

OPEN MINUTES
WOONSOCKET SCHOOL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 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 Leclair	Present

Motion to convene in Closed Session in closed session to discuss potential litigation, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2). 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 July 15, 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 no votes were taken.**

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Mike Davis, Woonsocket Education Department Employee - Spoke about the job duties of a Paraprofessional, stressed the importance of having them in the classroom and pleased to recall them back.

RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Superintendent Patrick McGee reported the following:

- Back-To-School Backpack Celebration - The annual FREE Community Back-to-School Event will take place on Saturday, August 15, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Hamlet Middle School. Students must be present to receive a backpack, and backpacks will be distributed while supplies last.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 24, 2026 Closed Session Meeting Minutes, June 24, 2026 Open Session Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the June 24, 2026 Closed Session Meeting Minutes: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa

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

- Motion to approve the June 24, 2026 Open Session Meeting Minutes: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes APPROVED

CONSENT AGENDA	Motion to discuss and approve: P. Bourget	2nd: A. Costa
Roll Call on the consent agenda in its entirety: 5 Yes	APPROVED	

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent Patrick McGee reported the following:

- Personnel Matters – Currently, there are 6 teachers vacancies and 1 assistant principal at the WHS/WACTC. He noted that personal care assistants listed are positions required to meet the needs of students as identified in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and are separate from early childhood paraprofessional positions. When we review the budget in August, the district has prioritized evaluating the recall of paraprofessionals.

• Administrator Retreat Update - The two-day retreat took place on July 8th and 9th. Administrators engaged in professional learning and collaborative discussions centered on ensuring that we are all aligned in our understanding and implementation of the systems in place across the district. A major focus was building coherence, both within our district systems and among the leadership teams in each of our schools, so that we provide consistent support and direction for staff and students. We also spent time deepening our understanding of our WED learning progressions and our instructional model.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Costa

Unanimously approved by SC

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT:

- None
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CONFERENCES/DISCUSSIONS:

• Technology/Facilities Update - A. Notarianni provided an update on several technology and facilities initiatives underway across the district. Topics included the implementation of the district's new communications platform, including telephones, clocks, intercoms, and bell systems; a review of security camera systems; technology work orders and summer technology projects; data and state reporting; the PowerSchool conversion process; student registrations; facilities and custodial work orders and summer projects; HVAC systems; and transportation. These updates highlighted the ongoing work to ensure district operations are prepared for the upcoming school year. He also noted that we are dipping into our surplus to ensure that every student arrives at the start of school with a working chromebook, a fresh start approach for students and administrators.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Leclaire, A. Costa

Unanimously approved by SC

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Approval on the Child Nutrition Program Procurement Code of Conduct Policy - 2nd Passage

Motion to discuss and approve: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Costa

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Approval on the Reconfiguration of Grades - P. McGee

Motion to discuss and approve: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Leclaire

P. McGee shared that, as the district prepares for the final full school year before the opening of the new elementary school, he proposed the following grade configurations to the SC for approval while noting that the proposed changes will affect the district's elementary and middle schools, while the high school will remain unchanged with a grade configuration of Grades 9–12. The district will establish two Pre-K through Grade 4 elementary schools: Pothier Elementary School and the new George T. Nasuti Elementary School. As part of this transition, Kevin Coleman, Globe Park, and Bernon Heights Elementary Schools will close. Harris, Savoie, and Pothier Elementary Schools will also serve students in Kindergarten through Grade 4. The district currently offers Pre-K classrooms at Pothier Elementary School and plans to expand Pre-K programming to the other side of the city as part of the new configuration. Students in Grades 5 and 6 will attend the Hamlet School, which will operate as an upper elementary school using an elementary school model. Students in Grades 7 and 8 will attend Villa Nova Middle School. District Administrations have met with RIDE, which has offered guidance and support in the development of the Grade 5–6 upper elementary program.

Following School Committee approval, information regarding the proposed grade configuration will be shared with the community, along with the district's Transpar document and school start and end times. Additional information regarding these items is expected to be shared with families early next year. He also reported that a team of administrators and teachers has been reviewing the district's special education continuum of services, and those recommendations will be incorporated into planning for the 2027–2028 school year. D. Morelle added that students receiving special education services will continue to learn in classrooms comparable to their current settings, with the support services they need remaining available within their school building.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

APPROVED

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2. Discussion/Approval on the Addition of Minutes to the Elementary School Day - P. McGee

Motion to discuss and approve: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Costa

P. McGee explained that Rhode Island law requires students to receive a minimum of 330 instructional minutes each school day. In 2018, the General Assembly increased the required amount of daily recess by 10 minutes and, at that time, districts that were at the 330-minute minimum were permitted to count those additional recess minutes toward

instructional time, which WED)received approval to do so.This spring, RIDE notified districts that the additional recess minutes may no longer be counted as instructional time. As a result, the district must add 10 instructional minutes to the elementary school day to remain in compliance with state requirements. Having said that, the proposed adjustment has been reviewed with both RIDE and the teachers' union and is consistent with the contractual workday. Under the proposal, the elementary school day will be extended by 10 minutes at the end of the school day to ensure the district meets the state's instructional time requirements. Beginning the 2026-2027 school year, Bernon Heights, Pothier-Citizens' Campus, and Savoie will operate from 8:45am to 3pm. Coleman, Harris, and Globe will operate from 9:15am to 3:30pm.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

APPROVED

3. Discussion/Approval on the Renewal of certain Non-Union Employee Contracts - P. McGee

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

**At this time, School Committee Member Lynn Kapiskas recused herself from participating in the discussion and vote on this agenda item.*

P. Bourget stated that moving forward employment contracts should be presented to the SC for approval prior to being signed. P. McGee explained that the contracts recommended for three-year terms are for district-level administrators who are eligible for three-year contracts based on recommendation and performance evaluation. He further noted that the one-year contracts are for positions that are either non-administrative or title-funded and are renewed on an annual basis. P. Bourget expressed concern regarding the issuance of one-year contracts for non-title-funded positions that are budgeted annually. He stated that employees in those positions may benefit from job security provided by three-year contracts rather than annual renewals.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes (PB, DB, AC, AL)

1 Recusal (LK)

APPROVED

4. Discussion/Approval of Migration of Private School Ridership to Statewide Transportation - P. McGee, B. Peryea.

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

B. Peryea explained that the district recently received notification from Transpar and RIDE regarding changes to state funding for out-of-district private school transportation. Beginning this fiscal year, the state will fully fund transportation costs for eligible out-of-district private placements through the Statewide Transportation program. He reported that the district has already submitted a list of eligible students to the state to determine which transportation services can be transitioned from Durham School Services to the Statewide Transportation and requested SC approval to continue with this process. He stated that the district will initially pay the transportation costs during the current fiscal year, it will receive 100% reimbursement from the state for eligible students. Therefore, he strongly recommended moving forward with the transition, noting that it will reduce transportation costs and place the district in a stronger financial position as it prepares for Fiscal Year 2028, when transportation is expected to increase.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes

APPROVED

5. Discussion on the renewal of Chartwells Contract - P. McGee, B. Peryea

Motion to discuss: P. Bourget 2nd: A. Costa

B. Peryea reported that the district is continuing the process of renewing its food service contract. He explained that RIDE conducts a RFP process for food service programming every five years and Chartwells was selected in mid-June, leaving limited time to finalize the new contract before the start of the school year. He stated that he does not anticipate any significant changes to the agreement. The primary proposed change is to transition responsibility for food transportation and box truck management to the food service contractor. Currently, the district provides the vehicles used to transport food between schools. Under the proposed arrangement, the contractor would assume responsibility for those vehicles and transportation services, noting that this change is expected to reduce district costs while allowing the district to better manage its limited vehicle fleet and other transportation resources.

Motion to receive and place on file: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Costs

Unanimously approved by SC

Motion to adjourn at 7:57pm: P. Bourget

2nd: A. Costa

Unanimously approved by SC

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Blais, Recording Secretary