

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015
Woonsocket Middle School @ Hamlet
60 Florence Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Call to Order by Chairman George Lacouture

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:	George Lacouture, Chairman	Present
	Soren Seale, Vice-Chairman	Present
	Jose Rivera	Present
	Susan Pawlina	Present
	Donald Burke	Present

New Procedure for Meeting:

Chairman Lacouture informed the committee that the procedure has changed and that School Committee (SC) members would be allowed to comment on items that were brought up during good and welfare. For future meetings, after the recognitions and announcements portion of the meetings the Chairman will ask if any members of the SC wish to make comments or share concerns, and under SC reports each member will have the opportunity to speak during the Superintendent's report. At the conclusion of the meeting, each member will have the opportunity to discuss any agenda item. The reason for this change is to help ensure that the SC complies with the requirements of the open meetings act as closely as possible.

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

Karen Macbeth, Principal, Harris Elementary School: She shared with the SC that the district has been piloting a new math program, Eureka Math. This is a rigorous and demanding undertaking for all of the teachers and they are excited to be a part of this process. She would like to acknowledge and show support of the teachers. Math scores are expected to improve as well as reading efficiency. The fifth graders from Harris School performed a skit from their recent play about stereotypes and biases to promote acceptance and equality. The Chairman thanked the teacher, principal, and students.

Jeffrey Partington, President, Woonsocket Teachers' Guild: Monday, he delivered a letter to P. Fontaine regarding several doors in the district that do not lock and requested that the locks be fixed as soon as possible. He thanked P. Fontaine for all his efforts because within the last couple of days half the repairs have been completed. He also wrote a letter to A. Graham regarding several technology issues in the district that need to be addressed; there are items on tonight's agenda which require SC approval in order to begin correcting some of the issues and noted that the lack of technology upgrades are preventing students from doing tasks that are necessary for them to succeed.

School Committee response for Public Good and Welfare:

S. Seale: The technology point is well taken; we must continue our push to bring our school district into the 21st century.

J. Rivera: We have a subcommittee that concentrates directly on technology and he wants the public and teachers to know they are welcome to be a part of these meetings and discussions.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Patrick McGee, Superintendent

- Sodexo School Services will continue its tradition of donating a Thanksgiving Dinner Basket to a family in need at each of our district's schools. A family will be selected at each school based on circumstances and need. Each basket will be delivered to the schools on Tuesday, November 24. Thank you to Ellen Shalvey and Sodexo for their kindness and service to families within our community.
- Congratulations to Zachary Blanchard, WHS senior, on winning the twenty-eighth annual Worcester Polytechnic Institute Mathematics Award on October 20th. In addition to winning the award, Zachary was presented with a \$1,000.00 scholarship.

- Congratulations to WHS students Omar Diedhiou, Jared Lariviere, Calvin Bessette, and Steven LaPlante for receiving their certificate of completion in the summer ELO (Expanded Learning Opportunities) Firefighting Program. Their work this summer consisted of Engine and Ladder Company, Rescue/CPR, Vehicle Extrication, Dispatch and Communication, Hazmat Fire Behavior and Prevention. As a result of their hard work and dedication, each student earned certificates from the WFD, school credit towards graduation, and invaluable insight into what it takes to be a professional in the field of fire fighting. Thank you to WFD Chief Paul Shatraw, Capt. Wayne Foresti, Capt. Steven Reilly and the rest of the WFD.
- Congratulations to Keith Jillette, WHS senior, on being named All-Division Honors for the WHS Cross Country team. Keith qualified and competed in the State Cross Country meet this past Sunday, finishing 97 out of 140 competitors.
- Congratulations to Tonya Curt-Hoard, Asst. Principal at WMS and Ann Malbon, Library/Media Specialist at WMS, for presenting at the Better Together Conference and Innovation Powered by Technology in October; they co-presented Infographics: An Alternative Mundane Reports.
- Congratulations to Tonya Curt-Hoard for presenting at the Dare to Innovate – annual MassCue Conference also in October; Tonya Curt-Hoard presented her project titled Book Commercials using Animoto.
- Congratulations to WHS cross country coaches Barbara Daluz and George Briggs for being named recipients of the Brown Invitational's 13TH annual Service to Cross Country Award.
- The WACTC is hosting an Open House Holiday Photo Night on Thursday, November 19th from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the WACTC. The Open House will include a chance to see the career programs and an opportunity to have holiday family photos taken.
- Congratulations to Lisa Tenreiro, WMS guidance counselor, for being named the 2015-16 School Counselor of the Year in RI by RISCA.
- The elementary schools recently received donations of knitted hats and mittens from an anonymous donor for students and families of Woonsocket.

D. Burke commented that Sodexo has a wonderful spirit of giving not only with Thanksgiving Baskets but with the weekend backpack meals program, breakfast program and the summer programs. Congratulations for the great work they do.

Motion to receive and place on file: S. Seale

2nd: D. Burke, S. Pawlina (Unanimously Approved by

the Committee)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

➤ **October 28, 2015 Open/Closed Minutes**

Motion to approve: S. Seale 2nd: D. Burke Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion to approve: S. Seale 2nd: D. Burke

Roll Call Vote on the consent agenda as amended: 5 Yes APPROVED

CONSENT AGENDA (removed for discussion):

Personnel Actions and Purchases:

Certified Appointments – G. Lacouture: Regarding a position for an hourly stipend for a music clinician, there is no position in the collective bargaining agreement that he is aware of and this is a new position. The chairman asked how to place this in the personnel supplement. B. Peryea stated it is budgeted on another line in the budget. This person cannot get paid as a 1099 although they have been in the past; this person cannot get a check for a 1099 and a w-2; this is an individual circumstance. The question is not the program but protocol for the appointment. Coaching positions should be posted at the beginning of the season and the appointments approved at the beginning of the season, not when the season is over; he cautioned the athletic director and WHS principal of same. In addition, a coach needs a BCI and a coaching certificate or they cannot be on the field. G. Lacouture asked that moving forward all the necessary requirements and qualifications are in place prior to the person working in the position.

Purchases –Motion to table the purchase order for Blish and Cavanagh: G. Lacouture 2nd: S. Seale, S. Pawlina
J. Rivera asked if WED is responsible for the whole \$25,000. B. Peryea stated we paid a portion of the legal fees earlier this year and this is the remaining balance we owe. There was no cap.

Roll Call Vote to table: 5 Yes

APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

▪ Technology Subcommittee

The Technology Subcommittee met last week to vote on a few items for purchases. These items include cameras that are being integrated into the Eureka Math Curriculum. In order for students to stay competitive we need to supplement the curriculum with appropriated technology. Eureka Math requires a camera to perform certain functions and will be purchased for K-2. The infrastructure is in rough shape. The subcommittee plans to make informed decisions about each of the buildings and plans to formulate a baseline in order to realistically project future goals for the district. The Technology Subcommittee meets every other week.

▪ Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee is currently working on the district dating/violence and attendance policy. The subcommittee is meeting with principals and directors to develop a process which will be shared at the first SC meeting in 2016. The subcommittee is guided by WED's legal representation and brainstorming with policies from other districts.

Motion to receive and place on file: G. Lacouture 2nd: S. Seale (Unanimously Approved by the Committee)

CONFERENCES/DISCUSSIONS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion on the transfer of the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center (WACTC) – D. Burke, G. Lacouture, P. McGee, P. Fontaine, C. Henderson, W. Webb, B. Peryea

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

G. Lacouture would like to thank P. Fontaine, W. Webb, P. McGee and also the School Building Committee. This has been a difficult task and this is the final recommendation. P. Fontaine has been responsible for the building components and W. Webb and C. Henderson have worked on the programs. The SC was provided a detailed list of how the \$ 3.1 million would be allocated to the WACTC. The money will be used to improve the structure of the building, modifications to existing programs and integrating new programs. Modifications and improvements to correct OCR violations, repairs to HVAC units and an addition to support automotive and welding units are also included in the list. There is a process with RIDE to implement a new program. We need to prove we have the resources to support the program. The process was outlined in a handout. Infrastructure improvements include addition of 200 sq. ft. for the welding program in year one; year two includes changes to the entrance for the bakery and café which require a structural change of the building. The payments from the state will occur over a two-year period. New potential programs include healthcare, information technology, manufacturing, hospitality, defense, marine trades. The welding and business academy programs are definitely happening. Improvements upon existing programs are key. Implementing the programs will take longer than two years. This plan enumerates how the money will be spent in the next two years. G. Lacouture thanked everyone for their hard work. He instructed our attorney to submit a cover letter to go to the City Council with our plan for their December meeting and the Superintendent can sign this letter.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

2. Discussion/Approval of Bid #16-14 Ford Pickup with Plow Package – G. Lacouture, B. Peryea

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

3. Discussion/Approval on Workcamps Rental – G. Lacouture, P. McGee, P. Fontaine

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

This is a nonprofit organization with up to 450 volunteers around the United States to do home repairs for the elderly, veterans, and low income residents in the City of Woonsocket. This organization works all over the United States and is partnering with Neighborworks, who would be connecting those in need to the services provided by Workcamps. They are requesting housing at the WMS for the volunteers and volunteer leaders for one week and are seeking to use the classrooms for sleeping free of charge. They do have liability insurance for \$3M. With typical Workcamps, they paid for the custodians, cooks, food that they eat, and utilities. The number is usually half the cost that WED is asking in their proposal. The total proposal is approximately \$88,000.00; therefore, what they are seeking is to use the classrooms free of charge. It usually costs them around \$40,000 to use a building with the areas they are requesting. P. Fontaine gave a summary on the SC policy regarding renting to nonprofit organizations. He noted this Workcamp will occupy the building 24 hours for 8 days so WED did not waive any fees.

Motion to amend the fee to be 50% of what WED would normally charge: S. Seale 2nd: D. Burke
S. Pawlina said all fees will still apply as a whole with the exception of the classroom fees. S. Seale said correct.
Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

Roll Call on the Motion as amended: 5 Yes APPROVED

4. Update on October 2015 Financials – G. Lacouture, B. Peryea

G. Lacouture asked why we are over a half million short for the salary line. B. Peryea said now that the budget transfer policy has been approved he will transfer money over to narrow that gap. This is also the month that they adjust the salaries based on educational experience so there were significant adjustments made to the salary line. G. Lacouture asked about the \$104,000 for technical services. B. Peryea said that was the new financial accounting system. G. Lacouture asked about \$170,000 transportation. B. Peryea said those are costs from the out-of-district placements. He noted that there has been a reduction on medical expense.

Motion to receive and place on file: S. Seale 2nd: S. Pawlina (Unanimously Approved by the Committee)

5. Discussion on the Nellie Mae Foundation Community Engagement Grant with Great Schools Partnership–
G. Lacouture, P. McGee, L. Filomeno

P. McGee stated the SC received information that describes grant initiatives which they are in the process of finalizing with the Nellie Mae Foundation. This is an opportunity for WED to work with the Great Schools Partnership Group (a community engagement grant); it is a three-year grant, \$10,000 for each year.

Motion to receive and place on file: S. Seale 2nd: G. Lacouture (Unanimously Approved by the Committee)

6. Discussion/Vote on the Teen Dating Violence Policy – 1st Passage – S. Pawlina, J. Rivera, P. McGee

S. Pawlina said it is a statewide policy which was produced by RIDE.

Motion to approve: S. Pawlina 2nd: J. Rivera Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

7. Discussion/Approval of new non-budgeted positions – G. Lacouture, P. McGee, B. Peryea, J. Wolfgang

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

G. Lacouture said the first position listed is paid by Title I so it won't be Medicaid reimbursable and asked why are we putting it in Title I. B. Peryea said General Fund is over budgeted right now. We will bring this position back to the General Fund in the future so we can get Medicaid reimbursed. S. Seale asked if the Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant is required by an IEP. B. Peryea said yes and they are at capacity with students so we have to hire a new person.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

8. Discussion/Approval to appoint the new non-budgeted positions – G. Lacouture, P. McGee, B. Peryea, J. Wolfgang

Motion to approve: G. Lacouture 2nd: S. Seale Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Patrick McGee, Superintendent – Congratulated the Harris Students for their wonderful performance this evening. He is very proud of them.

➤ **RI Education Summit** –On Tuesday, October 27th I served on a panel of Urban Core superintendents from RI to discuss the achievement gap. *The Equitable Delivery of a 21st Century Education: Closing the Achievement Gap*, was hosted by Senators Juan Pichardo and Harold Betts at the State House. During the summit, we discussed the status of minority students in our districts as well as programs, initiatives and future plans for closing the achievement gap. Specifically, Woonsocket has implemented the following programs and initiatives to address the achievement gap:

- Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum at each level (Reading, math, and phonics); Implementation of Summer K-8 Ramp-Up Program through Title I, and partnership with Connecting Children and Families (CCF), Neighborworks (Summer 2016); as part of the District Improvement Plan (DIP), the WED is committed to increase the number of teachers with ESL certifications; and as part of the DIP, the WED has partnered with Phitsamy Uy to receive professional development in Cultural Competency.

Motion to receive and place on file: S. Seale 2nd: D. Burke (Unanimously Approved by the Committee)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:

George Lacouture: He asked P. McGee for an update on non-union contracts. P. McGee said he has met with all non-union employees. All but three employees have been signed their contracts; a meeting with the three

employees is scheduled for this week to answer their questions. K. Blais sent the signed contracts over this morning to the Michael Marcello, City's Solicitor for the Mayor's signature. Superintendent Contract-P. McGee said he has seen it and hopes he will be able to sign it soon. G. Lacouture commissioned Attorney Rapport to have a signed contract for the Superintendent by the next meeting and something for the Asst. Superintendent. He stated the non-union benefits policy was settled and is under the impression that it has not been implemented; why? P. McGee will meet with the B. Peryea and the payroll coordinator to ensure that this has begun.

Soren Seale: Stated it is a disappointing, long delay in the implementation on the non-union benefits policy. He offered his condolences to the Burke family on their recent loss. Last week he attended the Career Choice Program Assembly at the WHS. C. Henderson addressed the freshman class regarding their current progress report; he recognized the improvement they had made; 75% of them were failing at least one class; as of last week that number went from 25% to 59% passing every class. He thinks the culture that C. Henderson is instilling at the WHS along with the Asst. Principals and Dean of Students is a very positive one; this program definitely emphasizes the rewarding of positive behavior. He read an article about academic rigor; one thing in the article said if you challenge your students to pass then they probably are going to fail; what we need to do, regardless of their sociological background, is to challenge them to excel; most kids will rise to the occasion; increasing access to honors classes at the WMS is a way of challenging students to do better. He would like to continue to challenge the WED to find ways to challenge students. His tenure as a SC member could end today; he has had ongoing conversations with the Mayor on being re-appointed; in the event he is not re-appointed he wants everyone to know he has really enjoyed his time on the SC; he wishes the best for the students in the City of Woonsocket.

Susan Pawlina: She stated this could be J. Rivera's last meeting as well as his tenure is coming to an end; it would be a crime if he was not re-appointed. His abilities and passions are superior as to what a SC member normally is. She encourages the Mayor to re-appoint.

Donald Burke: He echoed S. Pawlina's words and said this is a good working group. We all play a part; S. Seale and J. Rivera have played wonderful parts and they should be proud of their contributions.

Motion to adjourn at 9:22 p.m.: S. Seale 2nd: S. Pawlina (Unanimously Approved by the Committee)

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Blais
WSC Recording Secretary