

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #315 Wednesday, June 15, 2016  
7:00 PM

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School  
1401 Main Street, Holden

*Wachusett Regional School District Committee*

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Linda Long-Bellil
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Robert McCarthy
Scott Brown	Jon Edward Novak
Thomas Curran	Michael Rivers
Michael Dennis	Christina Smith
Susan Hitchcock	Megan Weeks
Stacey Jackson	Charles Witkes
Sarah LaMountain	Adam Young
Matthew Lavoie	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Harriet Fradellos	Barbara Renzoni
Lauren Maldonado	Asima Silva
Steve Porter	

*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

I. Call to Order

Chair Mills called the special meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 PM.

II. Public Hearing

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

### III. FY17 Budget

Chair Mills explained the process to be followed this meeting, and further explained that fifteen affirmatives votes (two-thirds of the full School Committee membership) are needed to amend the budget, noting seventeen members of the full Committee are in attendance. A motion to amend the FY17 budget will be made, after which Chair Mills will ask Business/Finance Subcommittee Vice-chair McCarthy to address the Committee and speak about action taken by the Business/Finance Subcommittee when that subcommittee met on June 13, 2016.

Motion: To adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$87,025,665 with total assessments including debt service to Member Towns of:

Holden	\$24,767,733
Paxton	\$ 5,853,444
Princeton	\$ 4,476,661
Rutland	\$10,764,364
Sterling	<u>\$10,677,028</u>
Total	\$56,539,230

(R. McCarthy)  
(S. Brown)

Director of Business and Finance Scanlon approached the podium. Superintendent McCall spoke about the June 13, 2016 Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting, giving his recommendation that the School Committee support "Option B," referencing a four page spreadsheet, copies of which were provided to all members (attachment 2). Superintendent McCall explained a possible savings in the amount of almost \$500,000 over five years that can be realized by extending the contract with Village Transportation for special education transportation an additional five years.

Business/Finance Subcommittee Vice-chair McCarthy reported on the June 13, 2016 subcommittee meeting, reporting the subcommittee had voted in favor of "Option B," though the Business/Finance Subcommittee vote to support this option was not unanimous.

Referencing a randomized list, Chair Mills gave members the opportunity to speak to the motion and to ask questions about amending the FY17 budget.

Member Dennis  
Member Jackson  
Member Long-Bellil  
Member Witkes – passed  
Member Curran  
Member LaMountain  
Member Rivers  
Member Brown  
Member Smith

Member Novak  
Vice-chair Imber  
Member Hitchcock

7:36 PM Member Smith left the table.

7:37 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

Member Weeks  
Member Young  
Member Lavoie  
Chair Mills, with no objection from the members.

Chair Mills explained that the District will be operating under a one-twelfth budget on July 1<sup>st</sup>, regardless of School Committee action at this meeting. Chair Mills explained that the Committee is obligated to re-submit a budget to the Member Towns. Chair Mills reported the School Committee cannot approve collective bargaining contracts if the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education assumes fiscal control of the District, reminding the Committee contracts with the eight bargaining units expire June 30, 2017, meaning the eight contracts will be up for negotiations during the coming twelve months. Chair Mills believes a compromise of some sort is needed and he is hopeful School Committee members will agree to compromise. Chair Mills again reminded members that a two-thirds vote of the full Committee in favor (fifteen affirmative votes) is needed to vote on a budget.

Motion: To amend the motion on the floor by recommending to adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$87,225,665 with total assessments including debt service to member Towns of:

Holden	\$24,922,923
Paxton	\$ 5,888,129
Princeton	\$ 4,498,291
Rutland	\$10,846,299
Sterling	<u>\$10,733,588</u>
Total	\$56,889,230

(C. Smith)  
(S. Brown)

Superintendent McCall distributed a spreadsheet titled "Alternate A-B Options" (attachment 3). Chair Mills gave members the opportunity to speak to the motion to amend. Chair Mills explained that the vote to amend requires a simple majority vote to pass.

Member Smith  
Member Jackson  
Member Brown  
Vice-chair Imber  
Member Dennis

Member Witkes – passed  
Member Jackson  
Member LaMountain  
Member McCarthy  
Member Long-Bellil  
Member Dennis  
Vice-chair Imber

Motion: To call the question.

(M. Weeks)  
(R. McCarthy)

Chair Mills explained the motion to call the question is not debatable and requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Edward Novak  
Megan Weeks  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Michael Rivers  
Christina Smith

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The vote passed 14-2-1.

Motion: To amend the motion on the floor and to adopt the amended FY17  
Appropriation in the amount of \$87,225,665 with total assessments including debt  
service to Member Towns of

Holden	\$24,922,923
Paxton	\$ 5,888,129

Princeton	\$ 4,498,291
Rutland	\$10,846,299
Sterling	<u>\$10,733,588</u>
Total	\$56,889,230

(C. Smith)  
(S. Brown)

Chair Mills explained a simple majority is required to amend a motion.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Robert McCarthy  
Megan Weeks  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Christina Smith

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The motion passed 10-6-1.

Motion: To adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$87,225,665 with total assessments including debt service to Member Towns of

Holden	\$24,922,923
Paxton	\$ 5,888,129
Princeton	\$ 4,498,291
Rutland	\$10,846,299
Sterling	<u>\$10,733,588</u>
Total	\$56,889,230

(C. Smith)  
(S. Brown)

Chair Mills reminded the members that fifteen affirmative votes are needed to amend the FY17 budget.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Robert McCarthy  
Michael Rivers  
Megan Weeks  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Jon Edward Novak  
Christina Smith

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

Motion failed 11-5-1.

Discussion continued.

Motion: To reconsider failed vote to adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$87,225,665 with total assessments including debt service to Member Towns of

Holden	\$24,922,923
Paxton	\$ 5,888,129
Princeton	\$ 4,498,291
Rutland	\$10,846,299
Sterling	<u>\$10,733,588</u>
Total	\$56,889,230

(M. Dennis)

(T. Curran)

Chair Mills gave members the opportunity to speak to the motion. No members had comments. Chair Mills explained a simple majority is needed to pass a motion to reconsider.

Vote on motion to reconsider:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber

Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Robert McCarthy  
Michael Rivers  
Megan Weeks  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Matthew Lavoie  
Jon Edward Novak  
Christina Smith

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The motion passed 10-6-1.

Members were given the opportunity to speak to the reconsidered motion.

Member Dennis  
Member Novak  
Member Weeks  
Member Long-Bellil  
Member Smith  
Member Jackson  
Vice-chair Imber  
Member Young  
Chair Mills, with no objection from the Committee.

Director Scanlon explained that the Commissioner will not become involved with the District's fiscal operation until December 1<sup>st</sup>. Director Scanlon explained the difference between Option A-B 1 and Option A-B 2 on the spreadsheet titled Alternate A-B Options, explaining the total proposed FY17 Appropriation is the same (\$87,225,665), but the assessments to the Members Towns are different dependent on final state budget numbers.

Roll call vote on main motion:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis

Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Robert McCarthy  
Michael Rivers  
Megan Weeks  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Jon Edward Novak  
Christina Smith

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The motion failed 11-5-1.

8:43 PM Member Weeks left the meeting.

Motion: To adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$87,025,665 with total assessments including debt service to Member Towns of:

Holden	\$24,767,733
Paxton	\$ 5,853,444
Princeton	\$ 4,476,661
Rutland	\$10,764,364
Sterling	<u>\$10,677,028</u>
Total	\$56,539,230

(J. E. Novak)  
(M. Rivers)

Chair Mills re-stated a two-third vote of the full School Committee is required to amend the budget.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*



Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Christina Smith

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The motion failed 8-7-1.

Discussion continued. Member Jackson would like to make a motion which would be a version of Option A-B 1, using the Governor's budget for town assessments, with a reduction of the proposed budget of \$341,134. A meeting recess was needed in order for District administration to calculate town assessments based on this iteration of a proposed FY17 budget number.

Motion: To call a fifteen minute recess.

(S. Jackson)  
(M. Dennis)

Chair Mills explained this motion is not debatable.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee recessed at 8:48 PM.

The Committee re-convened at 9:03 PM.

Motion: To adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$87,225,664 with total assessments including debt service to Member Towns of

Holden	\$25,203,509
Paxton	\$ 5,992,485
Princeton	\$ 4,548,576
Rutland	\$10,982,888
Sterling	<u>\$10,846,436</u>
Total	\$57,573,894

(S. Jackson)  
(L. Long-Bellil)

Member Jackson spoke to the motion. Chair Mills gave other members the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

Member Long-Bellil  
Member LaMountain  
Member Young  
Member Novak  
Member Dennis

Director Scanlon re-read the town assessment numbers.

Some additional discussion took place.

Chair Mills reminded the members that fifteen affirmative votes are needed to amend the FY17 budget.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Robert McCarthy  
Christina Smith  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie

Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Charles Witkes

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

Motion failed 9-6-1.

Chair Mills asked Superintendent McCall to obtain a legal opinion from District Counsel about consequences if the School Committee does not meet the June 23, 2016 deadline to approve an amended FY17 Appropriation.

Discussion continued. Member McCarthy would like to make a motion which would be a version of Option A-B 1, using the House budget for town assessments, with a reduction of the proposed budget of \$341,134. A meeting recess was needed in order for District administration to calculate town assessments based on this iteration of a proposed FY17 budget number.

Motion: To call a seven minute recess.

(R. Imber)  
(S. Jackson)

Chair Mills explained this motion is not debatable.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee recessed at 9:18 PM.

The Committee re-convened at 9:23 PM.

Motion: To adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$87,225,664 with total assessments including debt service to Member Towns of

Holden	\$25,128,041
Paxton	\$ 5,975,618
Princeton	\$ 4,538,058
Rutland	\$10,943,044
Sterling	<u>\$10,818,931</u>
Total	\$57,403,692

(R. McCarthy)  
(S. Brown)

Discussion continued.

Motion: To call the question.

(R. McCarthy)  
(T. Curran)

Chair Mills explained the motion to call the question is not debatable and requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Edward Novak  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Michael Rivers  
Christina Smith

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The vote failed 10-5-1.

Discussion continued.

Roll call vote on main motion:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Robert McCarthy  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

Motion failed 5-10-1.

Suspending Robert's Rules, Chair Mills asked for a discussion around the table to voice opinions. Chair Mills reminded members that, in all likelihood, there will be no new budget information available by June 22, 2016, and the deadline to provide Member Towns with a new FY17 Appropriation number is June 23, 2016.

Member Smith  
Member Novak  
Member Long-Bellil  
Member Smith  
Member Dennis  
Member Smith  
Vice-chair Imber  
Chair Mills, with no objection from members  
Member McCarthy  
Member Brown  
Chair Mills, with no objection from members  
Member Jackson  
Member Dennis  
Member Witkes

Member Long-Bellil

Motion: To reconsider failed vote to adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$87,225,665 with total assessments including debt service to Member

Towns of

Holden	\$25,128,041
Paxton	\$ 5,975,618
Princeton	\$ 4,538,058
Rutland	\$10,943,044
Sterling	<u>\$10,818,931</u>
Total	\$57,403,692

(L. Long-Bellil)

(R. McCarthy)

Chair Mills explained a simple majority is needed to pass a motion to reconsider.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Robert McCarthy  
Christina Smith  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Michael Dennis  
Matthew Lavoie  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Charles Witkes

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The motion passed 10-5-1.

Discussion continued.

Motion: To extend meeting for 30 minutes, until 10:30 PM.

(R. Imber)

(T. Curran)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Michael Rivers  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Robert McCarthy  
Jon Edward Novak

The motion passed 14-2.

Discussion continued.

Member Novak  
Member Dennis  
Director Scanlon  
Member Witkes  
Member Dennis  
Member Jackson  
Member Dennis  
Chair Mills, with no objection from members  
Member Dennis  
Member Witkes  
Director Scanlon  
Member Long-Bellil

The motion on the floor was re-read.

Roll call vote on main motion:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Robert McCarthy

Christina Smith  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Michael Dennis  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Charles Witkes

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

Motion failed 9-6-1.

Discussion continued.

Vice-chair Imber proposed consideration of the Option B proposal, except using a mid-point number between the proposed House budget number and the proposed Senate budget number, and not using \$200,000 reduction in the instruction supplies line.

10:20 PM Member McCarthy left the meeting.

Discussion continued.

Motion: To reconsider failed vote to adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$87,225,665 with total assessments including debt service to Member Towns of

Holden	\$25,203,509
Paxton	\$ 5,992,485
Princeton	\$ 4,548,576
Rutland	\$10,982,888
Sterling	<u>\$10,846,436</u>
Total	\$57,573,894

(C. Smith)  
(S. Brown)

Motion: To extend meeting for 30 minutes, until 11:00 PM.

(R. Imber)  
(T. Curran)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown



Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Michael Rivers  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Jon Edward Novak

The motion passed 14-1.

Vote on motion to reconsider:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Christina Smith  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Robert Imber  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Charles Witkes

The motion passed 8-7.

Roll call vote on main motion:

*In favor:*

Scott Brown  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Christina Smith

*Opposed:*

Robert Imber  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

Motion failed 5-9-1.

Motion: To reconsider failed vote to adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$87,025,665 with total assessments including debt service to Member

Towns of:

Holden	\$24,767,733
Paxton	\$ 5,853,444
Princeton	\$ 4,476,661
Rutland	\$10,764,364
Sterling	<u>\$10,677,028</u>
Total	\$56,539,230

(M. Rivers)  
(J. E. Novak)

Chair Mills explained a simple majority is needed to pass a motion to reconsider.

Vote on motion to reconsider:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Thomas Curran  
Stacey Jackson  
Sarah Lamountain  
Linda Long-Bellil

The motion passed 11-4.

Some discussion ensued. Chair Mills informed the Committee a vote on the motion to reconsider amendment to FY17 Appropriation must be unanimous, since only fifteen School Committee members were present.

10:44 PM Member Jackson left the meeting.

Roll call vote on main motion:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Christina Smith

Motion failed 8-6.

Chair Mills announced there would be a special meeting of the School Committee Wednesday, June 22, 2016, 7:00 PM in the Media Center at WRHS. The main agenda item would be the FY17 budget.

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(T. Curran)  
(A. Young)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock

Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Jon Edward Novak  
Michael Rivers  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp