

Woonsocket School Committee Parent Advisory Council
Minutes for November 9, 2005

Present: Carmen Boucher (Bernon, Co-Chair PAC), Tony Gabriele (Harris – alternate), Denise Auclair (Harris), Jennie Kithes (WMS), Evelyn Robinson (Second/Fifth), Tom Hazard (Elementary Administrator), Wendy LePiors (Citizens), Karen Deslauriers (Bernon – alternate), Donna Lee Houle (Globe Park), Cindy McNeill (Pothier), Tammy Beauparlant (SELAC – alternate), Iliana Ojeda-Rivera (WHS – alternate), Kate Conroy (WHS), Linda Kuras (WMS Administrator), Linda Filomeno (WED, Co-Secretary), Anne Marie Ferrenti (Woonsocket Teachers Guild – Elementary), Dr. Maureen Macera (WED, Acting Superintendent)

Absent: Delegates or alternates from: Social St., Coleman, Savoie, WACTC, Administrator WHS, Teacher representatives WHS/WACTC and WMS, Allen Auclair (Woonsocket School Committee delegate)

Visitors: Mike Forcier (Bernon, WHS, WMS), Anita McGuire-Forcier (Bernon, WHS, WMS), Kim Eisenreich (Woonsocket Neighborhood Development Corporation), Paul Boucher (Bernon), Jeanne Ojeda (WHS, Pothier),

1. Meeting was called to order by Carmen Boucher at 7:00 pm with an anticipated ending time of 9:00 pm
2. Introductions and concerns:
 - a. T. Hazard
 - b. K. Conroy
 - i. Mediator at WHS
 - ii. Parent/Teacher conferences
 - c. M. Forcier
 - d. A. McGuire-Forcier
 - i. Title I status of WMS (add C. Boucher – comment on TA-s
 - e. D. Houle
 - f. C. McNeill
 - g. T. Beauparlant
 - h. P. Boucher
 - i. A. Ferrenti
 - i. Thank you to Dr. Macera for finding a way to bring back teaching assistants in kindergartens
 - j. T. Gabriele
 - k. D. Auclair
 - i. Thank all those who got involved in advocating for/finding a way to bring back teaching assistants in kindergarten
 - ii. Harris PTO was not notified that there was a need for advocacy in the teaching assistants situation (should be: Harris PTO and front office were not aware that there was a petition brought to Harris by someone from another school in Woonsocket . They were aware of the Kg teaching assistants being let go, just didn't know that there was a group outside of PAC that was doing something)
 1. If people hear about something going on or assistance needed, let PTO chairs know in order to send information/communication – as PAC members, we need to make each other aware
 - l. J. Kithes
 - m. W. LePiors
 - n. E. Robinson
 - i. DD Jump Rope League
 - o. K. Eisenreich
 - i. Student preparation for higher education
 - ii. Non-violence initiative with George Nasuti (Principal/WHS) and Carnell Henderson (Assistant Principal/WHS)

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- p. I. Ojeda-Rivera
 - q. J. Ojeda
 - r. Dr. M. Macera
 - s. L. Kuras
 - t. L. Filomeno
 - u. C. Boucher
 - i. Forwards information as she receives
3. Minutes
- a. D. Auclair moved to approve minutes, D. Houle seconded
 - b. Approved unanimously
4. Elections
- a. Co-chair – T. Gabriele volunteered, D. Auclair seconded
 - i. Unanimous
 - ii. *Question raised after meeting: Should T. Gabriele be made the delegate from Harris and D. Auclair the alternate from Harris given the election of Mr. Gabriele to the position of Co-chair?*
 - b. Co-secretary – Evelyn Robinson volunteered, D. Houle seconded
 - i. Unanimous
5. C. Boucher asked that people send dates/times of PTO meetings to D. Auclair for submission to media outlets
6. Dr. Maureen Macera – presentation on Federal Title monies
- a. Teaching Assistants in kindergartens – brought to fruition through teamwork, thank you
 - b. General information
 - i. Federal program that allows districts to be reimbursed for capital projects
 - ii. Depends on socioeconomic status of residents
 - iii. WED reimbursed at 80%,
 - iv. Under Dr. D'Acchioli's superintendency WED closed two older elementary schools and build/opened two new elementary schools and completed addition to a third
 - 1. Set aside \$1 million for actual improvements to buildings the following year allowed city to build new schools
 - v. \$930,000 this year – major repairs planned to 4 elementary school roofs (Bernon, Pothier, Citizens, Savoie)
 - 1. Bernon, for example will be completed in 4 phases with this year's cost \$150,000
 - vi. Just completed renovations to bathrooms at WMS
 - vii. \$60,000 earmarked for video cameras at WHS
 - 1. WHS is our shelter in place in case of emergency
 - 2. Homeland Security will reimburse
 - viii. Fire alarms –community block grant
 - 1. Reimbursable
 - ix. M. Goodman (WED Business Manager) will work with B. Strom (Business Manager, City of Woonsocket)
 - 1. Relationship between school department and municipal
 - 2. RI laws regarding funding of schools – while town council approves budget, it has no legal authority to tell school dept where/how to spend money
 - x. RI laws regarding School Committees
 - 1. Superintendent reports to School Committee
 - 2. School Committee sets policy but by state law can only accept/reject recommendations of Superintendent, cannot say we want...
 - 3. Only person with hiring authority is the Superintendent.
 - 4. Difficult for superintendent to communicate openly with municipal if School Committee does not approve

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- xi. WHS – Exemplary NEASC, ROTC
- c. Grants Presentation highlights
 - i. \$3.8 million in fed/state grants prior to 1999, now \$9.4 million in 2006
 - ii. RI Foundation – to address child care issues (children dropped off prior to the start of school)
 - 1. Free, academic support and assistance
 - 2. 3 years
 - 3. Creative financing – Department of Human Services (RI) reimbursement
 - 4. Went out to bid among child care providers – Dr. Mary Ann Shallcross/Childcare Connection won bid
 - 5. Formed community partnership (WED/Childcare Connection under Dr. Mary Ann Shallcross) and responded to a Request for Proposals (RFP), which resulted in Kids Klub
 - iii. Title I Supplementary Grant 2005-2006
 - 1. 40 students, pre-school – Pothier, Fairmount
 - 2. Infant/toddler child care already exists through a separate grant at Kids Klub for young mothers at high School
 - a. Offers counseling for them
 - b. Students get first opportunity at openings, then opens to teachers of WED
 - iv. Adult education opportunities
 - 1. Offer GED, ESL
 - 2. Need more
 - 3. Need more parent outreach
 - v. Federal Title I monies
 - 1. Audit
 - 2. Evaluation
 - 3. Specifications and requirements on expenditures attached to all grants
 - 4. One lump sum of Title I money each year based on socioeconomic status (to compensate for added costs incurred by low income households to ensure equity in educational opportunities) that comes to WED, must be divided
 - a. Strategically as district, focus on early childhood and elementary education for Title I money
 - i. Socioeconomic levels of households sending students to Savoie is too high to qualify for Title I
 - ii. If a portion is designated for WMS and/or WHS, we will have to eliminate some initiatives at elementary
 - iii. Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) has given us \$400,000 for this year at WMS outside of Title I
 - 5. Importance of filling out lunch forms
 - a. Monetary allocation is dependent upon those forms
 - i. We even get money for students on reduced lunch
 - ii. Requesting help of PTO, PAC to ensure that all lunch forms are returned at the schools
 - iii. Concerns
 - 1. Confidentiality
 - 2. Teachers/principals need to track down forms
 - vi. Federal Title II – for professional development and technology at all schools
 - vii. Title III – needs of students who qualify for English as a Second Language programs

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- viii. Title IV – Safe and Drug-free schools
 - ix. Title V – Innovative instructional programming
 - x. Grant for needs of students in homeless shelters
 - xi. Prime Time Grant – Math teachers at WMS/WHS
 - xii. Project Accept - Special Education students
 - xiii. Perkins Grant for Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center (WACTC)
 - 1. All 4 superintendents of districts represented in WACTC must agree to expenditures
 - xiv. Fundraising –meeting suggested with Miriam Goodman
 - 1. To be held at WHS
 - xv. Question and answer session was held
7. Suggested meeting on fundraising should be held before February/March
- a. Discussed/agreed – not as part of January PAC meeting, but as a separate workshop sponsored by PAC for all school PTOs
 - b. Sub-committee
 - i. Volunteers - K. Conroy, K. Deslauriers, I. Ojeda-Rivera, E. Robinson
 - c. Need to design flyers, etc., dates available,
 - i. Discussed best day of week/dates
 - 1. Plan for January 5 (Thursday) with a second possible date of January 19 (Thursday)
 - 2. Needs to be verified with WHS – Kate Conroy will get confirmation from WHS
 - 3. Hours: 6:30-8:00
 - ii. Refreshments
 - 1. Potluck? Desserts?
 - 2. Should each PTO bring something?
 - iii. Location
 - 1. If refreshments are served, we need to use cafeteria
 - a. Meeting could be in cafeteria to eliminate movement
 - b. Meeting could move to auditorium after refreshments
 - iv. Childcare
 - 1. Dr. Macera will talk to Dr. Mary Ann Shallcross of Kids
 - 2. WACTC students could be asked to assist
 - d. Further publicity
 - i. District News – L. Filomeno will write up for December
 - e. Motion to accept plans by J. Kithes, seconded by D. Auclair
 - i. Approved unanimously
8. Next meeting – January 18, 2005
- a. Suggested topic/state PTO presentation