

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #307 Monday, January 12, 2015
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Committee Members Present:

Lance Harris, Chair	Deidre Kosky
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Sarah LaMountain (7:04 PM)
Scott Brown	Robert McCarthy
Michael Dennis	Kenneth Mills
Matthew Ehrenworth	Steve Porter
Timothy Ethier	Barbara Renzoni
Harriet Fradellos	Erik Scheinfeldt
Susan Hitchcock	Christina Smith
Stacey Jackson	Charles Witkes
Julianne Kelley	

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Curran	Brian Ruttle
Robert Remillard	

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Linnea Budd	Liam Fritsche
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Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).

Chair Harris called the special meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00 PM. Chair Harris explained the purpose of the special meeting was to provide the public with the opportunity to address the School Committee regarding school choice participation for the 2015-2016 school year. Chair Harris reviewed the public hearing guidelines.

7:04 PM Member LaMountain joined the meeting.

I. Public Hearing

Corey Burnham-Howard, Princeton, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Heather Salmeron-Garcia, Westminster, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Christine Rainville, Princeton, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

Mary Cringan, TPS principal, read prepared statement (attachment 5).

Sarah Landry, Gardner, read a prepared statement (attachment 6).

Therese Cote, Princeton and TPS teacher, speaking for herself and her colleagues, who joined her at the podium, read a prepared statement (attachment 7).

- II. Motion: Pursuant to MGL C. 76, Section 12B(d), to adopt a resolution withdrawing the Wachusett Regional School District from School Choice participation for the 2015-2016 school year, for the following reasons: (1) that the WRSD's enrollment has increased by more than 5% in the last 10 years; (2) that it is anticipated that WRSD student populations will continue to increase in some (or all five) of the District towns over the next five years; (3) that for several years, class size has been an ongoing concern of Wachusett Regional School District Committee members, teachers, administrators, students and parents; and (4) that several schools within the WRSD are in need of additional space to meet instructional and support needs.

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(D. Kosky)

At the conclusion of the public hearing, Chair Harris gave Member Scheinfeldt the opportunity to address the Committee, to explain the intent of his motion. Member Scheinfeldt thanked those who addressed the School Committee, and explained he brought this motion before the Committee at this time in order for a decision about school choice participation for the 2015-2016 school year be made in a timely manner, rather than in the midst of budget season or as late in the year as last year's School Committee vote.

Chair Harris explained all members of the Committee will be given the opportunity to speak to the motion, and they will be called upon in random order. Chair Harris asked Superintendent McCall if he had any comments to make. Superintendent McCall opted to wait until after School Committee members speak to make his statement, although he was open to participating in conversation when members make comments/ask questions.

Member Ethier
Superintendent McCall
Member Smith
Member Kosky
Member Ehrenworth
Superintendent McCall
Member Dennis

Superintendent McCall
Member Hitchcock
Member Fradellos had no comment to make
Member Jackson
Member Mills
Superintendent McCall
Member McCarthy
Member Porter
Member Kelley
Superintendent McCall
Member Renzoni
Member Brown
Superintendent McCall
Vice-chair Imber
Member Witkes
Member LaMountain
Chair Harri

Chair Harris asked Superintendent McCall about the school choice application deadline, which Superintendent McCall explained has historically been April 1st, adding that the deadline for full-day kindergarten is March 13th, with a lottery being held, if necessary, on March 27, 2015.

At Chair Harris' invitation, both Student Representatives spoke about school choice.

Chair Harris polled members to find out who has a second comment to add, asking that any members who have second comments to add be brief, due to the time.

Member Kelley
Vice-chair Imber
Member Kosky
Member Dennis
Member LaMountain
Member Scheinfeldt
Member Etyhier
Member Jackson

The public hearing and School Committee member comments concluded at 9:07 PM.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain

Opposed:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber

Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Timothy Ethier
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

The motion failed 3-16.

III. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Dennis)
(S. Porter)

Vote

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Timothy Ethier
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Harris announced a ten minute recess before convening the regular School Committee meeting.

The special meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp