

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1223 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 (7:06 PM) |
| 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

Student Representatives Present:

Emily Tomczyk (7:45 PM)

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

Chair Leith called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:02 PM.

Motion: To amend the meeting agenda, adding as the first item of business “Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, to return to public session.” (attachment 2)

(M. Watson)

(L. Harris)

Chair Leith explained this motion requires affirmative votes by two-thirds of the members present (18 present at time of vote; 12 votes in favor required).

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Deidre Kosky
Kenneth Mills

Motion passed 16-2.

Motion: To enter executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, to return to public session.

(J. Mason)

(N.Plourde)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Deidre Kosky
Kenneth Mills

Motion passed 16-2.

7:06 PM Member Tsongalis joined the meeting.

The School Committee adjourned to executive session.

7:45 PM The School Committee returned to public session.

Chair Leith reported that Superintendent of School Thomas Pandiscio will retire, effective December 15, 2012. Chair Leith reported that Glenwood Elementary School principal Anthony Gasbarro will be interviewed by the Management Subcommittee, to consider his serving as Interim Superintendent.

7:47 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

II. Public Hearing

Dawn Torres-Gale, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

Bruce Pennino, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

Maureen Floryan, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

Adam Perkins, Rutland, addressed the School Committee.

Christine Mulry, Rutland, read a prepared statement (attachment 3)

Chair Leith distributed the August 31, 2012 letter he received from Brian J. Bullock (attachment 4). Chair Leith read Mr. Bullock's letter into the record.

Member Jackson read into the record a letter sent by email from Robert Lavigne of Jefferson (attachment 5).

8:07 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

III. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1222nd Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on August 20, 2012

Member Jackson asked that the minutes be corrected on page 13 to reflect a motion she had made was ruled out of order.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held August 20, 2012, as corrected.

(M. Watson)

(J. Mason)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held August 20, 2012 were approved, as corrected, by consensus with Members Harris, Imber, Kosky, LaMountain, and Remillard abstaining.

B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on August 20, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session of the Wachusett Regional School Committee held August 20, 2012, not to be released.

(M. Watson)

(A. Tsongalis)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Cynthia Bazinet
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Robert Remillard

Motion passed 12-0-7.

IV. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Leith reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

V. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Leith spoke about the December 15, 2012 retirement of Superintendent Pandiscio.

B. Student Representatives

Emily Tomczyk expressed the apologies of Emily Lindberg, who was unable to be at the meeting as she is a girls' soccer team captain and practice was being held at the same time as the School Committee meeting. Ms Tomczyk read Ms. Lindberg's report (attachment 6). Ms. Tomczyk spoke about the opening of school, student use of electronics, on a limited basis, how teachers and students are trying to "go paperless," and a planned voter registration in preparation for the upcoming elections. At Member Tsongalis' questioning, Ms Tomczyk spoke about the difficulties being encountered because wireless internet access is not available in the high school's Media Center or cafeteria.

C. Management Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, C. Cipro, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde, R. Remillard, M. Sciabarrasi, M. Watson)

Chair Leith reported the Management Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, September 19, 2012, at 7:00 PM in the Media Center of WRHS. The interview of the candidate for the Interim Superintendent position will be the only agenda item.

D. Education Subcommittee (S. Hammond, Chair, C. Bazinet, L. Harris, R. Imber, K. Mills, R. Pelczarski, N. Plourde, M. Watson)

Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported this subcommittee had met immediately before this School Committee meeting to approve the Education Subcommittee minutes of August 15, 2012. Subcommittee Chair Hammond explained the minutes needed to be approved in order to be submitted to MSBA along with other Mountview Building Committee documents. The meeting of the Education Subcommittee, posted for September 19th, has been canceled and will be rescheduled.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (R. Remillard, Chair, E. Scheinfeldt, Vice-chair, W. Clute, L. Harris, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, D. Leith, J. Mason, M. Sciabarrasi)

Subcommittee Chair Remillard reported this subcommittee has met twice since the last School Committee meeting, one of the meetings being a joint meeting with the Audit Advisory Board.

Subcommittee Chair Remillard reported, on behalf of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Hire a Business Manager, that interviews of Business Manager candidates will take place September 11th and September 18th. These interviews will be conducted in the Curriculum Center at the District Central office. If any members of the School Committee have questions they would like asked of the candidates, the questions should be submitted to Subcommittee Chair Remillard before 5:30 PM on September 11th.

Chair Leith reported that Rutland Cable had filmed the August 30, 2012 joint meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee and the Audit Advisory Board. Chair Leith gave an overview of the Audit Advisory Board's opinion to be cautious about moving too quickly to a forensic audit.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

No report was made.

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (S. Jackson, Chair, M. Sciabarrasi, Vice-chair, L. Harris, J. Kelley, J. Mason, K. Mills, A. Tsongalis, M. Watson)

Community Outreach Chair Jackson reported on the September 5th meeting of this subcommittee. This subcommittee will meet next on October 17th; the meeting will be held at the Thomas Prince School in Princeton, beginning at 7:00 PM.

G. Audit Advisory Board (J. Mason, R. Remillard)

Member Mason reiterated Chair Leith's statement about the Audit Advisory Board's caution about moving too quickly to a forensic audit.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Hire a Business Manager (W. Clute, L. Harris, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, D. Leith, J. Mason, R. Remillard, E. Schneifeldt, M. Sciabarrasi)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Remillard had reported earlier about the interviews to be conducted September 11, 2012 and September 18, 2012.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Kelley, Chair, W. Clute, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley reported this subcommittee will have its initial meeting on September 12th, and it is planned that Christine Lynch from DESE will attend a meeting, in the near future, to help answer questions the subcommittee may have. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley invited all members of the School Committee to submit to her questions they might want to ask a DESE representative about the Regional Agreement.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported that this building committee has met several times since the last School Committee meeting. She reminded members that the Mountview Building Committee meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Member Hammond reported he has attended a meeting and he commended the members of the building committee for the work they are doing. Member Kelley encouraged members to check out the Mountview project link on the District website.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee (D. Leith)

Chair Leith had nothing to report at this time.

J. 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

Chair Leith distributed the listing of School Council liaison assignments (attachment 7).

There were no School Council reports.

8:30 PM Member Hammond left the table.

VI. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report

At Member Harris' inquiry about any resolution to the DESE v DOR difference regarding the budget close-out, Superintendent Pandiscio told the Committee of a conference call he will have with DESE representatives Jay Sullivan and Christine Lynch, and Richard Sullivan and Craig Peacock of Powers & Sullivan. This conference call is scheduled for Friday, September 14, 2012.

Member Imber reported he has been hearing complaints about students being expected to print from their home computers, in an attempt by the District/schools to reduce paper consumption/"go paperless." Superintendent Pandiscio acknowledged there may be a need to better communicate with principals what is expected of schools/teachers/students/parents in the District's attempt to "go paperless." The Superintendent will address this topic with principals at the September 18th Cabinet meeting.

8:33 PM Member Hammond returned to the table.

Following up on the concerns expressed during the Public Hearing about the parking permit insurance binder requirement, Member Imber asked if specifics about this requirement could be investigated.

Following up on the concerns expressed during the Public Hearing about students saying there are certain things they "can't do" because of the budget, and following Member Imber's comments about complaints he has heard about paper reduction, Superintendent Pandiscio assured the Committee he will address these concerns with the principals at the Cabinet meeting. The Superintendent accepted responsibility for any misunderstanding students/parents/teachers have about the tight budget and the District's attempts to save money by conserving, but will better communicate and will discuss with principals on September 18th. Superintendent Pandiscio advised that parents should feel free to approach the building principals with their questions and concerns.

8:40 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. That Dr. Thomas Pandiscio be given a vote of confidence at this meeting leading to his staying in the Wachusett School district until at least the end of his present contract.

Member Plourde withdrew this motion.

2. To approve the draft guidelines for the School Committee Online Bulletin

Member Jackson read aloud the Draft Guidelines for School Committee Online Bulletin, a copy of which had been provided to the School Committee in the Superintendent's Report (attachment 8). Discussion about the proposed Bulletin Board ensued.

8:45 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

Motion: To approve the draft guidelines for the School Committee Online Bulletin

(S. Jackson)
(J. Kelley)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis

Opposed:

Lance Harris
Norman Plourde
Margaret Watson

Abstained:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro

Motion passed 14-3-2

VII. Public Hearing

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

VIII. Unfinished business

Member Sciabarrasi raised a concern that distributing materials during a School Committee might be a violation of the Open Meeting Law. After general discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that this practice does not violate the Open Meeting Law. Member Scheinfeldt confirmed that such distribution does not violate the Open Meeting Law.

IX. New Business

Member Mills suggested a presentation on food service regulations be made at a future School Committee meeting.

Member Tsongalis asked that members of the public who attend School Committee meetings sit in the area designated and set up for the audience.

For the record, Member Watson read a prepared statement (attachment 9).

X. Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel, and to discuss pending litigation, not to return to public session.

Motion: To adjourn to executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel, and to discuss pending litigation, not to return to public session.

(R. Imber)
(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 meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp