

**MINUTES**  
**WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016**  
**Woonsocket Middle School @ Hamlet**  
**60 Florence Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895**

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**Meeting called to order by Chairman Soren Seale at 7:00 p.m. in Open Session.**

**Roll Call by Superintendent Patrick McGee:**

Soren Seale, Chairman	Present
Donald Burke, Vice-Chairman	Present
Susan Pawlina, Secretary	Present
Valerie Gonzalez	Present
Paul Bourget	Present

**Moment of Silence**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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**PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:**

**Bernon Heights Elementary School:** Students in grade 3 and 4 who are in teachers Ms. Moreau and Ms. Dubois's classes demonstrated on chromebooks the different programs they are using in class. Each School Committee (SC) member and members of the administrative team had the opportunity to sit with the students to get hands on experience of what they are learning in class. Bernon's ultimate goal is to put chromebooks in the hands of every student.

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

- Summer Reading Assignments - All Summer Reading assignments have been completed for each level and are located on the WED website under the header "Summer Reading".
  - SkillsUSA Championships - Congratulations to the 82 students from the WACTC who competed in the SkillsUSA RI Championships in March. Students took part in 22 competitions earning 19 medals and four ribbons in the Career and Technical Showcase. The annual Career and Technical student showcase is held in conjunction with the SkillsUSA RI Championships, and is an opportunity for SkillsUSA RI members to present through a display, the application of skills and education brought about through career and technical education.
  - zSpace - On Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, the WACTC hosted a presentation from zSpace, which is advanced 3D interactive technology that will be used at the WACTC and WHS. Using this advanced technology will make Woonsocket only the second district in RI to incorporate this into its curriculum.
  - WHS Memorial Garden - On Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mrs. Diane Mayers, WHS Art teacher and students from the WHS Art Department, along with many members of the high school and community, dedicated the Woonsocket Memorial Garden and Wall at Woonsocket High School. The Memorial Garden and Wall displays the names of staff and students who have passed away and who served and/or studied at WHS.
  - RI Rock and Roll Hall of Fame - Congratulations to Emma Ross, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at WMS, for receiving the 2016 Thomas "TJ" Schwartz Award. The award is given to an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who has excelled in both math and music for all three years at WMS. Emma was presented with a guitar during the RI Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The award is given in honor of Thomas Schwartz, former WMS math teacher and acclaimed musician, who passed away suddenly in 2013.
  - Career Choices Program at the WHS - Congratulations to WHS Principal Carnell Henderson and his staff on receiving a Bronze Medal status for the implementation of the WHS Career Choices Program by Academic Innovations. Mr. Henderson and his staff will be presenting this summer in Los Angeles, CA at the 2016 Focus on Freshmen Conference. They will present the high school's Success 101 Program, which serves all Freshmen at WHS. WHS is the first high school in the nation to be invited to present their program after only one year of implementation.
  - Music in the Parks Festival - Congratulations to the WHS Music Department on their recent trip to Williamsburg, VA., where they performed at the "Music in the Parks" Festival. The music department had 4 groups competing in the festival:
    - The Concert Band received a rating of "Excellent" – good for 3<sup>rd</sup> place
    - The Jazz Band received a rating of "Excellent" – good for 2<sup>nd</sup> place
    - The Chorus received a rating of "Superior" – good for 1<sup>st</sup> place
    - The Select Choir (women's choir) received a rating of "Superior" – good for 1<sup>st</sup> place
- The most impressive award given to the high school at the festival was the "esprit de corps" award, which is given to only one school from the festival that displays the most spirit, pride, and professionalism.

- Goodwill Industries - Congratulations to Bernon Heights Elementary School for being recognized by Goodwill

Industries of RI as a Spotlight School. This year Bernon Heights has used the funds raised from the donation of the Goodwill program to purchase Chromebooks for student use in classrooms. Bernon Heights, Globe Park, Savoie, middle school and high school all have donation bins located on their campus.

- A Night in New York Cabaret - The WHS will present its 8<sup>th</sup> Benefit Cabaret performance of "A Night in New York" on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The performance will benefit Rachel Autiello and Jackie Mathewson. Tickets will be sold at the door.

- Hairspray Musical - The WMS Theater Club will present the production of "Hairspray, Jr." on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Villa Nova building. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Motion to receive and place on file: S. Seale 2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Burke, S. Pawlina (Unanimously approved by SC)

Motion to take out of order agenda item #1 under new business: S. Seale 2<sup>nd</sup>: S. Pawlina

1. Discussion/Approval to waive the 2015 custodial charges for the Woonsocket Redskins Organization – S. Seale

Representatives from the Redskins stated that they were not expecting this bill and never received a bill in the past; however, they did include this bill in their budget for the upcoming season. They are requesting that this current bill be waived because they weren't expecting it and cannot handle paying it; if they knew about this bill, they would have increased the fees that they charged the parents. P. Fontaine stated everyone who uses the facilities within the school department or on school department property are charged a fee when there is not a custodian assigned to that facility on his/her regular work day. He has informed everyone, via memo in June 2015, that there will be a charge. He supports the Redskins and understands if the SC agrees to waive the charge or part of the charge. Redskins noted that their registration period was in March so they were not aware of the charge until June. They are prepared to pay the fees for this coming year.

Motion to for a complete waiver of the 2015 custodial charge: S. Seale 2<sup>nd</sup>: S. Pawlina

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **April 27, 2016 Open Minutes**

Motion to approve: V. Gonzales, P. Bourget 2<sup>nd</sup>: S. Seale Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

- **April 27, 2016 Closed Minutes**

Motion to approve: P. Bourget 2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Burke Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

**CONSENT AGENDA: Motion to approve: S. Seale 2<sup>nd</sup>: V. Gonzalez**  
**ROLL CALL VOTE on the Consent Agenda as Amended: 5 YES APPROVED**

**CONSENT AGENDA (removed for discussion):**

*Purchases and Transfers* – P. Bourget noted that approximately \$23,000 would be paid out of the general fund while \$210,000 would be paid out of various grants. He met with B. Peryea and asked him to go over the grants; looking at the budgets in how the money is received, what are the budgeted expenditures. and where we stood because he was uncomfortable with the amount the SC would be approving; they are responsible for all expenditures. At this time, B. Peryea gave a breakdown on the grant funded purchases. Chairman Seale also had questions and expressed his concerns regarding the grant funded purchases; he said there are pages of purchases without any decision support matrix indicating why this is needed, how it supports strategic objectives, how it supports an action plan, and what the vetting criteria is; he explained the process used to determine which items were to be purchased and the rationale behind those decisions. All committee members gave their opinion about the process of using grant funds. V. Gonzalez suggested having a workshop in the near future on how grants work and how the allocations can be used.

Chairman Seale said that there is a requisition for reimbursement to the City of Woonsocket for Joel Matthew's work on the school's capacity study; he is not opposed to paying this but not prepared to just approve this. Therefore, he would like this tabled.

Motion to table purchase requisition #161085-Reimbursement to the City of Woonsocket for Joel Matthew's work: S. Seale 2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Bourget Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. Update on Class Size Overages – P. McGee**

B. Peryea stated they just paid the third quarter last month; this report is through March 31<sup>st</sup> and there is still one quarter left of the fiscal year to pay. We have paid a little over \$81,000 in overages for this year; he is estimating another \$35,000 in the last quarter for this year which brings the total of class size overages \$116,000. We budgeted \$225,000 because we paid \$236,000 last year in overages. We have cut our overages in half. We have had positions filled all year which reduced the overages significantly. He is looking to come in 50% under budget.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget

2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Burke (Unanimously approved by the SC)

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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**- Policy Subcommittee:** S. Seale noted that the subcommittee met last Wednesday, principals were present, and they addressed two policies which were the attendance and dress code policy. These policies were revised/amended and will be brought forward to the SC for approval.

Motion to receive and place on file the Policy Subcommittee Report: S. Seale

2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Bourget

(Unanimously Approved by the Committee)

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**CONFERENCES/DISCUSSIONS**

**1. Museum of Natural History sponsored by NASA Space Grant – P. McGee**

P. McGee noted that we have a partnership with the Museum of Natural History in Providence who are sponsored by NASA Space Grant. The school department's fourth grade teachers have received professional development this year in activities that they can use with their students starting next year. J. Chan-Remka is the person who secured this grant for the district; this is a testament of some of her hard work that she has done for the district. J. Chan-Remka gave a brief presentation on the four-day professional development that the teachers received this year.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget

2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Burke (Unanimously Approved by the SC)

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. None.
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**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2. Discussion/Approval on the Elementary Administrative Restructure – P. McGee**

Motion to discuss and approve: S. Seale

2<sup>nd</sup>: S. Pawlina

P. McGee presented the committee with an outline of the proposed restructuring of administrators at the elementary level in the district. Angela Holt has been reassigned to Bernon Heights and Celeste Conti is being reassigned to Coleman. Over the years discussions have been ongoing with regard to the Citizen's and Pothier Schools being considered one campus. Those schools are unique because the two school buildings serve the same community. Governor Pothier is a primary elementary school and Citizens' is an intermediate elementary school. In order to bring more consistency to both buildings P. McGee is proposing that one principal be reassigned to oversee both schools. Until now, the opportunity did not present itself. P. McGee has had conversations with RIDE where he learned that this change is acceptable.

The recommendation is for Danielle. Costa to be reassigned as principal to both school buildings and the district assign one assistant principal to aid her. D. Costa is doing a fantastic job and has made a positive difference with the culture and climate already. P. McGee and D. Costa have discussed in detail the shared vision for both schools to unite, as well as create benchmarks for academic achievements that could be accomplished. P. McGee believes D. Costa can unify these schools into one campus culturally and academically. P. McGee stated that D. Costa's knowledge, expertise, and vision for Woonsocket is an asset that Woonsocket is fortunate to have. The fiscal analysis of this change was included in the School Committee packet. D. Costa's salary would increase, as would her duties. The salary for a 10-month assistant principal was included in the figures.

D. Costa has created baseline data including reading and math scores that can be evaluated after two years to help reveal if there are benefits or deficits to this structure. S. Seale stated that this proposal is being approached as a two-year trial. S. Pawlina expressed concern about the lack of tenured principals in the district and wonders what will happen in two years if it doesn't work. S. Pawlina prefers ideas that are tailored for the long haul. She asked about how it was decided which principal would be selected for this position.

D. Costa spoke to say that one of the ongoing discussions she has with C. Conti is how to better align the curriculum strategies at both buildings, as well as behavioral expectations and school procedures. She hopes to bring more collaboration across the campus. Vertical teaming, common planning and communication will help to bring teachers together which will benefit the students and families. D. Costa is confident these goals can be realized.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

APPROVED

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#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Patrick McGee, Superintendent**

➤ *New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Accreditation* - Pleased to announce that Woonsocket High School was awarded continued accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges resulting from their NEASC visit this past fall. The full NEASC Evaluation Report will be made public by the WHS administration at a date to be determined. The NEASC policy requires that districts present the full report within 60 days of the release of the document.

➤ *Capital Projects* - The WED is preparing for many Capital Improvements projects to begin this summer. P. Fontaine and B. Peryea have been reviewing job bids and coordinating between schools the logistics of each project. The following is a list of approved projects to be completed this summer:

##### WHS

- Replace rooftop HVAC units, replace hot water tank, replace ceiling tiles in the lobby and cafeteria, replace stage curtains, replace stage floor, replace carpeting on both floors of library, and repair roof leaks.

##### Citizens Memorial

- Remove and replace asbestos floor tiles in cafeteria and repair roof leaks.

##### Bernon Heights

- Replace boiler, remove and replace asbestos floor tiles in cafeteria, repair rooftop HVAC units, and repair roof leaks.

##### Globe Park

- Remove and replace asbestos floor tiles in cafeteria and repair roof leaks

##### Savoie

- Remove and replace asbestos floor tiles in cafeteria, repair roof leaks, and repair boiler

P. Bourget said they discussed making some updates to the chem lab and asked if this will be evaluated for summer work as well. P. McGee said he already set up a meeting to visit the chem lab tomorrow to see what needs to be done and make a time line when this will be completed. In addition, he will be visiting the weight room to see what types of upgrades could be made there.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget

2<sup>nd</sup>: S. Seale (Unanimously Approved by the Committee)

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#### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:**

- Donald Burke – Connecting for Children and Families (CCF) Night – Last Thursday he attend the CCF's Fundraiser dinner; it was a great time and wanted to thank Theresa, Charlotte and Sandra for welcoming him and his wife to this event. He was struck, as they made presentations, with how many volunteers and all the great work they do in representing the City of Woonsocket. CCF does wonderful things for the city but most especially for the students of Woonsocket. Thank you.

- Paul Bourget – School Visits – He wants to say for the record for those that say SC members do not visit schools, we all visit the schools. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, he visited the WNRI Athletic Fundraiser; it appeared to be very successful; the Mayor stopped in and he was also able to meet the School's Athletic Director. Meeting her brought us to the discussion of the weight room. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, he and P. McGee went to Savoie and visited the classrooms that were not doing PARCC testing; it's always impressive to see what they are accomplishing in the classes. They went to the WHS after and visited the weight room while there; it is very cramped so they are looking at the ways they could expand. They also visited the chem lab, in anticipation of the Advanced Placement Course, and something upgrades need to be done. Last thing they did was look at the coordination of PARCC Testing at the WHS; that was very interesting.

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.: S. Pawlina

2<sup>nd</sup>: V. Gonzalez (Unanimously Approved by the SC)

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Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Blais, WSC Recording Secretary