

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1247 Monday, January 13, 2014

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Committee Members Present:

Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Robert McCarthy
Scott Brown	Kenneth Mills
William Clute	Robert Remillard
Stacey Jackson	Erik Scheinfeldt
Julianne Kelley	Christina Smith
Sarah LaMountain (8:35 PM)	Margaret Watson
Matthew Lindberg	Charles Witkes

Committee Members Absent:

Lisa Call	Deidre Kosky
Thomas Curran	James Mason
Matthew Ehrenworth	Tiffany Ralli
Lance Harris	

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

Student Representatives Present:

Nate Birnbaum	Jon O'Brien
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Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).

Vice-chair Imber called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 PM.

I. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to address the School Committee.

II. Election of Temporary Vice-chair

Vice-chair Imber told the Committee he would be acting as Temporary Chair at the meeting, in Chair Harris' absence. In light of his sitting as Temporary Chair, the Committee was asked to appoint a Temporary Vice-chair to serve at the meeting.

Motion: To name Stacey Jackson as Temporary Vice-chair to serve at the January 13, 2014 School Committee meeting.

(J. Kelley)
(W. Clute)

Vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Member Jackson sat as Temporary Vice-chair.

III. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the Executive Session I Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School Committee, held on November 25, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session I of the School Committee held November 25, 2013, to be released.

(K. Mills)
(S. Brown)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Scott Brown
William Clute
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy

Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley

The minutes were approved 10-0-3.

- B. Approval of the 1246th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 9, 2013

Motion: To approve the 1246th regular meeting minutes of the School Committee held December 9, 2013.

(K. Mills)

(S. Brown)

The minutes were approved by consensus, with Member Clute abstaining.

- C. Approval of the 303rd Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 12, 2013

Motion: To approve the 303rd Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 12, 2013

(K. Mills)

(M. Watson)

The minutes were approved by consensus, with Members Clute, Imber, Jackson, Lindberg, Remillard, and Scheinfeldt abstaining.

- D. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 12, 2013

Motion: To approve the executive session minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 12, 2013, not to be released.

(K. Mills)

(S. Brown)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Julianne Kelley
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt

The minutes were approved 9-0-4.

- E. Approval of Emergency Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 18, 2013

Motion: To approve the emergency meeting minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 18, 2013.

(K. Mills)
(C. Witkes)

The minutes were approved by consensus, with Members Imber and Watson abstaining.

- F. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 18, 2013

Motion: To approve the executive session minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 18, 2013, not to be released.

(K. Mills)
(S. Brown)

Roll call vote:

In favor:
Scott Brown
William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy

Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Robert Imber
Margaret Watson

The minutes were approved 11-0-2.

IV. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Temporary Chair Imber reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Director of Business and Finance's report that Members should contact the Interim Superintendent; if there were questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, Members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

V. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Temporary Chair Imber read a prepared statement (attachment 2). He also read into the record a December 16, 2013 letter from Town of Princeton officials to Honorable Sonia Chang-Diaz and Honorable Alice Peisch, a copy of which had been included in the January 9, 2014 Superintendent's Report (attachment 3).

Temporary Chair Imber introduced Mountview Middle School Principal Erik Githmark. Principal Githmark's address to the School Committee focused on the Mountview Middle School building project. Principal Githmark had prepared a PowerPoint presentation, which he showed to the Committee and explained the slides being shown (attachment 4). At the conclusion of Principal Githmark's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the building project. Following questions and answers, Temporary Chair Imber thanked Principal Githmark for his attendance at the meeting.

B. Student Representatives (Nate Birnbaum, Jon O'Brien)

Student Representative Nate Birnbaum thanked Temporary Chair Imber for his remarks about the budget. He then went on to give his update on high school happenings: preparations for upcoming mid-terms and the Madrigal

Dinner to take place January 24 through January 29, tickets for which are available for purchase.

- C. Management Subcommittee (L. Harris, Chair, R. Imber, Vice-chair, S. Jackson, J. Mason, K. Mills, E. Scheinfeldt, M. Watson)

In Chair Harris' absence, a report from the Management Subcommittee was deferred.

- D. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, M. Watson, Vice-chair, L. Call, R. Remillard, C. Smith)

Education Subcommittee Vice-chair Watson reported on the December 16th meeting of the Education Subcommittee. She reported the Summit Program (evening adult education classes) will begin at the high school on February 24th and will run until April 7th, 2014, Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Registration for these offerings will be online. She also mentioned the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation visit in March 2014.

1. Amended Policy – AP6631 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Non-discrimination**– first reading

Education Subcommittee Vice-chair Watson read aloud the amended policy.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy – AP6631 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Non-discrimination**

(M. Watson)

(C. Smith)

Vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Amended Policy – AP3450 **Policy Relating to Education Non-discrimination of Educational Materials** – first reading

Education Subcommittee Vice-chair Watson read aloud the amended policy. There was discussion about the last two paragraphs of the policy, sections of the policy not being amended at this reading. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained that the amendments to the policy were in the first paragraph of the policy, expanding the categories not to be discriminated against. Deputy Superintendent McCall addressed the School Committee, clarifying the intent of the amendments. Following discussion, it was agreed to remand Policy 3450 to the Education Subcommittee for review, particularly the last paragraph of the policy.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy – AP3450 **Policy Relating to Education Non-discrimination of Educational Materials**.

(M. Watson)

(C. Smith)

Vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

8:10 PM Member Smith left the table.

8:10 PM Member Brown left the table.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (E. Scheinfeldt, Chair, W. Clute, Vice-chair, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, J. Mason, R. McCarthy, T. Ralli, C. Smith, C. Witkes))

8:12 PM Student Representatives Birnbaum and O'Brien left the meeting.

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported on the December 18, 2013 meeting of the subcommittee, and told that a meeting scheduled for January 7, 2014 was cancelled due to quorum issues. The subcommittee will meet next on January 22, 2014.

- F. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, M. Lindberg, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Ehrenworth, J. Kelley)

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported the subcommittee has two items for consideration in executive session at the conclusion of the full School Committee meeting. He reported on the January 6th meeting of the subcommittee and announced the subcommittee will meet next on February 3, 2014.

8:14 PM Member Brown returned to the table.

- G. Facilities & Security Subcommittee (J. Mason, Chair, M. Ehrenworth, Vice-chair, W. Clute, M. Lindberg, R. McCarthy, R. Remillard)

In subcommittee Chair Mason's absence, Members Clute and Remillard reported on the January 6th meeting of the subcommittee.

- H. Audit Advisory Board (J. Kelley, Chair, T. Ralli)

AAB Chair Kelley plans to schedule a meeting of the Audit Advisory Board in the near future.

1. Amended Policy – AP4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy – AP4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board**, waiving the reading.

(J. Kelley)
(W.Clute)

8:18 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

Member Watson raised an issue she has with #6 on page one of the amended policy. Discussion about the amended policy ensued.

Vote:

In favor:

Scott Brown
William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Margaret Watson

Abstained:

Robert Imber

The motion passed 11-1-1.

I. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

1. Superintendent Screening Subcommittee

No report was made.

J. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported on the December 11, 2013 meeting of this building committee. Deputy Superintendent McCall gave a report on the January 7, 2014 meeting of this building committee.

8:25 PM Member Scheinfeldt left the table.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee

Director of Business and Finance Scanlon reported the Massachusetts School Building Authority has not yet closed out these projects since all three projects are linked together and MSBA is still auditing the Thomas Prince School project.

8:28 PM Member Scheinfeldt returned to the table.

K. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (J. Kelley), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Smith), Dawson Elementary School (TBD), Glenwood Elementary School (R. Remillard), Houghton Elementary School (L. Call), Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (M. Watson), Naquag Elementary School (M. Ehrenworth), Paxton Center School (W. Clute), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Lindberg), Wachusett Regional High School (K. Mills), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (J. Mason)

SEPAC - Stacey Jackson reported the SEPAC will be hosting a workshop on January 14, 2014

Mountview Middle School – Margaret Watson reported on the December 10, 2013 School Council meeting

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Watson commented she had not received both sheets of Treasurer Dunbar's report.

Members asked about video cameras on AA Transportation's school buses, which Interim Superintendent Gasbarro spoke about, explaining how the cameras will be positioned, who will have access to the footage, how long the footage will be available, etc.

8:35 PM Member LaMountain joined the meeting.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$336,471 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for the Naquag Elementary School

Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$336,471 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for the Naquag Elementary School

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(R. McCarthy)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$136,033 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for the Mountview Middle School

Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$136,033 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for the Mountview Middle School

(R. McCarthy)
(M. Watson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard

Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

3. To approve cost of Member James Mason's December 13, 2013 attendance at MASC Emerging Issues in Education Law workshop

Motion: To approve cost of Member James Mason's December 13, 2013 attendance at MASC Emerging Issues in Education Law workshop

(J. Kelley)
(M. Watson).

Vote:
In favor:

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to address the School Committee.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Motion: The Wachusett Regional School District shall not participate in school choice for the 2014-2015 school year.

No action was taken on the motion on the agenda.

Member Watson read a prepared statement (attachment 5). Member Kelley spoke to Member Watson's statement and she spoke about this year's audit by Powers & Sullivan.

IX. New Business

Member Remillard asked for an update on the District's transgender policy. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained there is no policy, but the District has responded to a recent Massachusetts General Law. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro told Member Remillard to encourage any constituents who might contact him about this topic to contact school administration and/or the District Central Office with their questions or concerns.

Member LaMountain asked for an update on Oriol Health Care's request to use the high school site for a fireworks display in connection with their 50th anniversary celebration in August 2014. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained he and other District administrators have met with representatives of Oriol Health Care, Atlas Pryotechnics, and members of the Holden Police and Holden Fire departments to walk the site and make preliminary plans for the event. Member LaMountain asked that the School Committee be kept updated as plans roll out and she also asked that the School Committee be notified before anything in connection with the fireworks display is finalized.

Member Watson requested District administration provide information on the number of students in "protected classes" (gender, race, free & reduced lunch (=socio-economic), etc.) She asked for this information for graduating classes 2007 through 2012.

X. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, as the Chair deems that a discussion in open session would be detrimental to the District's interests, not to reconvene in public session.

Motion: To enter executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, as the Chair deems that a discussion in open session would be detrimental to the District's interests, not to reconvene in public session.

(K. Mills)

(R. McCarthy)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Scott Brown

William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert imber

The motion passed 13-0-1.

- XI. Executive Session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with union personnel (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program assistants and AFSCME Council 93 Local 2885 – Custodial Employees), as the Chair deems that a discussion in open session would be detrimental to the District’s interests, not to reconvene in public session

Motion: To enter executive Session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with union personnel (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program assistants and AFSCME Council 93 Local 2885 – Custodial Employees), as the Chair deems that a discussion in open session would be detrimental to the District’s interests, not to reconvene in public session

(K. Mills)

(R. McCarthy)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Scott Brown
William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson

Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Robert imber

The motion passed 13-0-1.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent of Schools

AAG:rlp