

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016
Woonsocket Middle School @ Hamlet
60 Florence Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Meeting called to order by Chairman Soren Seale at 6:30 p.m. in Open Session.

Roll Call by Superintendent Patrick McGee:

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

Motion to convene in closed session in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1), to discuss the job performance of an administrator. This individual has been notified in writing that this public body intends to convene in closed session to discuss job performance and the individual has declined to have this discussion take place in open session: P. Bourget 2nd: D. Burke Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

Motion to reconvene into open session at 7:00 p.m.: P. Bourget 2nd: D. Burke
Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

Motion to seal the closed session minutes of May 25, 2016: P. Bourget 2nd: D. Burke
Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

Moment of Silence
Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call by Superintendent Patrick McGee:

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

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

Woonsocket High School – The Woonsocket High School Concert Band introduced themselves and performed Summertime. They also announced that on Thursday, May 26th at 7:00 p.m. they will have their Collage Concert at the high school and everyone is welcomed to attend. Tickets are \$7.00 at the door.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Patrick McGee, Superintendent

This is a very special time of the school year when we recognize our very hard working and dedicated employees who go above and beyond in the WED. Tonight I will announce the Teacher/Educator of the Year, the TA of the Year, the Secretary of the Year, and the Custodian/Maintenance person of the Year. Let me first begin with the WED...

➤ **Teacher of the Year – Ethel Locke:** Before I announce the WED Teacher of the Year, let me describe the candidate's achievement, characteristics, and quotes from nominating staff. This candidate is a Physics and Freshmen Science teacher, mentor teacher at WHS, the SMILE Club Advisor, and was instrumental in bringing back Physics to WHS and, over the years, she has created an 8th period class, which meets after school (not mandatory) and provides students with opportunities to complete work and to review lessons that they are having difficulty with. Some quotes that describe her include: "She is the grittiest teacher I know." Every day she is here at 6:30 am and does not leave until 6:00 pm." "...every single day she dedicates herself to improving the educational experience for her students and her colleagues by doing whatever it takes to get the job done." "She has volunteered to take repeater science students. In that class she utilizes multiple methods of instruction, not just differentiating her instruction, but literally tailoring the instruction to every student's needs." "Two years ago she requested that she be allowed to meet with other Freshmen science teachers only during CPT so there could be a concentrated

collaboration effort in addressing the needs of Freshmen in science classes. She facilitates this group with purpose and direction, which allows them to create common assignments and assessments so that all of our Freshmen have a similar and constant exposure to the standards. It has made a significant positive impact on the way those teachers instruct their classes.” It is with great honor and pleasure that I announce the 2016 WED Teacher/Educator of the Year - Mrs. Ethel Locke, WHS Science Teacher.

➤ **Teacher Assistant of the Year – Faith Guiney:** Before I announce the WED Teacher Assistant of the Year, let me describe quotes that describe her from nominating staff: “She is one of those unique people that you constantly feel lucky to have on your staff.” “In her role as Teacher Assistant, she finds the balance of assisting the teacher and the students perfectly.” “She has the patience needed to give students the guidance and love they need to become independent successful members of our school community.” “She knows her role and works hard to collaborate and work closely with the teacher to be sure that students are receiving the best instruction possible.” “She always attends all parent meetings with the teacher to assist in giving parents all information on each student that is available, including what goes on outside the classroom.” “Parents love having her input.” “She plays an important role on our school community and is very engaged in all activities that take place before and after school when necessary.” It is with great honor and pleasure that I announce the 2016 WED Teacher Assistant of the Year - Mrs. Faith Guiney, Leo Savoie Elementary School.

➤ **Secretary of the Year – Lucille Baro:** Before I announce the WED Secretary of the Year, let me describe quotes that describe her from nominating staff: “She is always kind, courteous, and helpful, and she anticipates things we might need know or do.” “She is very patient and understanding.” “She is wonderful at finding information for teachers.” “The bottom line is that she is always there, always working hard, and always pleasant.” It is with great honor and pleasure that I announce the 2016 WED Secretary of the Year - Mrs. Lucille Baro, Harris Elementary School.

➤ **Maintenance/Custodian of the Year – John King:** Before I announce the WED Custodian/Maintenance person of the Year, let me describe quotes that describe him from nominating staff: “He strives to create a positive environment for all the members of WMS Hamlet.” “When one enters the doors in the morning, he is always there to greet you with a big smile and a cheerful, warm hello, which sets a positive tone for the rest of our day.” He is always willing to lend a helping hand without being asked.” His positive attitude ensures that the halls of WMS Hamlet are pleasant.” It is with great honor and pleasure that I announce the 2016 WED Custodian/Maintenance person of the Year – Mr. John King, Woonsocket Middle School at Hamlet.

➤ **Senior Walk:** On May 27, 2016, the Woonsocket Education Department will begin a new tradition called the “Senior Walk” in which Woonsocket High School graduating seniors will stroll through the halls of each elementary school and middle school dressed in their caps and gowns. On the morning of May 27th, busses will transport the seniors to the elementary school they attended and to the middle school, where students, teachers, and staff will line the halls to watch the seniors proceed through each school. We hope that this new tradition will inspire younger students in our district to aim for college after graduation.

S. Seale and D. Burke congratulated the award recipients. Woonsocket is very lucky to have them and it is nice to see these deserving staff members receive recognition.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget 2nd: D. Burke, S. Pawlina (Unanimously approved by SC)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

➤ **May 11, 2016 Open Minutes**

Motion to approve: S. Pawlina 2nd: P. Bourget Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

CONSENT AGENDA	Motion to approve: P. Bourget	2nd: D. Burke
ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: 5 YES		APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Financial Update – P. McGee

B. Peryea gave the SC an updated financial report; the original document contained an error in one of the formulas which required an update on the comparison side; there is no change to the bottom line, revenues or expenditures. Medicaid reimbursements are doing well and had a small adjustment to the state housing aid reimbursement. Salary projections are holding steady and there are no significant changes from March projections. Still monitoring medical and dental payments; there was an increase of about \$165,000 on medical and increase of about \$19,000 on dental. There were some adjustments to some key purchases in April; because of the mild winter and the prices we are receiving on gas we were able to reduce those purchases even more for additional savings. We also had savings on our state transportation so were able to reduce the purchase order to approximately \$50,000.

P. Bourget noted that we are still holding steady as of last month. Our total expected projection before was showing approximately \$498,000 surplus in this fiscal year and adjusting for the activity this month we gained another \$50,000. Therefore, we are showing a \$549,000 surplus for this fiscal year.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget 2nd: D. Burke (Unanimously approved by the SC)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

CONFERENCES/DISCUSSIONS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Approval on the Payment to the City of Woonsocket for Consultant Services – S. Seale

Motion to remove from the table: S. Seale 2nd: P. Bourget
Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes (SS, DB, PB, VG) 1 No (SS) APPROVED

Motion to discuss and approve the payment to the City of Woonsocket for consultant services: S. Seale
2nd: D. Burke

S. Seale stated that after discussion with Attorney Rapport there is no legal basis for this payment. The fee is for consultant services of Joel Mathews in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Roll Call Vote: 5 No MOTION FAILS

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Vote to issue final decision not to renew the employment of an administrator – P. McGee

Motion to vote to issue a final decision not to renew the employment of an administrator: S. Seale
2nd: P. Bourget Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

2. Vote to non-renew the contracts of teachers for reason of fiscal exigency and/or program reorganization in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 16-13-2 & 16-13-3 – P. McGee

Motion to vote on the non-renewal of contracted teachers for the reasons of fiscal exigency and program realignment: S. Seale 2nd: P. Bourget

Motion to amend, on the first page, the assignment listed for the third candidate to be the assignment listed for the first candidate S. Seale 2nd: P. Bourget

Attorney Rapport noted that the names listed are incorporated by reference into this vote in the back-up date.
Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED AS AMENDED

3. Discussion/Approval on Bid #17-07 Asbestos – P. McGee

Motion to discuss and approve P. Bourget 2nd: S. Pawlina Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

4. Discussion/Approval on Bid #17-08 WHS Hot Water Tank – P. McGee

Motion to discuss and approve: S. Seale 2nd: P. Bourget Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

5. Discussion/Approval on the amendments of the P4-15 - School Readiness Policy (Dress Code) – S. Seale

Motion to discuss and approve: S. Seale 2nd: S. Pawlina

S. Seale noted the following changes: (1) renamed the policy and (2) separated the dress code policy and the electronic device policy. Earlier this month and last month, the subcommittee received input from every single principal, except one who did not attend, and the mayor. This is the dress code via the census: there will be no more colors in the dress code; rather than a color code it will be more of a style code with the exceptions of the clothing listed within the policy. If passed, this policy, as written, would take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

6. Discussion/Approval on the amendments of the P4-17 - Electronic Policy – S. Seale
Motion to discuss and approve: S. Seale 2nd: P. Bourget, S. Pawlina
S. Seale stated that this policy will no longer be an umbrella under the school readiness policy. It is essentially the same policy and it applies across the district. This policy was reviewed and discussed with all principals, except the one that was absent, when they discussed the school readiness policy.
Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

7. Discussion/Approval on the amendments of the P4-16 - Attendance Policy – S. Seale
Motion to discuss and approve: S. Seale 2nd: P. Bourget
S. Seale stated that this policy was finalized at the time the dress code policy was finalized by all principals, except the one that was absent.
Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

8. Discussion/Approval on the restructuring of the Special Education Department – P. McGee
Motion to discuss and approve: S. Seale 2nd: P. Bourget

Motion to consolidate for the purposes of discussion item numbers 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13: S. Seale
2nd: P. Bourget Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

Motion to discuss the consolidated items: S. Seale 2nd: D. Burke
Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

J. Sullivan stated one of the main changes she would like to make is in administration; right now some of these positions crisscross one another; therefore, she created a new organizational plan which has been submitted to the SC for approval and realigned the job descriptions that are also on the agenda for approval which will be more efficient. She gave a highlight on each of the job descriptions and noted that there are no net increases or decreases in these positions. All positions except for the Director and Asst. Director of Special Education will be union positions.

Motion to approve the restructuring: S. Seale 2nd: P. Bourget
Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

9. Discussion/Approval on the Elementary Special Education Chairperson position and to post for said position – P. McGee
Motion to approve: S. Soren 2nd: P. Bourget Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

10. Discussion/Approval on the Middle School Special Education Chairperson position and to post for said position – P. McGee
Motion to approve: D. Burke 2nd: P. Bourget Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

11. Discussion/Approval on the High School Special Education Chairperson position and to post for said position – P. McGee
Motion to approve: P. Bourget 2nd: D. Burke Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

12. Discussion/Approval on the Special Education Transition Coordinator/Local Education Agent position and to post for said position – P. McGee
Motion to approve: S. Soren 2nd: P. Bourget Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

13. Discussion/Approval on the Special Education Local Education Agent/Diagnostic-Prescriptive Teacher position and to post for said position – P. McGee
Motion to approve: S. Soren 2nd: P. Bourget Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

➤ **WED Capital Fund and WACTC Transfer** - The WACTC transfer agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Education has been fully executed and RIDE will be making its first payment of \$1.2 million within 30 days of the May 10, 2016 agreement. The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education has approved the WEDs Necessity of School Construction project that was submitted this school year. We have received and signed the memorandum of agreement between RIDE and the WSC.

D. Burke said now that the transfer is in place are there plans in place to make the necessary repairs, work, updates, and upgrades. B. Peryea said now that the contract has been finalized they will sit down and put a plan together to do additional things over the summer. Lastly, they will need to include the WACTC in the five-year capital plan.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget 2nd: S. Seale (Unanimously approved by SC)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:

➤ **Soren Seale**

▪ National Honor Society Induction Ceremony - He along with other SC members attended the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony; it is always a great thing to see the achievements of students; to know about the colleges they plan on attending. We often focus on the graduation rate and the help that we need to give to the students who are struggling so it was very nice to see the recognitions of the students who have done or are doing very well.

▪ SLRI (School Libraries of RI) Wilfred Berube Award for Administrative Excellence - The SLRI Wilfred Berube Award for Administrative Excellence was initiated in 2000 to honor the memory of Wilfred Berube, the founder of the Rhode Island Educational Media Association (or RIEMA, now known as SLRI). This award is given to an outstanding Rhode Island K-12 school administrator who has provided considerable and sustained support to the development or enhancement of school library media programs in general and/or who regularly exhibits direct and positive support for and involvement with the library program at his or her school. This year the awardee is Dr. Patrick McGee for the 2016 SLRI Wilfred Berube Award.

▪ Congratulations to the Class of 2016 and welcome to the Class of 2029; the kindergartners who will be entering in the Fall.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.: P. Bourget

2nd: D. Burke (Unanimously approved by the SC)

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Blais
WSC Recording Secretary