

OPEN MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026
Hamlet Middle School, Cafeteria
60 Florence Drive
Woonsocket, RI 02895

Meeting called to order by Chairman Paul Bourget at 7:02pm

Paul Bourget	Present
Donald Burke	Present
Lynn Kapiskas	Absent
Amie Costa	Present (Late arrival for roll call)
Alan Leclaire	Present

GOOD AND WELFARE: Public Comment - None

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 08, 2026 Open Session Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the April 08, 2026 Open Session Meeting Minutes: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Leclaire

Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes

APPROVED

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to discuss and approve: P. Bourget

2nd: D. Burke

Roll Call on the consent agenda in its entirety: 3 Yes

APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Brad Peryea reported the following:

- Personnel Matters – Since the last meeting, the district has hired a Grade 8 Science Teacher and a few Senior Support Credit Retrieval Math Specialists

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Leclaire

Unanimously approved by SC

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT:

- *Finance Subcommittee Update* - B. Peryea reported that the Subcommittee met today at 3:30 PM to discuss several items. The FY27 Budget is still in development, with a plan to present it to the School Committee at the final meeting in May for approval. For the next School Committee agenda, two items will be brought forward for approval: A request for a 4% increase in the local share to WED for FY27 and a transfer of additional funds into the medical pooling account. This adjustment will allow for more proactive medical budgeting next year and is expected to create savings in staffing as the FY27 budget is finalized. During the meeting, a fiscal update was also provided, and city invoices were reviewed.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Leclaire

Unanimously approved by SC

CONFERENCES/DISCUSSIONS:

- *Financial Update* - B. Peryea presented the February 2026 fiscal update, highlighting revenues and expenditures. At this time, the district is projecting a \$120,000.00 surplus. Last Friday marked the deadline for schools to order general supplies, and all ordering for the remainder of the fiscal year is now complete. Moving forward, only essential purchases will be made, as spending has been placed on a freeze through June 30.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Leclaire

Unanimously approved by SC

- *Special Education Update* - D. Morelle reported that as of April 20, 2026, a total of 1,410 students from Pre-K through 12th grade are receiving special education services. This represents 28.3% of the district's total enrollment of approximately 5,018 students. Additionally, there are 21 students enrolled in the Trans Pro classroom.

The district currently has 123 students in out-of-district placements, including 113 students with IEPs. Approximately 150 Pre-K students are also supported through community-based services.

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

- **School Building Committee Update** - A. Notarianni reported that the committee met on April 16th and discussed several items. An update was provided regarding previous meetings of the Subcommittee of the Building Committee Subcommittee, along with the current status of the water easement for the new school construction project. The committee also reviewed and approved the interior and exterior color board. Additionally, excess soil at the Barry Field location was discussed and will be sent to the School Committee for approval at its next meeting. The city has offered to demolish the building; however, the district would be responsible for remediation costs, which are not financially feasible at this time. An update on this matter will be included on the next Building Committee agenda.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

Motion to remove this agenda item from the Table: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Leclaire

Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes APPROVED

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

SRO Invoices - B. Peryea reported that the city submitted the invoice for School Resource Officers (SROs) for the first half of the year, totaling \$297,395.81. The SC requested additional supporting documentation to better understand how payments are calculated, specifically the development of a daily rate. To estimate this rate, B. Peryea used the information previously provided to the School Committee, projecting the full-year salary by doubling the first-half figures. He then divided the first-half total by four officers and further divided that amount by 246 workdays, resulting in a calculated daily rate of \$604.46. Additional information received from the city indicated a total of 169 absence days among the SROs. Based on the established daily rate, this equates to a calculated credit of \$102,153.74. Applying this credit to the original invoice results in a revised balance of \$195,242.07, which is the amount proposed for payment for the first half of the year. B. Peryea will share this analysis with the city and continue discussions to establish a clear and consistent daily rate methodology moving forward. A. Leclaire stated that the city, not the school department, should be responsible for funding the SROs and also raised concerns regarding salary discrepancies between quarter three and quarter four. B. Peryea will seek clarification from the city and report back to the Committee. D. Burke also requested a review of summer SRO usage, as student summer programming will be significantly reduced this year due to funding constraints. B. Peryea and A. Notarianni will review the matter further.

Motion to authorize a payment of \$195,242.07 to the City of Woonsocket for the payment of the SROs: P. Bourget
2nd: A. Leclaire, A. Costa Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes APPROVED

Auditing Invoices - B. Peryea reported that the city submitted two audit invoices. The FY22 audit fee totals \$30,000.00 which is consistent with the amount charged during his 10 years as Finance Director. He explained that the auditors do not clearly separate school and city work, as they consider both entities to be one client. As a result, the city is attempting to allocate 38% of the total audit cost to the school department, resulting in a proposed FY23 charge of \$100,000.00. B. Peryea stated that while an increase in the audit fee may be reasonable, he believes the FY23 fee should be closer to \$50,000. He recommended that the School Committee pay \$30,000 for the FY22 audit and a flat fee of \$50,000.00 for the FY23 audit, for a total of \$80,000.

Motion to authorize the payment of \$30,000.00 for FY22 audit and \$50,000.00 for the FY23 audit for a total of \$80,000.00: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Leclaire Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes APPROVED

2. Discussion/Approval on the Retention Policy - 2nd Passage - L. Kapiskas, D. Burke

Motion to discuss and approve: P. Bourget 2nd: D. Burke, A. Costa Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes APPROVED

Motion to adjourn at 7:51pm: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa Unanimously approved by SC

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Blais, Recording Secretary