

Woonsocket Education Department  
Parent Advisory Council  
Minutes from March 21, 2007

Present: Cindy MacNeill (Co-Chair, Pothier/Citizens delegate), Tony Gabriele (Guest), Joe Collins (Parent), Denise Auclair (Harris-delegate), Jen Kithes (WMS-delegate), Kate Conroy (WHS-delegate), Pauline Papino (WMS Vice Principal), Anne-Marie Ferrenti (WTG-Elementarydelegate), Allen L. Auclair (School Committee), Kim Eisenreich (Woonsocket Neighborhood Development), Carmen Boucher (Bernon-delegate), Denise Bouley (SELAC-delegate), Cathy Pettit (WMS parent) Donna Lee Houle (Globe-delegate), Linda Majewski (WHS-alt. delegate), Linda Filomeno (WED-delegate), Brenda Galvin (Leo Savoie/WMS parent), Michael Sexton (WHS teacher), Angela Lemoine (Leo Savoie-delegate), Anita McGuire-Forcier (School Committee Member), Daniel A. Lebron (Family Outreach ESL)

Absent: Tom Wrona, Richard Picard, Tom Hazard

Welcome by Cindy MacNeill Co Chair

Delegate/Guest Introductions and Announcements

Carmen Boucher (Bernon); New curtains are now in place at Bernon Heights Cafetorium; Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held March 22 all parents encouraged to attend, Teachers are mentioning concerns about availability of money for busing for field trips which take place each spring.

Donna Houle (Globe Park); A Scholastic book fair is being held every day this week with evening hours during Parent/Teacher Conferences. It is a "Buy 1 book, get 1 free" sale; Parent/Teacher Conferences being held this Thursday March 22.; Donna attended the Middle School Forum to discuss committees to assist with promotion amongst the voters for this greatly need project. There are several committees to sign up on. Contact the McFee Administration Building at High Street if interested.

Cindy MacNeill (Pothier/Citizen's); Pothier has completed fundraising for the new playground. Fundraising exceeded expectations and will included a grassy area for picnics. Linda Majewski suggested the possibility of adding handicapped accessible picnic tables to the list for those students in wheelchairs.; Friday March 23,2007 Pothier is sponsoring a "Parents Night Out " to Mohegan Sun by Conway Tours. The cost is \$25.00 per person. CVS & Park Square is the meeting place. Contact Cindy for more information.

A PAC volunteer team presented our PAC Power Point at the School Committee on February 28<sup>th</sup>. It was very successful. PAC Co Chair thanked Carmen and Paul Boucher, Denise Auclair, Linda Majewski and Cindy MacNeill for their time and efforts in the project. Cindy mentioned the need to plan two tentative dates for the next PAC meetings they are September 19, 2007 and November 14, 2007. Please add these dates to your

calendars. A subcommittee needs to be formed for the next “Meet the Candidates Night” which is biannually sponsored by the PAC. Volunteers were requested to work on the subcommittee they are as follows: Anne-Marie Ferrenti, Cathy Pettit, Joe Collins, Carmen Boucher, and Cindy MacNeill.

Anne-Marie Ferrenti (WTG-Elementary delegate) expressed her concerns about heterogeneous grouping at the middle school and the future plans for our two middle schools.

Denise Bouley (SELAC) invited people to the next SELAC meeting which will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> at Governor Pothier. A CEDARR presentation and old/new business to follow. SELAC holds its meetings the first Thursday of every month at Governor Pothier from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Denise and Brenda G. SELAC member attended the Compression Planning Meeting held on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the McFee Administration Building on High Street to discuss restructuring plans in Special Education delivery at the Middle School. Denise expressed dismay at having received her invitation on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. However, Denise and Brenda thought that there was good collaboration between parents, teachers and administration. Earlier notice of future meetings might guarantee greater representation among parents of children receiving special education services.

Denise Auclair (Harris) Parent Teacher Conferences this week Thursday. Please attend.

Angela Lemoine (Leo Savoie) Leo Savoie school is in the process of looking into becoming a PTA. They are now a PTV- Parent Teacher Voice. Things have been very busy at Savoie trying to get this established. Angela encouraged attendance at Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Kate Conroy (WHS&WACTC); A Parent Night was held in February to explain Performance Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs). It was very very well attended. Parents from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade were invited as well. George Nasuti (Principal) will be going to the Middle School to meet with parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Donna Houle mentioned piggybacking PBGR with course selection for 8<sup>th</sup> graders next year. Kate will suggest it., WHS wants to work with WMS to plan the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation ceremony similar to what was held at the high school last year.; PTO is finalizing the new scholarship application to be awarded this year. Fundraising for this continues.; Music Department Spring Fest will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Kate questioned updating the PAC web page to include current information on delegates and news, Cindy is working on this at present.

### NEW BUSINESS

Approval of minutes:

August 2006- Motion to approve Cindy MacNeill ,2<sup>nd</sup> Carmen Boucher  
Delegates polled –approved

September 2006- Motion to approve Cindy MacNeill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Carmen Boucher

Delegates polled-approved  
November 2007- Motion to approve by Cindy MacNeill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carmen Boucher  
Delegates polled-approved

Presentation by Mike Sexton Special Educator at WHS

Mike explained that the Woonsocket High School Student Council is featuring a "Celebration of Woonsocket Schools" on Wednesday April 25, 2007 beginning at 5pm. The event will feature a faculty vs. students basketball game, halftime shows by WHS dance team, presentations to "Students of the Year" from every school, exhibits of exemplary K-12 student work, a VIP lounge for honorees, distinguished guests, and corporate sponsors. Proceeds will benefit "Feinstein's Campaign to End Hunger." Alan Shawn Feinstein will generously make a matching gift to our schools. PAC is being asked to support this event by connecting with local businesses you may be associated with, volunteering during the event, promoting the event within your perspective schools, and buying and selling tickets to the event. Packets of detailed information were distributed to all members.

### OLD BUSINESS

Election of Second Co Chair

Cindy MacNeill mentioned that this position is still vacant. Neither nominations nor volunteers came forth to fill this vacancy. Cathy Pettit asked about the responsibilities. Carmen Boucher and Tony Gabriele related that leadership training was available and that there is much support for this position amongst the membership. Tony related his co-chair experience to be a positive one.

Carmen mentioned that RIPIN (Rhode Island Parent Information Network) has recognized our PAC as being a very successful forum to provide parents with a voice in the educational decisions of our children and community. We should be proud of this.

- Parent Involvement Policy Changes of the Section 1118 of the No Child Left Behind Act- Linda Filemeno

PAC members will be sent a copy of the latest revisions to date of the Section 1118 of the No Child Left Behind Act Parent Involvement Policy.

Members are encouraged to e-mail suggested changes to Linda no later than March 30<sup>th</sup>. PAC members may share the proposed policy with their given schools but as delegates have the authority to be the voice for their school. The March 30<sup>th</sup> deadline will ensure that the policy can be reviewed a final time by PAC before printing in the student handbooks.

Cindy M., requested 6 delegates to e-mail her for a meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to finalize the changes and address any other business necessary.

Linda F., suggested taking out the BCI check reference in the policy, but reference “see specific volunteer guidelines” in the policy, as the Parent Involvement Policy is meant to encourage all parents to engage in the educational experience of their children and not potentially give people cause to not become involved.

Linda F. reviewed the Title 1 Regulations regarding Parent Involvement Policies which states that individual Title 1 schools must accept the district policy but are free to add to it as well.

Linda F. introduced Mr. Lebrun as the new ESL Program Family Outreach Liaison hired under Title III to support and monitor present and former students of ESL. Mr. Lebrun is hoping to facilitate the start of a local advisory council (LAC) for Limited English Proficient students (LEP)

-Woonsocket Middle School

Packets were given to all members from the Superintendent’s office regarding committees to serve on to help the local Woonsocket community support the bond referendum to be voted on for the appropriation of funds needed to build the two new middle schools. The State has approved 82% reimbursement.

Joe Collins asked about a date to track the bond’s completion which may be asked by tax payers in the city as we seek local support. Allen Auclair said he wasn’t sure of a tracking date but suggested talking to Joel Mathews. Denise Auclair mentioned that delegates/community members that are going out to talk about the school/bond issue need to get all their questions/concerns answered, before they go out, so they will put the tax-payers/community members mind at ease when they address their concerns about some of these issues.

Carmen Boucher suggested a campaign to write comments in the call and contacting local media to support this. Allen proposed getting the high school newspaper involved in the middle school campaign.

Linda Majewski made a motion to adjourn at 9:12pm, in accordance with our bylaws.

Cindy MacNeill 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm

Respectively submitted

Linda Majewski  
PAC recording secretary