

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1301

Monday, August 21, 2017  
7:00 PM

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School  
1401 Main Street, Holden

*Wachusett Regional School District Committee*

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Susan Hitchcock
Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Sarah LaMountain
Scott Brown	Benjamin Mitchel
Thomas Curran	Michael Rivers
Michael Dennis	Asima Silva
Harriet Fradellos	Megan Weeks
Stephen Godbout	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Robert Imber	Robin Van Liew
Linda Long-Bellil	Charles Witkes
Lauren Maldonado	Adam Young
Jon Edward Novak	

*Committee Members Participating Remotely:*

Matthew Lavoie

*Administration Present:*

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools  
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent  
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 Mills called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Chair Mills reported that Member Lavoie is participating remotely. Because of the remote participant, all votes taken during the meeting will be by roll call. Chair Mills announced the meeting was being shown live on Channel 194 and is streaming on Holden Cable Television.

I. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to address the School Committee

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills publically thanked Holden resident Robert McCarthy for the time he served on the School Committee, on the Audit Advisory Board, and on the Mountview Building Committee. Chair Mills is seeking a School Committee volunteer to serve on the Audit Advisory Board, to fill the vacancy created by Mr. McCarthy's resignation.

Chair Mills thanked all who supported the District's FY18 budget, which has now been approved by the five Member Towns.

Referencing Deputy Superintendent Berlo's report, Chair Mills commended Liz Hilton, an English Language Learner (ELL) teacher at Mayo Elementary School, who was identified as a model teacher by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and as a result was selected to participate in developing training videos to be used across the state.

Chair Mills reported on a meeting held immediately before this meeting, when he, Vice-chair Smith, Superintendent McCall, Deputy Superintendent Berlo, and Director of Business and Finance Scanlon met with their counterparts from Quabbin Regional School District to discuss the two districts' similarities and the possibility of the two districts working together to build on regional strengths. The group plans to meet again in October to continue discussions.

Chair Mills asked those present to observe a moment of silence in respect of former WRSD Superintendent Alfred D. Tutela who passed away on August 20, 2017.

III. Student Representatives' Reports

There were no students in attendance. Chair Mills expects this year's students to be on-board by the September meeting.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent McCall spoke about Dr. Tutela, recalling when he was hired as an Assistant Principal and the lessons he learned from the then Wachusett Superintendent.

Superintendent McCall reported on the annual Administrative Retreat, held Tuesday and Wednesday, August 15 & 16, 2017, at Wachusett Regional High School. When asked who provided the training/PD for development of School Improvement Plans, Deputy Superintendent Berlo approached the podium and spoke about the Retreat and the

instruction/discussions relating to the development of S.M.A.R.T. goals (Specific and Strategic; Measurable; Action Oriented; Rigorous, Realistic and Results Focused; Timed and Tracked) by principals and assistant principals, and how goals and School Improvement Plans are tied together. Deputy Superintendent Berlo then went on to explain how principal S.M.A.R.T. goals relate to District goals and the District Strategic Plan. He reported the professional development provided to the administrative team was quite extensive and well received. Discussion continued. In the next Superintendent's Report, Superintendent McCall will share materials and documents that were used and referenced at the Administrative Retreat.

Member Dennis asked if exit interviews had been conducted with the administrators who have recently left the employ of the Wachusett District, and he requested that a summary of the meetings be shared with the School Committee. Member Dennis also asked how the two Interim Principals (at Dawson Elementary School and Thomas Prince School) will be mentored and supported. Superintendent McCall explained he plans to meet with the two Interim Principals, as well as the new principal at Central Tree Middle School, on a monthly basis. Superintendent McCall also confirmed for Member Dennis that the Assistant Principals at Dawson Elementary School and Thomas Prince School will be interim, one year appointments.

Superintendent McCall spoke about the final report of the Holden Education Options Review Committee, a copy of which had been included in the Superintendent's Report. Superintendent McCall briefly reported on the meeting of the committee which he had attended in December 2016, and also commented on some of the recommendations included in the report.

Vice-chair Smith publically thanked former Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services Catherine Knowles for all the time and effort she gave to the District, specifically her work with the Health and Wellness Committee and on the Education Subcommittee.

At Member Brown's inquiry, Superintendent McCall spoke about distribution of Chromebooks to incoming high school freshmen, distribution planned for August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. General discussion about internet capability and connectivity took place. There was also some discussion about the Network Manager position. Superintendent McCall reported the position has been posted and there has been some interest. Superintendent McCall will keep the Committee apprised as this hiring process moves forward.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To accept the Wachusett Regional School District School

Improvement Plans for the Wachusett Regional High School and the Early Childhood Center

(M. Weeks)

(S. Brown)

Member Weeks applauded the additional work put into the WRHS and ECC School Improvement Plans, expressing her opinion that both are greatly improved, though she feels the high school SIP is still a bit ambitious.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Harriet Fradellos  
Stephen Godbout  
Susan Hitchcock  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Michael Rivers  
Asima Silva  
Megan Weeks

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1300<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on July 12, 2017

Deferred

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Mills 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 (K. Mills, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, M. Dennis, S. Hitchcock)

Chair Mills reported on the August 7, 2017 meeting of this subcommittee.

- B. Education Subcommittee (C. Smith, Chair, M. Lavoie, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. LaMountain, L. Long-Bellil, L. Maldonado, A. Silva, R. Van Liew, M. Weeks)

Education Subcommittee Chair Smith reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting. At Chair Mills' inquiry, Education Subcommittee Chair Smith will add school start times and follow-up from Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the School Calendar meetings to the agenda of the Education Subcommittee, which will meet next on September 11, 2017.

Subcommittee Chair Smith spoke about Draft Policy 6121 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Student Residency Policy**, providing the Committee with background on the development of this draft policy.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 6121 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Student Residency Policy**.

(C. Smith)  
(S. Brown)

Subcommittee Chair Smith read aloud the draft policy. Following the reading of the draft policy, much discussion ensued with most members of the Committee and the Superintendent participating in the discussion.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Harriet Fradellos  
Stephen Godbout  
Susan Hitchcock  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Michael Rivers  
Asima Silva  
Megan Weeks

*Opposed:*

Kenneth Mills

The motion passed 13-1.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, Robert McCarthy, Vice-chair, L. Long-Bellil, B. Mitchel, J. E. Novak, C. Witkes, A. Young)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Dennis reported on the August 14, 2017 meeting of the subcommittee.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Hitchcock, Chair, S. Brown, Vice-chair, T. Curran, H. Fradellos, Stephen Godbout, Michael Rivers)

Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, S. LaMountain, M. Lavoie, M. Weeks)

Chair Mills reported on the August 7, 2017 meeting of this subcommittee and informed members the subcommittee will meet next on September 6, 2017. It is anticipated the Superintendent's draft goals will be provided to the School Committee in advance of the September 11, 2017 regular School Committee meeting, for review and discussion at that meeting.

- F. Audit Advisory Board (C. Witkes, Chair, R. McCarthy)

In AAB Chair Witkes' absence, Chair Mills again mentioned that a second member of the School Committee is needed to serve on the AAB, due to Robert McCarthy's recent resignation. Chair Mills reported a Sterling resident has volunteered to serve on the AAB, but that resident members from Paxton and Rutland are still needed.

- G. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

- 1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Budget Sustainability (K. Mills, Chair, A. Young, Vice-chair, M. Lavoie, L. Long-Bellil)

Chair Mills reported on the July 31, 2017 meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee.

- H. Building Committees

- 1. Mountview Building Committee

Superintendent McCall reported this building committee has not met recently.

H. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (J. E. Novak), Chocksett Middle School (S. Godbout), Davis Hill Elementary School (A. Silva), Dawson Elementary School (A. Young), Glenwood Elementary School (M. Lavoie), Houghton Elementary School (S. Godbout), Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (C. Witkes), Paxton Center School (B. Mitchel), Thomas Prince School (M. Weeks), Wachusett Regional High School (S. LaMountain/M. Rivers), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (A. Young), Early Childhood Center (L. Maldonado)

There were no School Council reports made.

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

Member Smith informed the Committee that a group of interested citizens are banding together to form a committee interested in supporting the District. She explained that community members from the five Member Towns are welcome to attend the initial meeting of this group, scheduled for September 6, 2017, 6:30 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Mills announced the Committee would not need to adjourn to executive session.

Motion: To adjourn.

(S. Brown)  
(S. Hitchcock)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Michael Dennis  
Harriet Fradellos  
Stephen Godbout  
Susan Hitchcock  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lavoie

Benjamin Mitchel  
Michael Rivers  
Asima Silva  
Megan Weeks

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Sign-in sheets





