

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session

Tuesday, May 6, 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	Tiffany Ralli
Thomas Curran (7:17 PM)	Robert Remillard (7:25 PM)
Matthew Ehrenworth (7:51 PM)	Barbara Renzoni
Stacey Jackson	Erik Scheinfeldt
Julianne Kelley	Christina Smith
Deidre Kosky	Margaret Watson
Sarah LaMountain	Charles Witkes
Matthew Lindberg	

Committee Members Absent:

William Clute

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Others Present:

Leonard Kesten, Esq.
Gregor Pagnini, Esq.
Jeffrey Sankey, Esq.

Chair Harris called the executive session of the School Committee to order at 7:03 PM. Chair Harris read aloud the purpose of the executive session (*for the purpose of discussing a complaint against a public official, to return to public session*). Chair Harris explained the process for the executive session. Members were provided with a copy of the executive session agenda (attachment 1). Members were provided with a copy of the April 28, 2014 letter from Attorney Sheila F. McCarthy to Attorney Naomi R. Stonberg (attachment 2). Members were provided with a copy of a draft statement in response to complaint against Dr. Darryll McCall, Superintendent (attachment 3). At 7:08 PM Chair Harris announced the meeting “is standing at ease” to give members the opportunity to read and review the documents.

7:12 PM Attorney Sankey left the table.

7:14 PM Attorney Sankey returned to the table.

7:17 PM Member Curran joined the meeting.

7:22 PM Chair Harris “re-started” the meeting.

At Chair Harris’ invitation, Attorney Kesten addressed the School Committee. Attorney Kesten advised the Committee that discussions in executive are to be kept confidential, per Attorney McCarthy on behalf of Siobhan Dennis; he admonished the School Committee to keep discussions confidential; the draft statement is not to be released at this time; the last sentence of the draft statement may be edited.

7:25 PM Member Remillard joined the meeting.

Chair Harris gave School Committee members the opportunity to ask questions of Attorney Kesten. Per Attorney Kesten, the School Committee agreeing to the draft statement would “end it all.” When asked what is to be kept confidential, Attorney Kesten told the Committee the April 28, 2014 letter from Attorney Sheila F. McCarthy to Attorney Naomi R. Stonberg and the statement in response to complaint against Dr. Darryll McCall, Superintendent, at least until the statement is released by Mrs. Dennis and Attorney McCarthy.

Many members asked questions of Attorney Kesten.

7:50 PM Attorney Pagnini left the table.

7:51 PM Member Ehrenworth joined the meeting.

7:52 PM Attorney Pagnini returned to the table.

Discussion continued, with most members of the Committee, including Chair Harris who asked permission to speak as a School Committee member and not as the Chair, participating in the discussions.

8:05 PM Attorney Pagnini left the table.

Discussion continued.

8:10 PM Attorney Pagnini returned to the table.

Chair Harris invited Superintendent McCall to address the School Committee. Superintendent McCall explained to the Committee that he had prepared a statement, but he had decided not to read the statement in full. Following Superintendent McCall addressing the School Committee, Chair Harris called on members, in random order from a randomized list, inviting members to address the Committee.

Member Renzoni
Member Watson

Member LaMountain

Superintendent McCall read an excerpt from his prepared statement.

Member Kosky – no questions/comments

Member Curran – no questions/comments

Member Kelley – no questions/comments

Member Call

Member Mason

Member Ralli – no questions/comments

Member Remillard

Attorney Kesten asked Attorney Pagnini to report on his telephone conversation with Attorney McCarthy. Attorney Pagnini reported Attorney McCarthy advised we/School Committee “can’t speak about this issue.”

8:21 PM Member Mason left the table.

Member McCarthy – no questions/comments

Member Scheinfeldt

Member Smith

8:24 PM Member Mason returned to the table.

Member Mills

Member Ehrenworth

Member Lindberg

Member Brown

Member Witkes

Vice-chair Imber – no questions/comments

Member Jackson – no questions/comments

Member Mason

Chair Harris called Member Mason on a violation of the open meeting law, in that Member Mason made a telephone call during executive session.

Member Scheinfeldt

Member Brown

Member Ralli

Motion: To accept the draft statement in response to complaint against Dr. Darryll McCall, Superintendent.

(M. Lindberg)

(E. Scheinfeldt)

Before Chair Harris called for a vote on the motion, Member Kosky voiced, for the record, she would not be voting in favor of the motion in light of the fact this matter is on the agenda for Special Meeting #305, posted to convene at 8:00 PM this date. Member Kosky explained she could not vote in favor of the motion since School Committee members had been advised, by counsel, during this executive

session, they “can’t speak about this issue.” Member Kosky asked that her explanation be a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Roll call vote

In favor:

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Tiffany Ralli
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Deidre Kosky

Abstained:

Lance Harris
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Robert Remillard

The motion passed 16-1-4.

Motion: To adjourn executive session, to return to public session.

(K. Mills)

(L. Call)

Roll call vote

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain

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

Opposed:

Deidre Kosky
Robert Remillard

The motion passed 19-2.

The executive session adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp