

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1309

Monday, March 12, 2018
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Kenneth Mills, Chair | Lauren Maldonado |
| Christina Smith, Vice-chair | Amy Michalowski |
| Michael Dennis | Benjamin Mitchel |
| Stephen Godbout | Jon Edward Novak |
| Susan Hitchcock | Asima Silva |
| Robert Imber | Robin Van Liew |
| Sarah LaMountain | Megan Weeks |
| Matthew Lavoie | Charles Witkes |
| Linda Long-Bellil | |

Committee Members Absent:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Scott Brown | Michael Rivers |
| Thomas Curran | |

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Harriet Fradellos | Adam Young |
|-------------------|------------|

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Kimberly Merrick, Administrator of Special Education
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Donroy Ferdinand

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

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. He announced the meeting is being shown live on Channel 194 and on HoldenTV.com. Chair Mills reported two members are participating remotely, Member Fradellos and Member Young; therefore, all votes will be by roll call.

I. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan, Holden resident, addressed the School Committee.

Heidi Lahey, Holden resident, addressed the School Committee.

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills asked that a moment of silence be observed for the victims of the recent incident at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School in Parkland, Florida.

7:12 PM Vice-chair Smith left the table.

III. Student Representatives' Reports

Student Representative Ferdinand reported the WRHS girls basketball team is playing in the semi-finals at Worcester State University this date. He also reported on a 17 minutes student walkout planned for March 14, 2018 at 10:00 AM, in honor of victims of the February 14, 2018 incident in Parkland, Florida.

7:13 PM Vice-chair Smith returned to the table.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent McCall thanked Student Representative Ferdinand for his eloquent and well-stated report.

It was noted that the School Committee will vote on the proposed FY19 appropriation at this meeting. Superintendent McCall reported on meetings with Member Town officials when the FY19 budget proposal was reviewed and discussed with town officials and Selectboard/Finance Committee members. He reported these meetings were generally positive, and he thanked School Committee members for their support and attendance at these meetings.

Chair Mills gave members the opportunity to ask questions about the Superintendent's Report, questions not related to the FY19 budget.

Member Lavoie requested school choice enrollment numbers, by classroom, by school, and he also requested full-day kindergarten enrollment numbers. At Member Lavoie's inquiry about kindergarten students who choice out for their kindergarten year, then return to a Wachusett school for first grade and on, Superintendent McCall explained that parents often will school choice to a city or town that offers full-day kindergarten and after kindergarten the child is enrolled in the Wachusett school in their town of residence. Superintendent McCall took the

opportunity to speak briefly about school choice, explaining his desire to have the option of accepting students for school choice, for the coming school year, on an individual basis, based on seat availability. He reported that the full Committee will be asked to act on school choice participation for the 2018-2019 school year at an upcoming School Committee meeting.

Member Novak requested reassurance from District administration that the student walkout planned for March 14, 2018 is not political, which Superintendent McCall confirmed the intent of this action is not political.

Member LaMountain spoke briefly about school safety and the March 14th student walkout.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the *FY19 Appropriation* in the amount of \$94,209,452 and assessments including debt service to the Member Towns of:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Holden | \$28,087,047 |
| Paxton | \$ 6,313,461 |
| Princeton | \$ 4,863,870 |
| Rutland | \$12,062,627 |
| Sterling | \$11,343,738 |
| Total for Towns | \$62,670,743 |

(M. Weeks)
(S. Hitchcock)

Discussion ensued. Member Lavoie asked about full-day kindergarten and space capacity. Superintendent McCall provided past history of research into possible implementation/potential offering of full-day kindergarten to all, District-wide. He spoke of research that was done by the former Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services. Superintendent McCall explained that some schools, specifically stating Dawson Elementary and Mayo Elementary Schools, are very limited in space for additional classrooms. Superintendent McCall reported that the town of Holden is conducting an extensive population/planning study which will likely include information to help address the full-day kindergarten questions. Full-day kindergarten discussion continued, with Member Imber suggesting future implementation of full-day kindergarten be included under New Business. Member Novak expressed his disappointment that the proposed FY19 budget does not address the technology inequality in the District at the middle school level, but he acknowledged Member Town budget challenges and he encouraged members to vote in favor of the budget as presented. Chair Mills asked the members participating remotely if they wished to add to the discussions, which they did not.

Roll call vote:
In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was approved unanimously.

Director Scanlon approached the podium.

Motion: To authorize charging 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 \$17,538.24, to the Early Childhood SPED grant in the total amount of \$15,265.67, and to the Cafeteria Fund (by location) in the total amount of \$133,334.62, and to credit the applicable budgetary expense accounts in the General Fund in the total amount of (\$166,138.53).

(R. Imber)
(S. Hitchcock)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber

Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: To request the Town of Holden undertake an FY2019 Capital Budget Project at the Mayo Elementary School for Improvements to the Energy Management System (EMS), with a projected budget cost of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00).

(M. Weeks)
(J. E. Novak)

Director Scanlon gave a brief history of this project.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes

Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: To request the Town of Sterling undertake an FY2019 Capital Budget Project at the Houghton Chocksett School Facility to Convert Boiler Burners to Natural Gas and Replace Hot Water Heater, with a combined projected budget cost of One-Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$195,000).

(S. Hitchcock)
(B. Mitchel)

Director Scanlon gave a brief history of this project.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: To request the Member Towns fund a turf field replacement project at the Wachusett Regional High School with a total project budget cost of Six-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000), with a breakdown by

town as follows: Holden at \$257,040.00, Paxton at \$60,120.00, Princeton at \$42,720.00, Rutland at \$148,320.00 and Sterling at \$91,860.00.

(M. Dennis)

(J. E. Novak)

At Member Witkes' inquiry, Director Scanlon explained that all five Member Towns must approve to support this project in order for the project to move forward. Discussion ensued, with Superintendent McCall explaining this could be a summer 2018 project, if approved. Chair Mills spoke about meetings held with community representatives to discuss development and fund raising. Discussion continued, with many members of the Committee contributing to the conversation.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: To request the Member Towns fund a parking lot repair project at the Early Childhood Center and District Office with a project budget of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), with a breakdown by town as follows: Holden at \$22,470.00, Paxton at \$4,850.00, Princeton at \$3,105.00, Rutland at \$11,525.00 and Sterling at \$8,045.00.

(M. Weeks)

(B. Mitchel)

Director Scanlon spoke about the condition of the parking lot at 1745 Main Street, Jefferson (Central Office and Early Childhood Center building).

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: To implement changes to the District's Facilities Usage Rates, as presented, effective July 1, 2018.

(R. Imber)
(B. Mitchel)

Member Novak voiced concern that community residents and the towns have not been given the opportunity to review proposed rate increases and to provide input.

Motion: To table the motion on the floor to a time forward.

(J. E. Novak)
(M. Dennis)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Michael Dennis

Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

Harriet Fradellos
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Sarah LaMountain
Benjamin Mitchel

Abstained:

Kenneth Mills

The motion was approved 13-5-1.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 317th Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 12, 2018.

Deferred.

- B. Approval of Minutes of WRSDC Annual Budget Hearing held on February 12, 2018

Motion: To approve minutes of the WRSDC Annual Budget Hearing held on February 12, 2018

(J. E. Novak)
(S. Hitchcock)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Harriet Fradellos

Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Michael Dennis

The minutes were approved 18-0-1.

- C. Approval of 1308th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 12, 2018

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on February 12, 2018.

(R. Imber)
(M. Weeks)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Harriet Fradellos
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva

Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Michael Dennis

The minutes were approved 18-0-1.

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.

8:14 PM Member Mitchel left the meeting.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Management Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, M. Dennis, S. Hitchcock)

Chair Mills reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

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

Subcommittee Chair Smith reported this subcommittee met just before this School Committee meeting.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy 6613.2 Policy Relating to Pupil Services Athletic Head Injury and Concussion Policy, waiving the reading.

(C. Smith)
(S. Godbout)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos

Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy 6618 *Policy Relating to Pupil Services Nutrition and Wellness Policy*, waiving the reading.

(C. Smith)

(S. Godbout)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy 3311 *Policy Relating to Education Course Organization, Curriculum, and Course Credit*, waiving the reading.

(C. Smith)
(M. Lavoie)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, Adam Young, Vice-chair, L. Long-Bellil, B. Mitchel, J. E. Novak, C. Witkes)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Dennis reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee. The subcommittee will meet on March 19, 2018.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Hitchcock, Chair, S. Brown, Vice-chair, T. Curran, H. Fradellos, Stephen Godbout, Michael Rivers)

Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock reported this subcommittee will meet on March 26, 2018, before the School Committee meeting.

- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, S. LaMountain, M. Lavoie, A. Michalowski, M. Weeks)

Chair Mills reported this subcommittee met on February 28, 2018 and the next meeting will be scheduled shortly.

- F. Audit Advisory Board (C. Witkes, Chair, R. McCarthy)

AAB Chair Witkes reported the AAB has not met since the last School Committee meeting. Chair Mills voiced the need for representatives from Paxton and Rutland to serve on the Audit Advisory Board.

- G. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Budget Sustainability (K. Mills, Chair, A. Young, Vice-chair, M. Lavoie, L. Long-Bellil)

Chair Mills reported this ad hoc subcommittee is scheduled to meet on April 2, 2018.

- H. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Superintendent McCall reported this building committee has not met since the last School Committee meeting. He additionally reported that there are still some software integration issues that are being addressed.

- I. School Council Reports:

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

Member Young – Dawson Elementary School

Member Young – SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council)

Member Silva – Davis Hill Elementary School

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

Vice-chair Smith invited those interested to an advocacy workshop being presented by a representative from MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) Thursday, March 15, 2018, 7:00 PM in the Media Center at WRHS.

Member Imber requested District administration prepare a plan and timeline for implementation of full-day kindergarten by the April 30, 2018 School Committee meeting. At Superintendent McCall's request, the date for preparing and sharing of this information will be pushed off to the May 2018 School Committee meeting.

Member Van Liew asked that the School Committee consider removal of the weapon that is a part of the WRHS mascot.

Administrator of Special Education Merrick reminded members of this year's Special Olympics to be held Thursday, March 15, 2018, at the high school.

XI. Executive Session

Motion: To enter executive session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with all bargaining units (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants, Teamsters Union Local 170 (paraprofessionals), Wachusett Regional Nurses Association), as the Chair deems a discussion in public session would have an adverse effect on the District's bargaining position, not to return to public session.

(S. Hitchcock)

(J. E. Novak)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado

Amy Michalowski
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was approved unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – sign-in sheets

