

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1238 Monday, June 10, 2013

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

Lance Harris, Chair	Matthew Lindberg
Robert Pelczarski, Vice-chair	James Mason
Scott Brown	Robert McCarthy
William Clute	Kenneth Mills
Thomas Curran (7:10 PM)	Tiffany Ralli
Matthew Ehrenworth	Erik Scheinfeldt
Robert Imber	Christina Smith
Julianne Kelley	Margaret Watson
Sarah LaMountain	Charles Witkes

*Committee Members Absent:*

Stacey Jackson	Robert Remillard
Deidre Kosky	

*Administration Present:*

Anthony Gasbarro, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Kelley Gangi, Director of Curriculum  
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations  
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance  
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

None

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

Chair Harris called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of the Organizational Meetings Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 22, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the organizational meeting of the School Committee held on May 22, 2013.

(R. Imber)  
(J. Mason)

The minutes of the organizational meeting of the School Committee held May 22, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Members McCarthy and Watson abstaining.

B. Approval of 1237<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 22, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on May 22, 2013.

(K. Mills)  
(S. Brown)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held May 22, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Members McCarthy and Watson abstaining.

C. Approval of the minutes of the executive session of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 22, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session of the School Committee held on May 22, 2013.

(S. Brown)  
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Pelczarski  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

*Abstained:*  
Robert McCarthy  
Margaret Watson

Motion passed 15-2.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Harris reminded the Committee that if there are questions regarding the report of the Director of Business and Finance, members should contact the Interim Superintendent; if there are questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris read a prepared statement (attachment 2). He congratulated the graduating class of 2013 and he welcomed the newest member of the School Committee, Robert McCarthy of Holden. Chair Harris extended thanks to Director of Curriculum Kelley Gangi, who has accepted a position with the Longmeadow school district.

7:10 PM Member Curran joined the meeting.

B. Student Representatives

There were no Student Representatives in attendance.

C. Management Subcommittee (L. Harris, Chair, R. Pelczarski, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Mason, K. Mills, E. Scheinfeldt, M. Watson)

Management Subcommittee Chair Harris reported on the recent meeting of that subcommittee, at which time the subcommittee addressed the search for the next Superintendent of Schools, extending the contract with Interim Superintendent of Schools Anthony Gasbarro, and also spoke about having District administration arrange to have wrsd.net email accounts set up for all School Committee members.

Motion: To extend the contract with Interim Superintendent Anthony A. Gasbarro until the earlier of December 23, 2013, or until a permanent Superintendent begins a contract, pending negotiations.

(R. Imber)  
(K. Mills)

Member Watson raised the practice of salary increases being awarded July 1<sup>st</sup>. Member Imber extended thanks to Anthony Gasbarro for his service as Interim Superintendent the last six months and for his willingness to continue this appointment for another six months.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Pelczarski  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro thanked the School Committee for voting to extend his contract.

Motion: To approve the recommendation of Interim Superintendent Anthony A. Gasbarro to appoint Dr. Darryll McCall to the position of Deputy Superintendent of Schools for the Wachusett Regional School District.

(R. Imber)  
(S. Brown)

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro spoke to the motion, explaining his rationale for recommending the title change for Dr. McCall. Many members contributed to a discussion, some asking questions of Interim Superintendent Gasbarro.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Pelczarski  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Education Subcommittee Chair Imber has scheduled a meeting for Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (E. Scheinfeldt, Chair, William Clute, Vice-chair, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, J. Mason, T. Ralli, C. Smith, C. Witkes)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported on the two meetings of this subcommittee, held since the last School Committee meeting.

Motion: To authorize the development of an RFP for providing a financial audit with the purpose of procuring those services.

(J. Kelley)  
(S. Brown)

Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt spoke to the motion, explaining an RFP development will be a hefty task. He explained the motion is

seeking School Committee input and support for developing a RFP. Member Mason inquired what Dr. McCall had learned about the state conducting an audit. Dr. McCall explained telephone calls have been going back and forth between him and staff in the State Auditors Office, and that he will be having another telephone conversation with a staff member on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Members were provided with copies of **DRAFT – For Discussion Purposes Only** Business/Finance Subcommittee suggestions of what items should be included in the RFP for an independent audit (attachment 4). Discussion ensued.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Pelczarski  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Margaret Watson

*Abstained:*

Lance Harris

Motion passed 16-1-1.

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt encouraged all members of the School Committee to attend meetings of the Business/Finance Subcommittee if they wish.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee

Chair Harris has not yet made appointments to the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

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

Legal Affairs Subcommittee Chair Mills has scheduled the first meeting of this subcommittee for Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

- H. Facilities and Security Subcommittee (J. Mason, Chair, W. Clute, M. Ehrenworth, D. Kosky, M. Lindberg, R. Remillard)

Facilities and Security Subcommittee Chair Mason intends to call the first meeting of this subcommittee sometime in the next two weeks.

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

Chair Harris has named Member Kelley as the Chair of the Audit Advisory Board and Member Ralli as the School Committee representative.

- J. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

- 1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Kelley, Chair, W. Clute, R. Imber)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley reported they are awaiting the final votes by the Member Towns on the proposed amendments to the Regional Agreement.

- K. Building Committees

- 1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported the Mountview Building Committee will meet on June 11, 2013.

- 2. Green Repair School Building Committee

No report was made.

- L. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School, Chocksett Middle School, Davis Hill Elementary School, Dawson Elementary School, Glenwood Elementary School, Houghton Elementary School, Mayo Elementary School, Mountview Middle School, Naquag Elementary School, Paxton Center School, Thomas Prince School, Wachusett Regional

High School, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, Early  
Childhood Center

Member Watson– Mayo Elementary School – May 30, 2013

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro was asked if the District has submitted a request to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval to operate on a 1/12 budget, come July 1<sup>st</sup>, if necessary. Interim Gasbarro explained it was thought of waiting until after the June 27<sup>th</sup> special Town Meeting in Rutland, although contacting DESE before that date may be wise. General discussion about operating under a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget ensued. Copies of Attachment 9 and Attachment 9A of the June 6, 2013 Superintendent's Report were distributed, for discussion purposes (attachment 4 & 5). Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained the information on Attachment 9A of the June 6, 2013 Superintendent's Report – FY14 Rev 1 Assessments 6-6-13 Reconfigured Budget. He specifically called attention to the line Total for Towns (incl Debt), explaining that Holden and Sterling have already approved the FY14 budget at their Annual Town Meetings and with the new numbers their assessments have actually decreased, so no further action is necessary; Rutland's assessment is going down close to a half-million dollars; and while the original \$130,000 that Paxton was dealing with was difficult for the town, with the new numbers the increase will be significantly less, hoping that is a number the town can more easily afford. The Town of Princeton is faced with a half-million plus increase. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro reported he had met with Princeton town officials this date, hoping the town and the District will be able to work through this increase. He went on to explain that in the eyes of the State, the District is currently in the "budget formulation" stage, since there are no final approved budget numbers at this point in time. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro then called members' attention to Step One: Possible Reductions FY14. Proposition 2½ override votes will be held on June 25, 2013 in Paxton and Rutland. A special meeting of the School Committee will be scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2013, and the School Committee will have the opportunity to reduce the FY14 budget that was approved by the School Committee on March 18, 2013. Discussion ensued. At Member Watson's inquiry, Director of Human Resources Sullivan explained why there should not be unemployment consequences connected with some of the teacher reductions (no unemployment consequences for teachers who are retiring or who have tendered their letter(s) of resignation). If there is a need to reduce deeper, unemployment consequences will need to be considered. Note was made that the "possible reductions"



noted on Attachment 9 of the June 6, 2013 Superintendent's Report do not include the elimination of middle school foreign language. More discussion took place around the table. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained that the "one-day voluntary furlough" possibility for savings are just that – voluntary days off, without pay. He also reported to the School Committee that an early retirement incentive is being considered, which could result in additional savings, but that is something that is still in the development stage. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained that the \$158,419 possible reduction under Needs-based Requests has striped away "extras," from principals' needs-based requests. When asked if reductions in athletics has been considered, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro reported WRHS administration has pulled together information on athletics, and he will be meeting with the high school principal on June 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss and review the information. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro confirmed hiring a Media Specialist for the high school is still planned. Additional discussion about the FY14 budget took place, with no final decisions made or votes taken.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$41,992 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Mountview Middle School.

(M. Watson)  
(T. Ralli)

Member Watson explained this action is routine and will be on School Committee agendas several times as the Mountview building project moves forward.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Pelczarski  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt

Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the Inter-municipal Agreement with the Town of Holden.

(M. Watson)  
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Pelczarski  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Harris circulated the Inter-municipal Agreement with the Town of Holden, asking members present to sign (attachment 6).

Motion: To accept the 2013-2014 Wachusett Regional School District School Improvement Plans.

(M. Ehrenworth)  
(R. Imber)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Pelczarski  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the FY14 Pre-Approved Vendor list.

(M. Watson)

(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Pelczarski  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith

Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To appoint the Interim Superintendent of Schools to serve on the FLLAC Education Collaborative Board of Directors.

(R. Imber)  
(K. Mills)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Pelczarski  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

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, 2013, 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.

(J. Kelley)

(S. Brown)

Director of Business and Finance Scanlon addressed the School Committee, referencing attachments to his report, included with the Superintendent's Report of June 6, 2013. Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported it was the recommendation of the Business/Finance Subcommittee to seek an \$18 million RAN for FY14. Some discussion ensued.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Pelczarski  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

- IX. Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with union personnel, not to return to public session; executive session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, not to return to public session; executive session to discuss negotiations with non-union personnel, Interim Superintendent, not to return to public session

(M. Watson)

(S. Brown)

Chair Harris briefly explained the purposes for the executive sessions.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Pelczarski  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

- X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro  
Interim Superintendent