

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1254 Monday, April 28, 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	Tiffany Ralli
Lisa Call	Robert Remillard
William Clute	Barbara Renzoni
Thomas Curran	Erik Scheinfeldt
Stacey Jackson	Christina Smith
Julianne Kelley	Margaret Watson
Sarah LaMountain	Charles Witkes
Matthew Lindberg	

Committee Members Absent:

Matthew Ehrenworth	Kenneth Mills
Deidre Kosky	

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

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:

Nate Birnbaum	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 7:00 PM. Chair Harris asked the Committee's permission to amend the meeting agenda, moving Chair's Opening Remarks to the first item on the agenda. No Committee members objected.

I. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris read aloud a prepared statement (attachment 2).

II. Public Hearing

Amy Norton, WRSD teacher and Spencer resident, addressed the School Committee.

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Louis Cornacchioli, Rutland, addressed the School Committee.

Robin Milaszewski, Rutland, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

Ed Novak, Rutland, read a prepared statement (attachment 5).

Sally Pelak, Rutland, addressed the School Committee.

Lauren Maldonado, Rutland, address the School Committee.

The Public Hearing concluded at 7:40 PM.

III. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the 1253rd Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 7, 2014

Motion: To approve the 1253rd regular meeting minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 7, 2014

(S. Jackson)

(R. McCarthy)

The minutes were unanimously approved.

- B. Approval of the Executive Session I Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 7, 2014.

Motion: To approve executive session I minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 7, 2014, not to be released.

(S. Brown)

(R. McCarthy)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris

Robert Imber

Scott Brown

Lisa Call

William Clute

Thomas Curran

Stacey Jackson
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert Remillard

The minutes were approved 16-0-3.

- C. Approval of the Executive Session II Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 7, 2014.

Motion: To approve executive session II minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 7, 2014, not to be released.

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(S. Brown)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert Remillard

The minutes were approved 16-0-3.

IV. 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.

Motion: To amend the meeting agenda, moving Superintendent's Report up on the agenda, to give the opportunity to respond to questions raised during the Public Hearing.

(R. Remillard)

(C. Witkes)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Harris turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall. Superintendent McCall addressed the School Committee, speaking about the recent decisions to not review two principal contracts. Chair Harris referenced an April 25, 2014 letter from Attorney Naomi Stonberg, which will be shared with the School Committee. Members asked questions of Superintendent McCall.

7:55 PM Member Mason left the table.

With the Committee's approval, Member Witkes referenced and read from WRSDC Policy 5100 Policy Relating To Personnel Management Personnel Policies Goals.

7:59 PM Member Mason returned to the table.

Discussion around the table continued, with many members and Student Representative O'Brien participating.

8:16 PM Member Call left the table.

Discussion continued.

8:18 Member Call returned to the table.

8:28 PM Member LaMountain left the table.

Discussion continued. Member Curran stated he would move to a vote of no confidence. More discussion took place, with many members participating.

8:32 PM Member LaMountain returned to the table.

8:37 PM Member Smith left the table.

8:39 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

In response to Member Curran's suggestion to move to a vote of no confidence, Chair Harris explained that motions to be acted on by the School Committee need to be submitted to the Chair in advance of being placed on an agenda of a future meeting.

Discussion continued.

Member Watson raised a question about the nurse evaluation process, which was commented upon in the report of Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services. Member Watson noted that a unit member cannot evaluate another unit member. Superintendent McCall took time to explain the nurse evaluation process, explaining how this particular practice was brought before and agreed to by the union. He further explained that if a nurse's evaluation was ever grieved, the grievance would be against the building principal, who would be the official evaluator, even though a nurse leader is responsible for some items in the nurses' evaluation.

Member Lindberg mentioned that he would be concerned about overly limiting school choice to just grades kindergarten and 2 at Thomas Prince School. School choice participation was discussed around the table.

Student Representative O'Brien asked the Superintendent "What is your vision?" in an attempt to understand the contract non-renewals.

Member Jackson had several questions about Director of Business and Finance Scanlon's report, which Director Scanlon responded to.

9:00 PM Member Ralli left the table.

Discussion about the Director of Business and Finance's report ensued. Member LaMountain asked Superintendent McCall a question about copiers.

9:02 PM Member Scheinfeldt left the table.

9:03 PM Member Ralli returned to the table.

9:05 PM Student Representative O'Brien left the table.

9:06 PM Member Scheinfeldt returned to the table.

9:08 PM Student Representative O'Brien returned to the table.

Discussion concerning the Superintendent's Report concluded.

- VI. Presentation to the School Committee – Tony Cipro, Principal, Houghton/Chocksett Schools *Chocksett School - Global Skills RTI* and *Houghton School - Social Skills RTI*.

Chair Harris introduced Principal Cipro, who began his address speaking about Chocksett Middle School and Global Skills RTI. At the conclusion of the Chocksett segment of his presentation, Principal Cipro answered questions from School Committee members.

9:25 PM Member Remillard left the table.

Principal Cipro then spoke about Houghton Elementary School and Social Skills RTI and he distributed copies of meeting agendas and meeting notes (attachment 6).

9:26 PM Member Call left the meeting.

9:33 PM Member Remillard returned to the table.

At the conclusion of Principal Cipro's presentation members were give the opportunity to ask questions.

9:40 PM Member Clute left the meeting.

At the conclusion of the question and answer period, Chair Harris thanked Principal Cipro for his presentation, and for his patience waiting to be introduced to the School Committee.

9:41 PM Superintendent McCall left the table.

VII. Committee Reports

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

Student Representative Nate Birnbaum reported on Wachsuett participation in Model U.N. and proudly reported "Wachusett dominated." He also reported on the production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, that AP exams will start soon and will continue through mid-May.

9:42 PM Superintendent McCall returned to the table.

Student Representative O'Brien reported on a reusable bottle campaign.

9:43 PM Member LaMountain left the meeting.

B. 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 had met this evening, before the regular School Committee meeting.

9:44 PM Student Representative Birnbaum left the meeting.

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

Education Subcommittee Chair Imber reported the Education Subcommittee had met this evening, before the regular School Committee meeting. Subcommittee Chair Imber explained a modification made to Draft Policy 6130 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services School Choice*** by the subcommittee at the meeting earlier this evening.

Motion: To amend DP6130 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services School Choice***, paragraph 12 (on page 2 of draft policy), to include the following language: *Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the parents/guardians. Families may request in writing permission to ride District-sponsored transportation to and from school from an established bus stop within District boundaries, for an annual fee which will be established by the District at the beginning of every school year. Such decisions shall be based upon available room with priority given to resident students. The District will not provide transportation from stops outside District boundaries for school choice students. The Superintendent of Schools has final authority to grant permission for transportation privileges.*

(M. Watson)

(S. Brown)

Subcommittee Chair Imber read aloud the proposed amended language. Some members asked questions (Member Lindberg asked about charging students who school choice to a District school if they wish to ride a bus. Member Renzoni asked the number of riders this might impact. Member Jackson asked if there should be language included about when a fee would be effective.)

9:50 PM Member Mason left the meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni

Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the first reading of DP6130 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services School Choice**, as amended.

(S. Brown)
(M. Watson)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

9:58 PM Member Remillard left the meeting.

- D. 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 this subcommittee will meet on Thursday, May 1, 2014, and invitations had been sent to school parent groups inviting parents to the May 1st meeting in order to give an opportunity to learn about the FY15 budget. Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt

is hoping for a quorum that evening, but he explained he will plan to host any members of the public who attend even if there is not a quorum of Business/Finance members in attendance.

1. Draft Policy – 4660 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Budgeting Excess & Deficiency (E&D)** – first reading

Deferred until May 21, 2014 School Committee meeting.

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

(M. Watson)

(S. Brown)

Chair Harris explained a two-thirds vote of those present is needed to pass the motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Barbara Renzoni
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Scott Brown
Tiffany Ralli
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Abstained:

Lance Harris

The motion failed 8-5-1.

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

1. Amended Policy – 3911 **Policy Relating to Education Standardized Testing** – second reading

Deferred

- G. Facilities and Security Subcommittee (J. Mason, Chair, M. Ehrenworth, Vice-chair, W. Clute, T. Curran, M. Lindberg, R. McCarthy, R. Remillard)

- 1. Draft Policy – 4110.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Capital Budget** – second reading

Deferred

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

Motion: To authorize the Audit Advisory Board to develop and send to auditing firms an RFP for the Fiscal Year 2014 through Fiscal Year 2016 Single Audit and End-of-Year Report Audits.

Deferred

- I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

- J. Building Committees

- 1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Deferred

- 2. Green Repair School Building Committee

Deferred

- 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)

Deferred

VIII. Superintendent's Report

- B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

- 1. To authorize the Superintendent to notify the Massachusetts

Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Office of School
Finance, of the District's school choice participation for school year
2014-2015

Deferred

IX. Public Hearing

Deferred

X. Unfinished Business

1. Motion: To accept the Agreement of the FLLAC Educational Collaborative
 - To amend the original motion by adding “for FY15, with notice of intent to discontinue contract effective June 30, 2015” after “To accept the Agreement of the FLLAC Educational Collaborative” (amended motion to read: *To accept the Agreement of the FLLAC Educational Collaborative for FY15, with notice of intent to discontinue contract effective June 30, 2015*)
2. To authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement with the FLLAC Educational Collaborative on behalf of WRSDC

Deferred

XI. New Business

1. The Management Subcommittee review the Superintendent processes that are currently in place for job evaluations and hiring, and ensure that these processes have been followed (R. Remillard)
2. Review of Policy 5221 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Promotion, Recruitment, and Selection** (C. Witkes)

Deferred

XII. Executive Session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with union personnel (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants and AFSCME Council 93 Local 2885 – Custodial Employees), as the Chair deems that a discussion in open session would be detrimental to the District's interests, not to reconvene in public session.

Deferred

Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, as the Chair deems that a discussion in open session would be detrimental to the District's interests, not to reconvene in public session.

Deferred

XIII. Adjournment

Chair Harris took the opportunity to thank outgoing School Committee Members Lindberg, Mason, Ralli, and Watson.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp