

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1256 Monday, June 23, 2014  
7:00 PM

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School  
1401 Main Street, Holden

*Committee Members Present:*

Lance Harris, Chair	Stacey Jackson
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Julianne Kelley
Scott Brown	Robert McCarthy
William Clute	Kenneth Mills
Thomas Curran	Steve Porter
Michael Dennis (7:09 PM)	Barbara Renzoni
Matthew Ehrenworth	Christina Smith
Timothy Ethier	Charles Witkes

*Committee Members Absent:*

Deidre Kosky	Brian Ruttle
Sarah LaMountain	Erik Scheinfeldt
Robert Remillard	

*Committee Members Participating Remotely:*

None

*Administration Present:*

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools  
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance  
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

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

Chair Harris called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Mike Lague, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

7:09 PM Member Dennis joined the meeting.

Ed Meyer, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

Louis Cornacchioli, Rutland, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the Organizational Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 21, 2014

Motion: To approve the Organizational Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 21, 2014

(K. Mills)

(S. Jackson)

The minutes were approved, with Member Clute abstaining.

- B. Approval of the 1255<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 21, 2014

Motion: To approve the 1255<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 21, 2014

(K. Mills)

(S. Jackson)

The minutes were approved, with Member Clute abstaining.

- C. Approval of Executive Session I Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 21, 2014.

Motion: To approve executive session I minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 21, 2014, to be released.

(K. Mills)

(S. Brown)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter

Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

*Abstained:*  
William Clute

The minutes were approved 15-0-1.

- D. Approval of Executive Session II Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 21, 2014.

Motion: To approve executive session II minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 21, 2014, not to be released.  
(K. Mills)  
(M. Ehrenworth)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

*Abstained:*  
William Clute  
Steve Porter

The minutes were approved 14-0-2.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Harris 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.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris welcomed new Student Representatives Linnea Budd and Liam Fritsche.

B. Student Representatives (Linnea Budd, Liam Fritsche)

Both Student Representatives addressed the School Committee, introducing themselves to the Committee.

C. Management Subcommittee (L. Harris, Chair, R. Imber, Vice-chair, K. Mills, Barbara Renzoni, E. Scheinfeldt)

Chair Harris reported he will schedule a meeting of the Management Subcommittee to take place just before the next regular School Committee meeting.

1. Amended Policy – 1160 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School Committee Member Ethics** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP1160 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School Committee Member Ethics**, waiving the reading.

(K. Mills)  
(S. Brown)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter

Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Amended Policy – 1670 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Executive Sessions** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP1670 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Executive Sessions**, waiving the reading.

(K. Mills)  
(S. Jackson)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, T. Ethier, R. Remillard, C. Smith)

1. Amended Policy – 6531.1 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Social Media** – second reading

Deferred

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (E. Scheinfeldt, Chair, W. Clute, Vice-chair, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, R. McCarthy, B. Renzoni, C. Smith, C. Witkes)

Subcommittee Chair Renzoni reported this subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM.

1. Draft Policy – 4660 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Budgeting Excess & Deficiency (E&D)** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of DP4660 **Policy Relating to Business/Finance Excess & Deficiency (E&D)**, waiving the reading.

(B. Renzoni)

(S. Jackson)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, S. Brown, Vice-chair, W. Clute, M. Ehrenworth, J. Kelley)

1. Amended Policy – 5235 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Sexual Harassment** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP5235 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Sexual Harassment**, waiving the reading.

(S. Brown)  
(J. Kelley)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Member Ethier raised some questions about the new fingerprinting mandate. It was explained that this is a state mandate, not a Wachusett mandate, for everyone working in a school.

- G. Facilities & Security Subcommittee (E. Scheinfeldt, Chair, T. Curran, S. LaMountain, R. McCarthy, S. Porter)

In Facilities & Security Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt's absence, Chair Harris reported this subcommittee will have its first meeting on Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

- H. Audit Advisory Board (J. Kelley, Chair)

AAB Chair Kelley reported on the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the audit Advisory Board. She reported references checks are being done on potential new auditing firms.

- I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review Evaluation and Hiring Policy (K. Mill, Chair, R. Remillard, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Ehrenworth, C. Smith)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Mills reported on the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of this subcommittee, and announced the next meeting will be Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00, in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

J. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Superintendent McCall reported the next meeting of this building committee is scheduled for June 24, 2014 and he updated the Committee on progress of this building project

2. Green Repair School Building Committee

Final audit reports and documentation are being processed.

K. 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

There were no School Council reports.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

For planning purposes, Chair Harris polled members for topics they wish to raise. Chair Harris turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall, who approached the podium. Superintendent McCall took the opportunity to speak about and assess his first five months as Superintendent of Schools. Members were provided with a copy of the Superintendent of Schools job description, which Superintendent McCall referenced when speaking about his job responsibilities and setting goals (attachment 3). Members were given the chance to ask question of the Superintendent, with most members participating.



8:05 PM Member Brown left the table.

8:07 PM Member Mills left the table.

8:09 PM Member Brown returned to the table.

8:10 PM Member Mills returned to the table.

8:19 PM Member Smith left the table.

8:23 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

Superintendent McCall's address to the School Committee concluded at 8:25 PM.

At member Ethier's inquiry, Superintendent McCall spoke about the FY15 budget and reported a letter would be sent to DESE Commissioner Mitchell Chester requesting DESE certification of a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget, under which the District will operate until the FY15 budget is approved by four of the five Member Towns. Superintendent McCall reported state budget numbers are still not finalized. Member Ethier voiced his dismay about action taken at the Rutland Annual Town Meeting and is of the opinion there is an obligation to challenge that town's action with regard to the District's budget. Discussion ensued. A legal opinion about action taken at the Rutland Town Meeting will be requested. Director of Business and Finance Scanlon addressed the Committee, reporting he had spoken with Christine Lynch of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, seeking clarification about action taken at Rutland's Annual Town Meeting. Director Scanlon reported Ms. Lynch confirmed that action at Rutland's Annual Town Meeting was not approval of the WRSB FY15 budget, but did explain that if the School Committee lowers the budget to meet the number Rutland voted at the May Annual Town Meeting, then, in fact, the District would have an approved FY15 budget.

Member Porter asked for an update on the new math curriculum.

Member Jackson called members' attention to Attachment 12 of the Superintendent's Report, a narrative she and Member Kelley prepared to help explain issues associated with Operations Assessments and a town's ability to pay, and spoke to the information provided the Committee.

9:00 PM member Ehrenworth left the table.

Member Kelley added some explanatory comments about the Superintendent's Report Attachment 12.

9:04 PM Member Ehrenworth returned to the table.

Discussion ensued.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To approve the sale of the \$16,500,000 1.25 percent General Obligation Revenue Anticipation Notes (the "Notes") of the District dated July 3, 2014, payable May 29, 2015, to Jefferies LLC at a price of par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$128,703.00.

Further that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Notes, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated June 13, 2014, and a final Official Statement dated June 19, 2014, each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further that the District Treasurer and the Chair of the Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a significant 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 Notes for the benefit of the holders of the Notes from time to time.

Further that the Chair of the 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

(R. Imber)

(S. Brown)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter

Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$180,533. to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Mountview Middle School

(T. Curran))  
(R. McCarthy)

Vote:  
*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$1,034,230. to the Town of Sterling for reimbursement for Chocksett/Houghton Schools

(S. Porter))  
(M. Ehrenworth)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Motion: To accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to participate in PARCC testing in lieu of MCAS testing for the 2014-2015 school year.

(R. Imber)

(S. Brown)

Superintendent McCall spoke to the motion, explaining the basis of his recommendation. Significant discussion ensued.

9:32 PM Director Carlson left the meeting.

Discussion continued.

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

(T. Curran)

(R. McCarthy)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran

Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued, with input from both Student  
Representatives as well as many School Committee members.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Timothy Ethier

*Opposed:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Abstained:*

Lance Harris

The motion failed 1-14-1.

Motion: That the Superintendent notify the Department of  
Elementary and Secondary Education of Wachusett Regional  
School District's intention to participate in MCAS testing in

2014-2015.

(K. Mills)

(R. McCarthy)

Superintendent McCall explained that by not notifying DESE that the District would be participating in PARCC in 2014-2015, it is understood the District will participate in MCAS in 2014-2015. The motion was re-read.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Robert Imber  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier

*Abstained:*

Lance Harris

The motion passed 12-3-1.

5. Motion: To accept the 2014-2015 Wachusett Regional School District School Improvement Plans

Motion: To amend motion to accept School Improvement Plans with the exception of Davis Hill Elementary School

(J. Kelley)

(S. Jackson)

10:15 PM Member Ehrenworth left the table.

Discussion ensued.

10:17 PM Member Ehrenworth returned to the table.

Motion: To postpone acceptance of School Improvement Plans to a time certain, July 9, 2014.

(M. Dennis)  
(S. Porter)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Motion: To approve the FY15 Pre-Approved Vendor List  
(M. Ehrenworth)  
(K. Mills)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter

Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Motion: To approve amendment to contract with Director of Business and Finance.

(J. Kelley)  
(K. Mills)

Member Smith explained the intent of the amendment to Director Scanlon's contract.

Vote:  
*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The 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

Motion: To amend Guidelines for Public Hearing by adding the following:  
*Any member of the public may address the School Committee during the 2nd Public Hearing session.*

(T. Ethier)  
(M. Ehrenworth)

Member Ethier spoke to his recommendation to amend the Guidelines for Public Hearing.

Motion: To remand Guidelines for Public Hearing to the Management Subcommittee for review.

(K. Mills)  
(J. Kelley)

Some discussion ensued. Chair Harris re-read the motion.

Vote:

*In favor:*

William Clute  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Kenneth Mills

*Opposed:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Timothy Ethier  
Robert McCarthy  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Abstained:*

Lance Harris  
Matthew Ehrenworth

The motion failed 4-10-2.

Additional discussion took place.

Vote on main motion:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

*Abstained:*  
Lance Harris

The motion passed 15-0-1.

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

(K. Mills)  
(T. Curran)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith

*Opposed:*

Matthew Ehrenworth  
Charles Witkes

*Abstained:*

Lance Harris

The motion passed 13-2-1.

Motion: To approve a resolution opposing additional DESE mandates.

(J. Kelley)

(S. Jackson)

Member Kelley spoke to the motion and read aloud the proposed resolution (attachment 4).

Motion: To remand approving a resolution opposing additional DESE mandates to the Education Subcommittee.

(M. Dennis)

(T. Ethier)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Scott Brown

Thomas Curran

Michael Dennis

Matthew Ehrenworth

Timothy Ethier

Robert McCarthy

Steve Porter

Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Robert Imber

William Clute

Stacey Jackson

Julianne Kelley

Kenneth Mills

Christina Smith

Barbara Renzoni

*Abstained:*

Lance Harris

The motion passed 8-7-1.

- IX. Executive Session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with union personnel (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants and AFSCME Council 93 Local 2885 – Custodial Employees), as the Chair deems that a discussion in open session would be detrimental to the District's interests, not to reconvene in public session.

Chair Harris explained there would only be one executive session, due to the absence of the member who has a question about draft executive session minutes.

Motion: To enter executive session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with union personnel (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants and AFSCME Council 93 Local 2885 – Custodial Employees), as the Chair deems that a discussion in open session would be detrimental to the District’s interests, not to reconvene in public session.

(R. Imber)  
(T. Curran)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp