

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1299

Monday, June 12, 2017
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Linda Long-Bellil
Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Lauren Maldonado (7:11 PM)
Scott Brown	Robert McCarthy
Thomas Curran	Benjamin Mitchel (7:15 PM)
Michael Dennis	Asima Silva
Harriet Fradellos	Robin Van Liew
Susan Hitchcock	Megan Weeks
Robert Imber (7:17 PM)	Charles Witkes
Sarah LaMountain	Adam Young (8:51 PM)
Matthew Lavoie	

Committee Members Absent:

Stephen Godbout	Michael Rivers
Jon Edward Novak	

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance
Jeff Carlson, 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 Mills called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Chair Mills reported the meeting was streaming online and was being shown live on Holden Cable Television. With no objection from the Committee, Chair Mills altered the agenda to allow Princeton resident Roger Vaughan to be recognized for his generous donation to Thomas Prince School, before the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

Mr. Vaughan, Maryanne Picariello, TPS Principal Shannon Conley and Assistant Principal Tammy Boyle approached the podium. Mrs. Picariello read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

7:11 PM Member Maldonado joined the meeting.

On behalf of the TPS community, Principal Conley thanked Mr. Vaughan for his generosity.

7:12 PM Mr. Vaughan, Mrs. Picariello, Ms. Conley, and Ms. Boyle left the meeting.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Mills read aloud the Guidelines for Public Hearing.

Several members of the WREA joined the speakers at the podium.

Heidi Lahey, WREA President and Holden resident, read a portion of a prepared statement (attachments 3 & 4).

7:17 PM Member Mitchel joined the meeting.

Megan Hughes, WREA member and Holden resident, read a portion of a prepared statement (attachments 3 & 4).

7:19 PM Member Imber joined the meeting.

Alana Stern, WREA member, read a portion of a prepared statement (attachments 3 & 4).

Jennifer Reilly, WREA member, read a portion of a prepared statement (attachments 3 & 4).

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills welcomed Christine Lynch, Governance and Facilities Program Manager, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, to the meeting and invited her to the podium. Ms. Lynch addressed the Committee, reviewing the process to follow when requesting approval of DESE to operate under a 1/12th budget, and explaining many details about a school district operating under a 1/12th budget when an operating budget is not approved and supported by member towns by July 1st. At the conclusion of Ms. Lynch's address, members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the 1/12th budget process. Several members of the Committee had questions for Ms. Lynch, which she carefully and thoroughly answered.

7:51 PM Member LaMountain left the table.

The question and answer period continued.

7:55 PM Member LaMountain returned to the table.

At the conclusion of the discussion about the 1/12th budget, Chair Mills thanked Ms. Lynch for attending the meeting and helping to educate and inform the School Committee and the public about operating under a 1/12th budget.

Chair Mills explained that a special meeting of the School Committee had been posted for Tuesday, June 13, 2017, to be held in the Curriculum Center of the District Central Office. This special meeting will be held if the School Committee cannot come to agreement at this meeting about amending the FY18 Appropriation.

Chair Mills welcomed back Member Imber, and he welcomed to the School Committee just-appointed Paxton representative Benjamin Mitchel.

Chair Mills informed the Committee that the Chair and the Vice-chair of the Quabbin Regional School Committee will be attending the WRSDC's August 21, 2017 regular meeting, to give representatives from both regional school committees the opportunity to meet and discuss the challenges and obstacles faced by regional school districts.

III. 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, to return to public session.

Motion: To enter 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, to return to public session.

(T. Curran)
(S. Hitchcock)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock

Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

The School Committee adjourned to executive session at 8:23 PM.

The School Committee re-convened in open session at 9:29 PM.

IV. Superintendent's Report

- A. Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Wachusett Regional School District and the Public Employee Committee (PEC) ("PEC Agreement"), as presented (attachment 5).

(S. Brown)

(S. Hitchcock)

Chair Mills explained that a majority in favor is needed to approve the motion.

9:30 PM Superintendent McCall returned to the table.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Robin Van Liew

Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Matthew Lavoie
Asima Silva

The motion was approved 15-4.

B. Discussion of FY18 Budget

Motion: To adopt the amended FY18 Appropriation in the amount of \$90,378,379 and assessments, including debt service, to the Member Towns of:

Holden	\$26,188,811
Paxton	\$5,998,794
Princeton	\$4,670,356
Rutland	\$11,507,875
Sterling	\$11,242,419
Total for Towns	\$59,608,255

(M. Dennis)
(S. Hitchcock)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Dennis spoke to the motion, providing the Committee with an overview of review and discussions that took place at the June 5, 2017 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee. Several members had questions about the proposed amended FY18 Appropriation, and much discussion ensued.

Motion: To extend the meeting until 10:30 PM.

(A. Young)
(R. McCarthy)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith

Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

Some additional discussion took place.

Motion: To move the question.

(M. Lavoie)

(M. Weeks)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks

Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Mills re-read the motion on the floor. Chair Mills reminded members a two-thirds vote, 15 in favor, is needed to approve the amended FY18 Appropriation.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

Sarah LaMountain
Asima Silva

Abstained:

Harriet Fradellos

The motion was approved 16-2-1.

C. Discussion of Report

Superintendent McCall spoke about the June 8, 2017 WRHS graduation, held at the DCU Center in Worcester. Superintendent McCall commended Principal Beando and high school administration and staff for the work done to ensure a smooth graduation ceremony.

Member Imber requested an update of the number of classrooms throughout the District that are over enrolled, per School Committee policy. Member LaMountain requested the same of high school classes, not going by sections. Superintendent McCall noted this analysis, especially for high school enrollment, will be based on 2016-2017 enrollment numbers.

D. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To accept a donation in the amount of \$85,000 from Princeton resident Roger Vaughan to be used solely for the Vaughan TPS STEAM Program at the Thomas Prince School.

(R. Imber)

(M. Weeks)

10:07 PM Member LaMountain left the meeting.

Both Princeton representatives, Members Imber and Weeks, spoke about this generous donation by long-time Princeton resident Roger Vaughan, in memory of his wife Elsie.

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

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

(R. McCarthy)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Member Dennis requested that, before the School Committee votes on accepting the School Improvement Plans, District administration walk the Committee through the development of the SIPs and how the SIPs will be used to drive the schools in the coming year(s).

Motion: To defer action on accepting the WRSD School Improvement Plans.

(M. Dennis)

(M. Weeks)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved 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, 2017, 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.

(M. Dennis)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Dennis spoke to the motion, explaining that the District is not planning to borrow at this time, but the motion allows the District Treasurer to solicit proposals for borrowing if borrowing becomes necessary.

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: To authorize the listed FY18 Revolving Funds in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sect. 53E ½, to be expensed under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools (or designee), to be credited with receipts from acknowledged revenue sources, to be expended for their respective stated purposes, and not to exceed the authorized amounts.

(T. Curran)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown

Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was approved unanimously.

10:11 PM Member Fradellos left the meeting.

Motion: To authorize the listed FY18 Student Activity Funds by location in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 71 Sect. 47, to be Funds collected for student activities belonging to the students and not to the district or school control, to be credited with receipts from acknowledged revenue sources, to be expended for their respective stated purposes, and not to exceed the authorized amounts.

(R. McCarthy)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew

Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of the Organizational Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 22, 2017

Motion: To approve minutes of the Organization Meeting of the WRSDC held on May 22, 2017.

(R. McCarthy)

(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Susan Hitchcock
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Robert McCarthy
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Imber
Lauren Maldonado
Benjamin Mitchel

The minutes were approved 14-0-3.

B. Approval of 1298th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 22, 2017

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on May 22, 2017.

(R. McCarthy)

(M. Weeks)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Susan Hitchcock
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Robert McCarthy
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Imber
Lauren Maldonado
Benjamin Mitchel

The minutes were approved 14-0-3.

C. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 22, 2017

Motion: To approve minutes of the executive session of the WRSDC held on May 22, 2017, not to be released.

(R. McCarthy)

(C. Witkes)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown

Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Susan Hitchcock
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Robert McCarthy
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Imber
Lauren Maldonado
Benjamin Mitchel

The minutes were approved 14-0-3.

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Mills 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 (K. Mills, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, M. Dennis, S. Hitchcock)

Chair Mills reported the Management Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting, but he expects to schedule a meeting before the end of the month.

- B. Education Subcommittee (C. Smith, Chair, M. Lavoie, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. LaMountain, L. Maldonado, A. Silva, R. Van Liew, M. Weeks)

Education Subcommittee Chair Smith reported on the June 7, 2017 meeting of this subcommittee, and outlined the subcommittee's discussions about the FY18 budget. She also reported that full School Committee action on Draft Policy 6121 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Student Residency Policy*** will be deferred at this time. The Education Subcommittee will further review the draft policy at a meeting on June 19, 2017. Members were asked to submit any feedback/comments/input to Subcommittee Chair Smith in advance of June

19th.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, Robert McCarthy, Vice-chair, L. Long-Bellil, B. Mitchel, J. E. Novak, C. Witkes, A. Young)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Dennis spoke more about the meeting held on June 5, 2017. He reported District Treasurer Dunbar was at the June 5, 2017 meeting, when his narrative evaluation was reviewed and approved (attachment 6).

Motion: To renew the contract by and between the Wachusett Regional School District committee and James J. Dunbar, referred to as the Treasurer, for a period of twelve months (7/1/2017-6/30/2018), at a per month salary of \$1,250.66

(M. Dennis)

(R. McCarthy)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Hitchcock, Chair, S. Brown, Vice-chair, T. Curran, H. Fradellos, Stephen Godbout, Michael Rivers)

Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock reported on the June 1, 2017 meeting of this subcommittee. She also mentioned briefly the status of negotiations with the eight bargaining units.

E. Audit Advisory Board (C. Witkes, Chair, R. McCarthy)

The AAB has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

F. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Budget Sustainability (K. Mills, Chair, M. Lavoie, L. Long-Bellil, A. Young)

Chair Mills anticipates scheduling the first meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee before the end of the month.

G. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Member McCarthy reported the Building Committee has not met recently.

10:23 PM Member Van Liew left the table.

H. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (J. E. Novak), Chocksett Middle School (S. Godbout), Davis Hill Elementary School (A. Silva), Dawson Elementary School (A. Young), Glenwood Elementary School (M. Lavoie), Houghton Elementary School, Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (C. Witkes), Paxton Center School, Thomas Prince School (M. Weeks), Wachusett Regional High School (S. LaMountain/M. Rivers), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (A. Young), Early Childhood Center (L. Maldonado)

Member Weeks – Thomas Prince School

Member Young – SEPAC

Member Curran – Mayo Elementary School

Member Silva – Davis Hill Elementary School

10:25 PM Member Van Liew returned to the table.

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

Vice-chair Smith asked what the District's and the Committee's plan will be if the amended FY18 Appropriation is not supported by voters in Paxton and/or Rutland at Special Town Meetings in the coming months.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)

(R. McCarthy)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Robin Van Liew
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp