

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair
John Nunnari, Vice-chair
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond

Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Committee Members Absent:

Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Mark James

Robert Pelczarski
Marcie Zaharee

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Others Present:

Michael Quinlivan, Municipal Representative

Chair Watson called the executive session of the School Committee to order at 9:12 PM and turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio.

Those present were provided with a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement between Wachusett Regional School District and Wachusett Administrators' Association (attachment 1). The Superintendent reminded the Committee this Memorandum of Agreement had been brought before the Committee on March 9, 2009, at which time the Committee voted "to authorize Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio to negotiate, in principle, with all bargaining units to freeze all step increases and offer no more than 2% salary increases, in order to build a budget model that results in a \$3.5 million to \$4 million decrease in the Member Town assessments." The Superintendent pointed out that the dollar amount in item #5 would need to be changed to reflect the new appropriation number (\$71,833.502.) voted this evening at the regular School Committee meeting.

Motion: To ratify the contract between the Wachusett Administrators' Association and the Wachusett Regional School District, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Member Sherman questioned the appropriation number stated in Item #5 of the Memorandum of Agreement and put forward a friendly amendment that the following language be inserted in the motion: "as presented with the exception of the change in Item #5, which will now read: *"That there will be no layoffs for school year 2009-2010, subject to the receipt and maintenance of a total appropriation of at least \$71,833,502. Failure to attain said appropriation would necessitate the resumption of bargaining by both parties."*

Amended motion: To ratify the contract between the Wachusett Administrators' Association and the Wachusett Regional School District, as presented with the exception of the change in Item #5, which will now read: *"That there will be no layoffs for school year 2009-2010, subject to the receipt and maintenance of a total appropriation of at least \$71,833,502. Failure to attain said appropriation would necessitate the resumption of bargaining by both parties."*, as recommended by the Superintendent

(R. Imber)

(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Michael Quinlivan

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Those present were provided with a copy Proposed Revisions to Contract between Wachusett Regional School District and Wachusett Regional Education Association, Inc. (attachment 2).

Superintendent Pandiscio read aloud the proposed revisions, explaining each as he went along. He explained that the WREA has voted (495/15 in favor) on the language changes.

Motion: To ratify the contract between the Wachusett Regional Education Association, Inc. and the Wachusett Regional School District, as recommended by the Superintendent.
(M. Sherman)
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Michael Pantos
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Michael Quinlivan

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Duncan Leith

(The motion passed 14-0-1.)

9:31 PM Municipal Representative Quinlivan left the meeting.

Those present were provided a copy of the March 26, 2009 letter from Wendy A. Keenan of the Worcester West Area Office, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Department of Children and Families (attachment 3). Superintendent Pandiscio gave the background of the incident that resulted in receipt of this letter. He explained he wished to keep the School Committee informed/apprised of this situation in the event a School Committee member was approached by a member of the public about this matter. Member Cipro commented she had been contacted by a resident about this matter. The Superintendent assured the Committee no School Committee action is needed.

The next matter the Superintendent spoke to the Committee about was the March 31st/April 1st spray painting vandalism that occurred at the high school. He explained how the students involved were identified. He told that the Holden Police Department had filed felony complaints

against the ten students. Superintendent Pandiscio had been contacted by the District Attorney's office about the felony charges being reduced to misdemeanor charges. A pre-trial hearing is scheduled for May 14, 2009. Superintendent Pandiscio said that, if warranted, an exclusion hearing at the School Committee level could be called for.

Motion: To extend the meeting for twenty minutes, until 10:20 PM.

(M. Sherman)

(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet
Michael Pantos
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(The motion passed 9-4-1.)

10:00 PM Members Pantos and Plourde left the meeting.

Discussion of the vandalism incident continued. At the request of a member, Superintendent Pandiscio explained the different punishments being dealt to the spray painting vandals as opposed to the students who recently entered the high school building and damaged a piece of equipment. Member Hammond asked when the Committee will be asked to follow up on the exclusion hearing conducted by the School Committee in May 2008. Superintendent Pandiscio informed the Committee that matter will be brought to the School Committee in June 2009.

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed 12-0.)

The executive session adjourned at 10:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

TGP:rlp