said go after the whole amount.

**Motion to ask the Superintendent to request that money be reimbursed by the Commissioner from North Smithfield state aid to our account: C. Roberts 2<sup>nd</sup>: A. McGuire-Forcier Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes**

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**Conferences – None.**

**Superintendent’s Report** – G. Donoyan said she testified before the RI Senate Finance Committee in favor of the Supplemental Tax Bill and it was a difficult thing to do; the sad reality is that no other Superintendent in RI is placed in a position to beg for money; no other Superintendent in RI is placed in a position to beg for money to keep their school department open until the end of the school year; she and her team have been relentless in trying to find the solutions for problems they did not cause; we are trying to help this city; frankly, this is not the way anything in public education should be; not in a civilized society; it is a tragedy.

**Motion to receive and place on file: A. McGuire-Forcier      2<sup>nd</sup>: V. Phongsavanh (Unanimously Approved)**

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**School Committee Good and Welfare:**

E. Nadeau – Passed.

A. McGuire-Forcier – She thanked Ms. Menoche for volunteering in the schools; she knows that she has been coming in, not getting paid, and working with our children; this is greatly appreciated and wishes there were more people out there like her.

V. Phongsavanh – Passed.

J. Donlon – Absent.

C. Roberts – He stated he testified this afternoon at the State House at the Senate Education Committee; as an update to the Committee regarding the resolution for special rules for Woonsocket and Cumberland, he testified for the removal of this and the Senate Committee on Education seemed quite confused and bewildered that it existed; they did not know where it came from; this has not officially died and it is being held at the moment until they get an answer from RIDE as to why this exists.

**Motion to Adjourn at 7:50 p.m.: A. McGuire-Forcier      2<sup>nd</sup>: V. Phongsavanh (Unanimously Approved)**

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**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Kimberly Blais, WSC Recording Secretary**