

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2013
7:00 PM – 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 by Dr. Donoyan:

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

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE: None

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Giovanna Donoyan, Superintendent – Passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 17, 2013 Open Minutes; July 25, 2013 Open

Motion to approve: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: V. Phongsavanh (Unan. Approved)

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve Consent Agenda: A. McGuire-Forcier 2nd: C. Roberts (Unanimously Approved)

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Vote on Before and After and Extended Kindergarten Program – J. Spagna

Mr. Spagna reported that he had prepared an RFP for approval by the Budget Commission, which was returned with questions by them. Because of that, he noted that it will be difficult to do anything before September and he has asked Kids Klub about an extension through December 31st. Dr. Shallcross of Kids Klub agreed to an extension. Dr. Donoyan asked how much we were charging Kids Klub before the extension. Mr. Spagna said that it was \$1,200 per month for the total of three sites they were using, but that Dr. Shallcross agreed to \$6,000 per month through December 31st without a set amount of sites.

Motion to approve: V. Phongsavanh 2nd: C. Roberts
Roll Call Vote: 3 yes APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the Appointment of Administrators – G. Donoyan

Dr. Donoyan recommended Elizabeth McGuire as Woonsocket Middle School Assistant Principal at VillaNova and Celeste Conti as Principal of Governor Pothier Elementary School and reviewed the qualifications of both. She added that the Budget Commission has approved these appointments pending school committee approval because of time constraints.

Motion to approve the appointment of Elizabeth McGuire: A. McGuire-Forcier (no relation)
2nd: Vimala Phongsavanh

Mr. Roberts noted that as a 12-month principal and an employee since 1998, Ms. Conti would make \$6,800/month vs. the \$7,900/month that Ms McGuire would make as an Assistant Principal for 10 months and has been employed by WED for five years. Since Ms. Conti is the more seasoned employee, he questioned the salary for Ms. McGuire and suggested that it be revised to \$6,800/month for 10 months. He thinks that the principal's position carries more responsibility and, assuming the Ms. McGuire is a 6th Step teacher making \$54,000, the new salary would be a \$25,000 raise. He feels that this is an opportunity to build the raises in based on performance and asked that it be revised for year 1, possibly matching the salary of Conti. Ms. Phongsavanh didn't have an issue with the salary as it is because of the amount of responsibility involved at the middle school and many other factors. Dr. Donoyan explained that this salary is budgeted for and was the salary earned by the former assistant principal for the past few years with no increase. She acknowledged that while the amount of responsibility to run each building is considerable, at the elementary level Ms. Conti would have help. She noted there are psychologists, behavior specialists, parents, etc., to provide support at the elementary level. Donoyan agrees with Ms. Phongsavanh that the student population of 800, the number of staff to supervise, the evaluation process and curriculum work involved at the middle school requires someone with Ms. McGuire's skill set.

Mr. Roberts said he wouldn't support this disparity in salary and it has nothing to do with qualifications. "It's just that the numbers don't make sense. There's a team of administrative staff to help at the middle school as well. We received instructions from the Budget Commission not to award any vacation time or items like that. The Budget Commission has acted on recommending these two people, but there are no definitive administrator contracts. We are hiring them under the terms that the Budget Commission has set forth," said Roberts, asking that a motion to amend be made to approve as per the terms laid out by the Budget Commission.

Motion to amend that Ms. McGuire be appointed as per the terms set by the Budget Commission: V. Phongsavanh 2 nd : A. McGuire-Forcier APPROVED.	Roll Call Vote: AF=yes; VP=yes; CR=no
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2. Discussion/Vote to extend Legal Counsel Contract – C. Roberts

Mr. Roberts said that interviews were held the other day and that the sub-committee has not made a definite decision. In order to not have a lapse in our legal counsel, he motioned that they recommend to the Budget Commission that they extend the terms of Richard Ackerman's contract for another 60 days.

Motion to extend the terms of Richard Ackerman's contract for 60 days: A. McGuire-Forcier 2 nd : V. Phongsavanh	Roll Call Vote: 3 yes. APPROVED
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3. Discussion/Vote on Administrative Contracts – C. Roberts

Mr. Roberts noted that he is still doing research on other districts and asked that this item be tabled.

Motion to Table: C. Roberts Roll Call Vote: 3 yes	2 nd : V. Phongsavanh TABLED.
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CONFERENCES: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Donoyan

Dr. Donoyan read into the report two notifications she received from the Woonsocket Budget Commission. Dated 7-22-13, Resolution #1) To ensure compliance with the Fiscal Stability Act, the Woonsocket School Committee and the Woonsocket Schools Superintendent are hereby notified that the Woonsocket Budget Commission has control over the Woonsocket personnel matters, including the power to hire, fire and set the terms and conditions for employment of all city employees, including those employees working for the education department. Therefore, no contract for any city employee, including those working for the Woonsocket Education Dept., may be extended or altered without the express, written approval of the Budget Commission. #2) A true copy of this resolution will be delivered to the Woonsocket School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools approved by Dina Dutremble, the Acting Chair. The second notification is dated August 9, 2013 to the honorable City Councilors and School Committee members, on behalf of the Woonsocket Budget Commission, that the City Finance Director, School Supt. and School Finance Director have been advised not to distribute estimates of Fiscal Year 2013 year end financial results, city or school, until instructed to do so by the Budget Commission. It is still early in the process of closing the fiscal year. This directive is an attempt to ensure the flow of data presented to everyone consistently and accurately through a thorough review. We know you are anxious, as we are, to have accurate financial reports and they will be provided to you as soon as possible. We thank you in advance for your patience. On behalf of the Woonsocket Budget Commission, acting Chairperson, Dina Dutremble. Dr. Donoyan reported that the school personnel are gearing up

for another year. Facilities employees are cleaning schools and teachers and staff are planning for the first day, which is August 28th. We will begin the new school year exhilarated and renewed. There will be a new 7-period day at the high school so our students have more opportunities to learn, an initiative to bring music to our elementary schools thanks to Mr. Ackerman, and new leadership at our middle schools. We will continue to work with the Budget Commission and the General Assembly to restore the possibility of an all-day kindergarten program in the future. At this point in time, it's a healthy outlook for our school department.

Motion to receive and place on file: V. Phongsavanh

2nd: A. McGuire-Forcier (Unan. Approved)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:

A. McGuire-Forcier: Said that the all-day kindergarten issue was brought forward to the Budget Commission because of a grant that our state representatives had secured. It was forwarded to them because of time constraints to get people hired prior to school opening. That's why she brought it right to the Budget Commission without going through all the political games and public hearings about it. She felt that Dina Dutremble had the fiscal knowledge and could deal with it properly. McGuire-Forcier wanted people to understand that it wasn't that she didn't care about the money. "Some things, like the hiring of the principals, had to go before the Budget Commission first in order to have them in place for school to start. Do you really want a dog and pony show and take a chance on losing the funds and not having people in place for school or not?"

V. Phongsavanh: Wished everyone good luck on the start of school, adding that she looks forward to another year.

C. Roberts: Thanked Jonathan Gallishaw for his years of service to the district, saying that the WED is suffering a tremendous loss. We send our well wishes to you in your future endeavors.

Motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.: A. McGuire-Forcier

2nd: V. Phongsavanh (Unan. Approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy G. Belisle, Substitute WSC Recording Clerk