

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1166 Monday, June 8, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Julianne Kelley
Cynthia Bazinet	Duncan Leith
Robert Carter	Michael Pantos
Colleen Cipro	Robert Pelczarski
William Clute	Norman Plourde
Kristine Goodwin	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Steven Hammond	Joseph Sova
Robert Imber	Dawn Torres-Gale

Committee Members Absent:

Sherry Conrad

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Deputy Superintendent
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Greg Savageau

Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:07 PM.

Chair Watson welcomed those present, including Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Lewis Evangelidis. Chair Watson explained to the Committee the need for a vote to accept the agenda, as the order of business had been amended to allow for the Superintendent to make a budget presentation before the Public Hearing portion of the meeting (attachment 2). She further explained the need for a two-thirds vote in favor (12 yes votes) of those in attendance to pass the motion.

Motion: To accepted the agenda, as amended.

(D. Leith)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

I. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on May 26, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the WRDSC Organizational Meeting held on May 26, 2009.

(D. Leith)
(C. Bazinet)

The minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the School Committee held May 26, 2009 were approved, by consensus, with Members Sova and Torres-Gale abstaining.

B. Approval of 1165th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on May 26, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held May 26, 2009.

(R. Imber)

(S. Conrad)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held May 26, 2009 were approved, by consensus, with Members Sova and Torres-Gale abstaining.

C. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session of the WRDSC held on May 26, 2009

Chair Watson asked members to review the minutes and if no corrections of substance were noted, these minutes could be approved in public session. If substantive corrections are noted, the minutes would be approved in executive session.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session held May 26, 2009, not to be released.

(D. Leith)
(M. Pantos)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

(The motion passed 16-0-2)

II. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Business Manager'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.

III. Budget Presentation

Chair Watson again welcomed those from the public in attendance and she then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio. Superintendent Pandiscio distributed to Committee members a memorandum to the School Committee, dated June 8, 2009, and he also distributed additional copies for the public's information (attachment 3). Superintendent Pandiscio addressed the Committee and the audience, explaining where the District stands budget-wise and how he hopes to address the budget deficit. Superintendent Pandiscio's presentation concluded at 7:30 PM, at which time members of the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions about the Superintendent's presentation. Many members of the Committee asked questions, which the Superintendent answered. Senator Chandler and Representative Evangelidis addressed the School Committee and the audience, speaking to the dire financial situation the state is in. School Committee members asked questions of the legislators. As the budget presentation concluded, Chair Watson thanked Senator Chandler and Representative Evangelidis for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the State Senate and the House of Representatives. The legislators were given a round of applause.

IV. Public Hearing

Chair Watson read the Guidelines for Public Hearing. She explained that the School Committee would not be voting on the budget this evening. She let those in attendance know that the meeting was being telecast live and newspaper reporters were in the audience.

- Matt Ruppert, Rutland resident and Central Tree Middle School teacher, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).
- Suzanne Breen, Wachusett Regional High School teacher, read a prepared statement (attachment 5).
- Kathleen Greene, Holden resident and Houghton Elementary School teacher, addressed the Committee.
- Jessica Wilke, Houghton Elementary School teacher, addressed the Committee.
- Donna Mann, Holden resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 6)
- Scott Harvey, Sterling resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 7).
- Dale Rensing, Sterling resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 8).
- Bryan Diehl, WRHS student and Holden resident, addressed the Committee.
- Kathy Diehl, Holden resident, addressed the Committee.
- Bobbi Kelly, Holden resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 9).
- John Denley, Sterling resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 10).

- Ed Carlson, Princeton resident, addressed the Committee.
- Glenn Gaudette, Holden resident, addressed the Committee.
- Amy Brassard, Sterling resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 11).

8:58 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

9:02 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

- Lisa Call, Sterling resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 12).
- Susan Segalla, Sterling resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 13)
- Sarah LaMountain, Sterling resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 14)
- Scott Kneeland, Sterling resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 15)
- Kori Stuart, Sterling resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 16)

9:24 PM Member Pelczarski left the table.

9:26 PM Member Pelczarski returned to the table.

- Sheila Dibb, Rutland resident, addressed the Committee.

9:30 PM Member Pantos left the table

9:32 PM Member Pantos returned to the table.

- Samuel Korstvedt, CTMS student and Rutland resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 17)

Other letters/notes/comments handed in by members of the public for inclusion on the record (attachment 18).

At 9:35 PM all who wished to address the School Committee had done so. Superintendent Pandiscio addressed the audience. At 9:40 PM Chair Watson declared the Public Hearing portion of the meeting closed.

V. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson provided members with a copy of the Subcommittee Assignments 2009 – 2010 (attachment 19).

B. Student Representatives (Keara Aquino, Hillary Blakeney, Greg Savageau,)

Student Representative Savageau gave an update on high school happenings, including an overview of the graduation ceremony which took place on June 6th. He then spoke of the budget situation and rumors that are circulating.

9:41 PM Member Goodwin left the table.

Mr. Savageau thanked the parents who were in attendance this evening. He also publicly thanked the members of the School Committee for what they do for the students of the District. Mr. Savageau will be returning as a Student Representative for the 2009-2010 school year and he will be joined by two other high school students.

9:44 PM Member Goodwin returned to the table.

- C. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, C. Bazinet, R. Imber, J. Kelley, D. Leith, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde)

Chair Watson reported the Management Subcommittee has not yet met.

- D. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Nunnari, R. Pelczarski, N. Plourde, D. Torres-Gale)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported the Education Subcommittee has not yet met.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, R. Carter, W. Clute, S. Conrad, M. Pantos, M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

Subcommittee Chair Leith reported the Business/Finance Subcommittee has not yet met, but he expects to call a meeting in the near future. New member warrant training will be provided Members Carter, Clute and Sciabarrasi before the first meeting of the newly named Business/Finance Subcommittee.

9:45 PM Member Carter left the table.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (C. Cipro, Chair, R. Carter, K. Goodwin, R. Pelczarski, M. Sciabarrasi)

Subcommittee Chair Cipro reported the Community Outreach Subcommittee has not yet met.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (S. Conrad, J. Sova)

Member Sova told of the June 11th meeting of the AAB. Chair Watson gave an overview of the workings of the Audit Advisory Board, for the benefit of new members.

9:47 PM Student Representative Savageau left the meeting.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Impact Bargaining with the Superintendent of Schools (N. Plourde, Chair, C. Bazinet, C. Cipro, D. Leith, J. Nunnari)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde reported this ad hoc subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting, but he hopes to call a meeting sometime between June 30th and the July 20th School Committee meeting.

- I. Building Committee

1. High School

The Building Committee will meet on June 24, 2009 at 6:00 PM, reported by Building Committee Chair Leith.

9:50 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

- J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Pantos), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (R. Carter), Dawson Elementary School, Glenwood Elementary School (J. Nunnari), Houghton Elementary School (S. Conrad), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (C. Bazinet), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (R. Pelczarski), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber), Wachusett Regional High School (D. Leith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson)

There were no reports made of recent School Council meetings.

- VI. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report

No questions were raised in connection with the Superintendent's Report of June 4, 2009.

Motion: To extend the School Committee meeting for 30 minutes, to 10:30 PM.

(S. Hammond)

(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson

John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter

Colleen Cipro

William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To approve the FY09 Proposed Appropriation

Superintendent Pandiscio explained that this action will not change the bottom line in any way. The amendment is for accounting purposes only, tracking the application of ARRA funds. He did let the School Committee know that in the near future he may request a similar vote of the Committee amending the FY10 appropriation.

Motion: To approve the FY09 Proposed Appropriation, as presented (attachment 20).

(D. Leith)
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith

Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

2. To approve the sale by the District of a \$3,661,456 Bond Anticipation Note to Jefferies & Company with a Net Interest Cost of 0.94329%, dated on June 17, 2009 and payable on October 16, 2009
Further, that the consent to bid dated May 29, 2009 by the Treasurer to First Southwest Company, the District's financial advisor, is hereby confirmed.

Motion: To approve the sale of a \$3,661,456.50 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note (the "Note") of the District dated June 17, 2009 and payable October 16, 2009 to Jefferies & Company, Inc. at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$6,738.00.

It is further voted that the consent to the financial advisor bidding for the Note, as executed prior to the bidding of the Note, is hereby confirmed.

It is further voted that in connection with the sale of the Note, the preparation of a Preliminary Official Statement dated May 28, 2009, and a final Official Statement dated June 4, 2009, each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

It is further voted that the District Treasurer and the Chairman of the Regional District School Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a material events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Note for the benefit of the holders of the Note from time to time.

It is further voted that the Chairman of the Regional District School Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

(J. Sova)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

3. 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, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 17.

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, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 17.

(J. Nunnari)

(C. Bazinet)

For the benefit of new members, Chair Watson explained the need for this action.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

4. To approve the FY10 Pre-Approved Vendor List

Motion: To approve the FY10 Pre-Approved Vendor List, as presented (attachment 21).

(J. Sova)

(S. Hammond)

For the benefit of new members, Chair Watson and Superintendent Pandiscio explained the need for this action.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

5. To accept the 2009-2010 Wachusett Regional School District School Improvement Plans, as summarized

Motion: To accept the 2009-2010 Wachusett Regional School District School Improvement Plans, as summarized in Attachment 9 of the June 4, 2009 Superintendent's Report.

(D. Leith)

(J. Nunnari)

Chair Watson commented on the new practice of having a school principal attend a School Committee meeting each month to update the Committee on activities and events taking place in the District Schools. This new practice has been very well received.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

VII. Public Hearing

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

VIII. Unfinished Business

Members had comments to make/suggestions to share in follow up to this evening's budget presentation and public hearing input:

10:15 PM Member Plourde left the meeting.

- Look at costs related to parent/school rapid communication (Connect-ED) and cell phone use by administration.
- Greater effort needs to be put into District/school/parent communication.
- The health insurance option GIC needs to be explored fully.
- Provide parents with a "pie chart" showing salaries/health insurance costs/fixed costs/etc.
- Clarify administrative salaries and "justify" high school assistant principals.

Motion: To extend the School Committee meeting for 15 minutes, to 10:45 PM.

(M. Pantos)
(K. Goodwin)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

10:30 PM Member Jackson left the meeting.

- Teacher furloughs
- E&D funds
- Has the Superintendent received the results of a computer-generated survey sent to teachers seeking input on what they (teachers) might be willing to “give up?”

Members were alerted that a special School Committee may need to be posted before the end of the month. Discussion ensued. Rutland’s Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 22nd, so a special School Committee meeting cannot be called for that date. Chair Watson announced a special School Committee meeting will be posted for Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at 7:00 PM in the Media Center at the high school.

10:34 PM Member Nunnari left the table.

IX. New Business

Member Bazinet raised the topic of the high school mascot, referencing a letter to the high school principal from a Holden resident. This matter was referred to the High School School Council.

Motion: That the Chair of the School Committee appoint an ad hoc subcommittee, to include community members from each Member Town, to work with the administration to create a budget development campaign, and identify the means and method of making direct solicitations to parents to make voluntary contributions in order to make up the budget deficit, once a final number becomes available.

(M. Sciabarrasi)

(R. Imber)

10:36 PM Member Nunnari returned to the table.

Member Sciabarrasi explained the intent of this motion. Discussion of the motion ensued.

Motion: To extend the School Committee meeting for 10 minutes, to 10:55 PM.

(M. Pantos)

(K. Goodwin)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson

Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter

Colleen Cipro

William Clute

Kristine Goodwin

Steven Hammond

Robert Imber

Julianne Kelley

Duncan Leith

Michael Pantos

Robert Pelczarski

Michelle Sciabarrasi

Joseph Sova

Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

John Nunnari

(The motion passed 15-1)

Discussion of the motion on the floor continued.

The motion was withdrawn by the maker of the motion, agreed to by the seconder.

Motion: To remand to the Business/Finance Subcommittee the following proposal:

That the Chair of the School Committee appoint an ad hoc subcommittee, to include community members

from each Member Town, to work with the administration to create a budget development campaign, and identify the means and method of making direct solicitations to parents to make voluntary contributions in order to make up the budget deficit, once a final number becomes available.

(M. Sciabarrasi)
(J. Sova)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Business/Finance Chair Leith announced the Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet Tuesday, June 16, 2009, at 6:30 PM in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. New member warrant training will be conducted on that same date at 6:00 PM.

- X. Executive session to discuss litigation, not to return to public session

Because of the hour, Chair Watson, with the consent of the Superintendent, deferred the executive session to a later date.

- XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(D. Leith)
(J. Sova)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp