

MINUTES  
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015**  
**Woonsocket Middle School @ Hamlet**  
**60 Florence Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895**

**Call to Order by George Lacouture**  
**Moment of Silence**  
**Pledge of Allegiance**

<b>Roll Call:</b>	George Lacouture, Chairman	Present
	Soren Seale, Vice-Chairman	Present
	Jose Rivera	Absent
	Susan Pawlina	Absent
	Donald Burke	Present

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**PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:**

**Cindy Stepanian, PAC Co-Chair:** Asked the school committee to look into the school uniforms again and put it back on the school committee agenda for discussion. She feels that there was some disagreement between school committee members on this issue and hopes they can come together on it. As a parent, she doesn't think that if they got rid of the school uniforms mid-year that most other parents would be opposed to it. She doesn't think it would be a problem and has spoken to at least five other parents about it also and they didn't think it would be a problem. Students could still wear the school colors to show spirit during the rest of the year but wouldn't be restricted to certain items of clothing. If they need more parent opinion, she would be happy to assist in getting that from the Parent Advisory Committee meetings that they hold and bring that information back to the WSC.

**Grace Rossi, 117 Broad Street, Woonsocket:** She just moved here and attended the PAC meeting. She said it seems that the uniform policy started because of the high school students dressing inappropriately and then was abolished at that level and left at the elementary and middle school levels when it was initially the high school that was the problem. She has spoken to several people who have said it's unenforceable in Grades K-8 because of their age. Rossi is against school uniforms but doesn't believe in not having a dress code, however. She also spoke about the lack of a crosswalk at Globe Park School. "Students are being used as crossing guards to stop traffic, but we need painted lines."

**Roxanne Carey, WMS teacher:** Announced a Chowder and Clambake Fundraiser for Breast Cancer being held on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at the WMS. Tickets are \$10 and it's from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Jeff Partington, WTG President:** Asked that the school committee chair allow people in the audience to participate when they discuss the Memorandum of Agreement that is on the agenda tonight.

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**RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Patrick McGee, Superintendent**

The Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation and the Woonsocket Middle School Community Service Project will have a Chowder and Clam Cake fundraiser on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the WMS Hamlet Building. The cost is \$10.00 per person and all proceeds will go the Gloria Gemma Foundation. Everyone is welcomed to join this fun event for a worthy cause. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Flames of Hope Run/Walk Series will be held on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Station Park located across from the Providence Place Mall, Providence. On September 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a Waterfire Educators Recognition Night in Providence. Culinary Arts Instructor Chef Paul Jalaf along with the culinary arts students: Victoria Beauregard, Marisa Bouley, Seyha Chuk, Wilberto Colon Jr., Asley Corrales, Lisa Darling, Mariah Molina, Tommy Phimmasene, Janae Shirinian, Johnny Shireinean, Darren Souvannavongs, and Senghor Thlang will be serving Bahn Mi Inspired Sliders and Spanish Coffee Panna Cotta Parfait. This is a great opportunity for these students to display their many talents and accomplishments.



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**#2) Discussion/Approval on the Budget Transfer Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Passage: S. Seale, B. Peryea**

Motion to approve: S. Seale

2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Lacouture

Mr. Seale said that this policy is an attempt to balance budgetary controls with funding flexibility. This goes above and beyond the requirements. Transfers under \$2,000 would be delegated to the Superintendent for approval and would come to the WSC in a report. Transfers over \$2,000 would still come before the school committee for approval. He said it will help minimize the number of budget transfers needed. Mr. Lacouture clarified that this wouldn't happen every single day, adding the Mr. Seale brought this up a year ago when Mr. Lacouture asked where the funding was coming from to pay for a position and shouldn't we vote to transfer the funds. "We were told we didn't really have to do that," said Lacouture. Mr. Lacouture believes that what precipitated this was a person was being hired for a Special Ed position for services that were provided through Purchased Services. That's where the money was located. It made sense to put the money into the Salary Account. It also makes it cleaner for an outside person.

**Motion to Amend to change the last sentence by adding "and requests" so it reads as follows – "The Director of Finance and Administration shall provide the Woonsocket School Committee with quarterly transfer activity reports and requests as part of the financial reports provided to the School Board.": S. Seale**

**Second: G. Lacouture**

**RCV: 3 yes**

**Amendment Approved.**

**RCV on Main Motion As Amended: 3 yes**

Mr. Lacouture requested that a policy number be added to this policy.

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**#3) Update on 2014 Fiscal Year End Audit – G. Lacouture, B. Peryea**

Mr. Lacouture stated that there was no need for a motion on this item. He announced that the WSC received the report and that it's available on the WED website. Mr. Peryea emphasized that this report is for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. He added that when the 2014-2015 audit is finished he will then do a report for the WSC. He reported that was \$66.5 million revenue in 2014, \$64.3 million in expenditures, leaving \$2.2 million surplus rolling in the career center account. There was a \$2.2 million surplus and deficit \$3.1 from the previous year and after netting them together, a \$1.3 million deficit for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

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**#4) Approval of and recommendation to Mayor for execution of Memorandum of Agreement with Teachers' Guild – G. Lacouture, P. McGee, J. Cooper**

Motion to approve: S. Seale

2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Burke

RCV: 3 yes APPROVED

Mr. Lacouture reported that he has read this Memorandum of Agreement probably four times and, not being a special education teacher, was having trouble understanding it and asked Dr. Janet Sullivan and Mr. Partington to address some questions he had. Dr. Sullivan explained that starting in 2012, special education teachers at the high school, started having overages in their caseloads because there weren't enough special education teachers to handle the number of students due to budget cuts. These teachers should have received payment for these overages but there wasn't anything in place to determine how to pay them for it. Reported that there is now a formula in place and some changes in the contract so there are far fewer overages. "There were some huge class size overages in elementary last year that's part of this also, wasn't there?" asked Lacouture. Dr. Sullivan confirmed that there were and that they have redefined some terms and assured him it won't happen again. Mr. Peryea added that according to the State Retirement Board, overages are only pensionable if the teacher has that student for an entire quarter and the teacher would see on their pay stub what their base pay is that's going towards their pension. Mr. Burke asked how caseload and class size is determined. "Is it determined locally or by the state?" he asked. Dr. Sullivan told him it's a district decision and it's in the teacher contract. Mr. Lacouture doesn't consider a Memorandum of Agreement a contract until it is included in the next contract. That's where he and the school attorney differ. "Otherwise we could open up the whole contract and nobody wants to do that," he said. Dr. Sullivan said they developed a formula for overages which they didn't have before. "The reason it happened initially is because of a lot of cuts that year were made that shouldn't have been made," said Sullivan. Mr. Burke asked if this will save money on overages going forward. Peryea thinks that overall it will cost less money, but can't make that guarantee. Mr. Seale, referring to Page 2, Items "a", "b", and "d", said he was confused because "c" talks about the high school and "d" reads the same as "b". Dr. Sullivan said the reason they had to write these items the way they did was because the students follow the teachers in clusters at the middle school level and they are with them for a week vs. the schedule at the high school level. For Item "b", Mr. Partington explained that the certifications were matched up with the contract. Under Item "b", Dr. Sullivan noted that the "Except for" in the first sentence pertains to high school teachers and "d" pertains to

