

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2014
Woonsocket Middle School @ Hamlet
60 Florence Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Meeting called to order by Chairman George Lacouture at 6:30 p.m. in Open Session.

Roll Call:	George Lacouture, Chairman	Present
	Soren Seale, Vice-Chairman	Present
	Jose Rivera	Present

Sara Rapport, WED Attorney was present for this meeting.

School Committee convened to discuss issuance of notice to Employee A that employment contract would not “rollover” after June 30, 2015, for another school year through June 30, 2016. Mr. Seale asked about the purpose of this action. Ms. Rapport explained that the Budget Commission had issued notice by letter dated April 30, 2014 to all administrators that contracts containing an “automatic renewal” provision would not be extended or renewed unless the Budget Commission or the City/WED took future action to do so. Yet because Employee A’s contract requires notice by January 1 of the current school year, issuing notice now would eliminate any question that the contract would not extend without further action by the School Committee. The action was not legally compelled but helpful and taken in an abundance of caution. Ms. Rapport further explained that Employee A was the only current employee with an extant contract with a January 1st notice date; the other current employees in central administration had contracts with a May 1st notice date. The School Committee had time to issue notice to those persons in advance of May 1st over the ensuing months. The goal was to ensure that the term for all administrators’ employment contracts would end as of June 30, 2015, so that the School Administration, preferably with the involvement of a new Superintendent, could make reappointments for the forthcoming school year, and thereafter. The School Committee itself had determined that rollover contracts were not good practice for building administrators when it eliminated “automatic roll-over clause” in administrator contracts, in December 2006. Mr. Seale raised concerns about stability of central administration staff, a concern with which Mr. Lacouture and J. Rivera concurred. Mr. Lacouture commented that this notice was simply to create assurance that Employee A’s contract would not automatically renew, in furtherance of the Budget Commission mandate; it did not and was not intended to focus on or single out Employee A. Mr. Seale reiterated his concerns about stability in the central administration. Ms. Rapport explained that the School Committee retained the power to reappoint Employee A, as was the case for other school administrators – and all school personnel – for the forthcoming school year. Moreover, Ms. Rapport stated, the Budget Commission was working to establish a consistent and transparent benefit structure for all administrators, which would become part of new contracts likely to be extended to in the ensuing months.

Motion to approve: J. Rivera 2nd: G. Lacouture Roll Call Vote: 2 Yes (JR, GL) 1 No (SS) APPROVED

Motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.: S. Seale 2nd: G. Lacouture (Unanimously Approved by the Committee)

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Rapport, Esquire