

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2013
5:00 PM – OPEN SESSION
Woonsocket Middle School @ Hamlet
60 Florence Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Call to Order by Vimala Phongsavanh.

Roll Call by Dr. Donoyan:

Vimala Phongsavanh, Chairwoman	Present
Eleanor Nadeau, Vice-Chairwoman	Present
John Donlon	Present
Anita McGuire-Forcier	Absent
Christopher Roberts	Present

1. Presentation/Discussion on the Woonsocket Education Department Consolidated Resource Plan (CRP) – L. Filomeno, C. Lerner

Dr. Donoyan explained that the CRP lists all of the state and federal grants for the district, such as Title I and II and IDEA. Tonight's presentation is an overview of the grants and monies being applied to the needs of the district. The superintendent noted that the Budget Commission is not interested in the grant funds, just the local funds. She also noted that the district funding has been cut \$300,000 by sequestration.

TITLE I GRANT: Mrs. Linda Filomeno explained that most of the monies in the grant are going towards compensation and benefits. There are monies for liaisons for the three largest subpopulations – Southeast Asian, Latino, and African. There are funds for outreach personnel who are part-time people working with these subpopulations. Funds are being put towards study groups on cultural competence, which is mandated by the State. Part of Mrs. Filomeno's salary and her secretary's salary is being paid from this grant. The At-Risk Prevention Specialist position and 11 teacher assistants at the kindergarten level are being paid also, as well as the TIME teachers and their software program (Learning A to Z). Mrs. Filomeno explained the reason for all the positions and answered various questions that Chris Roberts had. She explained what supplementing versus supplanting was. Dr. Donoyan explained what happened when we had full-day kindergarten – the second half of the day came out of grant funds. Filomeno added that the E-Learning liaisons are paid from this grant, as well as NAFEPA conference expenses for herself. Supplies for private schools in the city are also paid for by Title 1. She noted that Bernon Heights is in warning status and there are funds in the grant for that. Mr. Roberts asked if we get more money for schools in warning status and he was told "no" by Filomeno.

TITLE II GRANT: Mrs. Filomeno noted that this is restricted money and is used mostly for personnel services, such as mentors, PD leaders at the WMS and WHS to support the teacher evaluation process, study groups for high school design and curriculum alignment. There's money for substitutes for teachers out on PD. It's also used for class-size reduction, for example – for kids that are repeating things such as Algebra 2 for the third time. Funds are also allocated for dues and memberships and for indirect costs.

TITLE III GRANT: Filomeno explained that this grant is for ELLs. There are funds for study groups on effective strategies for ELL teachers. Other funds are allocated for curriculum alignment work, study Pals (tutors) – 6 staff members that go into classes to assist teachers with students that don't speak English. There is funding for a Community Outreach Worker. Mrs. Filomeno explained that there is only one after school program in this entire budget when asked.

IDEA GRANT: Mrs. Carole Lerner presented this grant and explained that of the \$1.7 million, \$1.6 million is in salaries. "We have to address the RIDE Performance Reports. 50% of the grant goes towards Early Intervention Services (EIS)," noted Lerner. She explained that in Woonsocket compared to the rest of the state and the nation, we have more kids with an autism spectrum disorder, more emotionally disturbed students, more students with OHI (other health impairments, and more students who are intellectually deficient. Some of these numbers come from kids that are placed in group homes and shelters in Woonsocket. Mrs. Filomeno said that there was a concern raised by the PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) that a parent needed to get some information and there was no one to speak to them in Spanish. They want people available to help speak to the teachers and principals with. Dr. Donoyan said she as also concerned because she had people calling her office that she couldn't understand and, therefore, help. Mr. Roberts asked about the notation at the bottom of the school committee agenda that says if

anyone needs an interpreter to call prior to the meeting. Mrs. Filomeno noted that this request would be paid for out of local funds and that many of the non-English-speaking parents don't know these services are even available. She added that there's money allocated for a Transition Coordinator (a current position) to support middle and high school students. There's also funding for a Job Coach, 11 teacher assistants, the ESY Program and the Assistant Director of Special Education. There's money for private school services, OT, resource, speech/language, psychological services. "We pay \$1,200 for each private school special education student from out of town, then their home district pays for the remainder. We are the only state in the country that does that," said Mrs. Lerner. Funding for the Child Outreach Secretary and DPTs, who conduct special education evaluations, come out of this grant. "One reason this grant has to be in by June 1st is because we pay the Extended School-Year services out of this money. This is for students with learning disabilities and, by law, we have to provide these services. Teacher assistant salaries that aren't billing Medicaid for their services are taken from this grant. Third Eye, a high school alternative program, is funded by this grant, as well as conferences for administrators, therapists, and teachers," said Lerner. Lerner explained that EIS services are provided for students who are suspended for more than 10 days during the school year because they must receive tutoring after the 10 days by law. Monies are provided for psychologists for students with mental health issues. Funds are also reserved for software upgrades for teachers.

Small special education grant for pre-school: Mrs. Lerner explained that this grant pays for 4 teachers and 4 teacher assistants.

Mr. Roberts asked Mrs. Lerner if he could get a summary of what we are going to lose and what things are new. Dr. Donoyan said it has been mostly reductions instead of eliminations. "A lot has been taken out of supplies and equipment, according to Mrs. Filomeno," she added. Mrs. Lerner said she didn't add any new positions and that three teacher assistants aren't going to be required. Mr. Roberts just wants to know the top 5 areas where the \$300,000 was cut.

2. Discussion/Vote to Recall Teacher on Layoff- G. Donoyan, K. Lombardo

Dr. Donoyan noted that there were 28 recalls being made tonight, with 25 of those positions being funded out of the local budget and 3 out of grants. She has confirmed with Finance that there is sufficient funding for these positions. There are still 32 people on lay-off status after tonight's recall.

Motion to approve: J. Donlon
Roll Call Vote: 4 yes

2nd: E. Nadeau
APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, Substitute WSC Recording Clerk