

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015
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	Present
	Jose Rivera	Present
	Donald Burke	Present

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

Globe Park Elementary – Pamela Johnson, PE Health Teacher at Globe and Coleman Schools. She gave a bullying presentation for the SC to watch; she said that these are 5th Grade students from Globe Park School who had the chance to role play and work together as a group on this project. These students also made posters which will hang in the hallways of Globe School and in a few more weeks you will see these posters hung up at Coleman.

Rwanda Trip – Four Seniors came before the SC requesting their approval to go on the Rwanda Field Trip; they all expressed their passions, beliefs and expressed how experiencing another culture would benefit them as well as the people of Rwanda; this is a once in a life time opportunity. Former graduates who attended past Rwanda Trips spoke about their experiences, how it has changed their perspectives on life and how they it affected the courses they would take as they went to college. Parents and guardians of these four seniors came before the SC to state how their children have their full support to go on this trip and how they have worked so hard to be able to go on this trip.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Interim Superintendent Patrick McGee** – Announced that the following students have been working with ELO Brown University through their Pipeline Program at the Medical School (Teacher of Record-Ms. Brown). Since October, they have been attending Saturday sessions with pre-med students, exploring topics and careers in medicine. This past Saturday, they presented their projects to the Warren Alpert Medical School Community and did a stellar job! Gennedee Saviengsack, Breast Cancer; May Tran, Macular Degeneration; Anhnhi Pham, Autism; Courtney Cameron, Anaphylaxis; Dara Mouangkhoth, Lyme Disease; Sonya Rodriguez, Depression; and Noemi Guerrero, Hep C. Honorable Mention went to Anhnhi Pham and 2nd Place Overall went to May Tran.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

• **December 17, 2014 Open Minutes, December 29, 2014 Open Minutes** - Motion to approve: S. Seale 2nd: G. Lacouture
Motion to amend the December 29th minutes to delete where it mentions the employee’s name and replace with employee A: G.
Lacouture 2nd: S. Seale Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes (GL, SS, JR) 2 Abstain (SP, DB) APPROVED
Motion on the main motion as amended – Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes (GL, SS, JR) 2 Abstain (SP, DB) APPROVED

CONSENT AGENDA: G. Lacouture removed Personnel Appointments and WB Mason Math Dept. Graphing Calculators from the consent agenda; S. Seale removed Rwanda Field Trip.

Personnel Appointments - G. Lacouture said on Page 2, 3, and 4 of the effective date is not tomorrow and should read as it is stated on Page 1 “TBD by Budget Commission (BC)”; appointments are not effective until the BC approves them.

Motion to amend Page 2, 3, and 4 to state TBD by Budget Commission: G. Lacouture 2nd: S. Seale

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

Purchases – WB Mason Math Dept Calculators at \$44,955.00. G. Lacouture stated the purpose of these calculators is for the PARCC Assessment; he investigated the internet and found 7 calculators that are available to use by PARCC; however WED chose the most expensive one; secondly, we do not have in place an Asset Management for these calculators; therefore he will not approve this until he sees the Asset Management Plan; he has concerns about the safety of these calculators. He would like this item tabled; he wants L. Filomeno and B. Peryea to come back with an Asset Management Plan for the control of these calculators. Lastly, he would like them to look at prices for other calculators. L. Filomeno stated the reason why they went with these calculators is because of the PARCC calculator policy and the guidance of RIDE. She did ask Ms. Koczera from the Math Dept. today to put together a Management Plan but didn’t receive it until 4:30 this afternoon.

Motion to table until the January 28th meeting: G. Lacouture 2nd: S. Seale Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

Rwanda Field Trip – S. Seale stated the form says fundraising and parent support for un-raised funds and \$750.00 for substitute will be paid by the Global Citizens; he would like to know how much the district is paying. J. Marzini said the district is not paying for anything; they have fundraised for the last two years and this trip has been in existence for the last four years; they do have an excess of funds which are leftovers from previous years which will pay for the substitutes, chaperones and certain charities to support Rwanda; all the benchmarks have been met. G. Lacouture is extremely reluctant to approve the trip because of where they are going and the flights necessary to get there. S. Pawlina shares a lot of his concerns especially with the health concerns but has taken into consideration what can be gained for these students; these students all have the consent and blessings from their families; they know what the risks are and they are willing to take them so this has also changed her mind. D. Burke takes comfort that this is not the first time they have taken this trip; this is a great experience for the students; he believes the hot spots are further north of Rwanda. J. Marzini stated the Ebola outbreaks are over 3000 miles away. J. Rivera said there are always risks but the parents are more than happy to let them go; therefore, he will support this.

Motion to approve Rwanda Trip: 4 Yes (SS, SP, JR, DB) 1 No (GL) APPROVED

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion to approve the consent agenda as amended: S. Seale 2nd: G. Lacouture
Roll Call Vote: 5 YES APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Update and Discussion on Class Size Overage – P. McGee, B. Peryea, C. Lerner**

Motion to discuss: S. Seale 2nd: G. Lacouture

G. Lacouture stated the SC received an analysis on class size overages. He said it was a problem before they became SC members as well as now; their goal is to monitor this; it is P. McGee and C. Lerner's goal to reduce this; we will be reviewing this once a month so hopefully we will see a decrease. C. Lerner stated all special education teaching and classroom positions are filled; we expect this will reduce some of the overages; overages will never be zero because students move in and out; the greatest number of overages is at the WMS which are spread out in all grades; bringing in one teacher will not decrease the overages; they have a much larger 6th grade class than what they properly prepared for. Speech and Languages open positions will all be filled next week. G. Lacouture said his goal is to have no overages although he knows it may not be possible; he said you and your staff's goal along with the Interim Superintendent and a little help from the Business Manager will get this down to zero; he wants to see progress towards that zero. C. Lerner said when they examined the budget line they noticed that this line was reduced from last year by approximately \$80,000. In addition they are also examining overages and coverages because they are falling into the same line. G. Lacouture said class size overage is a pensionable amount of money, class coverage is not pensionable and we have been pensioning this. B. Peryea thinks if we count in all these factors, we may be over budget; the next time they present this they will have a better idea where they will end up at the end of this year.

No vote, discussion only.

2. **Discussion on Financial Report – B. Peryea**

Motion to discuss the financial report: S. Seale 2nd: G. Lacouture

B. Peryea stated the SC received WED's General Fund Expenditure Report through December 31, 2014; currently, the budget for FY15 is \$69.3M with \$26.6M of that spent to date. One thing you will not see on this report is the projection for the end of the year; he is in the process of projecting expenditures through June 30th. The largest portion is employee salaries and benefits which make up over 80% of the total budget for the year. In order to do a proper projection we will need to get a better handle on the personnel in the district. He is currently building a personnel supplement to allow us to keep better track of budget changes as we add or subtract employees; this will also incorporate benefits. Now that it is midyear he will review the purchases ordered. G. Lacouture said around February we used to freeze all expenditures; has this been talked about so everything can get cleared out. B. Peryea said he thinks February is a little early so he would like to see this pushed back until the end of March. G. Lacouture said it's your decision.

No vote, discussion only.

3. **Discussion on Workers' Compensation – P. McGee, J. Wolfgang**

Motion to discuss: G. Lacouture 2nd: S. Pawlina

G. Lacouture stated the SC received the claim data as of the 30th which would be the first quarter. J. Wolfgang said there is nothing more updated; this is what the TRUST gave; at the next meeting representatives from the TRUST will come before the SC to explain the data, give an in depth analysis of all the figures and hopefully they will have more recent data to review with us. He noted they are working on a couple of the cases that they come before the SC and they are also working to reduce this cost.

No vote, discussion only.

4. Discussion/Approval to appoint the Controller for the Woonsocket Education Department – P. McGee

Motion Made: S. Seale 2nd: G. Lacouture

P. McGee read his letter of recommendation to appoint Josette Burgess to the position of Controller for the WED.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

5. Discussion/Approval to post for the Special Education Program Administrator for WHS – P. McGee

Motion Made: S. Seale 2nd: G. Lacouture

P. McGee stated the SC received the job description for this position; it is a ten-month position that is funded through IDEA; only slight modifications were made; Dr. Sullivan served in this position before she became to Asst. Director of Special Educaiton. G. Lacouture said this has to go before the BC; since the BC will not be meeting until February he would like K. Blais to email this information to them so we can get an email vote in order to post immediately.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

6. Discussion/Approval on the USDA Child and Adult Care Dinner Program - P. McGee

Motion to approve: G. Lacouture 2nd: S. Seale

Sodexo representatives stated that this will allow WED to offer an increased number of nutritionally balanced meals to the students; with the Afternoon Snack Program students only get a fruit and a snack; this program is a full meal which includes juice, milk, fruit, snack, and sandwich; this can also be open and more flexible to scheduled programs and not just for enrichment programs; any child 18 or under can take part with no fees. We will also be able to employ 3 students from the WHS and 1 teacher for the program. This will also generate an income for the lunch fund from reimbursement. S. Pawlina said our student athletes travel right after school so will there be meals available for them to take. Sodexo will look into this because they are not sure if the regulations will allow the meals to travel with the students. P. McGee read a letter supporting this program on behalf of Carol Nasuti and the late George Nasuti. D. Burke asked if there is a time frame as to how long this program will last. Sodexo stated they will phase this in after February vacation; they will start at the WHS and then the other schools in two week increments to make sure everything is running smoothly before they go onto to the next building; this program will continue until the end of the school year or when the program ends and then start up again in September.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

7. Discussion/Approval to increase Substitute Pay Rate – P. McGee, B. Peryea

Motion to approve: S. Pawlina 2nd: D. Burke

B. Peryea stated the SC received a substitute pay analysis chart; he further explained the chart in detail. Total substitute teacher budget is \$521,875; YTD expenditures through PP1 \$179,162; YTD projections \$224,757; weighted average increase \$65,314; total projected FY15 expense \$469,233; total projected surplus \$52,642. He has also done research on the surrounding cities and towns and these increases will bring us more in line with other districts similar to ours. G. Lacouture said if we vote for approval they cannot implement this until they have the approval by the BC; he and S. Pawlina asked K. Blais to send an email to the BC requesting an email vote.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

8. Discussion/Vote on rescinding the non-renewal notice of December 29, 2014 – P. McGee

Motion Made: S. Seale 2nd: G. Lacouture Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes (GL, SS, JR) 2 Abstain (SP, DB)

CONFERENCES: None.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Interim Superintendent Patrick McGee stated tomorrow the WACTC will have their Office for Civil Rights visit which will begin at approximately 7:00 am and last the entire day; during the course of this visit a variety of administrators, teachers and students will be interviewed; they are here to make sure that we are following the civil rights of all of our students and staff. District strategic plan – we have been working with Consultant Dr. Ladd from Boston College; created a draft of the mission, vision and core values; we will be sharing this draft at the next PAC and SELAC meeting. We anticipate having a district

