

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #304 Saturday, January 11, 2014

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School  
1401 Main Street, Holden

*Committee Members Present:*

Lance Harris, Chair	Deidre Kosky (8:22 AM)
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Sarah LaMountain
Scott Brown	Matthew Lindberg
Lisa Call	James Mason
William Clute	Robert McCarthy (8:06 AM)
Thomas Curran	Kenneth Mills
Matthew Ehrenworth	Erik Scheinfeldt
Stacey Jackson	Christina Smith
Julianne Kelley	Charles Witkes

*Committee Members Absent:*

Tiffany Ralli	Margaret Watson
Robert Remillard	

*Administration Present:*

Anthony A. Gasbarro, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Darryll McCall, Deputy Superintendent  
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance  
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Chair Harris called the Retreat to order at 8:05 AM. He outlined the schedule for the morning.

8:06 AM Member McCarthy joined the meeting.

Chair Harris then turned the meeting over to District administrators, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro, Deputy Superintendent McCall, Director of Business and Finance Scanlon, Director of Human Resources Carlson. Members were provided with hard copies of a PowerPoint presentation prepared for the Retreat, which was projected during the administrators' address (attachment 1). Interim Superintendent Gasbarro began the conversation, giving an overview of the District's goals when developing the FY15 budget.

8:22 AM Member Kosky joined the meeting.

Director Scanlon was asked to review and explain the information and numbers on Slide 5 forward of the PowerPoint. Director Scanlon spoke and School Committee members commented and asked questions about the information in the PowerPoint.

9:04 AM Member Mills left the table.

9:07 AM Member Mills returned to the table.

9:35 AM Member Smith left the table.

9:39 AM Member Smith returned to the table.

9:41 AM Member Mason left the table.

9:45 AM Member Mason returned to the table.

10:01 AM Member Call left the table.

10:05 AM Member Call returned to the table.

10:25 AM Member LaMountain left the table.

10:28 AM Member LaMountain returned to the table.

At 10:37 AM Chair Harris called for a brief recess.

10:42 AM Member Kosky left the meeting.

Chair Harris reconvened the meeting at 10:50 AM.

Chair Harris explained the format for the brainstorming session.

10:55 AM Member Kelley, Deputy Superintendent McCall, and Director Scanlon returned to the table.

Members were asked to list areas they consider budgetary priorities, which Chair Harris wrote on chart paper. Twenty-seven priorities were listed:

Wi-Fi	6
K-8 Math	5
Common Core Curriculum	4
Textbooks	5
Smaller Class Size	5
Mid-school Guidance	0
Janitorial Supplies	0
High School Science/Art Supplies	0
Mid Foreign Language	3
Music Programs	0
Increased Security in Bldgs	0
Rehire Sterling Principal	0
Athletics	1
Speech/Occupational Therapy Needs	0
Instructional Supplies	7
After Hours Study at High School	0
Free Full Day K	1
Consistent Offerings/Towns	1
Consistent Benefits/Duties by Building	0
Major Building Repair	3
After School Transportation	2
Level I Professional Development	2
Additional Central Office Staff	1
Social/Emotional Support at All Levels	3
Voc/Tech Classes	0
Library Services	2
Extended Day	0

All members were then provided with three sticky notes and were asked to post the notes aside what they consider to be their top three budgetary priorities. Once members posted their sticky notes on the chart paper, Chair Harris called on members to explain their individual priorities.

11:01 AM Member Ehrenworth left the table.

11:02 AM Member Ehrenworth returned to the table.

General discussion about budgetary priorities took place.

11:58 AM Director Scanlon left the table.

12:01 PM Director Scanlon returned to the table.

Chair Harris asked if the School Committee would want District administration to provide a scenario reflecting smaller class sizes, which Deputy Superintendent McCall will do, based on School Committee policy recommended numbers.

Member Kelley requested a copy of the listing of stipends, provided in previous years.

12:04 PM Member Scheinfeldt left the meeting.

Motion: To adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with non-union personnel, Superintendent of Schools, as the Chair deems that a discussion in open session would be detrimental to the District's interests, not to return to public session.

(R. McCarthy)

(M. Lindberg)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Lisa Call  
William Clute  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Robert Remillard  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro  
Interim Superintendent of Schools