

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1252 Monday, March 17, 2014

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Committee Members Present:

Lance Harris, Chair	James Mason
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Robert McCarthy
Scott Brown	Kenneth Mills
Lisa Call	Robert Remillard
Thomas Curran	Barbara Renzoni
Matthew Ehrenworth	Erik Scheinfeldt
Stacey Jackson	Christina Smith
Julianne Kelley	Margaret Watson
Sarah LaMountain (7:25 PM)	Charles Witkes

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

Deidre Kosky (7:09 PM)

Committee Members Absent:

William Clute	Tiffany Ralli
Matthew Lindberg	

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent
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 7:05 PM. Chair Harris reported there may be a member who will be calling in to participate remotely.

I. Public Hearing

Carol Flionis of Holden read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

7:09 PM Member Kosky joined the meeting, participating remotely due to geographic distance.

Kevin McDonough of Holden addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing held on March 10, 2014

Motion: To approve the minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing held on March 10, 2014.

(M. Watson)

(T. Curran)

Roll call vote

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Deidre Kosky

The minutes were approved 17-0-1.

- B. Approval of the 1251st Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 10, 2014

Motion: To approve the 1251st regular meeting minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 10, 2014

(M. Watson)

(S. Brown)

Roll call vote

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Deidre Kosky

The minutes were approved 17-0-1.

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. Superintendent's Report

Chair Harris explained the order of the agenda allows for the Committee to address the FY15 Appropriation at the start of the meeting. Chair Harris said there would be a brief budget presentation/discussion before the Committee votes on the FY15 Appropriation, particularly in light of recent changes in Operational Assessments. Chair Harris reminded the Committee that the vote on the staff authorization and expenditures requires a majority in favor to pass. The vote on the FY15 Appropriation and assessments to the Member Towns requires a two-thirds vote in favor to pass. Chair Harris then turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall. Superintendent McCall called

members' attention to his March 13, 2014 memorandum to Member Town Officials, a copy of which had been included in his March 14, 2014 Report. Superintendent McCall referenced the numbers and explanation included in his March 13, 2014 memorandum. Superintendent McCall reported that this information was reviewed with the Business/Finance Subcommittee just before this regular School Committee meeting. Superintendent McCall is recommending that the Committee stay with the proposed \$81,307,859 budget, reminding members that this amount is a 1.4% increase over the District's FY14 budget. Superintendent McCall cautioned that state numbers are not yet completely finalized.

A. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Adoption of the *FY15 Appropriation*

Motion: To approve the FY15 staff authorization and expenditures by category, dated March 17, 2014.

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(S. Brown)

School Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions directed to the motion on the floor.

Member Call questioned the equitability of staffing across the District.

7:25 PM Member LaMountain joined the meeting.

At Chair Harris' inquiry, Member Kosky confirmed she was able to hear the discussions clearly.

Member Scheinfeldt, Chair of the Business/Finance Subcommittee, spoke about how difficult it is to develop a budget before firm State numbers are known.

Member Call spoke about class sizes. Member Call voiced her opinion that while Wachusett is a regionalized district, there are times that does not appear to be so.

Many members of the Committee asked questions about the FY15 staff authorization and expenditures.

7:40 PM Member Smith left the table.

Discussion continued.

7:42 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

Additional conversation around the table took place, with questions being asked and answered.

Chair Harris re-read the motion and he reminded members that a majority in favor is needed to pass the motion on the floor.

Roll call vote

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Lisa Call
Julianne Kelley
Margaret Watson

The motion passed 16-3.

Motion: To adopt the *FY15 Appropriation* in the amount of \$81,307,859 and assessments, including debt service, to the Member Towns of:

Holden: \$22,451,229
Paxton: \$ 5,514,247
Princeton: \$ 4,457,960
Rutland: \$ 9,474,531
Sterling: \$10,153,569
\$52,051,536

(J. Mason)
(E. Scheinfeldt)

Chair Harris reminded members that fifteen votes in favor are needed to pass the motion, and that an abstention constitutes a vote against. Chair Harris announced that if the School Committee does not adopt the FY15 Appropriation at this meeting, he will schedule a special meeting of the

School Committee on March 19, 2014, in light of the fact that the first of the five Member Town Annual Meetings will be held in Sterling on May 3, 2014. Chair Harris announced he would call on members, in random order, to give all the opportunity to make comments or ask questions about the proposed FY15 Appropriation.

Chair Harris called on members in the following order:

Matthew Ehrenworth

Lisa Call

Stacey Jackson – no comments/questions

Robert Remillard – no comments/questions

Scott Brown

Thomas Curran

Sarah LaMountain

Robert McCarthy

Barbara Renzoni

Charles Witkes – asked that the record reflect his disappointment, with the state, on how state funding is done

James Mason – no comments/questions

Margaret Watson

Julianne Kelley

Deidre Kosky – no comments/questions

Erik Scheinfeldt

Kenneth Mills

Christina Smith

Robert Imber

Lance Harris – read a prepared statement (attachment 3)

Chair Harris opened the floor to the members who might want to have further discussion.

Chair Harris re-read the motion.

Roll call vote

In favor:

Lance Harris

Robert Imber

Scott Brown

Lisa Call

Thomas Curran

Matthew Ehrenworth

Stacey Jackson

Deidre Kosky

Sarah LaMountain

James Mason

Robert McCarthy

Kenneth Mills

Barbara Renzoni
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
Julianne Kelley

The motion passed 18-1.

V. Committee Reports

8:17 PM Member Scheinfeldt left the table.

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris introduced William Beando, Principal, Wachusett Regional High School, who is at the meeting to speak with the Committee about the recently launched *Wachusett Summit Program*. Principal Beando introduced WRHS Assistant Principal Anthony DiBenedetto.

8:18 PM Member Renzoni left the table.

Principal Beando gave the background on how the adult education program came about, and he projected the *Summit Program's* website on the screen.

8:19 PM Member LaMountain left the table.

Before asking Assistant Principal DiBenedetto to address the Committee, Principal Beando spoke about the online registration process.

8:20 PM Member Scheinfeldt returned to the table.

Assistant Principals DiBenedetto approached the podium and spoke about the thirteen courses offered under the *Summit Program*, and what the plans are and what he anticipates the fall program will be.

8:22 PM Member Renzoni returned to the table.

8:23 PM Chair Harris announced that Member Kosky's remote participation had been terminated.

8:24 PM Chair Harris left the table.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of Principal Beando and Assistant Principal DiBenedetto.

8:25 PM Member LaMountain returned to the table.

8:25 PM Chair Harris returned to the table.

At the conclusion of the question and answer period, Principal Beando and Assistant Principal DiBenedetto were thanked for attending the meeting and for the efforts put forth launching the adult education program, and they left the meeting.

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

Student Representative Jon O'Brien reported on the March 14th volleyball tournament, the Young Democrats/Young Republicans debate scheduled for March 20th, and the planned senior class voter registration to take place March 28th. He further reported on the recent visit by NEASC, a performance by a hypnotist on March 21st, and the 5K Power Positive walk on March 22nd.

Chair Harris noted that even though Member Kosky's remote participation had concluded, votes by the School Committee at this meeting will continue to be by roll call.

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 has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

8:36 PM Student Representative O'Brien left the meeting.

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

Education Subcommittee Chair Imber reported the Education Subcommittee had not met since the last School Committee meeting.

Draft Policy – 6130 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services School Choice**
– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy – 6130 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services School Choice**

(J. Kelley)
(R. McCarthy)

Education Subcommittee Chair Imber read aloud the draft policy, and he then spoke about the draft policy.

8:40 PM Member Call left the table.

Motion: To amend Draft Policy 6130 *Policy Relating to Pupil Services School Choice*, by replacing the word “coming” with the word “following” in the fifth paragraph on page 1.

(B. Renzoni)

(E. Scheinfeldt)

8:42 PM Member Call returned to the table.

Discussion about the draft policy ensued.

Chair Harris reminded members that all votes at this meeting will be by roll call.

Roll call vote

In favor:

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

Opposed:

Lisa Call

Abstained:

Lance Harris

The motion passed 16-1-1.

Discussion about the draft policy continued. When asked by Member Jackson about students who choice to a Wachusett school riding on District provided buses, Superintendent McCall stated he would have no objection to school choice students riding on a District provided bus as long as there is room on the bus. He firmly stated that buses that are at capacity with student riders residing in the Member Towns

would not be able to transport school choice students. Discussion about transportation continued.

Roll call vote

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Amended Policy – 6590 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Athletic Participation and Other Extracurricular Participation*** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 6590 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Athletic Participation and Other Extracurricular Participation***

(M. Watson)

(S. Brown)

Education Subcommittee Chair Imber read aloud the amended policy. Discussion about the policy ensued.

9:20 PM Member Mason left the meeting.

Discussion continued. Chair Harris clarified that procedurally there are three options the Committee can take: reject the first reading of the amended policy; accept the first reading of the amended policy; remand the amended policy back to the Education Subcommittee.

Roll call vote

In favor:

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Barbara Renzoni
Robert Remillard
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Sarah LaMountain
Erik Scheinfeldt

Abstained:

Lance Harris
Kenneth Mills

The motion passed 13-2-2.

9:29 PM Member Smith left the table.

9:30 PM Member LaMountain left the meeting.

Amended Policy – 3450 **Policy Relating to Education Non-discrimination of Educational Materials** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 3450 **Policy Relating to Education Non-discrimination of Educational Materials**
(L. Call)
(M. Ehrenworth)

Education Subcommittee Chair Imber read aloud the amended policy.

Roll call vote

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth

Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
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, B. Renzoni, C. Smith, C. Witkes)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt did not have anything additional to report at this time.

9:34 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

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

Motion: That the School Committee appoint Fletcher Tilton; Brody, Hardoon, Perkins & Kesten LLP; and Sullivan, Nuttall and MacAvoy as District Legal Counsel.

(K. Mills)
(J. Kelley)

Superintendent McCall spoke about the three firms being recommended, and he reported on reference checks he had made. He also informed the Committee that the District is not required to enter into contracts with the three firms.

Roll call vote

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley

Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Robert Remillard
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Erik Scheinfeldt

The motion passed 15-0-1.

- 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, Vice-chair Ehrenworth reported the subcommittee will meet next on April 1 at 7:00 PM.

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

AAB Chair Kelley reported a meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

- I. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

1. Superintendent Screening Subcommittee

Chair Harris reported this ad hoc subcommittee met just before this School Committee meeting for the sole purpose of approving minutes. Once Chair Harris obtains an answer about redacting names in executive session minutes, the minutes will be released.

2. Superintendent Negotiating Subcommittee

Chair Harris reported this ad hoc subcommittee met just before this School Committee meeting for the sole purpose of approving minutes. Minutes were approved and this subcommittee was discharged.

- J. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported the Mountview Building Committee will meet next on March 18, 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

9:48 PM Member Ehrenworth left the table.

As a result of Member Watson's Mountview Middle School School Council report, discussion of School Committee Policy 3911 ensued.

9:51 PM Member Ehrenworth returned to the table.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Discussion of Policy 3911 ***Policy Relating to Education Standardized Testing*** continued, with questions being asked how building principals and staff would handled parental requests that their child(ren) not participate in testing.

9:55 PM Member Remillard left the meeting.

Motion: To extend the meeting for thirty minutes, until 10:00 M.

(K. Mills)
(T. Curran)

Roll call vote

In favor:

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley

Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
Lisa Call

Abstained:
Lance Harris
Matthew Ehrenworth

The motion passed 12-1-2.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To authorize the transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund the sum of \$850,000 to be applied to the FY15 Appropriation.

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(M. Ehrenworth)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported to the full Committee that the Business/Finance Subcommittee supports the motion.

Roll call vote

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To rescind the authorization to replace the \$1 million dollar oil remediation debt authorization with technology acquisition authorization for the same amount, as approved by the School Committee on October 25, 2011.

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(R. McCarthy)

Roll call vote

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To release the Members Towns of \$1 million of the \$2 million debt authorization for the Jefferson Oil Remediation project, as authorized by the School Committee on February 25, 2008.

(R. McCarthy)
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson

Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
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

Member Mills relayed comments he has heard about report cards, to which Superintendent McCall answered District administration is looking at report cards currently used for students in grades K – 5. Member Mills had follow-up comments about equal opportunities District-wide and he asked if District administration and/or the Education Subcommittee could review this matter.

IX. New Business

That the School Committee Chair appoint an ad hoc subcommittee to develop the implementation of full-day kindergarten District-wide.

Superintendent McCall reported to the Committee that District administration has been investigating implementation of full day kindergarten, District-wide, since last summer and this investigation/fact finding continues. He expects the administration will be providing a report to the School Committee in the fall of 2014.

Member Kelley, who had put this item on the agenda under New Business, agreed to withdraw the request that an ad hoc subcommittee be appointed.

At Member Mills' request, Superintendent McCall will arrange for a presentation to the School Committee to explain and clarify Common Core. Such presentation would most likely be made in the early fall of 2014.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp