

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1240 Monday, August 12, 2013

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Lance Harris, Chair	Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski, Vice-chair	Sarah LaMountain
Scott Brown	Matthew Lindberg
Lisa Call	Robert McCarthy
William Clute	Robert Remillard
Thomas Curran	Erik Scheinfeldt
Matthew Ehrenworth	Christina Smith
Robert Imber	Margaret Watson
Stacey Jackson	Charles Witkes

Committee Members Absent:

Deidre Kosky	Kenneth Mills
James Mason	Tiffany Ralli

Administration Present:

Anthony Gasbarro, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Darryll McCall, Deputy Superintendent
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Nate Birnbaum

Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – (attachment 1).

Chair Harris called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Harris introduced Paxton Police Department representatives Lieutenant Mark Savasta and Officer Douglas Tripp and invited them to the podium to address the Committee. Lieutenant Savasta and Officer Tripp gave an update on the status of the investigation into unauthorized entries at the Paxton Center School which occurred the past several weeks. Some members asked questions of Officer Tripp. At the conclusion of Lieutenant Savasta's and Officer Tripp's address, Chair Harris thanked the officers for attending the

meeting and he also extended thanks to the Paxton Police Department for the attention being given to this investigation.

7:20 PM Lieutenant Savasta and Officer Tripp left the meeting.

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

Motion: To amend the meeting agenda by moving *Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee* To amend the FY14 Appropriation to the amount of \$80,175,991 ahead on the agenda.

(J. Kelley)
(L. Call)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To amend the *FY14 Appropriation* to the amount of \$80,175,991.

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(R. Imber)

At Chair Harris' request, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro addressed the School Committee, explaining the information on FY14 Reconfigured Assessments CONF CMTE 7-15-13 (attachment 2). Interim Superintendent Gasbarro reported there are no plans to cut staff at this point in time. He reported that, to date, the anticipated savings realized by teachers opting to take advantage of unpaid furlough days and/or an early

retirement totals almost \$77,000, which is about \$12,000 shy of the goal. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro told this will be a prudent spending year, but principals can purchase materials needed to open their doors the end of August. Some discussion ensued, including Member Kelley voicing her concern about class sizes. Chair Harris re-read the motion on the table.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Julianne Kelley

Motion passed 17-0-1.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1239th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on July 15, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on July 15, 2013.

(R. Imber)
(T. Curran)

Member Watson pointed out a correction to be made on page 8, changing "will meet on" to "met on" under Mountview Building Committee report.

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held July 15, 2013 were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Members Brown, Ehrenworth, McCarthy, Pelczarski, and Remillard abstaining.

B. Approval of Executive Session I Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on July 15, 2013

Approval tabled until meeting in executive session, due to Member Call having a question about the draft minutes.

C. Approval of Executive Session II Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on July 15, 2013

Approval tabled until meeting in executive session, due to Member Call having a question about the draft minutes.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Harris reminded the Committee that if there are questions regarding the report of the Director of Business and Finance, members should contact the Interim Superintendent; if there are questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris deferred his opening remarks until he addresses the School Committee under the Management Subcommittee report.

B. Student Representatives

Student Representative Nate Birnbaum reported that, aside from school starting in just over two weeks, things were fairly quiet at the high school.

C. Management Subcommittee (L. Harris, Chair, R. Pelczarski, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Mason, K. Mills, E. Scheinfeldt, M. Watson)

Chair Harris, who also serves as Chair of the Management Subcommittee, read a prepared statement (attachment 3). Chair Harris gave School Committee members the opportunity to ask questions about the screening committee process outlined in his statement.

Motion: To approve Proposed Amendments to Wachusett Regional District School Committee By-Laws.

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To accept the proposed updates to the Education Week advertisement.

(R. Imber)
(E. Scheinfeldt)

7:52 PM Member Kelley left the table.

Chair Harris projected on a screen the proposed, updated Education Week advertisement and the proposed, updated Superintendent Search brochure; he pointed out for the Committee the changes made to these two documents since the previous superintendent search.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran

Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

8:01 PM Member Kelley returned to the table.

Motion: To accept the proposed updates to the Superintendent Search brochure.

(M. Watson)
(R. Remillard)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve changes to the *Guidelines for Student Representatives*.

(M. Watson)
(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve changes to the *Responsibilities of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee*.

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber

Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To remand to the Facilities & Security Subcommittee review of recent break-ins at schools in the District, and report recommendations to the full School Committee by October 15, 2013.

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(R. Imber)

There was brief discussion about the recent break-ins experienced at three District schools (Wachusett Regional High School, Chocksett Middle School, Paxton Center School). Chair Harris re-read the motion.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

- D. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, M. Watson, Vice-chair, L. Call, R. Remillard, C. Smith)

Education Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee will meet next on Monday, September 9, 2013, at 6:00 PM, in advance of the next regular School Committee meeting.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (E. Scheinfeldt, Chair, William Clute, Vice-chair, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, J. Mason, R. McCarthy, T. Ralli, C. Smith, C. Witkes)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported this subcommittee met once since the last regular School Committee meeting. He reported that on July 22, 2013 the main agenda item was the development of an RFP for transitional auditing services. Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt then reported there will be a joint meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee and the Audit Advisory Board on August 14, 2013. Craig Peacock of Powers & Sullivan will be at the meeting to answer questions about the nature of services provided by Powers & Sullivan during the annual audit. The joint meeting will also be a time for the two groups to review and discuss the RFP for transitional auditing services. Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt encouraged all School Committee members to attend the August 14th meeting if they are interested in hearing what Mr. Peacock has to report.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee

No report was made.

- G. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, M. Lindberg, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Ehrenworth, J. Kelley,)

In Legal Affairs Subcommittee Chair Mills' absence, Member Kelley reported on the July 25, 2013 meeting of this subcommittee.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 5274 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Unrepresented Non-Contract Employees Benefits**

(R. Imber)
(S. Brown)

Chair Harris read aloud the amended policy. Director of Human Resources Sullivan spoke to the amended language, explaining which District employees are classified as “unrepresented.”

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 1340 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School District Counsel**

(S. Brown)

(J. Kelley)

Chair Harris read aloud the draft policy. Member Kelley gave some background on why this policy was drafted. Member Watson advised the School Committee that lawyers/legal services are specifically exempt from the bidding process. She also commented that she has concerns about the draft policy.

Motion: To remand Draft Policy 1340 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School District Counsel** to the Business/Finance Subcommittee for further consideration.

(M. Watson)

(C. Smith)

Discussion ensued. Following discussion, the motion on the floor was amended.

Motion: To refer Draft Policy 1340 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School District Counsel** back to the Legal Affairs Subcommittee for further consideration.

(M. Watson)

(C. Smith)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Harris asked that School Committee members email their comments about the draft policy to Legal Affairs Subcommittee Chair Mills, in advance of that subcommittee's next meeting on August 29, 2013.

- H. Facilities & Security Subcommittee (J. Mason, Chair, M. Ehrenworth, Vice-chair, W. Clute, D. Kosky, M. Lindberg, R. McCarthy, R. Remillard)

In Facilities & Security Subcommittee Chair Mason's absence, Vice-chair Ehrenworth reported this subcommittee will meet next on August 20, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 7131 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Buildings and Grounds Management**, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)
(E. Scheinfeldt)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

I. Audit Advisory Board (J. Kelley, T. Ralli)

Audit Advisory Board Chair Kelley reported there will be a joint meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee and the Audit Advisory Board on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center. Chair Harris mentioned a representative from Holden is still being sought to serve on the AAB.

J. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Kelley, Chair, W. Clute, R. Imber)

No report was made.

K. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported this building committee has met once a month during the summer months. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro gave a brief update on building committee actions.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee

No report was made.

L. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (J. Kelley), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Smith), Dawson Elementary School (D. Kosky), Glenwood Elementary School (R. Remillard), Houghton Elementary School (TBD), Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (M. Watson), Naquag Elementary School (M. Ehrenworth), Paxton Center School (W. Clute), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Lindberg), Wachusett Regional High School (K. Mills), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (TBD)

Member Watson – Mayo Elementary School

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

At Member Jackson's inquiry, Deputy Superintendent McCall explained how Title 1 funds are divvied up with Devereux School, and how WRSD serves as the manager of the grant.

8:43 PM Vice-chair Pelczarski left the table.

At Member Jackson's request, Director of Human Services Sullivan provided additional information about upcoming negotiations with the SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants and what impact new contract language could have on services provided during the summer by this unit's members.

8:45 PM Vice-chair Pelczarski returned to the table.

Member Jackson also had questions about some information contained in Director of Business and Finance Scanlon's report, which Director Scanlon answered.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$527,990 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for the Central Tree Middle School

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$338,045 to the Town of Paxton for reimbursement for the Paxton Center School

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(R. Pelczarski)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran

Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To Establish a Wachusett Regional High School *Summit Program* Revolving Account

(R. Imber)
(M. Ehrenworth)

Business/Finance Chair Scheinfeldt reported that subcommittee included the Summit Program on its agenda of July 22, 2013, and he explained the rationale behind the establishment of a revolving account for this program. Chair Harris re-read the motion.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Kelley asked if District administration could pull together data to estimate what it might cost to have exterior lights at the schools turned on at night, in light of recent break-ins at three of the District's schools.

8:58 PM Member Kelley left the meeting.

Member LaMountain expressed her opinion that those individuals who have been involved in recent break-ins at three District schools need to pay restitution and should be held responsible for their actions.

There was discussion around the table about "going dark" at the schools, voicing both pros and cons.

Member Smith asked the status of the School Committee hosting a table at Holden Days on August 24th. Chair Harris explained that at the special meeting on June 26, 2013, the Committee voted in support of accepting the offer extended by Bev Mansfield to provide space for a School Committee table at Holden Days, but no official response was sent to Mrs. Mansfield. Chair Harris is attempting to contact Mrs. Mansfield to find out if her offer still stands and if the School Committee can set up a table at Holden Days.

VIII. New Business

At Chair Harris' request, Member Watson explained her opinion that Policy 4713 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board** should be reviewed for completeness, relevance, and accuracy, and updated as necessary, and she offered to address this need.

Motion: To remand to the Business/Finance Subcommittee Policy 4713 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board** to be reviewed for completeness, relevance, and accuracy, and updated as necessary.

(M. Watson)
(L. Call)

Member Scheinfeldt spoke as Chair of the Business/Finance Subcommittee, stating that subcommittee has much on its plate and if the policy review is to be remanded to

the Business/Finance Subcommittee, he would appreciate no specific date for completion of the policy review. Member Watson explained the intent of this recommendation, policy review, is to assist the Chair of the School Committee when appointing someone to fill the vacant seat on the Audit Advisory Board. Some further discussion ensued.

Vote:

In favor:

Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

William Clute
Thomas Curran
Erik Scheinfeldt

Abstained:

Lance Harris

Motion passed 13-3-1.

There was general discussion about setting the tone for the next budget season, FY15. Highlighting the positives of the District and inviting various groups to address the School Committee about priorities and what should be considered when developing the budget was suggested. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained that during the FY14 budget preparation season, the Business/Finance Subcommittee had implemented such a forum, inviting each principal to attend a Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting to present to that subcommittee their list of priorities and their “wish lists.” He also explained that in years past, presentations have been made to the School Committee, at regularly scheduled meetings, showcasing what was happening in the schools and throughout the District.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
Robert McCarthy
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent

AAG:rlp