

Woonsocket School Committee Parent Advisory Council
Minutes for January 5, 2005

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Present: Tracey Belliveau (Co-chair PAC, WMS), Carmen Boucher (Co-chair PAC, Bernon), Jennie Kithes (WMS, Harris/non-delegate), Carolyn Girard (Social, SELAC), Wendy LePiors (Co-secretary PAC, Citizens/Pothier), Louise Masse (Bernon/Alternate delegate), Paul Boucher (Bernon/non-delegate), Tom Wrona (WMS teacher), Anne Marie Ferrenti (WED Elementary teacher), Denise Auclair (Harris), Donna Houle (Globe), Linda Majewski (WHS), Roth Nordin (WMS Administrator), Robert Picard (WMS Administrator), Pauline Papino (WMS teacher), Tara Dubois (WMS, Harris/non-delegate), Paul Boucher (Bernon/non-delegate)

Excused absence: Allan Auclair (WED SC), Tom Hazard (Principal delegate)

Late: Linda Filomeno (Co-secretary, PAC, WED delegate), Marsha Schlesinger (RIPIN), Audra L'Etoile (Savoie)

1. Called to order by T. Belliveau at 7:00 pm/Roll Call
2. Good and Welfare
Many people did not receive the flyer
3. Collection of PTO schedules by Co-secretary W. LePiors
4. Delegate reports
 - Purpose of delegate report
 - + Help promote each school's event
 - + For the purpose of scheduling
 - + When fundraising happens at each school
 - + So much good happens, but is not promoted
 - + A teacher has volunteered to do a write up for the Valley Breeze
 - + D. Auclair commented that each school should have their own public relations department
 - * Don't want to overload media with too much information
 - + Communication continues to be a large repetitive issue
 - Bernon: C. Boucher/A. Ferrenti
 - + SIT meetings at Bernon held at 3 pm/difficult to attend because children released at 2:45 pm
 - + Title I meetings
 - + Valentine Raffle
 - + Nature Trail – Audubon Society
 - + At a recent staff meeting, mentioned like to see more faces at PTO
 - + Noted need for help (A. Ferrenti wearing 2 hats/parent of a student and teacher in same building)
 - + 3 pm meeting time for SIT is an issue for teachers as well because of child care
 - Harris: D. Auclair
 - + SIT meeting 6 PM (alternates evening/daytime)
 - + 2nd annual ice skating party/cocoa supplied by PTO – end of January
 - + February Health Fair – Jump Rope for Heart
 - Globe Park: D. Houle
 - + Public relations – no email
 - + No morning lunch person for breakfast/no one to wash tables
 - WHS: L. Majewski
 - + Will email the PTO calendar to PAC
 - + Planning to hold a “Course Offering Night” to help facilitate correct educational path for students
 - + Financial Aid workshop for parents of juniors/seniors – 50 parents
 - + February School Report Night
 - + C. Boucher asked how information is communicated to parents who do not speak English
 - * L. Majewski acknowledged that this is a challenge
 - WMS: Pauline Papino
 - + PTO at WMS is held consecutively to SIT – better attendance at both meetings
 - + Idea: instead of evening movie night, do an afternoon movie
 - + Fundraiser for the tsunami victims as community service
 - * Consumer Science students, PE teacher
 - * Commission of vendor (H&G) to the fundraiser
 - + End of Jan the 8th graders are having a fundraiser for the 8th grade class activities
 - + Holiday concert was a success
 - * A. Ferrenti reported that Bernon was not given notice of a WMS holiday concert

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- * P. Papino noted that WMS has a new administration or perhaps an oversight, bussing issues, room, selected schools based on previous years
- Pothier/Citizens Memorial: Wendy LePiors
 - + Next PTO meeting to be held 1/20 at Pothier at 6pm
 - * Meeting is being kept to 1-½ hours
 - + Teacher at Pothier does calendar
 - + Candy bar fundraiser starting on January 12
 - + Boxtops collection fundraiser starting on January 28
 - + SIT at both schools meets at 3 pm (always)
 - + SALT meeting (Citizens only) at 3 pm
 - + All other meetings at 3 pm, except for morning meeting at 8 am
 - + Coffee with Principals
 - * 3rd Friday from 8:30-9:30 am at Citizens; about 20 parents show up
 - * Last Friday of month 8:30-9:30 am at Pothier
 - * Used to be 9-10 at Pothier –only 1 parent came; Changed to 8:30 – many more parents (drop off children, stay for meeting)
 - * Some parents come who never come to other meetings
 - * Good questions generated
 - * Questions:
 - From Bernon – do you have many busses?
 - From T. Wrona – have you ever tried in evening?
 - + Citizens Memorial has a student senate
 - * 2 representatives each from Grades 4 and 5
 - * planning to host a dance
 - * money to be donated to PTO (student idea)
 - * D. Houle mentioned that Globe Park also has a student senate
- T. Wrona
 - + Is there a report card night coming (school report night) up? February or March ?
 - + Noted usually immediately after state reports assessment data
- SELAC
 - + SELAC provides training to parents; Support and guide, help parents feel more comfortable with process
 - + Intent is parents helping parents – Carolyn Girard and Denise Bouley are co-chairs
 - + Agenda for year is set - Regular meeting is 1st Thursday of month held at Pothier
 - + Arranged for a speaker at every meeting specifically geared to special education issues
 - + Mostly parents, though educators come once in a while principals, occupational therapists, special education director
 - + January meeting will be a Question & Answer session with Dr. D'Acchioli and Mr. Emerson (Director of Special Education)
 - + Membership/Attendance is promoted through flyers
 - * Special Education Department has them printed
 - * Information on SELAC was put in all student handbooks
 - * Joe Potemri is working on website
 - Contacts and meeting minutes are there
 - Being translated into Spanish and looking into getting translation in Lao
 - + T. Belliveau asked if most parents of students in special education know about meeting
 - * Response:
 - One of the goals is that every time a parent goes to an IEP meeting, the SELAC flyer will be given out
 - Service providers also have flyers
 - SELAC will ask if they can go to PTO to ask if SELAC dates can be added to PTO calendar
 - Schools have list of meeting dates and post it
 - SELAC does not a separate listserv, but have the emails of those who want to be contacted

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- An average of 13-15 people attend meetings
5. School Newsletters
 - Harris - newsletter to parents
 - + from principal, put out by parent
 - + One of the teachers does the newsletter
 - + Available on website
 - Bernon used to have a newsletter, but not now; newspaper club still meeting
 - + A. Ferrenti noted that not this year
 - WMS – P.Papino noted that newspaper club did a newspaper for the middle school
 - + Not started this year
 6. Marsha Sclesinger
 - Materials from RIPIN
 - + Bookmarks - Put stack in Parent Resource Room, main office, special education office, guidance office, etc.
 - Information from RIPIN: RIPIN newsletters and brochures
 - + Here to support parents in parent involvement and provide technical assistance/Guide to parent involvement in education
 - + Feel free to call her or RIPIN in general
 7. Report from Co-Chair - T. Belliveau
 - Engaging All Parents – by Steve Constantino
 - + Worked in a multiethnic, low socioeconomic, Title I School and implemented many changes for teachers and other staff to make parents more comfortable
 - + His primary focus is helping schools
 - + PTO, SIT, activities should be as diverse as student population; if not, something is wrong
 - + Need a well balance program
 - Called Steven Constantine
 - + Expensive
 - + Negotiable for full/half day
 - + Must pay for the expenses (airfare, hotel, meals)
 - + Are there grants to help pay for him as a speaker?
 - * RIPIN was asked, but M. Schlesinger responded that RIPIN does not have monies available to sponsor outside speakers
 - * T. Belliveau suggested that we contact other schools in northern RI to arrange a regional presentation
 - * M. Schlesinger – suggested Wal-Mart, CVS, Amica, (someone else said Target)
 - Believes we can get him for less than \$5500 that T. Belliveau was quoted
 8. Valley Breeze editorial
 - T. Belliveau has permission from the Valley Breeze to do an editorial highlighting PTO activities and other things (art music drama, community outreach, community service that doesn't get press
 - Let people know when things are going on
 - Valley Breeze will not print information unless has been given to them by PTO delegate and run by principal
 - M. Schlesinger suggested a tag line so that people know to
 9. Parent letter – L.Majewski
 - Language suggestions
 - + M. Sschlesinger – language (definitions of *alternate, orientation*)
 - + L. Filomeno – suggested taking quotation marks off *communicate*
 - + W. LePiors – suggested taking quotation marks off *delegate*
 - + Change *sincerely* to *thank you*.
 - + C. Boucher – loved last line
 - * M. Schlesinger – agreed with last line, but also feels we need to say, “*please help your child at home and by volunteering*”
 - All felt it was a good start
 - L. Majewski will make corrections and send to C. Boucher and T. Belliveau
 - L. Filomeno or C. Boucher will translate
 - Delegate's response

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- W. LePiors will send to delegates
- T. Belliveau - save as PDF file so all can open
- M. Schlesinger suggested that the letter be put on letterhead of PAC (Same as on agenda)
- PTOs will do copying and sending out
 - + Each principal will need a copy
- L. Majewski wants to send out with high school students when midterm progress reports are distributed
 - + D. Auclair asked - Can we do same at ms? (D. Auclair)
 - + C. Boucher asked - Can we place in The Call? Valley Breeze?
 - + A. Ferrenti suggested that we put some at Harris library
- 10. T. Belliveau- presentation on PAC to School Committee next week
 - C. Boucher and T. Belliveau have been asked to present
 - + Saying same thing as on letter
 - + Presentation in English and Spanish
 - T. Belliveau read what she will say as the intro
 - + R. Nordin - corrected "voc-tech" to "career and tech"
 - + L. Filomeno - suggested the bylaws wording for the meeting schedule - need to stick to bylaws
 - T. Belliveau - asking for a delegation behind them
- 11. C. Boucher - binders for each delegate (include bylaws and the pact minutes)
 - M. Sschlesinger - brought something for binder
- 12. Suggestion/Concern form
 - T. Belliveau - call only suggestion
 - Motion to table the suggestion form - L.Majewski
 - + Second - W. LePiors
 - + In Favor of tabling the suggestion/concern form issue (Aye - unanimous/No abstentions)
- 13. PTO/SIT calendar
 - C. Boucher asked that since some schools have meetings only at 3 pm, can we write a letter through PAC asking schools to reschedule meetings (at least some) to be more accommodating to parents
 - Question - Is it possible to ask schools to have SIT meetings on a rotating basis so that the schedule is more accommodating to parents?
 - L. Filomeno will bring the issue to Dr. D'Acchioli's attention to be brought up at Administrative Council
- 14. CB had handouts on SALT for all delegates
 - Discussion of SALT responsibilities
 - SALT schedule
 - Impact of SALT
- 15. M. Schlesinger
 - Shared 9 guidelines for holding effective meetings and Talking Points on NCLB
- 16. T. Hazard could present video on assertive discipline to parents
- 17. Website
 - L.Filomeno responded that PAC should talk to J. Gallishaw/she can do that
- 18. PTO fair: T. Belliveau
 - Vendors, photographers, etc.
 - thinking of a Saturday, then could coordinate among schools
 - + W. LePiors - when business compete, we benefit
 - + L. Masse - problem - what if some can't get there?
 - + P. Papino- how about during orientation?
 - * L. Filomeno explained that orientation is designed for teachers
- 19. PTO recognition night
 - T. Belliveau - recognize PTO people who give so much time/WED recognition by the School Committee
- 20. This is an election year for School Committee
 - Meet the candidate night - should be responsibility of PAC
 - Poll schools
- 21. Next meeting:
 - T. Belliveau requested a motion to schedule a meeting for February by
 - + Motion by T.Dubois, Seconded by D. Auclair
 - + Feb 16 - PAC at 7 if requested by 6 delegates in writing

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- + Emails will be sent as blind copies (BCC) to ensure everyone's privacy
 - * If do not mind sharing email address with others through the PAC, please inform Mrs. LePiors
- 22. Motion to adjourn made by T. Belliveau, seconded by L.Majewski and unanimously approved