

She gave incoming parents a word of advice to stay on top of their child's portfolio; this is a bigger thing than we all imagined. Her senior came home and said that when he went to turn in his last piece of his portfolio he was told that she would not take it because he missed the deadline; he was told he had to do an appeals letter to have a hearing to see if he was going to be able to present his portfolio; he is a high honor student with perfect attendance since elementary school; she feels for the other children who have not had the chance to turn something in and for the parents who are not even aware; she called the school and they said a letter was sent home in the mail; she found out that if the school addressed the letter to guardian or parents then the post office returns it back to the school; there is no one person in charge of the portfolio presentation; she wanted to appeal the appeal and they didn't know what to do because they haven't heard of such a thing; she feels that there should be a deadline with a date and an appeals process which needs to be more simplified and really spelled out to the children and the parents; missing the deadline by a day and not taking the paperwork is ridiculous; we need to use the same people who first look at the portfolio to review it again at the end to recheck; maybe working with CCF and/or the new parent liaison at the WMS and have them work at the WHS from January through April doing just things like portfolios, deadlines, and going through checklists; maybe there could be a deadline on the letter saying the parent needs to reply back to this letter so they can cross reference; if they don't hear from the parent then they can call or send an email; maybe there could be some kind of flag in the computer for guidance. The parents need help; she wants to help but needs your help.

Mike Davis, High School Street, Harris School – The school had Reading Week last week; organized by Stephanie Roberts and himself; they had a door decorating contest; congratulations to teachers and their classroom students who won first place for the door contest; this is his ninth year with reading week; they had 31 guest readers which included a WJAR reporter, WED administrators and staff, School Committee Members, WOON, Miss RI 2012, City Councilmen, a Woonsocket Call reporter, a WPRI Fox news reporter, Mayor Fontaine, Governor Lincoln Chaffee, WPRI Meteorologist, 2 WHS football players, Representative Bob Phillips, Valley Breeze journalist, Representative Casey, and Commissioner Gist. Thanked the Woonsocket Call for attending the Harris parade on Friday which was held in the school. Thanked Senator Roger Picard, Applebee's Restaurant, Dave and Busters, Walnut Hill Bowling, Chili's Restaurant, Pizza Hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken, McDonalds, and the Chicago Grill for supporting the Students of the Month with donations.

Superintendent Recognitions: G. Donoyan stated the House delegation from Woonsocket recently paid tribute to the Boys & Girls Club 2012 Youth of the Year, Austin Taft. Austin is a junior member of the club, a graduate of its SMART leaders, Money Matters and Career Launch programs and is a cadet senior airman and drill team member with the Air Force Junior ROTC at the Woonsocket High School. Congratulations for receiving this outstanding award. We wish you the best with your future endeavors. The Woonsocket Middle School has a "Kid's Reporters Team" that writes stories on students activities and achievements. Congratulations to the following students who had their stories published in the Woonsocket Call. Eighth grade students Andrew Berard, Justice LaForest, Christina Lussier, Catherine Montiero, Miguel Fabrelle, Jordan Fontaine, Kaila Raymond, Katelyn Schmidt, Jasmine Morales, Jocelyn Perez, Zoe Cote, Daniel Fernandez, and Austin Taft. We are so proud of everyone! General Treasurer Gina M. Raimondo recently presented the Treasury Young Leader Award to 37 students, including Bonirath Chhay, a junior at Woonsocket High School on April 23rd. The Treasury Young Leader Award recognizes high school juniors who have demonstrated an interest in entrepreneurship and outstanding achievement in math, economics, and business-related classes. Ms. Chhay is President of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter at the Woonsocket High School and a member of the Rhode Island Math League. Congratulations to her on this great achievement and we look forward to hearing more about this student's success in the future.

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

Approval of May 8, 2013 Open Minutes:

Motion to approve May 8, 2013 Open Minutes: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: E. Nadeau

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

Consent Agenda:

C. Roberts stated he would like the personnel changes that are dated 5-17-13 to reflect the copy of the letter of resignation they received from Dr. Donna Raptakis May 3rd to be effective June 30th.

Motion to approve the consent agenda as a whole: C. Roberts 2nd: V. Phongsavanh

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

Communications – None.

Committee Reports – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

P. Fontaine stated that at the Committee's request at the last meeting he met with the representative of the Cricket Club to discuss their fee; they reached an agreement of a \$3,000.00 fee for the season for the dates already agreed upon; in addition to the fee they agreed to hold a free clinic for any child in Woonsocket who would like to have a lesson in cricket. P. Fontaine stated this is his recommendation and seeks the Committee's approval.

Motion to Approve: A. McGuire-Forcier

2nd: C. Roberts

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

NEW BUSINESS

1. Financial Report as of April 30, 2013 – J. Spagna

J. Spagna said he will refer to R. Malafronte for this report. R. Malafronte stated they provided the Committee with a financial report as of April 30th; there are some areas of concerns they will highlight; these are accounts that are in excess of the budget; one account is substitutes; as of April we have expended \$411,000; we project that account to have an expenditure by the end of the year at about \$537,000; because of leaves of absences as well as some unfilled positions; one would expect to have the substitute account to be higher but that is being offset by savings in either teacher salaries account or administrative salaries account. The second area highlighted is educational services; back in August when the school budget was adopted there were three positions for employees to work with children which were behavioral specialists; rather than hired as employees we found that there was a savings to achieve by using outside vendors, therefore, a savings is occurring in the salary line but an over-expenditure will occur in terms of educational services; the same is true for technical services; in the fall, the city and school hired an outside vendor to provide IT services; we had in our budget positions that were unfilled, therefore, we were accumulating monies in salaries; however, we are using much of that money in the area of technical services for IT. An area that we must be concerned with is tuition for out of district students; in the March financial report we are looking at around \$4,353,000.00 as an expenditure; as a result of students moving into the district or students being identified you can see that account is going to be over-expended by close to \$500,000.00; our budget for FY14 takes this into account and we have budgeted \$4.8M. The other two areas highlighted would be the natural gas and fuel oil; with natural gas it is with regard to consumption, and with fuel oil the Committee approved the repairs of a valve at the WHS; until that valve was repaired it was necessary to run the boiler 24/7 in order to provide hot water; we will watch this line item throughout the FY14 heating season. At this point, 72 percent of our budget has been expended; there are only about six weeks left to the current school and fiscal year; we anticipate that we will complete the year in the black. C. Roberts asked how we store the fuel oil at the WHS. R. Malafronte assumes they are underground tanks. P. Fontaine said they periodically test the tanks to make sure they are not leaking.

C. Roberts said we have two people who are highlighted on the AP trial balance. R. Malafronte said they are independent contractors and they are paid every week and they are grouped in with vendors. C. Roberts said when we go to the excel spreadsheet which says only vendors that did not receive a letter requesting deferment payment until June, did we send out letters to other people. R. Malafronte said yes; many letters were sent to organizations like out-of-district tuitions, Staples, Narragansett Electric, Durham, etc.

J. Donlon said he noticed that Apex Technology Group is \$9700.00 a month and asked what services they are providing to us. R. Malafronte said they are providing our IT services that were formerly being provided by school employees; we share this vendor with the city hall but not the cost.

A. McGuire-Forcier said with the life insurance it says we are over-budgeted by \$3,000.00; how is this possible? R. Malafronte said we still have some receipts that have not recorded yet; we do not anticipate life insurance to be over-expended once those receipts are in; Worker's Compensation is the actual payment and every year after we make the premium payment, there is an audit that takes place in terms of the salary; the result of the audit this year was an additional charge of \$37,000.00.

J. Donlon stated Kids Klub uses two of our schools on a daily basis so what are we receiving for a monthly rental agreement? R. Malafronte said the contract that exists expired around 2009/2010; the rates that are currently being paid by Kids Klub are the rates that were in affect at that time and during the school year we receive \$400.00 per site per month up to ten months for three sites; in the summer the fee is \$500.00 for one site which is the only site they use plus any custodial fees associated with that site.

Discussion only. No vote was taken.

2. Discussion of Legal Counsel – C. Roberts

C. Roberts stated a small group met to discuss legal counsel; the group included G. Donoyan, E. Nadeau, R. Ackerman, and himself; they discussed a number of options and one option they would like to see is a full time individual interested in coming to Woonsocket; in conjunction with R. Ackerman, he took a number of what he would see as this person's roles and responsibilities as legal counsel to the School Committee and also added things he was interested in and other members have

mentioned as far as truancy; he researched job descriptions online for other school districts. This is a very rough draft provided to the Committee. He would like to make the point that legal firms will always be available to them. He puts this forward for the Committee's consideration. A. McGuire-Forcier would like this person to have at least 5 to 10 years experience in school law listed under qualifications. V. Phongsavanh asked what the salary would be. C. Roberts said we will advertise as commensurate with experience and we will not exceed what is budgeted for our current attorney.

Motion to approve the job description with amendments and direct the Human Resource Director to put this in the normal template and advertise: C. Roberts 2nd: A. McGuire-Forcier Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

Conferences – None.

Superintendent's Report – G. Donoyan said last week she had the privilege to address the WHS National Rhode Island Honor Society Inductees. Chairwoman Vimala Phongsavanh was in attendance with me where we spoke of the meaning of honor, scholarship, leadership, and service. We spoke to the students and told them that the pride felt in the auditorium from teachers, parents, families, and administrators was overwhelming. That event captures the reason why our education system exists; it exists in order to produce responsible and productive young citizens for our state and country. By the representation of students, GPA's in excess of 99.99%, college and university acceptances, and student future plans, I have lots of hope that the future is bright. Our time is devoted to state-level initiatives and strategy meetings on how to design policies and procedures that meet BEP and contractual obligations. We continue to fix problems, including curriculum design and financial issues that arose from past actions.

School Committee Good and Welfare:

A. McGuire-Forcier – She said she had no knowledge of the Bernon Heights Playground. She asked G. Donoyan what is going on with this. G. Donoyan said from what she understands the PTO at Bernon has been working on fundraising since 2008/2009 to build a playground; she got involved in November last year when they came to her with the grant they were awarded; she said she immediately brought that grant to R. Ackerman to ensure it was proper; she was told that our insurance policy may not cover liability, she checked with the TRUST, and it did not at that point in time. The Mayor got involved because it is being built on municipal property and all we are waiting for is the rider that indicates that there is coverage. A. McGuire-Forcier asked how long does it take for a rider; we moved Fifth Avenue play swings to Coleman with no riders. She does not like the idea of Mt. St. Charles being involved because we are not selling them the land, they do not pay taxes to our city, and we are not going to take anything more away from our children. She will be voting yes for a playground whether or not it is on the agenda; she is requesting this be put on the agenda for the next meeting; she did not know about this and this has to do with poor communication on our President's part and the Superintendent; shame on the both of you; she said Vimala and the Superintendent, who is the clerk of the Committee, needs to reach out to every member on the Committee. She asked if it is true that the Budget Commission already gave permission for this. A parent from the audience said yes and the Mayor sent out a letter over a month and a half ago. A. McGuire-Forcier stated communication needs to go to every member of this Committee not just the Chair who is only here to run the meeting. She asked the Bernon parents to keep her informed.

A. McGuire-Forcier asked G. Donoyan if we have a policy on portfolios. G. Donoyan said we should have a policy at the WHS and unfortunately the PBGR position was cut so we need a person. R. Malafronte said this position was in the FY12 budget but was eliminated by the School Committee. G. Donoyan said, for the record, we need many positions at the WHS, this being one of them. A. McGuire-Forcier said this position is needed urgently for our seniors especially when we are adding NECAP to this. In addition, she would also like Kids Klub on the next agenda and go over their rental fees so we can get this set up before September.

V. Phongsavanh – She said in regards to the playground, she remembers A. Thibeault sending her an email the night they received the grant and she responded very excited because she understands the hard work that goes into writing the whole thing and actually receiving it; it is an honor to have KaBoom in our schools and exciting for the community; she said she sent this over to the Superintendent and there were a lot of emails; she will send the Committee those emails. She asked A. Thibeault to come in front of the Committee one night and then it stopped because she thought the issue was resolved; there has been a lot of back and forth and does apologize for not informing the whole Committee of this; she wanted this to be settled and the details finalized before they gave the news of this grant and the shovel going to into the ground; she wanted to let everyone know the first week she knew but she wanted to be cautious; she stated G. Donoyan mentioned that she talked to R. Ackerman and there are some issues about the insurance and other things. She supports a playground especially when you have parents who work so hard for it and knows how important it is for the students at our schools.

She congratulated Kimberly Nguyen whom she has been working with for the past few years and who was involved in one of the leadership programs at the Center for South East Asians; she has come a long way; she is accepted to Brown University for pre-med; her GPA was a 100.32; [this student] is also the salutatorian this year and looks forward to continuing to watch her grow. This is a bright future for Woonsocket and for our students. Congratulations to all the students who will graduate in 2 to 3 weeks.

C. Roberts – He asked G. Donoyan what is the status to our petition to the Commissioner for the state aid from North Smithfield. G. Donoyan stated in a recent conversation with the Superintendent of North Smithfield that he was willing to submit to us the entire amount of FY13 bills which is \$299,000 pending approval from their School Committee. R. Malafronte said we received this check today. G. Donoyan said we should be receiving the entire amount due for FY12 shortly; there is an issue she is trying to iron out with the Superintendent of North Smithfield to the \$10,000 discrepancy so before we bring it forward to the Commissioner, she thinks they can settle this internally. C. Roberts stated he will not go to the level of commentary that his colleague had about communication but this is another item that the Committee, in a 5 to 0 vote two weeks ago, said petition the Commissioner for the state aid and that has not happened. G. Donoyan said the documentation has been drawn up but subsequently the Superintendent in North Smithfield has contacted her and assured her that the payment will be in. R. Malafronte said they received FY12 and FY13 checks but the \$10,000 is still pending.

E. Nadeau – She stated two weeks ago when the Committee had their last meeting they discussed the issue of the tuition payment from North Smithfield. When she got on the radio the next day, she realized that they were not on air and said how many did not hear this; she brought this up on the John Dion show and explained the whole thing; a phone call came in from someone in North Smithfield who is close to government who said he is so embarrassed that [his] town is doing this; she said it is not the town it is with the Superintendent of Schools; the caller said he emailed the town administrator and every member of the School Committee and it will taken care of because he will not drop the ball. So in regards to the parents of Bernon, if you ever have a problem don't sit and wait talk to someone about it; you need to talk to anyone on the Committee and say we need help; we will take the ball, help and it will become a topic at a meeting; parents are also welcomed to come to any meeting and talk about things; keep it in the forefront because this is how things get done. She is sorry that they do not have a playground already because they should have one by now; Globe started to build a playground in 2012 and never had these issues; she doesn't know what the problem is and really believes there should not be a problem and this should have been handled already. She does not know how Mount [St. Charles] got involved because they have no business to be involved. We have to take care of the kids in our City and that is what our job is.

J. Donlon – He thanked R. Desrosiers and his students for their presentation this evening; he is one of our many dedicated principals; he sees him early in the morning at 7:00 at the school and doesn't leave until late in the day. He thanked the Woonsocket Police Department as well as the administration at the WHS in solving these bomb threats; punishment has been dealt out and some are going to pay money-wise; he wants this to be an example to any other children that think they will be able to pull any of this stuff in the city; the next time anyone does this he will move to have them expelled for the remainder of the year. He wished everyone a happy Memorial Day weekend.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:50 p.m.: A. McGuire-Forcier

2nd: C. Roberts (Unanimously Approved)

Respectfully Submitted:

Kimberly Blais, WSC Recording Secretary