

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1248 Monday, January 27, 2014

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School  
1401 Main Street, Holden

*Committee Members Present:*

Lance Harris, Chair	Matthew Lindberg (7:05 PM)
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	James Mason
Scott Brown	Robert McCarthy
Thomas Curran	Kenneth Mills
Matthew Ehrenworth	Barbara Renzoni
Stacey Jackson	Christina Smith
Julianne Kelley	Margaret Watson
Sarah LaMountain (7:21 PM)	Charles Witkes

*Committee Members Absent:*

Lisa Call	Tiffany Ralli
William Clute	Robert Remillard
Deidre Kosky	Erik Scheinfeldt

*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).

Chair Harris called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 PM. He noted the meeting was not being shown live.

- I. Executive session to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel, Superintendent-elect Darryll McCall, as the Chair deems that a discussion in open session would be detrimental to the District's interests, to return to public session.

Chair Harris reported there would not be a need for an executive session at this time, as the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate the Superintendent's Contract had met just before this regular School Committee meeting and an agreement has been reached

with Superintendent-elect Darryll McCall. The School Committee will be asked to ratify the employment contract between the WRSD and Darryll McCall later in this meeting.

II. Public Hearing

Jonathan Vernon of Rutland addressed the School Committee.

7:05 PM Member Lindberg joined the meeting.

Christine Trudeau of Princeton read a prepared statement (attachment 2)

Jason Lanpher of Princeton read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

III. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the 304<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, held on January 11, 2014

Motion: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 11, 2014.

(K. Mills)

(S. Brown)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Barbara Renzoni  
Margaret Watson

The minutes were approved 13-0-2.

- B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 11, 2014.

Motion: To approve executive session minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 11, 2014, to be released.

(S. Brown)

(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Barbara Renzoni  
Margaret Watson

The minutes were approved 13-0-2.

7:21 PM Member LaMountain joined the meeting.

- C. Approval of the 1247<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 13, 2014

Motion: To approve the 1247<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 13, 2014

(K. Mills)

(S. Brown)

The minutes were approved by consensus, with Members Curran, Ehrenworth, Harris, Mason, and Renzoni abstaining.

D. Approval of Executive Session I Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 13, 2014

Motion: To approve the executive session I minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 13, 2014, not to be released.

(K. Mills)  
(S. Brown)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Lance Harris  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Enrenworth  
Sarah LaMountain  
James Mason  
Barbara Renzoni

The minutes were approved 10-0-6.

E. Approval of Executive Session II Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 13, 2014

Motion: To approve the executive session II minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 13, 2014, not to be released.

(K. Mills)  
(M. Watson)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley

Matthew Lindberg  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Lance Harris  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Enrenworth  
Sarah LaMountain  
James Mason  
Barbara Renzoni

The minutes were approved 10-0-6.

IV. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Harris 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

Chair Harris welcomed Barbara Renzoni to the School Committee. Member Renzoni was appointed to the School Committee by the Paxton Selectboard to fill the vacancy created when Robert Pelczarski resigned in December 2013. Member Renzoni's appointment is until May 2014.

Chair Harris reported he will schedule a meeting for the Collaborative Budget Task Force for Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 7:00 PM. The meeting location will be determined.

Chair Harris asked members whose terms will expire in May 2014 and they will not be seeking re-election if they could notify the Chair and/or their town as soon as possible in order to make it known their seat will be open for election.

Chair Harris introduced Mayo Elementary School Principal Judy Evans and invited her to the podium. Members were provided with a listing of resources prepared by Principal Evans, resources that connected to her presentation –

*Mindfulness at Mayo* (attachment 4). Principal Evans introduced two Mayo Elementary School teachers – third grade teacher Kate White and kindergarten teacher Sue Pacek. Principal Evans addressed the School Committee, referencing a PowerPoint presentation she had created (attachment 5). Mrs. White and Ms. Pacek were invited to address the School Committee and share their experiences with “mindfulness” at Mayo Elementary School. At the conclusion of the presentation, School Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions. At the conclusion of the Q&A session, Chair Harris thanked Ms. Evans, Mrs. White, and Ms. Pacek for addressing the School Committee.

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

Student Representative Jon O’Brien spoke about mid-terms which were given the week of January 21<sup>st</sup>. He also announced the Madrigal Dinner would be January 30, 31, and February 1. Student Representative Birnbaum informed the School Committee that the National Honor Society induction ceremony was underway as he spoke.

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

Chair Harris expects to schedule a meeting of the Management Subcommittee sometime in the coming weeks.

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

Education Subcommittee Chair Imber reported on the meeting of the Education Subcommittee which took place just before this regular School Committee meeting. The next meeting of this subcommittee will be 6:00 PM on Monday, February 10, 2014.

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

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

(R. Imber)  
(M. Watson)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran

Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

(M. Lindberg)  
(M. Watson)

Vote:  
*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

- 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))

In Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt's and Vice-chair Clute's absences, Member McCarthy reported on the January 22, 2014 meeting of this subcommittee.

8:10 PM Member Smith left the table.

Motion: To approve a 2% salary increase for the Director of Business and Finance, effective 1/1/2014, and to increase the Director of Business and Finance's vacation time from 15 days to 20 days (annually), effective 1/1/2014.

(R. McCarthy)  
(S. Brown)

At Member Jackson's inquiry, Member McCarthy explained the Business/Finance Subcommittee's justification and rationale for recommending the Director of Business and Finance's salary increase and vacation time increase.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley

*Abstained:*

Lance Harris

The motion passed 12-2-1



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

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported the subcommittee will meet next on February 3, 2014.

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

Subcommittee Chair Mason reported the subcommittee will meet next on February 3, 2014.

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

AAB Chair Kelley reported she is waiting for the completion of the audit and the End-of-Year Report, after which she will schedule a meeting of the Audit Advisory Board.

8:14 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

- I. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

- 1. Superintendent Screening Subcommittee

Chair Harris will schedule a final meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee, to approve meeting minutes, after which the subcommittee will be discharged.

- J. Building Committees

- 1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported the Mountview Building Committee will meet next on either February 4 or February 11, 2014.

- 2. Green Repair School Building Committee

No report was made.

- K. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (J. Kelley), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Smith), Dawson Elementary School (D. Kosky), 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)

Mountview Middle School – Member Watson reported on the January 14, 2014 School Council meeting.

Wachusett Regional High School – Member Mills reported on the January 14, 2014 School Council meeting.

SEPAC – Member Jackson announced SEPAC will be hosting a *Brain Gym* workshop on February 11, 2014.

Davis Hill Elementary School – Member Smith

## VI. Superintendent's Report

### A. Discussion of Report

Chair Harris asked members to list topics for discussion, in order for him to organize questions about the Superintendent's Report.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro welcomed Barbara Renzoni to the School Committee. He spoke about the *Project 351* event that took place in Boston on January 18, 2014. He gave a brief explanation of the NEASC reform movement, which he had mentioned in his Report, and questioned if Wachusett is interested in joining this movement and, if so, would it be an Education Subcommittee charge or would it be something the full School Committee would act on. Upon inquiry, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained FY14 Foundation Reserve funds that the Town of Rutland has applied for, and he also noted that the District will be submitting applications under this program. Member Jackson asked what the next steps would be to schedule the start of an audit by the State Auditor's Office. Member Lindberg asked Interim Superintendent Gasbarro for a follow-up explanation about a sentence in WRHS Principal Beando's last monthly report, a statement about students at risk. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro apologized for he thought he had already sent an explanation to the School Committee. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro read aloud an email he had prepared, but did not send electronically to the School Committee. He will send the email to all members on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

### B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

#### 1. To approve the refunding of High School Bond

Chair Harris called members attention to attachment 7 of the Superintendent's Report, which is the language to be voted on.

Motion: To approve the sale of the \$11,215,000 General Obligation State Qualified School Refunding Bonds of the District dated January 30, 2014 (the “Bonds”), to BMO Capital Markets GKST Inc. at the price of \$12,229,897.94 is hereby approved and confirmed. The Bonds shall be payable on December 1 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates, as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2014	\$ 870,000	2.00%	2019	\$1,125,000	4.00%
2015	1,020,000	1.50	2020	1,175,000	4.00
2016	1,045,000	2.00	2021	1,225,000	4.00
2017	1,060,000	3.00	2022	1,275,000	4.00
2018	1,090,000	4.00	2023	1,330,000	4.00

(M. Lindberg)  
 (R. Imber)

Vote

*In favor:*

- Lance Harris
- Robert Imber
- Scott Brown
- Thomas Curran
- Matthew Ehrenworth
- Stacey Jackson
- Julianne Kelley
- Sarah LaMountain
- Matthew Lindberg
- James Mason
- Robert McCarthy
- Kenneth Mills
- Barbara Renzoni
- Christina Smith
- Margaret Watson
- Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: That in connection with the marketing and sale of the Bonds, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated January 9, 2014, and a final Official Statement dated January 15, 2014 (the “Official Statement”), each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby

are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

(S. Brown)

(M. Lindberg)

Vote

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To authorize the execution and delivery of a Refunding Escrow Agreement to be dated January 30, 2014, between the Town and the U.S. Bank National Association as Refunding Escrow Agent.

(R. Imber)

(C. Witkes)

Vote

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith

Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: That the District Treasurer and the Chair of the Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a continuing disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Bonds for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds from time to time.

(K. Mills)

(M. Lindberg)

Vote

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: That we authorize and direct the District Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures in such form as the District Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Bonds

(R. Imber)

(M. Lindberg)

Vote

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: That each member of the Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

(M. Lindberg)

(K. Mills)

Vote

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills

Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. To approve the budget priorities as discussed at the January 11, 2014 Special Meeting

Members' attention was called to attachment 5 of the Superintendent's Report.

Motion: To approve the budget priorities as discussed at the January 11, 2014 Special Meeting.

(C. Witkes)  
(R. Imber)

Vote

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

3. To approve the contract between the Wachusett Regional School District and Superintendent-elect Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
(M. Ehrenworth)

(K. Mills)

Members were provided with a copy of the contract agreed upon by Darryll McCall and the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate the Superintendent's Contract (attachment 6). Some discussion ensued.

Roll call vote

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
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.

For possible action at the February 10, 2014 School Committee meeting, District administration will provide information/statistics about school choice numbers, after which the School Committee may be able to take this motion off the table and act upon it.

IX. New Business



Motion: The Legal Affairs Subcommittee develop a policy on “opting out” of state and District-wide assessments, to present to the full School Committee for consideration no later than the first meeting in March 2014.

(J. Kelley)  
(S. Jackson)

Member Kelley spoke to the motion.

Vote

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Christina Smith

The motion passed 15-0-1

Member Lindberg spoke about middle school athletics and student athletes be allowed to cross town lines to try out for teams not offered in a student's home school. He asked if District administration could phase in “no trying out at another school” rather than having this rule in place this year. Superintendent McCall spoke to the issue. Discussion followed, after which it was decided the Education Subcommittee would take this matter under consideration. More discussion continued, including Member Jackson reading aloud Policy 6590.

- 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.

(R. Imber)

(J. Mason)

Roll call vote

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro  
Interim Superintendent of Schools