

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1274 Monday, August 10, 2015
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Committee Members Present:

Lance Harris, Chair	Lauren Maldonado (7:09 PM)
Scott Brown	Robert McCarthy
Thomas Curran	Kenneth Mills
Michael Dennis	Jon Edward Novak
Matthew Ehrenworth	Steve Porter
Harriet Fradellos	Barbara Renzoni
Susan Hitchcock	Asima Silva
Stacey Jackson	Christina Smith
Sarah LaMountain (7:28 PM)	Adam Young
Linda Long-Bellil	Charles Witkes

Committee Members Absent:

Robert Imber

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:

None

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 7:08 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris publicly expressed thanks to the voters of Rutland for action taken at the August 3, 2015 Special Town Meeting. Chair Harris explained that a Proposition 2½ override vote will be before the voters in Rutland in mid-September..

7:09 PM Member Maldonado joined the meeting.

Chair Harris announced the appointment of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement, which Member Hitchcock will chair. Other members of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee will be Member Mills (Holden), Member Renzoni (Paxton), Member Imber (Princeton), and Member Witkes (Rutland). Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock will represent the town of Sterling.

Chair Harris explained that the School Committee would not be taking action at this meeting on the Solar Net Metering Credits proposal being brought before the Committee this evening. At Chair Harris' invitation, Todd Bard of LEE Energy Group and Director Scanlon approached the podium. Members were provided with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation which Mr. Bard and Director Scanlon spoke to (attachment 2). Director Scanlon explained the reason the Committee will not be asked to take action this evening is due to the change in the length of the lease (attachment 3). Chair Harris noted that four of the five Member Towns have municipal light departments and could not participate in this proposal. Mr. Bard confirmed that only the town of Rutland, a National Grid user, could participate.

7:28 PM Member LaMountain joined the meeting.

Members asked questions of Mr. Bard and Director Scanlon. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Bard was thanked for his attendance.

III. Student Representatives' Reports (Linnea Budd, Liam Fritsche)

The Student Representatives were not present.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Harris polled members, asking what topics they would be raising with regard to the Superintendent's Report. Chair Harris turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall. Superintendent McCall spoke about day one of a two day Administrative Retreat held this date and August 11th at Worcester State University, the theme of which is *What is Best for Kids*, a theme the Superintendent plans to spread throughout the District the coming school year. Superintendent McCall expressed gratitude to Rutland School Committee representatives for their hard work supporting the FY16 budget in preparation for Rutland's August 3, 2015 Special Town Meeting. It is anticipated Rutland voters will be asked to act on a Proposition 2½ override vote in mid-September.

Superintendent McCall called attention to attachment 6 of his August 6, 2015 Superintendent Report, and he reviewed the District goals outlined on the document (attachment 4).

Chair Harris explained that in light of an anticipated Proposition 2½ override vote in Rutland mid-September, he has proposed the date of the September regular School Committee meeting be changed to Thursday, September 17, 2015. The Committee will be asked to vote on that meeting date change later in the meeting. Member Dennis asked what the contingency plan is if the override vote fails in Rutland. Chair Harris explained that Superintendent McCall and Director Scanlon will need to bring several budget options/scenarios to the September 17th meeting for School Committee consideration at that time. Member Dennis asked what proposals Superintendent McCall might bring to the full School Committee following the Rutland Proposition 2½ vote. Member Dennis also asked about the one-twelfth budget and why operating under a one-twelfth budget is not as dire as originally presented. Director Scanlon approached the podium to explain one-twelfth budget spending. Member Porter asked what has been “lost” since the “budget crisis” of several years ago. Lengthy discussion ensued about the FY16 budget, possible staffing reductions, in either mid-September or December 1st, the administration’s plans moving forward.

Member Mills had a question about a new partner bank, Commerce Bank, reported about in Director Scanlon’s report. Director Scanlon approached the podium to explain.

Some additional discussion about the budget took place.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To chargeback employee related expenses for Medicare, Unemployment, Workers Compensation, Life Insurance and Health Insurance to the Cafeteria revolving funds by location in the total amount of \$70,000.00, and to credit the applicable General Fund budgetary expense accounts in the total amount of (\$70,000.00).

(R. McCarthy)
(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado

Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion: To chargeback employee related expenses for Medicare, Unemployment, Workers Compensation, Life Insurance and Health Insurance to the ECC Tuition revolving fund in the total amount of \$38,885.49, and to credit the applicable General Fund budgetary expense accounts in the total amount of (\$38,885.49).

(M. Dennis)

(T. Curran)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Motion: To chargeback employee related expenses for Medicare, Unemployment, Workers Compensation, Life Insurance and Health Insurance to the Title I grant in the total amount of \$16,652.13, and to credit the applicable General Fund budgetary expense accounts in the total amount of (\$16,652.13).

(M. Ehrenworth)

(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Motion: To transfer \$36,621.97 from the insurance reimbursement revolving fund to the Town of Rutland for the purpose of repairing damaged snow guard, gutters and downspouts on the Glenwood Elementary School.

(M. Ehrenworth)

(T. Curran)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Motion: To chargeback employee related expenses for Medicare, Unemployment, Workers Compensation, Life Insurance and Health Insurance to the Kindergarten revolving fund in the total amount of \$120,087.29, and to credit the applicable General Fund budgetary expense accounts in the total amount of (\$120,087.29).

(R. McCarthy)

(T. Curran)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado

Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Motion: To chargeback employee related expenses for Medicare, Unemployment, Workers Compensation, Life Insurance and Health Insurance to the Early Childhood Special Education Entitlement grant in the total amount of \$19,227.41, and to credit the applicable General Fund budgetary expense accounts in the total amount of (\$19,227.41).

(M. Ehrenworth)

(B. Renzoni)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

7. WHEREAS, the Wachusett Regional School District (“District”) has elected to join the National Purchasing Cooperative (the “Cooperative” operating as “National BuyBoard”), a program created for the benefit of school districts and other governmental entities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the District is authorized to enter into the National Purchasing Cooperative by executing the National Purchasing Cooperative Organizational Interlocal Agreement (which is incorporated herein by reference) pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30B, and

WHEREAS, the District desires to participate and join with other governmental entities in the discharge of their respective public and governmental purposes, objectives, needs, programs, functions and services relative to purchasing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wachusett Regional School District hereby authorizes its Superintendent, or designee, to execute the National Purchasing Cooperative Organizational Interlocal Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the School Committee’s approval of this action and of the authority granted herein. The School Committee warrants that it has, and at the time of this action had full power and lawful authority to adopt this instrument

(M. Dennis)

(T. Curran)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak

Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Motion: To approve amending the 2015-2016 School Committee meeting schedule

(S. Brown)
(A. Silva)

Vote:
In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1273rd Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on July 13, 2015

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on July 13, 2015.

(M. Dennis)

(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Barbara Renzoni

The minutes were approved 19 – 0 – 1.

B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on June 23, 2015

Motion: To approve minutes of the executive session of the WRSDC held on June 23, 2015, not to be released.

(K. Mills)

(T. Curran)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Steve Porter
Adam Young

The minutes were approved 16 – 0 – 4.

VII. 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.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Management Subcommittee (L. Harris, Chair, R. Imber, Vice-chair, S. Jackson, K. Mills)

Chair Harris reported on the August 5, 2015 meeting of the Management Subcommittee.

Motion: To approve the Wachusett Regional School District Goals 2015-2016.
(K. Mills)

(S. Jackson)

Discussion ensued. Comments included Member Hitchcock's opinion that on Goal #2 it would be more prudent that the Technology Plan be for a three year period v five years.

8:25 Member Mills left the table.

Member Dennis asked for an explanation of how the WRSD Goals were developed. Chair Harris explained the process.

8:28 Member Mills returned to the table.

Member Dennis offered two comments about the proposed WRSD Goals 2015-2016: he does not believe student achievement is addressed/included; and Goal #3 (*To maintain ongoing and regular communications (including annual meetings) with officials from the five towns (Finance Committees, Selectboards, Town Managers, DPWs) regarding the status, priority, and feasibility of new (and ongoing) WRSD budget requests.*) does not seem like a District-wide goal.

Member LaMountain added that Goal #5 (*Establish a social/emotional task force to help define the needs of all students, with a specific focus on the identification of at-risk students and the support available to them by November 2015.*) needs to include a strong anti-bullying stance.

Member Renzoni feels all members of the School Committee should have the opportunity to provide input into development of District goals, not just input from subcommittee chairs (members of the Management Subcommittee).

Superintendent McCall explained to the Committee the need for a Strategic Plan to guide the development of District goals.

Discussion continued, involving many members. Discussion about bullying/anti-bullying and requirements handed down by the state must be incorporated into District policy. Discussion continued, with the suggestion that the WRSD Goals 2015-2016 be remanded back to the Management Subcommittee, in order to give all members the opportunity to provide input into the goals before School Committee acceptance. Discussion continued. Chair Harris explained that Superintendent McCall cannot finalize his 2015-2016 goals for Committee approval until District goals are approved. If the Superintendent's goals are to be provided to the full School Committee by September 1st, per his contract, District goals need to be approved before that in order to provide the Superintendent with direction to develop his goals. Some additional discussion took place. Chair Harris again explained that without District goals to provide direction, the Superintendent will not be able to submit his 2015-2016 goals to the School Committee by September 1st, per his contract.

Motion: To remand the draft Wachusett Regional School District Goals 2015-2016 back to the Management Subcommittee.

(M. Dennis)

(S. Porter)

Vote:

Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Sarah LaMountain
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

Lance Harris
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith

The motion passed 13 – 7.

B. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, S. LaMountain, L. Long-Bellil, L. Maldonado, S. Porter, A. Silva)

In Subcommittee Chair Imber's absence, Vice-chair Smith reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

1. Draft Policy – 6619 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Life Threatening Allergies***– second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Draft Policy 6619 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Life Threatening Allergies***, waiving the reading.

(C. Smith)

(K. Mills)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown

Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (S. Jackson, Chair, M. Dennis, Vice-chair, H. Fradellos, R. McCarthy, E. Novak, B. Renzoni, C. Witkes, A Young)

Subcommittee Chair Jackson reported on the August 4, 2015 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee and announced the subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, at 7:00 PM. She reported a meeting of the Audit Advisory Board has been scheduled for 6:30 PM that same evening.

1. Amended Policy – 4620 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Investing**
– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 4620 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Investing**, waiving the reading.

(S. Jackson)

(C. Witkes)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos

Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Amended Policy – 7156 **Policy Relating to Support Operations
Emergency Response Plan** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 7156 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Emergency Response Plan**, waiving the reading.

(S. Jackson)

(H. Fradellos)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva

Christina Smith
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, S. Brown, Vice-chair, T. Curran, M. Ehrenworth, S. Hitchcock)

Legal Affairs Subcommittee Chair Mills reported the Legal Affairs Subcommittee will meet next on Thursday, September 10, 2015, at 7:00 PM. He reminded the Committee that there would be an executive session at the end of this meeting to update the full Committee on negotiations.

- E. Audit Advisory Board

AAB Chair Jackson again stated the Audit Advisory Board will meet next on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, at 6:30 PM.

- F. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review Evaluation and Hiring Policy (K. Mills, Chair, S. Brown, M. Ehrenworth, C. Smith)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Mills reported this subcommittee will meet on October 19, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

- G. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Member McCarthy gave a construction update, reporting the project is moving along and is on schedule. He also reported that the next meeting of the Mountview Building Committee will be August 11, 2015.

- H. 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

No School Council reports were made.

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

Member Dennis asked if Holden Pupil Population Study Taskforce minutes and PowerPoint presentations/information can be shared with the full School Committee.

Member Ehrenworth would like to review the Superintendent's evaluation process. Member Ehrenworth also requested a timeline for implementation of full-day kindergarten.

XI. Executive Session

Motion: To adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with bargaining units (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants, Wachusett Cafeteria Association, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 2885 – Custodial Employees, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 2885 – Clerical Employees, Wachusett Regional Nurses Association), as the Chair deems a discussion in public session would have an adverse effect on the District's bargaining position, not to reconvene in public session

(K. Mills)

(M. Ehrenworth)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp