

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting
Executive Session

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Sarah LaMountain
Cynthia Bazinet	James Mason
William Clute	Norman Plourde
Steven Hammond	Robert Remillard
Lance Harris	Erik Scheinfeldt
Robert Imber	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Stacey Jackson	Margaret Watson
Julianne Kelley	

Committee Members Absent:

Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair	Robert Pelczarski
Deidre Kosky	Athas Tsongalis

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Chair Leith called the executive session of the School Committee to order at 7:56 PM and he immediately turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio. Superintendent Pandiscio provided the members with a copy of the memorandum he had written to Business Manager Peter Brennan (attachment 1). Superintendent Pandiscio gave background information about a matter that resulted in the need for an executive session, and he explained to the Committee that he is seeking School Committee direction on how this situation should be handled. Superintendent Pandiscio explained for the Committee a just-found FY13 \$1.4 million dollar accounting error having to do with the health insurance line item. The Superintendent told the Committee he had spent the better part of this day brainstorming with staff to address this shortfall. Upon hearing of this situation, most members had questions, which the Superintendent answered. The Superintendent felt it was his obligation to bring this situation before the School Committee, but he did state that he, as one person, cannot serve as both the Superintendent and the Business Manager and he believes this is a serious enough matter to warrant School Committee intervention. The Superintendent was asked what his recommendation might be. Superintendent Pandiscio responded with: (1) the School Committee could censure the Superintendent if they feel he did not provide sufficient oversight; (2) the School Committee could place Business Manager Brennan on a

prescriptive plan and closely monitor future actions; (3) the School Committee could decide to do nothing at this time; (4) the School Committee could move to terminate Business Manager Brennan for cause. Discussion continued, with most members and the Superintendent participating. The Superintendent was asked what he, as the District CEO, would do to address this issue. Superintendent Pandiscio would move to terminate Business Manager Peter Brennan, but would give Mr. Brennan the opportunity to resign or retire by the end of 2012. Superintendent Pandiscio added he could be comfortable with the School Committee censuring and sanctioning the Business Manager, after taking into consideration what Mr. Brennan's plans for retirement might be. The Superintendent did state that to censure/sanction Mr. Brennan would not be his number one recommendation to the School Committee.

9:15 PM Member Bazinet left the meeting.

Discussion continued. The School Committee and the Superintendent did agree to the Superintendent having a conversation with Mr. Brennan, explaining the Committee's opinion to convene a disciplinary hearing that may lead to the Mr. Brennan's termination, and to give Mr. Brennan the opportunity to decide if he would want to go through the disciplinary process or if he would decide to resign.

Motion: To schedule a disciplinary hearing for Business Manager Peter Brennan, to be held on July 23, 2012.

(S. Hammond)
(J. Mason)

Discussion continued.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)
(J. Mason)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The executive session adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools