

MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 08, 2016
Woonsocket Middle School @ Hamlet
60 Florence Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895

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

PUBLIC GOOD & WELFARE:

Woonsocket Middle School Chorus: John Burns, WMS Chorus Director introduced the Grade 6th, 7th, and 8th Chorus and Hamlet's Chorus Co-Director, Lydia Chopoorian. They sang the National Anthem and the song Unwritten. He said they will be performing tomorrow at Lake Compounce in Connecticut along with 250 other middle schools.

Jeffrey Partington, President, WTG: He stated that this is his 5th year as President of the WTG and he has been together with this School Committee (SC) for approximately 3 years. At the beginning he was up here a lot trying to explain the things, issues that were happening within the school department. This year he has been very quiet and explained why. The vision of the school department has had a huge upgrade within the last two years. It has really been to the credit of the people who work very hard, who have a good handle on the school department and who have made decisions that have been in the best interest of education. We have always done our best to fight for, with limited resources and time, the best education for the children. He would like to compliment the administration and SC that is in place today because he thinks they have done a masterful job of bringing the school department forward.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Patrick McGee, Superintendent

➤ *WMS Chorus* – Recognized Mr. Burns and Ms. Chopoorian for the wonderful job they are doing with the WMS Chorus and also recognized the wonderful performance from the students this evening.

➤ *Launch Day* - On Thursday, May 19th WHS Seniors participated in Launch Day at WHS. During the celebration, WHS Seniors heard from a keynote inspirational speaker who espoused the importance of taking responsibility and working hard as well as demonstrating persistence to achieving goals in life. In addition, student's accomplishments and future plans were celebrated during the program, which was attended by many WHS faculty and staff.

➤ *Senior Walk* - On May 27, 2016, the Woonsocket Education Department celebrated a new tradition called the "Senior Walk" in which Woonsocket High School graduating Senior's paraded through the halls of each elementary school and middle school dressed in their caps and gowns. Busses transported the Seniors to the elementary school they attended and to the middle school, where students, teachers, and staff lined the halls and watched the Seniors proceed through each school. A special thank you to Durham Bus Company for helping to make this day possible. This celebration was both inspiring for the elementary and middle school students and emotional for the Seniors and former teachers who reconnected after many years. We look forward to this tradition for many years to come!

➤ *Adolescent Sexual Health Grant Representative* - Congratulations to Felicia Davis, Title I Risk-Prevention Guidance Counselor at WMS and Adolescent Sexual Health Grant Council Representative, for being selected to represent RI at the Vermont Exemplary Sexual Health Academy, to be held in Vermont from June 19-23.

➤ *Council for RI Teachers of English Language Learners Association* - Congratulations to Rania Aghia, 6th grade ESL teacher at WMS, on being elected to the Council for the Rhode Island Teachers of English Learners Association.

➤ *Coach Paul Boucher* - I would like to thank Mr. Paul Boucher, Unified Basketball League official in RI, for his very generous donation to the Woonsocket Education Department's High School Unified Basketball team. Mr. Boucher donated his last game pay check and donated \$400.00 to the team to buy sweatshirts. Mr. Boucher also coaches our middle school softball team. We truly appreciate his dedication to our student athletes!

➤ *BankRI Grant* - Thank you to BankRI for providing the WED with a grant for \$1,500.00, which provided 300 of our students from Coleman Elementary and Pothier Elementary schools to attend a performance at the Stadium Theater on Monday, April 25th. The performance of "Choosy Suzy's" Bullying Prevention reinforced the bullying prevention lessons shared in our city schools. The performance was designed to provide children and young adult the opportunity to develop greater appreciation for the arts at an early age.

➤ *WHS and WMS Concerts and Performances* - Congratulation to the WMS and WHS Music Departments on their amazing performance at the Spring/Collage Concerts that were held in May. As I watched each performance I was truly astounded at the talent our students possess.

➤ *National Honor Society Induction Ceremony* - On Thursday, May 19th Woonsocket High School recognized its outstanding Seniors during the National Honor Society and Rhode Island Honor Society Induction Ceremony. Thirty-four students were inducted into the NHS, while twenty-seven students were inducted in to the RIHS. The top ten academic students were named, as well as the announcement of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The 2016 Valedictorian is Kelley Babphavong and the Salutatorian is May Tran. Congratulations to all of our Honor Society students. We are extremely proud of each one of them and their accomplishments.

➤ *WACTC Graduation* - Last night I had the honor and pleasure to attend the WACTC Awards Banquet and Graduation Ceremony at Wright's Farm. I would like to congratulate the Career Center Seniors on their accomplishments and dedication to their education. I would also like to recognize the administration, teachers and staff for their commitment to their students.

➤ *Class of 2016 Graduation* - Finally, I would like to remind everyone that WHS will hold its 141st Commencement this Friday, June 10th at 4:00 pm at Barry Field.

D. Burke noted that the senior walk can be seen on the Woonsocket Education Department's website.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

➤ **May 25, 2016 Open Minutes**

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

➤ **May 25, 2016 Closed Minutes**

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

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion to approve: P. Bourget 2nd: D. Burke, S. Pawlina
ROLL CALL VOTE on the Consent Agenda: 5 YES APPROVED

Purchases removed for discussion:

D. Burke asked about the two special education purchases and why does it state payable FY17. B. Peryea said these two purchases are in the budget already and they are outside consultants so they are not employees of the school department so we pay them as a purchased service. These purchases are the same charge as last year and noted that SC is approving these purchase orders for FY17; these individuals get paid by an hourly rate by the hours they work which is six hours a day. In addition, the SC will see these purchases being lined up for FY17. However, we will not be paying any money for these purchases until after July 1st.

S. Seale asked for an explanation on the three purchase orders for Carousel Industries. B. Peryea stated that all three purchase orders are for the wireless initiative which is the wrap up of phase one which was approved by RIDE. We had to add access points for the wireless internet, routers and some cabling (installed in three areas that were missed during the initial installations.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. None.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Policy Subcommittee:** S. Seale stated that the subcommittee met on Monday, June 6th. He along with S. Pawlina, P. McGee, J. Chan-Remka, A. Holt, D. Coderre, and L. Kuras were present to review three policies that will be coming before the SC for approval at the next meeting. He noted that there are only a couple more mandatory policies needed before the subcommittee moves on to fine-tuning existing policies.

Motion to receive and place on file the Policy Subcommittee Report: P. Bourget, S. Pawlina

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

CONFERENCES/DISCUSSIONS

1. None.
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. None.
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NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion/Approval on the 2016-2017 Elementary Handbook – 1st Passage – P. McGee

S. Seale stated in the years past, the SC always have done two passages to the handbooks; however the handbooks are not a policy, therefore, it doesn't need two passes.

Motion to discuss and approve: S. Seale

2nd: P. Bourget

P. Bourget asked if the SC approved policies have been incorporated into the handbooks. S. Seale said yes and noted that all the SC is approving are the contents of the handbook. P. Bourget asked if the handbooks are intended for the parents. S. Seale said they go home with the students and the parents and students are required to sign saying they received it and that they have read the policies and procedures. D. Burke asked who was involved in preparing the handbooks. P. McGee said the administrators came together to review the handbook to make suggestions and modifications and they solicited suggestions and information from their faculty.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

APPROVED

2. Discussion/Approval on the 2016-2017 Middle School Handbook – 1st Passage – P. McGee

Motion to discuss and approve: S. Seale

2nd: P. Bourget

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

APPROVED

3. Discussion/Approval on the 2016-2017 High School Handbook – 1st Passage – P. McGee

Motion to discuss and approve: S. Seale

2nd: P. Bourget

D. Burke asked who reviews the handbook and are parents involved as well. Linda Kuras, Asst. Principal said administration goes through the handbook; they also receive input on recommended changes from the guidance department and teachers; parents attend the school improvement team meetings, therefore, we receive parent input. P. McGee noted that all the handbooks will be placed on the district's website. This year the elementary and high school handbooks will not be printed and sent home with each student; rather a letter will be sent home advising parents that the handbook can be found on the district's website; if parents would like a hard copy, a copy will be made available; along with this letter will be the sign-off page that students and parents are required to sign. The middle school has premier agendas in which the handbook is incorporated within the agenda books.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

APPROVED

4. Discussion/Approval on the Director of Literacy and Title I (Pre-K – Grade 12) Position and to post for said position – P. McGee

This agenda item has been withdrawn.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Patrick McGee, Superintendent

➤ *District Improvement Plan Update* – As you know, we have a five-year district strategic/improvement plan which we have begun implementing last year and continue the implementation. We have been meeting with the consultant who has been working with us since its conception and we have convened the committee that created the plan. What we have done this year is we have taken the priorities, objectives and goals and have evaluated whether we have met some, not met some, and determined what has been accomplished in each of those areas. He will be placing this on the June 22nd SC agenda in order to formally provide the SC a summary of what we have done with respect to the implementation of the strategic plan this year and what it will look like next year.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget
(Unanimously approved by the Committee)

2nd: D. Burke, S. Pawlina

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOOD & WELFARE:

- *Susan Pawlina* – Thankful that the senior walk is on our website for viewing because she was unable to attend; she can't wait for next year's walk because she will be a part of it. Last night was the WACTC Awards ceremony; what is different between this and what we will witness on Friday (graduation) is that each student is called and given their certificate of completion but each instructor picks one of their students who best exemplifies that class/course; it doesn't necessarily have to be the top student in that class and the teacher reads a synopsis of that student and why they were chosen for the outstanding student award for their class. It's heartwarming to see how the teachers love what they do and love the students that they teach; thankful that this is her third year to witness this and looks forward to next year. Tonight is awards night for our graduating seniors and they will receive scholarships for different colleges and for other academic reasons which is also another great experience; in the future she hopes they don't schedule this on Wednesday when there is a SC meeting. This year we had a student state champion in track and field: in the discus throw; his name is Jacob Greenless who is a junior; congratulations to him and wishes him well with his future endeavors. The girls' softball team are the division champions; on Saturday there will be a fan bus taking students and area fans to RI College to support the team as they win their title; she is quite positive they will do this. This year's team is led by two seniors; one is in the National Honor Society, Brittany Girard and the other one is in the RI Honor Society as most of our student athletes are. Wished everyone a nice graduation.

- *Soren Seale* – Congratulated the Seniors and will see everyone at the commencement. It is very rewarding this time of year to see all of the award ceremonies and the recognitions of all of the hard work that the students have put in over the last 13 or more years. There will be a technology meeting on Tuesday, June 14th at 8:00 a.m. at McFee to address some of the district technology needs. They are traditionally not very well attended so they moved this meeting to the daytime so maybe others can join.

Motion to adjourn at 750 p.m.: S. Pawlina

2nd: P. Bourget (Unanimously approved by the Committee)

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Blais
WSC Recording Secretary