

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session I

Monday, September 10, 2012

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

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

*Committee Members Absent:*

William Clute

*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 7:07 PM. Chair Leith turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio. Superintendent Pandiscio announced his intention to retire effective December 15, 2012. Superintendent Pandiscio distributed copies of the August 17, 2012 letter from Glenwood Elementary School principal Anthony Gasbarro to Chair Leith (attachment 1). Superintendent Pandiscio spoke about Principal Gasbarro's employment history with the District, and about his qualifications. Superintendent Pandiscio reported his opinion that the current Assistant Principal at Glenwood Elementary School is qualified to be appointed as school principal. Superintendent Pandiscio reported on a conversation he had with Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Executive Director Tom Scott, who is of the opinion that it may be difficult to find qualified candidates willing and available to serve as an Interim Superintendent. Superintendent Pandiscio explained that by appointing an Interim Superintendent, to serve in the position until summer 2013, the School Committee should have sufficient time to conduct a thorough search for a new Superintendent, without having to rush into making any decisions. Superintendent

Pandiscio told the Committee he would remain available to consult with the Interim Superintendent, as needed, and would also be available to consult with the District's executive staff, if necessary. Superintendent Pandiscio offered the School Committee the opportunity to contract with him to serve as the School Committee chief negotiator, in light of the fact that there are six bargaining union contracts that will expire June 30, 2013. Superintendent Pandiscio briefly touched on details of such contracted services, proposing his fee to negotiate the six contracts be \$15,000. There was general conversation about money that may be saved upon Superintendent Pandiscio's retirement, the cost associated with appointing an Interim Superintendent, the cost associated with union negotiations, the cost associated with a superintendent search. There was general discussion about what is involved when negotiating union contracts, whether or not Anthony Gasbarro would be "capable" of negotiating, how union negotiations were conducted under the former administration, specifically when Attorney Naomi Stonberg served as chief negotiator and the costs associated with her services. Discussion continued.

Motion: To direct the Management Subcommittee to meet with Principal Anthony Gasbarro to discuss the Interim Superintendent position.

(S. Hammond)  
(M. Watson)

The motion was discussed.

Member Cipro made a friendly amendment that the Management Subcommittee bring a recommendation to the full School Committee at its October 9, 2012 meeting. This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion. The amended motion was read.

Motion: To direct the Management Subcommittee to meet with Principal Anthony Gasbarro to discuss the Interim Superintendent position, and that the Management Subcommittee bring a recommendation to the full School Committee at its October 9, 2012 meeting.

(S. Hammond)  
(M. Watson)

More discussion ensued. Some members would prefer a recommendation by the Management Subcommittee before October 9, 2012. A review of upcoming meetings was done. Education Subcommittee Chair Hammond offered to postpone the meeting of that subcommittee, scheduled to meet on September 19, 2012, in order to make that date available for the Management Subcommittee to meet with Principal Anthony Gasbarro. School Committee members will be polled to check their availability in order to schedule a special School Committee meeting after the Management Subcommittee meets.

Lengthy discussion ensued, with most members participating in the discussion. Chair Leith reminded members that the meeting of the Management Subcommittee is a public meeting, and all School Committee members are welcome to attend. Member Hammond re-read the motion, substituting "at a special School Committee meeting, by September 24, 2012, earlier if possible" in place of "at its October 9, 2012 meeting."

Motion: To direct the Management Subcommittee to meet with Principal Anthony Gasbarro to discuss the Interim Superintendent position, and that the Management Subcommittee bring a recommendation to the full School Committee at a special School Committee meeting, by September 24, 2012, earlier if possible.

(S. Hammond)

(M. Watson)

Member Kelley asked if it would be announced in public session that Anthony Gasbarro will act as Interim Superintendent. Superintendent Pandiscio was comfortable that Mr. Gasbarro would have no objections to such a public announcement. The motion was again re-read.

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  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

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

(J. Mason)

(S. Hammond)

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  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

The executive session adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp