

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1249 Monday, February 10, 2014

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Committee Members Present:

Lance Harris, Chair	James Mason
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Kenneth Mills
Lisa Call	Robert Remillard
Thomas Curran	Barbara Renzoni
Stacey Jackson	Erik Scheinfeldt
Deidre Kosky (7:06 PM)	Christina Smith
Sarah LaMountain (7:35 PM)	Margaret Watson
Matthew Lindberg	Charles Witkes

Committee Members Absent:

Scott Brown	Julianne Kelley
William Clute	Robert McCarthy
Matthew Ehrenworth	Tiffany Ralli

Administration Present:

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

Student Representatives Present:

Jon O'Brien

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 7:04 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

7:06 PM Member Kosky joined the meeting.

Jonathan Vernon of Rutland read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the 1248th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 27, 2014

Motion: To approve the 1248th regular meeting minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 27, 2014

(M. Watson)

(J. Mason)

The minutes were approved by consensus, with Members Call, Kosky, Remillard and Scheinfeldt abstaining.

- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 27, 2014

Motion: To approve the executive session minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 27, 2014, not to be released.

(K. Mills)

(M. Watson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Lisa Call
Deidre Kosky
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt

The minutes were approved 11-0-4.

III. 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 Superintendent; if there were questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, Members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris introduced Naquag Elementary School Principal Dixie Herbst, who addressed the School Committee and spoke to a PowerPoint presentation titled PBIS – Positive Behavior Incentives and Supports (attachment 4). At the conclusion of Principal Herbst's presentation members were given the opportunity to ask questions. At the conclusion of the question and answer period, Chair Harris thanked Principal Herbst for her presentation, and Principal Herbst then left the meeting.

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

Student Representative Jon O'Brien spoke about a middle school Model U.N. demonstration, work on a "green roof" project on the area over the Media Center, and that the following week would be February school vacation.

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

Chair Harris reported the Management Subcommittee met on February 7, 2014. An agenda item at that meeting was the Superintendent's evaluation. Chair Harris explained the Committee is in an unusual situation since Superintendent McCall just took over the position on February 1, 2014. Chair Harris is working with MASS and MASC on how to address the evaluation process this year. He explained Superintendent McCall's first evaluation may be done by September 30th, with no District-specific goals linked to this first evaluation. Chair Harris will keep the full School Committee apprised as this process moves forward.

In order to make a motion, Chair Harris turned the meeting over to Vice-chair Imber.

1. Draft Policy – 1610.1 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Remote Participation** – first reading

Chair Harris read aloud draft policy 1610.1.

Motion: To approve the first reading of 1610.1 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Remote Participation**

(L. Harris)

(M. Watson)

7:35 PM Member LaMountain joined the meeting.

Chair Harris explained how development of this draft policy came about. He clarified that a quorum of members still needs to be present in order to convene a meeting. Chair Harris listed the five permissible reasons for allowing remote participation: (a) personal illness; (b) personal disability; (c) emergency; (d) military service; (e) geographic distance.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The chairmanship was returned to Chair Harris.

- 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. Subcommittee Chair Imber informed the full School Committee of Superintendent McCall's proposal to increase staffing at Wachusett Regional High School by 2.6 FTE, for FY15 (the addition of .6 FTE math position, a 1 FTE science position, a 1 FTE specialist position). Subcommittee Chair Imber reported the Education Subcommittee would support a recommendation by District administration that school choice participation for the 2014-2015 school year be limited to accepting students to

attend Thomas Prince School and Paxton Center School. Subcommittee Chair Imber read aloud Policy 6590 Athletic Participation, a policy that was discussed at the Education Subcommittee meeting. Subcommittee Chair Imber clarified this policy was in no way connected with school choice. Subcommittee Chair Imber reported the Education Subcommittee supports the intent of Policy 6590. At Member Lindberg's inquiry, Subcommittee Chair Imber clarified that students can try out for a team if a certain sport is not offered at a student's "home school." When asked by Chair Harris, Subcommittee Chair Imber confirmed this tryout option would be effective immediately.

The Education Subcommittee will meet next on February 24, 2014 at 5:15 PM.

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

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported on meetings of the Business/Finance Subcommittee held February 4, 2014 and February 12, 2014.

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

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported on the February 3rd meeting of this subcommittee.

1. Draft Policy – 3911 **Policy Relating to Education Standardized Testing** – first reading

Subcommittee Chair Mills read aloud draft policy 3911.

Motion: To approve the first reading of 3911 **Policy Relating to Education Standardized Testing**

(K. Mills)

(M. Lindberg)

Subcommittee Chair Mills spoke to the motion.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky

Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

- 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 11, 2014.

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

In AAB Chair Kelley's absence, no report was made.

- 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 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)

Houghton Elementary School – Member Call

Chocksett Middle School – Member LaMountain

VI. Superintendent’s Report

A. Discussion of Report

As has been done the past several meetings, Chair Harris asked members to list topics for discussion, in order for him to organize questions about the Superintendent’s Report.

Member Scheinfeldt reminded the Committee and the public that the newly organized Wachusett Summit Program (adult education) will begin classes on February 24, 2014.

Member Smith commended Member Mason for securing another donation, this one from Clinton Savings Bank.

Superintendent McCall spoke about the February 6, 2014 visit to the District by Secretary of Education Matthew Malone. Secretary Malone and Superintendent McCall visited and toured Paxton Center School and Mayo Elementary School.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To accept the donation of \$1,000 from Clinton Savings Bank Earmarked for the Sterling Schools (Houghton/Chocksett)

Motion: To accept the donation of \$1,000 from Clinton Savings Bank Earmarked for the Sterling Schools (Houghton/Chocksett)

(C. Smith)
(M. Watson)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Lisa Call

Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. To award the 2014-2015 heating fuel contract to Petroleum Traders of Ft. Wayne, IN at a firm fixed price of \$3.0997/gl. per the French River Educational Center (FREC) collaborative purchasing bid on 12/19/13

Motion: To award the 2014-2015 heating fuel contract to Petroleum Traders of Ft. Wayne, IN at a firm fixed price of \$3.0997/gl. per the French River Educational Center (FREC) collaborative purchasing bid on 12/19/13

(J. Mason)
(T. Curran)

Vote:
In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson

Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

3. To authorize Purchase Order Not-to-Exceed \$10,000 for the cost of Audit by State Auditor's Office

Motion: To authorize Purchase Order Not-to-Exceed \$10,000 for the cost of Audit by State Auditor's Office

(T. Curran)

(S. Jackson)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt spoke to the motion and reported that the Business/Finance Subcommittee supports the \$10,000 cost for this audit. Superintendent McCall reported on the February 11th "entrance conference" he had with representatives from the State Auditor's Office. Member Watson noted she will be voting in favor of the motion, but wanted to remind the Committee that the audit to be conducted by the State Auditor's Office will not be a forensic audit.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris

Robert Imber

Lisa Call

Thomas Curran

Stacey Jackson

Deidre Kosky

Sarah LaMountain

Matthew Lindberg

James Mason

Kenneth Mills

Robert Remillard

Barbara Renzoni

Erik Scheinfeldt

Christina Smith

Margaret Watson

Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

4. To approve the Agreement of FLLAC Educational Collaborative

Motion: To approve the Agreement of FLLAC Educational Collaborative

(M. Lindberg)
(J. Mason)

Member Jackson asked Superintendent McCall if membership in FLLAC is still financially beneficial to the District, to which Superintendent McCall responded in the affirmative. Some discussion ensued.

Motion: To remand review of the FLLAC Agreement to the Legal Affairs Subcommittee, and for the Legal Affairs Subcommittee to report back to the full School Committee by the March 10, 2014 regular School Committee meeting.

(S. Jackson)
(J. Mason)

The motion and the timeframe were discussed.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

5. To appoint Darryll McCall, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools,

to serve on the FLLAC Educational Collaborative Board of Directors

Motion: To appoint Darryll McCall, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, to serve on the FLLAC Educational Collaborative Board of Directors

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(T. Curran)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

6. To appoint Darryll McCall, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, to serve on the Mountview Building Committee

Motion: To appoint Darryll McCall, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, to serve on the Mountview Building Committee

(M. Watson)
(J. Mason)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson

Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

7. To approve the School Calendar for School Year 2014-2015

Motion: To approve the School Calendar for School Year
2014-2015

(S. Jackson)
(M. Lindberg)

There was discussion about the proposed 2014-2015 school calendar, with specific discussion about the half-days for professional development.

Vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
Kenneth Mills
Charles Witkes

Abstained:

Lance Harris

The motion passed 13-2-1.

8. To endorse Superintendent of Schools Darryll McCall's support of NEASC (New England Association of Schools & Colleges) Reform

Motion: To endorse Superintendent of Schools Darryll McCall's support of NEASC (New England Association of Schools & Colleges) reform movement

(C. Smith)

(L. Call)

Superintendent McCall spoke to the motion and explained this reform movement. Member Watson also spoke to the motion.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris

Robert Imber

Lisa Call

Thomas Curran

Stacey Jackson

Deidre Kosky

Sarah LaMountain

Matthew Lindberg

James Mason

Kenneth Mills

Robert Remillard

Barbara Renzoni

Erik Scheinfeldt

Christina Smith

Margaret Watson

Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Public Hearing

Colleen Ferrera of Fitchburg addressed the School Committee.

Daniel Roth of Leominster addressed the School Committee.

Chair Harris asked members if there would be any objection to switching the order of Unfinished Business and New Business, allowing the Committee to act on the motion under New Business before addressing the motion under Unfinished Business, which deals with the District not participating in school choice for the 2014-2015 school year. No members objected to this change in order of agenda items.

VIII. New Business

Motion: To approve Wachusett Regional School District participation in school choice for school year 2014-2015, limited to accepting students at Paxton Center School in Paxton and at Thomas Prince School in Princeton, subject to space availability

(T. Curran)
(L. Call)

Superintendent McCall spoke to the motion, calling members' attention to attachments 8 and 9 of his February 6, 2014 Report. Much discussion ensued.

9:10 PM Member Scheinfeldt left the table.

9:12 PM Member Scheinfeldt returned to the table.

Interim Director of Operations Gasbarro spoke about school choice, specifically answering questions about siblings of current school choice students being given priority when applying to choice to the District.

9:16 PM Member Call left the table.

Member Lindberg referenced state statute (Chapter 76, Section 12B (d)) and gave his opinion that the District would need to actively withdraw from participating in school choice.

9:18 PM Member Call returned to the table.

Motion: To table the motion on the floor, until there is clarification about priority being given to siblings wishing to enroll under school choice.

(T. Curran)
(J. Mason)

Amended Motion: To amend motion to table to a time certain, February 24, 2014.

(K. Mills)
(L. Call)

There was discussion about tabling the motion until February 24, 2014.

Vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Lisa Call
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Robert Remillard
Christina Smith

Abstained:

Lance Harris

The motion passed 10-5-1.

Motion: To table the motion to a time certain, February 24, 2014.
(T. Curran)
(J. Mason)

Member Lindberg referenced MGL Chapter 76, Section 12B (j).

9:38 PM Member Mason left the table.

Discussion continued around the motion on the table.

9:40 PM Member Mason returned to the table.

More discussion took place.

Motion: To call the question.

(R. Remillard)
(S. Jackson)

Chair Harris reminded the Committee a two-thirds vote is needed on the motion to call the question.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Lisa Call

Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Deidre Kosky

Abstained:

Lance Harris

The motion passed 14-1-1.

Motion: To table the motion on the floor until a time certain, February 24, 2014.

(T. Curran)

(J. Mason)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Lisa Call
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Abstained:

Lance Harris

The motion failed 7-8-1.

Chair Harris re-read the main motion.

Motion: To approve Wachusett Regional School District participation in school choice for school year 2014-2015, limited to accepting students at Paxton Center School in Paxton and at Thomas Prince School in Princeton, subject to space availability

(T. Curran)
(L. Call)

Discussion about school choice and the motion on the table ensued.

Member LaMountain offered a friendly amendment to the motion on the floor, adding “and approval of the School Committee prior to accepting any new choice students.” The friendly amendment died due to the lack of a second.

More discussion took place.

Motion: To extend the meeting for 30 minutes, until 10:30 PM.

(J. Mason)
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Lance Harris
Lisa Call
Margaret Watson

The motion passed 13-3.

Much more discussion around the table took place. With the permission of the Committee, Chair Harris addressed the Committee. Chair Harris read into the record

an email from School Committee Member Clute (attachment 5). Discussion continued.

Motion: To postpone indefinitely action on the motion on the floor.

(K. Mills)

(J. Mason)

Member Mills explained the intent of the motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber

Lisa Call

Thomas Curran

Stacey Jackson

Matthew Lindberg

James Mason

Kenneth Mills

Robert Remillard

Barbara Renzoni

Erik Scheinfeldt

Christina Smith

Margaret Watson

Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Deidre Kosky

Sarah LaMountain

Abstained:

Lance Harris

The motion passed 13-2-1.

IX. Unfinished Business

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

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Watson)

(L. Call)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris

Robert Imber
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp