

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #315 Wednesday, June 22, 2016  
7:00 PM

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School  
1401 Main Street, Holden

*Wachusett Regional School District Committee*

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Robert McCarthy (7:07 PM)
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Jon Edward Novak
Thomas Curran	Steve Porter
Susan Hitchcock	Barbara Renzoni
Sarah LaMountain	Asima Silva
Matthew Lavoie	Christina Smith
Linda Long-Bellil	Megan Weeks
Lauren Maldonado	Charles Witkes

*Committee Members Absent:*

Scott Brown	Stacey Jackson
Michael Dennis	Michael Rivers
Harriet Fradellos	Adam Young

*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. He announced the meeting is being recorded and shown live on HCTV.

II. Public Hearing

Chair Mills read aloud the Guidelines for Public Hearing.

Julie Keefe, Rutland resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Chloe Tonderlund, Sterling resident and WRHS student, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

### III. FY17 Budget

Chair Mills turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall. Superintendent McCall distributed his memo to the School Committee, dated June 22, 2016, outlining his budget recommendations. Superintendent McCall read aloud his memorandum (attachment 4). Superintendent McCall spoke about the June 20, 2016 meeting of the Management Subcommittee, and he also reported on budget discussions he has had with superintendents in other districts, DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) staff, and Central Office administrators.

Motion: To adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$87,125,664 with total assessments including debt service to Member Towns of:

Holden	\$24,878,583
Paxton	\$ 5,878,219
Princeton	\$ 4,492,111
Rutland	\$10,822,889
Sterling	<u>\$10,717,428</u>
Total	\$56,789,230

(R. Imber)

(B. Renzoni)

Members were given the opportunity to speak to the motion and ask questions.

Member Novak

Chair Mills, with no objection from the members

Superintendent McCall

Member Lavoie, who distributed an informational spreadsheet titled "Rutland last 3 Ballot votes for School Override" (attachment 5)

Vice-chair Imber

Member Lavoie

Member Weeks

Member Long-Bellil

Member Curran

Member Curran

Superintendent McCall

Member Hitchcock

Member LaMountain

Member Novak

Member Renzoni

Motion: To call the question.

(R. Imber)

(R. McCarthy)

Chair Mills explained that the motion to call the question requires eleven votes in favor, affirmative votes by two-thirds of members present.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Thomas Curran  
Susan Hitchcock  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Edward Novak  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Megan Weeks  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Matthew Lavoie

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The motion passed 14-1-1.

Roll call vote on main motion:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Robert Imber  
Thomas Curran  
Susan Hitchcock  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Megan Weeks

*Opposed:*

Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie  
Jon Edward Novak  
Asima Silva

Charles Witkes

The motion failed 11-5.

Chair Mills, with no objection from the members, addressed the Committee, stressing the importance of the Committee coming to a compromise. Chair Mills suspended Robert's Rules and asked Superintendent McCall to give the Committee his recommendations about the FY17 budget and to provide rationale for his recommendations. Superintendent McCall addressed the Committee, explaining that when final state budget numbers are released and if they are favorable, then the School Committee, if desired, would be able to vote on a lower budget number, perhaps before Rutland and/or Paxton hold special Town Meetings to vote on the District's amended FY17 budget number.

Chair Mills explained there would be fifteen minutes for discussion about the budget, after which the meeting would return to operating under Robert's Rules.

Superintendent McCall was asked to explain what "could" happen if senate/state budget numbers come in and are favorable. Superintendent McCall explained that at the July 11, 2016 regular School Committee meeting, the Committee could vote to lower the budget if state budget numbers are favorable.

Superintendent McCall spoke about recent notification of a quarterly Medicaid payment received, which was higher than had been anticipated. At Member Renzoni's inquiry, Superintendent McCall confirmed the difference between two budget options considered at the June 15, 2016 special School Committee meeting (Option B and Option A-B 1) is \$200,000. Superintendent McCall reminded the Committee that Option B used \$150,000 of E & D (Excess & Deficiency), whereas Option A-B 1 does not use \$150,000 of E & D. Use of some of the Medicaid reimbursement to help close the gap between Option B and Option A-B 1 was discussed.

8:14 Member LaMountain left the table.

More discussion ensued.

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

(M. Lavoie)  
(C. Witkes)

Member Lavoie spoke to the motion, pointing out this proposed budget number is a 4.9% increase over the FY16 budget.

8:20 Member LaMountain returned to the table.

8:20 PM Member Renzoni left the table

Discussion continued, with several members participating. Member Curran spoke about offering an amendment to the motion on the floor, removing use of \$150,000 of E & D and District administration identifying reductions elsewhere. Discussion took place. At Chair Mills' request, Superintendent McCall spoke about both Option B and Option A-B 1, explaining Net Reduction of Expenditure Budget \$541,134 in Option B and Net Reduction of Expenditure Budget \$341,134 in Option A-B 1. Chair Mills asked Director Scanlon if Member Curran's proposed amendment would mean the total budget number and assessments would not change, but District administration would have to identify budget reductions and not use \$150,000 from E & D. Discussion continued. Member Lavoie pointed out that town assessments for Rutland and Paxton, under Option B, are lower than town assessments for Rutland and Paxton in the Superintendent's proposal brought before the Committee at this meeting. Member Curran spoke more about what he would be proposing for an amendment to the motion on the floor, identifying \$150,000 in budget reductions and not using E & D.

8:40 PM recess called.

8:50 PM meeting returned to session.

Motion: To amend the motion on the floor to adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$86,875,664 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

(T. Curran)  
(R. McCarthy)

Chair Mills explained that the motion to amend requires a simple majority to pass.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Robert Imber  
Thomas Curran  
Susan Hitchcock  
Sarah LaMountain

Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Edward Novak  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Megan Weeks  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Mills re-read the amended motion. Chair Mills reminded members fifteen affirmative votes are needed to amend the budget.

Motion: To call the question.

(C. Witkes)  
(R. McCarthy)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Matthew Lavoie  
Robert McCarthy  
Christina Smith  
Megan Weeks  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Thomas Curran  
Susan Hitchcock  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Jon Edward Novak  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Asima Silva

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The motion failed 6-9-1.

Discussion continued. Member Renzoni informed the Committee that if the School Committee votes in favor of the motion on the floor, Paxton Selectboard Member Malone would attempt to gain Paxton Selectboard support of the amended budget.

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

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Robert Imber  
Thomas Curran  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Edward Novak  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Megan Weeks  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Sarah LaMountain  
Asima Silva

The motion failed 14-2.

Member Lavoie asked that his previously made motion be brought back on the floor.

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

(M. Lavoie)  
(C. Witkes)

Discussion ensued, with several members participating in the discussion.

Chair Mills reminded members the need for fifteen affirmative votes to amend the budget.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Matthew Lavoie  
Jon Edward Novak  
Barbara Renzoni  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Robert Imber  
Thomas Curran  
Susan Hitchcock  
Sarah LaMountain  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Steve Porter  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Megan Weeks

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The motion failed 4-11-1.

Vice-chair Imber proposed adjusting the \$86,875,664 amended budget number by one dollar. Formal motion was not made.

Motion: To reconsider failed vote to adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$86,875,664 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

(A. Silva)  
(M. Lavoie)

Chair Mills gave members the opportunity to speak to the motion. 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  
Thomas Curran  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Edward Novak  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Megan Weeks  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Sarah LaMountain

The motion passed 15-1.

Motion: To adopt the amended FY17 Appropriation in the amount of \$86,875,664 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

(A. Silva)  
(M. Lavoie)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Robert Imber  
Thomas Curran  
Susan Hitchcock  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Lauren Maldonado  
Robert McCarthy  
Jon Edward Novak  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Megan Weeks

Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Sarah LaMountain

The motion passed 15-1.

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. McCarthy)

(M. Weeks)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills

Robert Imber

Thomas Curran

Susan Hitchcock

Sarah LaMountain

Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil

Lauren Maldonado

Robert McCarthy

Jon Edward Novak

Steve Porter

Barbara Renzoni

Asima Silva

Christina Smith

Megan Weeks

Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp