

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session

Monday, August 6, 2012

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Sarah LaMountain
Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair	James Mason
Cynthia Bazinet	Kenneth Mills
Steven Hammond	Robert Pelczarski
Lance Harris	Norman Plourde
Robert Imber	Robert Remillard (8:50 PM)
Stacey Jackson	Erik Scheinfeldt
Julianne Kelley	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Deidre Kosky	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

William Clute	Athas Tsongalis
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Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Kelley Gangi, Director of Curriculum
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Chair Leith called the executive session of the School Committee to order at 7:43 PM and he immediately turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio. Superintendent Pandiscio referenced the August 6, 2012 confidential School Committee memo he had sent to the School Committee earlier in the day (attachment 1). Superintendent Pandiscio reviewed the information in attachment 1 and he let the Committee know he is looking for “marching orders” so he can meet with principals and plan for the opening of schools.

Motion: In order to meet the goal of opening schools with a balanced line item budget, District administration is hereby directed to reduce salary expense in order to eliminate both known and anticipated deficits. Such reductions shall include, but may not be limited to, faculty and staff reductions, transfer of staff to open positions, and the attribution of certain salary expense to accounts outside the General Fund. All such reductions shall be authorized by a vote of the School Committee.

The administration is also directed to continue to examine the feasibility of making alternative reductions and/or utilizing available revenue in order to recall staff prior to the start of school where possible. Such alternatives and recalls shall be made by vote of the School Committee

(R. Pelczarski)
(C. Bazinet)

Discussion ensued. The motion on the floor was discussed. For the record, Members Imber, Kelley, and Jackson asked for clarification about what can and cannot be discussed in executive session and further discussion took place. Following this discussion, the motion was withdrawn by the maker and seconder of the motion.

There was continued discussion about the information contained in the attachments to the August 6, 2012 confidential School Committee memo (FY13 Possible Reductions, FY13 Reductions Close K-8 Libraries, FY13 Reduction of High School Teachers, FY13 Reduction of Elementary Teachers, FY13 Reduction of Middle School Teachers). At Member Watson's inquiry, Superintendent Pandiscio confirmed he has met with the WREA to discuss these potential cuts. Additional discussion took place, with most members of the School Committee contributing to the discussions.

Motion: To adjourn executive session and to return to public session.

(R. Imber)
(J. Kelley)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris

James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson

Motion failed 7-10.

Motion: To give District administration the authority to take action to move forward on making cuts listed as HIGH on FY13 Possible Reductions.

(J. Mason)
(S. Hammond)

8:50 PM Member Remillard joined the meeting.

Discussion followed about what can be discussed and voted upon in executive session. The Superintendent advised he would recommend the School Committee vote on language in the motion made previously by Members Pelczarski and Bazinet. Discussion continued. Following discussion, Members Mason and Hammond withdrew the motion on the floor.

Motion: To adjourn the executive session, to return to public session.

(R. Imber)
(J. Kelley)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The executive session adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp