

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014
OPEN SESSION
Woonsocket Middle School @ Hamlet
60 Florence Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Meeting called to order by Chairman George Lacouture at 7:00 p.m. in Open Session.

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:	George Lacouture, Chairman	Present
	Soren Seale, Vice-Chairman	Present
	Susan Pawlina	Absent
	Daniel Chattman	Present
	Jose Rivera	Present

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

Dennis Desaulniers, Woon. Resident – He understands that the SC is against this new charter school; heard G. Lacouture state this at BC meeting the other day; is this correct? G. Lacouture stated the SC does not give comment to anything under good and welfare.; hopes the SC is against this charter school; doesn't want any more money taken away from the school department or the kids.

Donna Coderre, Savoie Principal, Woon. Resident – She thanked Dr. McGee for the best school opening in ten years; thinks it went so well because they had a leader who isn't afraid to get his hands dirty, who leads by example and does more listening than talking; we have tried to bring outsiders in to run our district with little success; it is time for one of our own to do the job and stop looking in other's backyards. We need to take a stand as one school district and put Dr. McGee where he belongs. Dr. McGee, thank you for your dedication and hard work for the students of Woonsocket, teachers, administrators, and all employees.

Richard Fagnant, Woon. Resident – Here in support of Dr. McGee. He has lived in the city for 63 years; talked, interviewed, and hired a lot of people throughout the years; asked Dr. McGee what makes him qualified and does he feel he would be a good superintendent; he said "yes, I am qualified and I would make a great superintendent."; believes that Dr. McGee is the most qualified and to go outside this city to get somebody else will be a travesty and not sit well with the people of this community.

Darin Cooper, North Smithfield Resident, Property owner in Woonsocket, Taxpayer – Thanked Dr. McGee for everything he has done for WED since he has taken over; does not consider Dr. McGee Interim Superintendent but Superintendent of Schools; something wrong with the process and what is going on now is eccentric. The SC can recommend Dr. McGee to be the Asst. Superintendent but yet not coming before the SC as the superintendent; when he inquired about this he was told the recommendation is not going before the SC it is going before the Mayor. The search committee is the BC and the Mayor is a BC member so they make a recommendation to themselves and then in some twisted way approve it; they are interviewing, recommending and approving; this seems to be such an incestuous relationship. This has to be brought back to the way it has been done in the past where it is brought to the SC. We all know Dr. McGee is very capable of doing the job.

Jeffrey Partington, WTG President – Thanked SC for unanimously voting down the RISE Mayoral Academy; our Mayor wants to create a competing school system that will drain between \$2M and \$3.2M from the budget in Woonsocket and affect the finances of the city; BC refuses to vote to have her withdraw this damaging proposal. Tonight, in favor of Patrick McGee for any position within the administration; wishes we could see him sign a contract appointing him for Superintendent, not the Assistant position; believes that many positive steps have been taken in this school year; brought back Department Heads, installed Deans of Discipline, and filled many Principalships; one exception, all of these changes were filled with people who were promoted from within; we have so much proven talent within our system; Carnell Henderson, Bill Webb, Steve Boss, Angela Holt, Celeste Conti, Claire Dumas, Tonya Curt-Hoard, Janet Sullivan, and Chris Lopardo; we have a man, a leader, that we all can stand behind, ready to take charge. He asks: why isn't Dr. McGee given the Superintendent position?

Keith Lazarski, Elementary Teacher – Here in support of Dr. McGee; employed here for 8 years; this will be his fourth superintendent; wants to work for Dr. McGee; he is visible at all the schools, listens, gives respect and makes him and others feel that their opinion is worthwhile.

Nicholas McDowell, Local 1137 President – We believe that Dr. McGee's commitment to provide the highest levels of education to every student is unrivaled; he displays a high moral character with a great deal of integrity which has earned the respect of all that work for him and with him. It would be honorable that Dr. McGee's hard work be rewarded by appointing him as the next Superintendent of Woonsocket Schools.

Sharon Beausoleil, WMS Reading Specialist – Employed here for 17 years. Years ago we used to have SALT visits where the state would have teachers from other districts come to view our teaching practices; we were considered a toxic school environment; Dr. McGee had a tough job in front of him but with his professionalism and his tenacity, he turned the school around with teachers' help. As Curriculum Director has taken the curriculum at all three levels of schools and aligned curriculum to the state's standards with teachers' help. She is asking SC to table the appointment of him as asst. superintendent and promote him as superintendent.

Gail Ducharme, Woon. Resident, Coordinator of the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation Fundraiser - WMS largest community service project; sent SC an email inviting them to join the students on October 17th for a walk for the cause; times 8:45, 10:15 and 1:00; thanked Dr. McGee and G. Lacouture for supporting the clam cake and chowder event; thanked staff for their generous support, students for their support of buying t-shirts and collecting money for their walk; she has wrist bands with her tonight, cost is \$2.00.

Heather Neil, WED Elementary Technology Integrator – As an educator, ready for a person who has the heart to make a difference. Dr. McGee has been here before and after all of the other people who were deemed qualified, he does the job that someone else was paid a \$195,000.00 salary a year to do; he has proven he has the heart and character; urges SC to give him the opportunity to prove to them that these are the qualifications that are necessary to lead our district before another district does.

Marc LeBrun, 5th Grade Teacher – Ninth year as a teacher; worked in the private industry for 23 years; hired hundreds of people; with his experience, most times when we hire a person to work in the city generally turns out to be an excellent employee however, the search committees who recommended the last 3 superintendents may not have done a good job so listen to this search committee.

Diane Askar, Cumberland Resident – Been in the district for 27 years; Dr. McGee started as a gym teacher for her students; treated them with respect, as the individuals and important people that they are. If someone is allowed to be a candidate for superintendent, how come he is not allowed to be the superintendent if the person running decides not to take it; Dr. McGee is qualified to run for the position, act in the position so why is he not qualified to take this position; he comes to our schools once a week; she has never had an administrator come to school and ask how they are doing; if SC wants to make a wise decision then choose this man.

Charlene Gauvin, Lincoln Resident – Been in the district for 27 years; reading the Woonsocket Call, Councilman Garrett Manceiri said the selection process has been highjacked by the BC which left a stink on this entire process that cannot be washed off; in 27 years she has never see anyone since Tim Connors who has a vision for this district and Dr. McGee does; you are doing a disservice to the people of this district if you do not hire this man; people who work here kill themselves every single day; she wants to follow someone who kills himself every single day.

Gordon Davignon, Music Teacher at Bernon – Been in the district for 18 years; over the years there have been many superintendents which is quite sad; each superintendent has left the district with a cloud over their head; there is something more about a job and a profession than the money; it's a sense of worth and empowerment; we as teachers feel powerless due to the fact that if you want us to succeed then come talk to us; he was on the elementary music curriculum committee; he feels that not only do they have the best curriculum in the State of Rhode Island but would say one of the best in the country; they worked so hard and put the extra time; it wasn't about money, it was because Dr. McGee supported them; he empowers people to do things and gives you a sense of pride.

Michael Sexton, Teacher – Been in the district since 97; currently technology coach; his daughter asked if he had to go to this meeting; he told her he doesn't have to but it's the right thing to do; thanks Dr. McGee for the opportunity to show his daughter that this is the right thing to do; we teach our own kids and our kids in the classroom that if we are dedicated and work really hard you can achieve what you want; however it is difficult to say this to them now when we see this happen, where a man has dedicated himself, proven himself and is asking for the position but then denied because of politics.

Linda Filomeno, WED Director of Grants and Assessment – Been in the district for 12 years; she read her letter of recommendation submitted to Superintendent Search Committee in favor of Dr. McGee.

Roxane Cary, WTG Vice President - Thanked G. Lacouture for speaking at the BC meeting; not just the teachers but the paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians and the community are all in support of Dr. McGee; the right thing to do is to hire Dr. McGee.

Tracey Dorry, North Smithfield Resident – Been in the district since 82; you can look all over the country for a superintendent but you will never find one with a heart for Woonsocket like Dr. McGee; he is a son of Woonsocket.

Lorraine Corey, Woon. Resident – Looking forward to bringing pride back into the city; one step that we can take is to appoint Dr. McGee as Superintendent of Schools.

