

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015
OPEN SESSION
Woonsocket Middle School @ Hamlet
60 Florence Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Meeting called to order by Acting Chairman Soren Seale at 6:31 p.m. in Open Session.

Roll Call:	George Lacouture, Chairman	Absent
	Soren Seale, Vice-Chairman (Acting Chair)	Present
	Susan Pawlina	Present
	Jose Rivera	Present
	Donald Burke	Present

Motion made to convene into closed session at 6:31 p.m. to discuss Personnel Litigation and Pension Litigation in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2): S. Seale 2nd: S. Pawlina Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes APPROVED

Motion to reconvene into open session at 7:00 p.m.: J. Rivera 2nd: S. Pawlina Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes APPROVED

S. Seale stated to the public that no votes were taken during closed session.

Motion to seal the closed session minutes: D. Burke 2nd: S. Pawlina Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes APPROVED

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:	George Lacouture, Chairman	Absent
	Soren Seale, Vice-Chairman (Acting Chair)	Present
	Susan Pawlina	Present
	Jose Rivera	Present
	Donald Burke	Present

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

WMS Theater Club Students performed for the WSC the musical number "Belle" from their upcoming performance of "Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr." on Friday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Villa Nova cafeteria with live music by middle school and high school music department faculty. The performance is open to the public and tickets are \$10.00 at the door. This Theater Club is a CCF After-school Program at WMS directed by Ms. Cole and Mr. Burns.

Jeffrey Partington, WTG President – This evening the SC has the 2nd passage of 15-16 SY calendar. The SC received a poll from all the parents; it was interesting to see the elementary, middle and high school went in different directions; it is an interesting statistic that when the kids get older they want the vacation. He would like to reiterate that their position is to leave February vacation alone since we already start before Labor Day, we do not have professional days to make the calendar oppressive and do not have a significant amount of snow days.

Robin Guilbault, Woonsocket Resident – Here to make known issues that are going on at Harris School. She already spoke with S. Pawlina and thanked her for her time. Here on behalf of herself and Tyrone Davis who has a child at Harris.

Issues at Harris:

- Past month or so (has been bullied, kicked, punched, shoved to ground, note in locker
- Incidents at recess been reported and nothing done
- Teacher and principal state that there has been a resolution but parent is unaware
- Parent requests answers and that report of incidents must be provided to superintendent, SC and governing board per bullying policy. Parent requests a copy of said reports filed to SC.
- Parent reports that principal argued with dad in lobby, principal called police and continued conversation in the lobby with police and students present.
- Parent formally requests a copy of the report filed to SC.

PTA

- No functions all year.
- Principal declined being a member but has gained full control over PTA
- PTA budget is a little over \$7000
- Principal says we need to do a spin down and use money before the end of school year.
- PTA bylaws state they can carry over to the next year
- PTA wants to have students of the month

Principal

- Parents feel principal absent from building too much due to her elected position as state representative.
- Request parents are called when students are absent.
- Principal does not acknowledge students when she is greeted by them.

Parent states something needs to be done, some research and some investigation.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Interim Superintendent Patrick McGee announced on March 14th Sodexo held the Future Chef Competition at the Woonsocket Middle School-Hamlet Building. Third, Fourth and Fifth grade students from Woonsocket were invited to submit recipes for their favorite "Health Snack". This year we had an amazing 77 students from Woonsocket Elementary schools submit recipes. There were 15 finalists who were the best of the best. The idea behind the event is to help educate and encourage the students in developing healthy eating habits. Our Future Chefs have worked very hard starting at 8:00 a.m. excited, ready to cook, and were focused on the job at hand. The Winners were: 1st Place: Serenity Bernier, Bernon Elementary School "Tropical Fruit Salad"; 2nd Place: Tiyal Cisse, Globe Park Elementary School "Healthy Fruit Sticks"; and 3rd Place: Alexis Duff, Coleman Elementary School "Turkey Roll Ups". The first place winner will advance to a state-wide recipe competition, and then hopefully on to regionals and finally nationals. Sodexo will be awarding student recognition and prizes at each level with an online YouTube voting process determining a national winner; congratulations to all of our talented student chefs. He has been honored to be a judge for the second year; it was very difficult picking three finalists; it was well attended by students, parents, family members, and community members. Motion to receive and place on file: D. Burke 2nd: J. Rivera (Unanimously Approved by the Committee)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **March 11, 2015 Open Minutes** - Motion to approve: S. Seale 2nd: S. Pawlina
Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes APPROVED

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion to approve the consent agenda in its entirety: S. Pawlina
Roll Call Vote: 4 YES APPROVED

2nd: D. Burke

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS: S. Pawlina said she is on the Building Committee and on the Capital Improvement Committee; recently, the SC received a copy of what the recommendations are for capital improvements; when you look at the sheet the number 1 means critical, number 2 means pretty critical and everything has been prioritized. There are also number 3 and 4's. The number 1 and 2's have come up to a grand total of just over \$19M. There is another meeting tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. which is opened to the public. The Capital Improvement Plan will come before the SC shortly and wanted the SC to know what is going on prior. It is very critical that we fix our buildings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Vote on the Woonsocket Education Department's 2015-16 District Calendar – 2nd Passage – P. McGee
Motion to Approve for 2nd Passage: S. Pawlina 2nd: S. Seale
Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes APPROVED
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NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Vote on the job description for the Superintendent and to post for said position – P. McGee
Motion to Approve: D. Burke 2nd: S. Pawlina
J. Rivera stated this was posted approximately a month ago. J. Wolfgang said last year it was posted and has not been reposted until this approval. J. Rivera stated the Chairman during his good and welfare around a month ago advised you to post the day after that meeting; just to clarify it was not posted. J. Wolfgang stated his instruction was to post after this was approved. J. Rivera asked if this would be posted tomorrow. J. Wolfgang said yes. D. Burke said to J. Rivera that the reason for this is because he did not have the chance to vote on this.
Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes APPROVED
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2. Discussion/Approval on Bid #15-20 Aquarium System – P. McGee, B. Peryea
Motion to Approve: S. Pawlina 2nd: D. Burke
P. McGee said in the BioTech Classroom at the WACTC there are multiple aquariums that the teacher uses now; this would provide one large tank and all the contents of the other tanks would be put into this one large tank and the smaller tanks would be removed; having one large tank would be more effective. D. Burke asked how the aquarium is used for educational and curriculum purposes. P. McGee said it is part of the BioTech curricular activities; the students do observations and collect data.
Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes APPROVED

CONFERENCES/DISCUSSIONS

– **Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Presentation – P. McGee, K. Barbosa**

P. McGee introduced Karen Barbosa; she was a Science Teacher at the WMS for a handful of years and then went to the WHS as the Coordinator of the ELO. This program provides the students at the WHS ELO opportunities which expand outside the classroom and outside the traditional curriculum; this coincides nicely with the conversations they have been having regarding the graduation rates. We were the first district in the state to create an ELO program and other districts like Providence, Central Falls and Pawtucket have followed suit. K. Barbosa, Director of ELO Woonsocket, presented on the program's protocols, outcomes and future ambitions. Now in its fifth year, ELO Woonsocket is gaining traction as both a state and regional model. ELO Woonsocket looks to continue its successes by strengthening their partnership with WED, especially in terms of joint grant funding. D. Burke asked how many students are in this program. K. Barbosa said just this year alone we have approximately 150 enrolled and there are only two of them who run the office. D. Burke asked if this program is for students who have to make up a credit. K. Barbosa stated it is for anyone whether it is for credit or for career; if it is for credit we make sure we infuse what their interests are. D. Burke asked how do you get the word out about this program. K. Barbosa said through school assemblies, announcements, a lot of word of mouth, and guidance department. S. Pawlina said this program is grant funded and asked how long is this program funded for. K. Barbosa said RiverzEdge has been securing the funding, 21st century is shadowing down for next year, they have a Nellie Mae and United Way grant; they have written grants and there are a lot of grants out there for funding; their goal is to be here for the long haul. They do this on their own but they can do it better together.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Interim Superintendent Patrick McGee would like to meet with the curriculum subcommittee soon. A draft of the health curriculum for Grades 9-12 has been completed; we started with the HS and will be going into the curriculum for the MS this year; their plan is to complete the elementary as well before the end of this school year; if they can't fit it in this year they will start this in September. This is a curricula that will need to go to the subcommittee for their approval then ultimately to the SC. They had a meeting yesterday with the Eureka Math Consultants and the 25 teachers who are piloting the program in the district; they will be meeting again on April 15th and would like S. Pawlina and D. Burke to attend because they will be talking about the instruments that they are using to evaluate the program and collecting data about the program. Graduation rate – to start planning for this year, next year and as we move forward, B. Bouley, C. Henderson and himself have met with the Superintendent of Pawtucket Schools about some things that have been working in Pawtucket and some things that we could possibly implement in Woonsocket; they will be having meetings with some of their key leaders in their district who have been instrumental in improving their graduation rate. He gave the SC a rough draft pamphlet of Phase I, which is the mission, the vision and the core value, of the district strategic plan; at the next SC meeting this will be on the agenda for approval. There were some issues that were brought to his attention this evening regarding Harris Elementary; he does have a meeting scheduled this week with Mr. Davis and will listen to what his concerns are and what your concerns are. He gets out to the schools as much as he can and visits the classrooms as well. Speaking on behalf of Harris School, he knows that we all have our issues in situations and different comments but can say that the times he has been at Harris he found the atmosphere and the environment to be very conducive to learning. He will meet with Mr. Davis and try to get to the bottom of his concerns. He wants the committee and the community to know that Harris is a very good elementary school and they have very dedicated administrators and teachers and he fully supports their efforts.

Motion to receive and place on file: S. Pawlina 2nd: D. Burke Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes APPROVED

SCHOOL BOARD GOOD & WELFARE:

S. PAWLINA: She attended the Sodexo Future Chef competitions; a fantastic event; they took some suggestions that were made and hopefully they will implement for next year to hopefully get more students excited about healthy cooking. The winning fruit cup was phenomenal; there is a good chance that she goes on and wins the state title. The Harlem Superstar Basketball Game that was held last Friday night was a great success; thanked all the hard working, dedicated staff members and parents who helped put this on.

G. LACOUTURE: Absent.

S. SEALE: He went to the PAC meeting last week and reminded everyone that every school needs to have a PAC delegate; this is a parent that goes to the school; some of our Title I funds are tied up with the involvement of the PAC; your school PTA/PTO does not have a school delegate so please ask them how to arrange for this. The next and final SELAC meeting of the year is Thursday, April 2nd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the WMS-Hamlet, Room 124; they will have a speaker who will make a presentation at this meeting.

D. BURKE: Thanked Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt and WED's Director of Finance, Brad Peryea for offering opportunities for free PSAT for our students; hopefully in our curriculum there are some opportunities to prepare these students to take these free PSAT. He was excited to hear about the ELO Program; likes to see alternative opportunities. Hopefully as they get their grant monies and the program expands they could get extra people to work with them which will help this program grow even bigger. Our students need different opportunities. For the mother who came and spoke to the SC, he hopes that there are protocols in place to address her concerns; she was heard and listened to; and they will continue this conversation so everyone can come to an understanding.

