

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1293 Monday, February 13, 2017
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Robert McCarthy
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Jon Edward Novak
Thomas Curran	Michael Rivers
Susan Hitchcock	Asima Silva
Stacey Jackson	Christina Smith
Sarah LaMountain	Megan Weeks
Matthew Lavoie	Charles Witkes
Linda Long-Bellil	Adam Young
Lauren Maldonado	

Committee Members Absent:

Scott Brown	Steve Porter
Michael Dennis	Barbara Renzoni
Harriet Fradellos	

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Berlo, 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:

Alyssa Stark	Chloe Tolderlund
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Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:42 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills mentioned that a round-table meeting to be held in Rutland is being planned for Tuesday, February 28, 2017. He further explained that this meeting is being organized by Rutland Town Administrator Margaret Nartowicz, and said that a School Committee member from each town is welcome to sit at the table at that meeting. Chair Mills plans to attend the meeting and will be the Holden School Committee member at the table. Members from the other four towns, willing to attend and represent their town, were asked to contact Chair Mills.

Chair Mills encouraged members who have not done so to complete the online Conflict of Interest training and to provide a copy of the certificate of completion to the Central Office for the record.

Chair Mills reported nomination papers for open seats on the School Committee are now available.

Chair Mills turned the meeting over to the members of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the School Calendar. School Committee members were provided with hard copies of a PowerPoint presentation (attachment 2). Subcommittee member and Davis Hill principal Jay Norton approached the podium and spoke to the first several slides of the presentation. Subcommittee member and School Committee Member Novak approached the podium and spoke to the next several slides of the presentation. Subcommittee member and School Committee Member Lavoie approached the podium and spoke to the remaining slides of the presentation. Other members of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the School Calendar who were in attendance approached the podium and introduced themselves (Deputy Superintendent Robert Berlo, TPS teacher Anne McCluskey, School Committee Member Christina Smith, Sterling parent Melissa Tomforde (Dawson Elementary School Nurse Gina Brown and former WRHS teacher Jason Hilton were not in attendance)). Members of the School Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee members.

8:17 PM Superintendent McCall left the table.

Many members, as well as the Student Representatives, asked questions.

8:19 PM Superintendent McCall returned to the table.

At the conclusion of the Q & A session, Chair Mills thanked members of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the School Calendar and the subcommittee was given a round of applause.

III. Student Representatives' Reports (Alyssa Stark, Chloe Tolderlund)

The Student Representatives spoke briefly about the upcoming school break, reported that winter sports seasons are coming to conclusion, concerts will be performed in March, and the annual Student Council Valentine Day display of hearts can be found throughout the school.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Mills turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall. Superintendent McCall congratulated the Thomas Prince School community for being named a Commendation School by DESE.

Superintendent McCall spoke about school choice, sharing some historical background. He explained that school choice participation can be very specific (certain schools, certain grades, based on seat availability, etc.), as has been done in the past. Superintendent McCall explained that he will make a recommendation to the School Committee about school choice participation, but it is the School Committee that votes on whether the District will participate in school choice on an annual basis.

Member Weeks thanked Superintendent McCall for writing a letter to Governor Baker encouraging the state's support of funding for Advanced Placement exams and she encouraged School Committee members to reach out to the Governor as well. Both Student Representatives commented that many students do not realize financial assistance with AP exams is available. The Superintendent will speak with the high school principal about this.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Director of Business and Finance Scanlon approached the podium.

Motion: To authorize the Director of Business and Finance to address a projected shortfall of (\$585,991.00) in the SPED Tuition appropriation by transferring \$385,991.00 from the Instructional Support appropriation, \$100,000.00 from the Operations & Maintenance appropriation and \$100,000.00 from the Benefits and Insurance appropriation.

(R. McCarthy)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Several members asked questions about the motion, which Director Scanlon answered.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain

Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To authorize the Director of Business and Finance to address a projected shortfall of **(\$141,661.00)** in the Transportation appropriation by transferring \$52,673.00 from the Other Operating Costs appropriation, \$20,900.00 from the Pupil Services appropriation, \$50,000.00 from the Salaries & Stipends appropriation, and \$18,088.00 from the Instructional Support appropriation.

(C. Witkes)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to charge pro-rated amounts of employee related expenses for Medicare, Workers Compensation, Unemployment, Life Insurance and Health Insurance to the Title I grant in the total amount of \$19,897.32, to the Early Childhood SPED grant in the total amount of \$14,403.42, and to the Cafeteria Fund (by location) in the total amount of \$129,034.86, and to credit the applicable budgetary expense accounts in the General Fund in the total amount of **(\$163,335.60)**.

(R. McCarthy)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Director Scanlon spoke to the motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To endorse naming of the courtyard at Wachusett Regional High School in honor of Ralph Caouette, and to request the Towns of Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, and Sterling place approval of this honor on the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting warrants.

(R. McCarthy)

(S. Jackson)

Superintendent McCall spoke to the motion, explaining the WRHS Art Department faculty had approached him last summer with the request that the courtyard in the area of the high school Art Department be named in honor of long-time WRHS art teacher Ralph Caouette, understanding such a request required action at Member Town Annual Town Meetings in May.

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of Executive Session II Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 28, 2016

Chair Mills explained that if there are corrections to the executive session minutes, approval will be deferred.

Motion: To approve minutes of executive session II of the WRSDC held on November 28 2016, to be released.

(R. McCarthy)

(T. Curran)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Sarah LaMountain
Christina Smith

The minutes were approved 15-0-2.

- B. Approval of 1292nd Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 9, 2017

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on January 9, 2017

(R. McCarthy)

(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy

Michael Rivers
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva

The minutes were approved 15-0-2.

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Mills 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.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Management Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, R. Imber, Vice-chair, S. Brown, B. Renzoni)

Chair Mills reported on the January 18, 2017 meeting of this subcommittee and also reported the subcommittee will meet next at the beginning of March.

B. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, S. LaMountain, M. Lavoie, L. Maldonado, S. Porter, M. Rivers, A. Silva, M. Weeks)

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee had met immediately before this School Committee meeting.

C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (B. Renzoni, Chair, R. McCarthy, Vice-chair, M. Dennis, L. Long-Bellil, E. Novak, C. Witkes, A Young)

In Subcommittee Chair Renzoni's absence, Subcommittee Vice-chair McCarthy reported this subcommittee had not met since January, due to weather. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet next on March 6, 2017.

9:06 PM Member LaMountain left the table.

D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Brown, Chair, S. Hitchcock, Vice-chair, T. Curran, H. Fradellos, S. Jackson)

In Subcommittee Chair Brown's absence, Subcommittee Vice-chair Hitchcock reported members of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee have been participating in union negotiations, and that initial negotiating sessions with the WAA and the paraprofessionals are yet to be scheduled.

Chair Mills reported the full School Committee would not have an executive session at the conclusion of this meeting, due to the absence of Legal Affairs Chair Brown.

E. Audit Advisory Board (B. Renzoni, Chair, C. Witkes, Vice-chair)

AAB Vice-chair Witkes reported on the February 1, 2017 meeting of the AAB when Audit Advisory Board members met with a representative of District auditors Lynch, Malloy, Marini to review the audit findings. Chair Mills noted Princeton Selectboard Member Jon Fudeman has recently been named to serve on the Audit Advisory Board, adding a representative from the town of Rutland is still needed.

F. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the School Calendar

Subcommittee Chair Smith thanked members of this subcommittee for their time and attention, noting the third charge to the subcommittee still needs to be addressed.

G. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Member McCarthy reported the Building Committee was scheduled to meet on February 14, 2017. Member McCarthy and Superintendent McCall spoke about recent incidents of burst pipes experienced at Mountview Middle School.

H. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (E. Novak), Chocksett Middle School, Davis Hill Elementary School (A. Silva), Dawson Elementary School (A. Young), Glenwood Elementary School (M. Lavoie), Houghton Elementary School (M. Rivers), Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (C. Witkes), Paxton Center School (H. Fradellos), Thomas Prince School (M. Weeks), Wachusett Regional High School (S. LaMountain), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (L. Maldonado)

Member Weeks – Thomas Prince School

Superintendent McCall reported that a long-time Princeton resident will be making a donation to Thomas Prince School and School Committee acceptance of this donation will be on a future School Committee meeting agenda.

9:13 PM Member LaMountain returned to the table.

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

Member Smith voiced her concern that salary projections included in the FY18 budget proposal may not be accurate/should be considered variable due to ongoing negotiations.

Member Novak asked if District administration had considered use of “Blizzard Bags” when it is expected schools will be closed due to weather. It was explained that a “package” of school work would be sent home with students in advance of a snow day and completion of this work could court toward at least partial credit for a day of school. The Education Subcommittee will add this topic to its agenda.

Member Maldonado address the Committee, speaking in memory of long-time Wachusett teacher/coach/Athletic Director Richie Lewis.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. McCarthy)

(T. Curran)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva

Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp