

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session Wednesday, May 23, 2012

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Deidre Kosky
Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair	Sarah LaMountain
Cynthia Bazinet	Norman Plourde
William Clute	Robert Remillard (7:29 PM)
Steven Hammond	Erik Scheinfeldt
Lance Harris	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Robert Imber	Athas Tsongalis
Julianne Kelley	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Carmelo Bazzano	James Mason
Stacey Jackson	Robert Pelczarski

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
Kelley Gangi, Director of Curriculum
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations (8:21 PM)
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Chair Leith called the executive session to order at 7:27 PM. Chair Leith explained to new members, and reminded veteran members, that discussions that take place in executive session are not made public until the matter is settled and the minutes are released. It was explained that an executive session can be called for a limited list of topics/matters to be discussed. Any documents distributed in executive session will be printed on red paper and should be returned, for shredding, at the conclusion of the executive session.

7:29 PM Member Remillard joined the meeting.

The reason for the executive session is the only topic that can be discussed during the executive session.

Chair Leith then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio. Superintendent Pandiscio distributed a one-page handout entitled Possible Reductions FY13 (attachment 1). Superintendent Pandiscio explained that if the FY13 WRSD budget does not gain approval by four of the five Member Towns, it may be necessary to make staffing reductions, potentially connected to personnel contract(s). Superintendent Pandiscio explained that if the override in Paxton fails, the District could consider reducing the proposed budget by \$415,000, which would meet the number approved by the Town of Rutland, resulting in a FY13 budget approved by four of the five Member Towns (Holden, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling). He further explained that if the \$455,000 “boost” in revenue for Wachusett included in the Senate version of the state budget does not gain approval, the School Committee would then have to consider reducing the FY13 budget by \$870,000. Superintendent Pandiscio and most members of the Committee engaged in discussion and debate about the budget and the next steps to take. Superintendent Pandiscio explained the logic in coming up with the scenarios (Option 1, Option 2, Option 3) on the Possible Reductions FY13 handout. Superintendent Pandiscio is seeking School Committee input and advice on which cuts the Committee might consider should the FY13 budget need to be reduced. By eliminating all in Option 1, District administration would be able to meet the Rutland number. If the Paxton override fails and the Senate budget proposal does not gain approval, then the Committee will need to consider eliminating positions listed in both Option 1 and Option 2.

Motion: To direct the Superintendent to issue “pink slips” required to meet a budget reduction based upon a failure of an override vote in Paxton on June 26, 2012.

(C. Cipro)
(C. Bazinet)

The motion was discussed. Following discussion, Members Cipro and Bazinet withdrew the motion.

Motion: To direct the Superintendent to prepare a set of budget reductions that would be necessary in order to back into the FY13 budget amount approved at the May 19, 2012 Town of Rutland Annual Town Meeting, and to also prepare a second set of budget reductions that would be necessary if funds (\$455,000) included in the Senate budget do not gain approval.

(S. Hammond)

The motion was discussed. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to eliminate the Chocksett Middle School principal position should the June 26, 2012 override vote in the Town of Paxton fail.

(L. Harris)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
William Clute
Steven Hammond

Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
Lance Harris
Margaret Watson

Motion passed 12-4.

8:21 PM Director of Operations McCall joined the meeting.

Motion: To direct the Superintendent to prepare for budget reductions of \$870,000, the result of backing into the FY13 budget amount approved at the May 19, 2012 Town of Rutland Annual Town Meeting (\$415,000) and the loss of proposed funding included in the Senate budget (\$455,000).

(S. Hammond)
(J. Kelley)

Member Tsongalis made a friendly amendment to eliminate specific mention of the Town of Rutland, and to add the words “no more than” before \$870,000. The maker and seconder of the motion accepted this friendly amendment.

Motion: To direct the Superintendent to prepare for budget reductions of no more than \$870,000.

(S. Hammond)
(J. Kelley)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Deidre Kosky
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Motion passed 10-6.

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

(R. Imber)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The executive session adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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