

Woonsocket School Committee Parent Advisory Council
Minutes for December 1, 2004

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Present: Allen Auclair, Carmen Boucher, Paul Boucher Bernon – not delegates), Marsha Schlesinger, Donna Houle (Globe), Marlene Guay (Social-alternate), Jennie Kithes (Harris – non delegate), Wendy LePiors (Pothier/Citizens), Tracy Beliveau (WMS), Louise Masse (Bernon – temp delegate), Linda Majewski (WHS), Tom Hazard (Principal representative), Pauline Papino (teacher delegate from WMS)
Alternate deleggate (WHS) – Sharon Mann (not present)
Alternate delegate (Gloobe) Lisa Cheever
Absent - Denise Auclair (delegate from Harris)

1. Preliminary discussion
 - why people may not attend PTO
 - Mr. Auclair asked – is it that parents don't understand
 - Discussion on how PTOs have a certain view of the purpose of a PTO
2. Meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by Mr. Auclair
 - Thanks to all those who attend
 - Thanks to L. Filomeno for help
 - Thanks to Carmen Boucher for bringing idea to his attention and getting the ball rolling
3. Discussion of the roles of the officers
 - Commitment behind the group
 - Mr. Auclair reminded the group that the election of officers is not meant to separate the group, but rather to be able to run meetings in an orderly fashion
 - Mr. Auclair is present as a representative of the School Committee, not as a parent
 - Mr. Auclair commented that it is important that parents take ownership in order to help to make PAC a valuable resource for district
 - Co chairs and co-secretaries can be from any school
4. Representation
 - All were notified/invited
 - + Notes and minutes were sent out by Mr. Auclair
 - Missing – Savoie, Fairmount,
 - Mrs. Filomeno explained that Woonsocket Middle School and Woonsocket High School did not have administrative representatives present due to recent administrative changes
 - + Once administrative teams approved by School Committee, each principal had a plan as to who would attend the PAC
5. Discussion of who could vote
 - Several present raised concern that not all schools were represented
 - + Mr. Auclair commented that those schools not represented all had opportunity to come and that those dedicated schools, with representation should be allowed to move forward
 - Question raised as to whether Mr. and/or Mrs. Boucher could vote or be nominated since neither was present as an official representative of Bernon Heights School, yet Mrs. Boucher was instrumental in initiating the PAC
 - + Mrs. Boucher indicated that she believed that the PAC go forward, even if she was not a representative
 - Question raised as to whether one had to be a delegate to be an officer
 - + Mr. Auclair – yes
6. Table elections
 - Mrs. LePiors commented that election of officers should be tabled to allow those who initiated the PAC have at least an opportunity to serve as officers
 - + Mrs. Boucher responded explaining how the PAC started, that it has to do with vision (students) not who started it; issue is communication, PAC started as a measure to address needs of communication; not necessary to elect her
 - + Ms. Beliveau stated that many present wanted Mrs. Boucher to be a co-chair WMS

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- + It was suggested that we elect one person at this meeting and then that person would resign to allow Mrs. Boucher to then be elected
- + Mr. Auclair reminded the group that by bylaws, all have an equal voice; real issue is who will facilitate the meetings
- + Question raised as to why Mrs. Boucher was not a representative
 - * Ms. Masse explained that at the most recent meeting of the Bernon Heights School PTO, there was confusion over whether Bernon PTO was voting in bylaws and that she volunteered to be temporary delegate to help, but to allow others to be delegate (e.g. Mrs. Boucher); at the last meeting of the Bernon PTO it was decided to send current Bernon person for 30 days at which time an election will be held for Bernon PTO

7. Elections

- Mr. Auclair called for volunteers to take on co-secretary (2) positions
 - + Mrs. Filomeno volunteered to continue as one of the co-secretary positions
 - + Ms. LePiors asked what duties would be for the co-secretaries
 - * Mr. Auclair read from bylaws
 - * Mrs. Filomeno explained that she would continue to take notes; that co-secretary would be responsible for emailing to all PAC members and for flyers announcing meetings; Mrs. Filomeno would email to WED staff
 - + Wendy LePiors – volunteer to be co-secretary
 - + Motion made to name Mrs. Filomeno as one of the co-secretaries by Mrs. Pepino, seconded by Ms. Beliveau
 - * 11 Ayes with 1 abstention by Mrs. Filomeno
 - + Motion made to name Mrs. LePiors as the second co-secretary by Mr. Auclair, seconded by Mrs. Pepino
 - * 11 Ayes with 1 abstention by Mrs. LePiors
 - + Mr. Auclair offered congratulations and thank you, recognizing that officers should not feel they are working alone; use other members of PAC, Mr. Auclair and School Committee as assistance as needed
- Mr. Auclair called for volunteers to take on co-chair (2) positions
 - + We can vote in if vacancy at next meeting/if we can get at least one person today
 - * Mr. Auclair read the bylaws on the positions of co-chairs
 - * Noted two typos in the bylaws
 - ▶ Section 4A – change president to co-chairs/and change monthly agenda should say meeting agenda (Mrs. Filomeno will attend to those)
 - + Discussion about the potential for Mrs. Boucher to take a position
 - * Mr. Auclair and Mrs. Boucher noted that PAC is not a one-person project,
 - * Mrs. Masse and Ms. Beliveau noted that Mrs. Boucher is a recognized leader among parents and their opinion that many would like her to serve as one of the co-chairs
 - + Ms. Beliveau is willing to take on the responsibility but doesn't want to fill her plate; if overwhelmed will have to say no at a later date
 - * Mrs. Boucher commented that communication is first role
 - ▶ Every one here has that vision
 - ▶ Challenge will be to open up to other schools
 - * Mr. Auclair noted that often responsibility put on PTO to raise funds
 - ▶ Not the case for PAC/PAC is long-term plans/PAC becomes sharing of information

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- ▶ Co-chair positions will be as overwhelming as the person running it wants to be
- + Ms. Masse made a motion to elect Tracy Beliveau as co-chair/second by Ms. LePiors
 - * Mr. Auclair read the bylaws language on terms
 - ▶ For first election – one co-chair is for one year and one co-chair is for two years;
 - ▶ Ms. Masse raised a concern with what about parents with 10th graders
 - ▶ Mr. Auclair responded that the person can always take on position and resign when child grads
 - * Ms. Beliveau questioned what will we do for co-chair given that no one volunteered
 - ▶ Mr. Auclair indicated that PAC should go with one for now/Nothing in bylaws prevents us from electing one now and one later
 - * Ayes – 11 with 1 abstention (Ms. Beliveau)
 - * Ms. Beliveau accepted the position on the condition that the one year/two year position needs to be addressed once other co-chair is elected
 - * Congratulations and thank you
- 8. Workshops (Continuation of meeting with Ms. Beliveau as facilitator)
 - + Ms. Beliveau posed a question – if we want to provide district-wide workshops - how do we fund?
 - * Mr. Auclair asked about RIPIN to which Mrs. Schlesinger responded that WED has a contract so that if RIPIN provides the workshop it can be free, but if we contract for a workshop from someone from outside of RIPIN, RIPIN cannot offer funding/all RIPIN workshops are on the RIPIN website
 - * Response from Ms. Beliveau - Could each PTO give towards the cost of a workshop
 - ▶ Ms. Masse suggested that perhaps each PTO could host a workshop
 - * Ms. Masse asked if RIDE provides any workshops
 - ▶ Discussion of Title I monies
 - * Mrs. Schlesinger noted that the URI extension offers workshops
- 9. Discussion of how to engage more parent
 - + PAC should talk to PTOs about keeping members
 - + Mrs. Schlesinger noted that this is not a problem unique to schools, in WED, but all over country;/one on one relationship is what bring people in
 - + Workshop idea proposed by Mrs. Boucher – what families and school leaders need to do to help child achieve in school
 - + Mrs. Schlesinger noted that a training is coming up with Steve Constantino who has written books on what works with bringing parents in
 - * google on www/website has good information,/ can download information (e.g. 100 ways to create a family friendly school) /
- 10. Need to have a meeting in December
 - + Ms. Beliveau made a motion to hold a special meeting in December, seconded by Ms. Masse
 - * Discussion ensued on pros and cons
 - * Voted for a meeting December 1, 2004
 - * Mr. Auclair will book room at WACTC and will continue to book the meetings
- 11. Round Robin

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- + Traffic pattern at WMS (closed street - W. Park Place)
 - * owned by railroad/sign on fence
 - * Ms. Masse asked if we can make a suggestion to WPD to do a traffic study?
 - * A discussion ensued on cones and parking, drop off /Coned area only for busses
 - + Mrs. Boucher asked - before take on issues, how we will bring information/questions to this PAC/how will we collect information on what we will be working on/how will we be dealing with the information
 - * Form designed
 - ▶ Ms. Beliveau asked - how will form get distributed to parents
 - ▶ Mrs. Boucher quoted the bylaws – 7 days prior to meeting
 - General handout to all parents
 - ▶ Ms. Beliveau cautioned that we may be getting issues that school PTOs should handled
 - ▶ Mrs. Boucher responed that we coul put in “have you talked to principal”
 - * Ms. Masse asked - could we think of 3 main issues to address in near future then have each school send a notice about PAC and ask input on issue
 - ▶ Discussion ensued on who decides on issues
 - * Ms. Beliveau suggeseted a letter about PAC to let all parents know how it works/ what group is and what it is about/objectives/relationship to other committees – SELAC, PTOs
 - ▶ Ms. Masse will draft letter together with Ms. Majewski
 - ▶ Mr. Auclair suggested translating letter to Spanish
 - ▶ Mrs. Schlesinger suggested we work on form and send with letter
 - * Mrs. Boucher asked for suggestions as to what could be changed on form
 - ▶ Discussion – suggestion instead of solution
 - ▶ Edit title – Parents’ Advisory Council not committee
 - ▶ PAC recommendation to – what is our response?
 - ▶ Ask - have you contacted the principal/PTO
 - ▶ give form a title (suggestion – Parent Concern Form)
 - ▶ Ask parent for a suggestion for resolution (e.g. your suggestion to address the concern)
 - * Mrs. Filomeno noted that we should consider that if the issue is about individual students, the Deputy Superintendent already has a form; if it is about safety, there is a different committee
 - * Decision on form tabled until December 1, 2004
 - + Mrs. Schlesinger offered research on running effective meetings
 - * Will send thru email
 - + Mr. Auclair will send email list to Ms. Beliveau and Ms. LePiors
12. Mrs. Pepino made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hazard
- + Unanimously voted to adjourn

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