

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1168 Monday, August 17, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Julianne Kelley
Cynthia Bazinet	Duncan Leith
Robert Carter	Robert Pelczarski
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
William Clute	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Sherry Conrad	Joseph Sova
Kristine Goodwin	Kori Stuart
Robert Imber	Dawn Torres-Gale

Committee Members Absent:

Steven Hammond	Michael Pantos
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Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Deputy Superintendent
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

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

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:10 PM, after a photograph was taken by a photographer from *The Landmark* for this annual back-to-school issue. Chair Watson informed those present that the meeting is being taped, not shown live, and she asked that cell phones be turned off. Chair Watson read the guidelines to the public hearing.

I. Public Hearing

Holden resident Noel Cary addressed the School Committee, raising the topic of the high school drama directorship. Superintendent Pandiscio responded to Mr. Cary's

questions, explaining that this position is a co-curricular activity and the District is seeking a faculty member who might be interested in acting as a liaison.

Upstage Co-president Lisa Genatorrio, dedication of Black Box Theater in Doug Ingalls' honor.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1167th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on July 20, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held July 20, 2009.

(D. Leith)
(C. Bazinet)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held July 20, 2009 were approved, by consensus, with Members Imber and Sova abstaining.

Upon inquiry, Superintendent Pandiscio stated he will be prepared to give a status report on "gifted education" offered in schools in his next Report to the School Committee.

- B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRDSC held on July 20, 2009

Chair Watson asked members to review the minutes and if no corrections of substance were noted, these minutes could be approved in public session. If substantive corrections are noted, the minutes would be approved in executive session.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session held July 20, 2009, to be released.

(C. Bazinet)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley

Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Robert Imber
Joseph Sova

(The motion passed 16-0-2)

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Business Manager'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 Watson reminded members of the New School Committee Member Orientation to be presented by MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, from 4:00 – 8:00 in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. Chair Watson circulated a sign up sheet asking members to indicate if they plan to attend.

Chair Watson informed the Committee that the School Committee will have a table at Holden Days, free of fees. Chair Watson publicly thanked Beverly Mansfield of Miles Funeral Home for the use of space at no cost. Member Torres-Gale is seeking volunteers to man the table on August 22, 2009 and a sign-up sheet was circulated. Chair Watson commented that volunteers to man the Holden Days table do not have to be from Holden.

The MASC/MASS Joint Conference will be held in Hyannis November 18 – 21, 2009 and Chair Watson asked that members interested in being registered let her know.

Chair Watson will be away on vacation from August 29 – September 7, 2009 and Vice-chair Nunnari will fill in as Chair if needed.

B. Student Representatives (Greg Savageau, Leanne Becker, Katie Carlson)

Chair Watson welcomed back Greg Savageau and welcomed new Student Representative Leanne Becker. Mr. Savageau reported on the recent problems encountered with high school students' schedules. Superintendent Pandiscio also addressed this recent problem, speaking as a former high school principal. He reported that a good faith attempt was made on the part of the high school administration to streamline the opening of school by giving a pre-opening day opportunity for students to address any scheduling issues. Discussion of the scheduling problems ensued.

- C. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, C. Bazinet, R. Imber, J. Kelley, D. Leith, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde)

Chair Watson reported the Management Subcommittee will meet on August 25, 2009. She announced the subcommittee will meet in September in order to orient the Student Representatives.

- D. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Nunnari, R. Pelczarski, N. Plourde, D. Torres-Gale)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported on the August 10, 2009 meeting of the Education Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chair Bazinet appreciated Thomas Prince School Principal Mary Cringan attending the meeting and she let the School Committee know that TPS Task Force meeting minutes are available on the website and those meetings are open to the public for anyone interested in attending. The Education Subcommittee will meet next on September 21, 2009 at 6:30 PM.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, R. Carter, W. Clute, M. Pantos, M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Leith reported the subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting, but he will be scheduling a meeting in the near future.

Motion: To remand draft language for a deposits and investments policy to the Business/Finance Subcommittee for action.

(R. Imber)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute

Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (C. Cipro, Chair, R. Carter, K. Goodwin, R. Pelczarski, M. Sciabarrasi, K. Stuart, D. Torres-Gale)

Subcommittee Chair Cipro reported the Community Outreach Subcommittee has a meeting scheduled for August 26, 2009.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (S. Conrad, J. Sova)

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported that a meeting of the AAB will be scheduled upon completion of the audit, probably sometime the end of September/the beginning of October.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Impact Bargaining with the Superintendent of Schools (N. Plourde, Chair, C. Bazinet, C. Cipro, D. Leith, J. Nunnari)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde reported that the ad hoc subcommittee held its final meeting immediately before this School Committee meeting and the work of the subcommittee has been completed. The minutes of the ad hoc subcommittee meetings will be included in the next Superintendent's Report. Chair Watson thanked those who served and discharged the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Impact Bargaining with the Superintendent of Schools.

- I. Building Committee (D. Leith, Chair)

1. High School

Building Committee Chair Leith reported receipt of the Certificate of Occupancy for the Wachusett Regional High School. He further reported final paperwork is being compiled for submission to MSBA. It is likely there will be one more meeting of the High School Building Committee, as a few bills connected to the project continue to come in, following which it is expected the Building Committee can be discharged.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Pantos), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (R. Carter), Dawson Elementary School (D. Torres-Gale), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Kelley), Houghton Elementary School (S. Conrad/N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (K. Goodwin), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (W. Clute), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Sciabarrasi), Wachusett Regional High School (D. Leith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (S. Jackson)

Stacey Jackson reported on a recent SEPAC pool party.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio gave a report on a recent meeting he had with representatives of the Quinicy school system regarding the GIC.

Member Imber thanked the Superintendent for investigating alternative energy sources.

Member Torres-Gale expressed her concern about attachment 10 of the Superintendent's Report (Wachusett Regional High School Staffing Cuts 2009-2010), stating she found the report to be negative. Discussion of the report ensued.

7:55 PM Student Representative Greg Savageau left the meeting.

For Member Carter's information Superintendent Pandiscio explained the role of the K-8 Facility Manager, a position that replaced the previously named position of Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds.

Discussion returned to the Wachusett Regional High School Staffing Cuts 2009-2010 report, with much input from a variety of School Committee members.

Member Sciabarrasi referenced Business Manager Brennan's report in which fundraising was mentioned. It was agreed that fundraising efforts should be

coordinated to ensure that the same individuals/groups are not approached repeatedly when funds are being raised.

Chair Watson questioned the use of late busses and who would be responsible for insurance. She also questioned if school PTAs would coordinate the running of late busses, if such is put into play. Business Manager Brennan reported the transportation company would be responsible for insurance. Superintendent Pandiscio explained the District could coordinate this effort on behalf of school PTAs.

8:20 PM Member Cipro left the table.

When asked where questions about cut in aide positions should be directed, the Superintendent told such questions should be directed to school principals.

Attachment 8 of the Superintendent's Report (MCAS graphs/cohorts) was reviewed and discussed. Superintendent Pandiscio explained the DESE basis for the cohort.

8:25 PM Member Cipro returned to the table.

Attachment 9 of the Superintendent's Report (Analysis of High School Administration) was reviewed and discussed.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Acceptance of Wachusett Regional High School Addition and Renovation Project

Motion: To accept the Wachusett Regional High School Additional and Renovation Project.

(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith

Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

2. Approval of the transfer of indirect costs from the MCAS grant (632) in the total amount of \$27.00 to the Professional Development revolving account

Motion: To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the MCAS grant (632) in the total amount of \$27.00 to the Professional Development revolving account.

(J. Sova)

(D. Torres-Gale)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

Robert Carter

(The motion passed 17-1.)

3. To authorize the Business Manager to transfer within the same major FY09 Appropriation categories surplus account balances to deficit account balances.

Motion: To authorize the Business Manager to transfer within the same major FY09 Appropriation categories surplus account balances to deficit account balances.

(J. Sova)

(R. Imber)

Superintendent Pandiscio called the Committee's attention to the Expenditure Summary which was a part of the Business Manager's report (attachment 2). He explained the purpose of this motion and the motion to follow.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

4. To authorize the Business Manager to transfer from surplus major FY09 Appropriation categories to deficit Appropriation categories.

Motion: To authorize the Business Manager to transfer from surplus major FY09 Appropriation categories to deficit Appropriation categories.

(J. Sova)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

5. To accept the evaluation of the Business Manager as presented

Chair Watson distributed copies of the April 8, 2008 memorandum from Superintendent Pandiscio to the Business/Finance Subcommittee and the August 13, 2009 Annual Evaluation of the Business Manager (attachments 3 & 4). Chair Watson explained the evaluation process for the Business Manager. The Business Manager will establish goals for the upcoming year.

Motion: To accept the evaluation of the Business Manager, as presented.

(D. Leith)
(D. Torres-Gale)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

VI. Public Hearing

Rutland resident John DiVito addressed the School Committee. He inquired the status of action being taken with regard to correspondence received from the parent of a Rutland WRHS Life Skills Program student, a copy of which was included in the Superintendent's Report.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

Motion: The Black Box Theater at Wachusett Regional High School be named in honor of Doug Ingalls.

(D. Leith
J. Sova)

The logistics of the motion were discussed, for example is policy being followed, when would a dedication ceremony be scheduled to take place. Student Representative Leanne Becker spoke in favor of the motion.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Motion: To nominate Robert Carter as the Wachusett Regional District School Committee voting delegate at the November 2009 MASC/MASS Joint Conference.
(J. Kelley)
(D. Torres-Gale)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Member Stuart has been approached by parents who question the lateness of notification of classroom assignments for the upcoming school year. The Superintendent explained operationally why such information is made public at the end of August. An informal poll of members was conducted, asking if others had been approached by Member Town residents. Discussion resulted.

Chair Watson referenced attachment 19 of the Superintendent's Report (Client Alert – August 2009, provided by Attorney Naomi Stonberg) (attachment 5). This alert outlines recent changes made to the Open Meeting Law.

Motion: To remand Client Alert – August 2009, which outlines modifications made to the Open Meeting Law, to the Management Subcommittee for review, examination and recommendation of action needed to be in compliance.

(R. Imber)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Chair Watson referenced attachment 6 of the Superintendent's Report, letter to High School Assistant Principal Catherine Knowles from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc

Motion: The Chair will write a letter of congratulations to Wachusett Regional High School Assistant Principal Catherine Knowles for the "Student Mentoring" program being included in the NEASC's Third Annual Showcase of Model School Programs.

(C. Bazinet)

(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Member Torres-Gale raised the topic of financial literacy, a topic she brought to the School Committee in the past, before she was a member of the Committee. This is a topic that had previously been taken under advisement by the Education Subcommittee. Discussion ensued.

Motion: The Education Subcommittee be directed to investigate matters brought to the School Committee's attention by Rutland parent Elizabeth Zglobicki in a letter dated August 4, 2009.

(J. Kelley)

(S. Jackson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari
Robert Carter
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Duncan Leith

Abstained:

Margaret Watson
Norman Plourde

(The motion passed 11-5-2.)

X. Adjournment

Member Imber voiced his opinion that too much meeting time is being spent on issues that ought to be dealt with at the school level.

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Nunnari)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley

Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp