

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1271 Wednesday, May 20, 2015  
7:00 PM

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School  
1401 Main Street, Holden

*Committee Members Present:*

Lance Harris, Chair	Lauren Maldonado
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Robert McCarthy
Scott Brown	Kenneth Mills
Thomas Curran	Jon Edward Novak
Michael Dennis	teve Porter
Matthew Ehrenworth	Barbara Renzoni
Susan Hitchcock	Asima Silva
Stacey Jackson	Christina Smith
Sarah LaMountain	Adam Young
Linda Long-Bellil	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Harriet Fradellos	Charles Witkes
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*Committee Members Participating Remotely:*

None

*Administration Present:*

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools  
Joseph Scanlon, Director of business and Finance  
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*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 7:15 PM. .

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris took the opportunity to explain, for the new members, the significance of the executive session and confidential materials in the "red folders" provided to members and the

importance of keeping the materials confidential until the matters are settled and executive session minutes released. Chair Harris also spoke about use of email as a School Committee member, explaining emails are public record. He asked that all School Committee members use District provided wrsd.net email accounts when conducting School Committee business

### III. Student Representatives Reports

Student Representative Budd reported on the last day for seniors and spoke about the large incoming freshman class. She also reported on the difficulty some high school students are experiencing enrolling in AP classes, with some students considering independent study/online courses.

Superintendent McCall spoke to Student Representative Budd's comments, acknowledging scheduling difficulties at the high school.

Chair Harris thanked both Linnea and Liam for their commitment to serving as this year's Student Representatives, and the students were given a round of applause.

### IV. Superintendent's Report

#### A. Discussion FY16 Budget

Chair Harris reported that three of the five Member Towns (Holden, Princeton, Sterling) had voted in favor of the FY16 budget at their May Annual Town Meetings. Since four of the five towns did not vote in support of the FY16 budget, the School Committee will take another vote on a FY16 proposed budget at the regular meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2015. Chair Harris let members know of the possible need for a special School Committee meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2015 if the School Committee does not vote approval of a FY16 budget proposal at the regular meeting on June 23, 2015. Chair Harris explained the budget approval process and timeline. He spoke about the likelihood of the District operating under a one-twelfth budget come July 1<sup>st</sup>, if the District does not have an FY16 budget approved by four of the five Member Towns. Chair Harris turned this discussion over to Superintendent McCall and Director Scanlon. Superintendent McCall reported on discussions with town officials from Paxton and Rutland, and reported that Rutland is looking for a reduction in the \$2 million range and that Paxton's request for a reduction might be slightly higher. Superintendent McCall called members' attention to a handout titled Potential Impact of FY 2016 Budget Reductions (attachment 2). The information was reviewed, topic by topic, with members asking questions and discussion taking place during the review. Member Mills asked that budget information prepared for future discussion include comparisons to several years ago (i.e. FY10) to show that the FY16 proposal is looking to "recover" some of what has been lost during the last several years. At the conclusion of the review of the six page document, Chair Harris told the Committee of the need to provide Superintendent McCall and Director Scanlon with direction as they "go back to the drawing board" to prepare an amended FY16 budget proposal for consideration/approval in June. Vice-chair Imber provided a brief history of the

budget process, for the benefit of the new members. Vice-chair Imber stressed the difficulty of running this school district on such a limited budget. At Member Mills' inquiry, Superintendent McCall spoke about use of the District's E&D, noting the need to keep the state's proposed 9C cuts in mind when considering use of E&D, and he gave a brief overview of how the District would operate if going to a one-twelfth budget is necessary, come July 1<sup>st</sup>. He explained that Director Scanlon has been in contact with the state about the possibility of the District needing to go to a one-twelfth budget, plus Superintendent McCall and Director Scanlon have had conversations with the Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent and Director of Administrative Services since that district has had to resort to a one-twelfth budget in the past. Lengthy discussion about operating under a one-twelfth budget ensued, with most members contributing to the discussion. Member Renzoni noted, for the record, her support of the currently proposed FY16 budget, listing her priorities as (1) staffing at the high school; (2) protecting teaching positions; (3) textbooks at the high school; (4) building maintenance, District-wide. Additional discussion about the budget took place.

8:47 PM Member LaMountain left the meeting.

#### B. Discussion of Report

Member Dennis asked that the full School Committee be kept informed about meetings of the Holden Pupil Population Study Task Force. Superintendent McCall explained the Task Force has met twice, noting Holden Growth Management Director Dennis Lipka provided a very in-depth portrayal of the Town of Holden at the May 14, 2015 meeting. Superintendent McCall assured the members that the School Committee will be kept informed as the Task Force continues to meet.

8:50 PM Student Representative Budd left the meeting.

Member Ehrenworth asked that the Committee be provided with a timeline for implementation of full-day kindergarten.

At Member Jackson's inquiry, Director Scanlon explained the cost of ice guards needed at Glenwood Elementary School and the amount of insurance money received for this project. He explained that the scope of work by roofing contractors is what could be done and paid for with the insurance money.

Member Jackson asked questions about the Lease Agreements between the District and the Member Towns, Agreements that expired July 1, 2014. Director Scanlon reported he is working with the towns on new Lease Agreements and hopes to have them finalized for approval by the towns and the District in the near future.

#### C. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To authorize the Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer, acting under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 16(g) as

amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, to solicit proposals for borrowing funds in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 17, with the approval of the School Committee.

(K. Mills)

(S. Brown)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Jon Ed Novak  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion: To approve the Superintendent's Vacation Carry-Over

(K. Mills)

(M. Ehrenworth)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson

Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Jon Ed Novak  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Motion: To approve the 2015-2016 School Committee Meeting Schedule  
(K. Mills)  
(S. Jackson)

Chari Harris spoke briefly about the proposed meeting schedule, explaining that the School Committee By-Laws had recently been amended, reflecting a change to one regularly scheduled School Committee meeting per month.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Jon Ed Novak  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VI Superintendent's Report

- A. Approval of 1270<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 27, 2015

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on April 27, 2015.

(K. Mills)  
(T. Curran)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Ed Novak  
Asima Silva  
Adam Young

The minutes were approved 12-0-6.

- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 27, 2015

Motion: To approve executive session minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 27, 2015

(K. Mills)

(S. Jackson)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Ed Novak  
Steve Porter  
Asima Silva  
Adam Young

The minutes were approved 11-0-7.

- C. Approval of 310<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 6, 2015

Motion: To approve minutes of special meeting of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held May 6, 2015

(K. Mills)

(S. Jackson)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth

Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Ed Novak  
Steve Porter  
Asima Silva  
Adam Young

The minutes were approved 11-0-7.

- D. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 6, 2015

Motion: To approve executive session minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 6, 2015

(K. Mills)

(S. Jackson)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado



Robert McCarthy  
Jon Ed Novak  
Steve Porter  
Asima Silva  
Adam Young

The minutes were approved 11-0-7.

VII. 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.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Management Subcommittee

Chair Harris expects to schedule a meeting of the Management Subcommittee in advance of the June 23, 2015 regular School Committee meeting.

B. Education Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported the policy addressing life threatening allergies continues to be considered by the subcommittee.

C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (B. Renzoni, Chair, M. Dennis, Vice-chair, S. Jackson, C. Witkes)

Subcommittee Chair Renzoni reported the Business/Finance Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

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

Legal Affairs Subcommittee Chair Mills reported this subcommittee will meet May 21, 2015 and should have additional information to share with the full School Committee, in executive session, at the June 23, 2015 School Committee meeting.

9:04 PM Member Smith left the table.

E. Facilities & Security Subcommittee

Deferred

F. Audit Advisory Board

Deferred

- G. Collaborative Budget Task Force (S. Jackson, Chair, R. Imber, S. Hitchcock, B. Renzoni)

Collaborative Budget Task Force Chair Jackson reported the Task Force has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review Evaluation and Hiring Policy (K. Mills, Chair, S. Brown, M. Ehrenworth, C. Smith)

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

- I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Member McCarthy reported on a tour of the building conducted before the May 12, 2015 Mountview Building Committee meeting.

9:06 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

- J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (TBD), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Smith), Dawson Elementary School, Glenwood Elementary School (TBD), Houghton Elementary School (TBD), Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (M. Ehrenworth), Paxton Center School (TBD), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber), Wachusett Regional High School, Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (TBD)

Naquag Elementary School – Member Ehrenworth (attachment 3)

SEPAC – Member Jackson – May 19, 2015 Wind Beneath Their Wings ceremony

Mayo Elementary School – Member Curran

Davis Hill Elementary School – Member Mills

- IX. Public Hearing

No members of the public addressed the School Committee.

X. New Business

Chair Harris reported the Management Subcommittee will review the Superintendent's evaluation and the evaluation process.

Member Mills requested a presentation Common Core in the future.

Member Mills requested an update on how the District addresses bullying.

Member Novak asked how much space and how many additional teachers would be needed to be assured that class sizes adhere to School Committee policy.

Member Novak is interested in the School Committee being provided with a textbook inventory and a technology inventory which would show computer/technology donations v District purchases. Superintendent McCall commented that a current and accurate textbook inventory is probably not available.

XII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with all bargaining units (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants, Teamsters Union Local 170 (paraprofessionals), Wachusett Cafeteria Association, Wachusett Administrators' Association, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 2885 – Custodial Employees, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 2885 – Clerical Employees, Wachusett Regional Nurses Association, Wachusett Regional Education Association), as the Chair deems a discussion in public session would have an adverse effect on the District's bargaining position, not to reconvene in public session

(K. Mills)

(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Jon Ed Novak  
Steve Porter

Barbara Renzoni  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp