

OPEN MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026
Hamlet Middle School, Cafeteria
60 Florence Drive
Woonsocket, RI 02895

Meeting called to order by Chairman Paul Bourget at 6:00pm

Paul Bourget	Present
Donald Burke	Present
Lynn Kapiskas	Present
Amie Costa	Present
Alan Leclaire	Present

Motion to convene in Closed Session in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1) to discuss the job performance, character, or physical, mental health of a teacher. : P. Bourget 2nd A. Costa

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

Motion to reconvene in open session at 7:00pm: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes/Here APPROVED

Motion to seal the closed session minutes of March 11, 2026: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

** Chairman Bourget announced to the public that the School Committee met in closed session and voted 5 to 0 to enter into a settlement agreement with a teacher.*

GOOD AND WELFARE: Leo A. Savoie Elementary School Presentation and Public Comment

- Donna Coderre, Leo A. Savoie - She recognized Savoie's Guitar Club students, who will perform for the committee, noting they have been playing for about four months and have demonstrated strong attendance. She also thanked staff who volunteer their time for after-school programs, including dance, crochet, and the talent show, for example.

- Jade Thomas, Resident/Parent - She stated at a previous meeting she told the committee that their plan will not work, is not working. Removing her son from school was the best decision because there is no drama and wonders if they think taking phones away is a good idea with all the violence. Teachers don't care and don't listen to the students. Jesus is the only answer.

- Scott Hampson, Resident - He expressed concern about the crosswalk in front of Hamlet Middle School and Davidson. He noted that when students receive the walk signal, the traffic light turns green simultaneously, allowing buses to turn right as students begin crossing. He requested consideration of a delay in the light to improve student safety.

- Alana Gordon, Resident - She has met with students and they told her that they are scared in the schools and feel that teachers don't care. We need to find a way to cultivate an environment where these kids have a voice and feel comfortable expressing themselves. We need to do something so they can prosper.

- Dennis, Resident/Parent - He is new to the area from Louisiana and shared that research there showed parent involvement as a key factor in student success, including improved attendance. He expressed that parents need to feel part of the process and be more involved. He also expressed interest in being actively involved in the school community and requested information on available mentorship programs.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Superintendent Patrick McGee announced the following:

- WHS Class of 2026 Top 10 - Recently, the Top 10 WHS Students, Class of 2026 were announced: David A. Vega, Timothy J. Silva, Annhu Le, Gabriella R. Alves, Riley E. Levesque, Kaylee J. Lamoureux, Malen Saine, Wyatt M. Uttley, Benjamin Fowler, and Jeremy Dubois. Congratulations to these seniors and to all the students in the Class of 2026! We wish you all the success, growth, and memorable moments that your senior year has to offer.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa Unanimously approved by SC

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 9, 2026 Special Open Meeting Minutes; February 11, 2026 Closed Session Meeting Minutes; and February 11, 2026 Open Session Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the February 9, 2026 Special Open Meeting Minutes: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

Motion to approve the February 11, 2026 Closed Meeting Minutes: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa

Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes (PB, DB, AC, LK) 1 Abstain (AL) APPROVED

Motion to approve the February 11, 2026 Open Meeting Minutes: P. Bourget 2nd: D. Burke

Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes (PB, DB, AC, LK) 1 Abstain (AL) APPROVED

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to discuss and approve: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Costa

***The chairman announced that there are no purchases available this evening. Therefore, the committee will be voting to approve Field Trips/Conferences and Home Schooling.**

Roll Call on the consent agenda as stated: 5 Yes APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS:

- WSC Student Representative Report - Student Fataima Wahby shared that Class officers will be selling golden pots to fundraise for prom next Monday 3/16. The play, High School Musical 2 will take place April 9th, 10th, and 11th at 7pm. The implementation of Yondr Pouches started today and feels that it went well. It felt good to see students walking in the hallways communicating with one another instead of having their head down on their phones. There was no distraction in classes with the teacher telling students to put their phones away, which was amazing. Ninth grade had their dental checkup on March 4th. There was a Vaccinate Before You Graduate day on Friday the March 6th for Seniors. The talent/fashion show will be on Thursday March, 12th from 7–9pm. The girls basketball team lost their first playoff game to Central Falls with a score of 40–43. PSAT/SAT day will be April 1st. Senior Portfolios are also due that day.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa Unanimously approved by SC

- **Strategic Plan Update** - P. McGee, A. Holt - This update will take place at the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: On behalf of the Superintendent, Mr. Peryea presented this report.

- Personnel Matters – The district currently has 22 vacancies: 4 teaching positions, 15 paraprofessional positions, and 3 custodial positions.

- Bullying Report Update - He presented data collected from each school from September through December 2025 regarding the number of bullying incidents that did or did not occur. The principals were present to answer any questions the School Committee may have. Additionally, he will present the second half of the bullying report in June.

- Post-Secondary Update - Recently, he and several WED staff members attended a regional accountability meeting hosted by RIDE with school district administrators across Rhode Island. During this work session, districts selected focus areas, and WED chose post-secondary success. This includes expanding opportunities for high school students to take AP courses, as well as participate in part-time and full-time dual and concurrent enrollment programs. Currently, the high school offers 14 AP courses, with a goal of continuing to grow these offerings so students can earn college credit before graduating. In addition, five students are currently enrolled in the All-Course Network, an online program that allows them to take courses not otherwise available at the high school.

- AASA Conference Update - In November, he and Dr. Holt recently attended the National Conference for Superintendents in Nashville. Not only did they receive valuable information but they presented at two separate round table discussions. We have been working with Instructional Empowerment for a few years now and through our Model of Instruction (MOI) that the expectation is, in all of our classrooms, that the teachers use to teach the curriculum, a way of teaching the curriculum. They chose us to present because we are recognized across the country as a district that is doing really impressive things around the MOI.

- Climate and Safety Update - He shared that several safety initiatives have been implemented across the district over the past year. At the high school, incidents of violence have decreased significantly compared to last year, due to the collective efforts of staff and administration.

This week marked the start of the Yondr pouch implementation, following extensive planning and preparation. He expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed to making this rollout successful and for their continued support throughout the process. He noted that this is one of the most impactful decisions the School Committee and WED have made in recent years. Secondary administration also provided updates on the implementation and early progress of the pouch program.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa Unanimously approved by SC

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT:

- *Finance Subcommittee Report* - P. Bourget, A. Leclaire - This meeting was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. However, the Finance Subcommittee will have a meeting on March 25th.

- *Student Safety and Behavioral Health Report* - A. Leclaire reported on the March 10th meeting: Elementary: Minor issues (Harris—trash in yard and minor student behavior; Globe—uptick in recess behavior); ongoing staff and paraprofessional shortages (hiring/training in progress). Middle Schools: Cameras, intercoms, and parking issues remain in progress. WACTC: No issues reported. WHS: Ongoing ALICE training; minor issues with phones, clocks, and bells. District-Wide: Delays in reporting lost fobs; awaiting camera licensing for new installations. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14th, at 4:00pm at the Hamlet MS, Room 124.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa Unanimously approved by SC

CONFERENCES/DISCUSSIONS:

- Financial Update - B. Peryea - There will be no Financial Update this evening. However, the School Committee will receive an update on March 25th.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa Unanimously approved by SC

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. None
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NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion/Vote on Superintendent's recommendation to suspend and then terminate a tenured teacher for good and just cause - P. Bourget

Chairman Bourget advised that this agenda item is no longer needed.

2. Discussion/Approval on the District's 2026-27 School Year Calendar - P. McGee

Motion to discuss and approve: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

3. Discussion/Approval on outstanding invoices from the Woonsocket City Council specifically Auditing Invoices and SRO Invoices - P. McGee, B. Peryea

Motion to Table this agenda item until the next SC meeting: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Leclaire, A. Costa
Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes TABLED

4. Discussion/Approval to request a 180 Waiver from the Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Education - P. McGee

Motion to discuss and approve: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Leclaire

P. McGee is seeking School Committee approval to submit a waiver request to the Commissioner for the February 23rd–24th blizzard days. The Commissioner will present this request to the Elementary and Secondary Education Council on March 31st due to the declared state of emergency. He noted that a prior waiver request for the January 30th WHS/WACTC closure (boiler issue) was denied by RIDE, requiring the day to be made up. To address this at WHS, he proposed adding 2.5 minutes to each school day from March 16th through the end of the year to meet instructional time requirements (minimum 330 minutes; current 331). District-wide, there were 8 weather-related closure days (3 in January, 5 in February). If 2 أيام are waived, 6 days will still need to be made up. He therefore proposed extending the school year, with the last day set for Thursday, June 18th. He does not recommend using April vacation due to prior commitments, nor extending the school day by 30 minutes due to the impact. Graduation will remain unchanged on June 5th. He is requesting that the School Committee vote to approve submission of the waiver request to the Commissioner.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

Motion to adjourn at 8:35pm: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa Unanimously approved by SC

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Blais, Recording Secretary