

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1169 Monday, September 14, 2009

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Robert Imber
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson
Cynthia Bazinet	Julianne Kelley
Robert Carter	Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro	Robert Pelczarski
William Clute	Norman Plourde
Sherry Conrad (7:07 PM)	Joseph Sova
Kristine Goodwin	Dawn Torres-Gale
Steven Hammond	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Michael Pantos  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Kori Stuart

*Administration Present:*

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

*Student Representatives Present:*

Leanne Becker  
Katie Carlson  
Greg Savageau

*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 7:05 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1168<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on August 17, 2009

Member Imber noted a correction that should be made to the draft minutes; page 6, second paragraph under V. Superintendent's Report, "being done into" should be deleted.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held August 17, 2009, as corrected.

(J. Sova)  
(D. Leith)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held August 17, 2009 were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Member Hammond abstaining.

### 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.

7:07 PM Member Conrad joined the meeting.

### IV. Committee Reports

- A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson introduced Central Tree Middle School Principal Erik Githmark, who addressed the Committee, highlighting the many exciting and rewarding activities and offerings available to students at CTMS. When the presentation concluded, members were given the opportunity to ask questions of Principal Githmark, which several did. Chair Watson thanked Principal Githmark for attending the meeting and he was given a round of applause.

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

Chair Watson welcomed Katie Carlson to her first School Committee meeting and also re-introduced Leanne Becker and Greg Savageau. Chair Watson informed the Committee that the Student Representatives have been invited to the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Management Subcommittee, along with WRHS Assistant Principal Drew Weymouth, in order for the students to receive orientation of what their duties are while they serve as Student Representatives to the School Committee. Chair Watson invited the students to participate in discussions at School Committee meetings, if they so wish, and explained how they can get their name on the list of speakers, which Vice-chair Nunnari tracks.

7:29 PM Principal Githmark left the meeting.

Leanne Becker spoke of the opening football game, played on September 11th, which Wachusett won. She also commented that the first day of school went smoothly at WRHS. The Freshmen Mentoring program is up and running and is being well received by students. Ms. Becker did comment that some classes are large, mentioning there are 26 students in her English class.

Katie Carlson reported that members of the Student Council participated in a cancer walk sponsored by UMass Memorial and noted that the goal of raising \$6,000 may be exceeded. Ms. Carlson commented that the lack of late bus service to the five towns is missed and asked if something could be worked out whereby students could purchase a pass to pay for this service.

Greg Savageau is a senior and reported that this year's school opening on September 2<sup>nd</sup> was the smoothest he's experienced in his four years at WRHS.

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

Chair Watson reported on the August 25, 2009 Management Subcommittee meeting. She called the Committee's attention to attachment 5 of the September 10<sup>th</sup> Superintendent's Report, *Open Meeting Law - Client Alert* received from Attorney Naomi Stonberg.

1. Amended Policy – AP1170 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Use of Electronic Messaging Between and Among School Committee Members**– first reading

Chair Watson explained the reasoning behind the amendments and read aloud the amended language. Member Goodwin offered her opinion that two sentences be moved within the policy, for ease of reading. This movement within the wording was agreed to by the Committee. This policy, and use of electronic messaging between and among members of the School Committee, was discussed. Superintendent Pandiscio informed the Committee that District Counsel McCabe has provided an opinion, which was received just before the start of this meeting.

7:55 PM Student Representative Carlson left the meeting.

This policy continued to be discussed. Superintendent Pandiscio asked that questions posed by School Committee members be pulled together at one time, so that District Counsel can be asked for an opinion once, addressing all questions, rather than being asked for individual legal opinions, which result in individual legal fees.

Motion: To accept AP1170 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Use of Electronic Messaging Between and Among School Committee Members**, as amended on the floor.

(J. Sova)  
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Duncan Leith  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

Dawn Torres-Gale

*Abstained:*

Margaret Watson  
Julianne Kelley

(The motion passed 14-1-2)

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy – AP1170 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Use of Electronic Messaging Between and Among School Committee Members** – waiving the reading.

(J. Nunnari)  
(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin

Steven Hammond  
Stacey Jackson  
Duncan Leith  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

Robert Imber  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Abstained:*

Margaret Watson  
Julianne Kelley

(The motion passed 13-2-2)

8:17 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

2. Draft Policy – DP1620 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Notice to Committee Members and Public** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy – DP1620 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Notice to Committee Members and Public.**

(J. Nunnari)  
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

*In favor:*

John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Margaret Watson

(The motion passed 16-0-1)

8:19 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

3. Amended Policy – AP1680 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Minutes of School Committee**– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy – AP1680 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Minutes of School Committee**.

(J. Nunnari)

(D. Leith)

The amended policy was reviewed and discussed. A suggestion was made by Member Hammond that language be added stating when minutes are released in draft form, they will be prominently marked as draft. When Chair Watson stated addition of such language would be considered substantive, the maker and seconder of the motion withdrew the motion.

4. Amended Policy – AP1681.2 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Video Taping of School Committee Meetings** – first reading

Chair Watson referenced attachment 20 of the September 10<sup>th</sup> Superintendent's Report and then read aloud the amended language of AP1681.2.

Motion: To remand AP1681.2 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Video Taping of School Committee Meetings** to the Management Subcommittee for further review and reconsideration.

(J. Kelley)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

*In favor:*

John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter

Colleen Cipro

William Clute

Shirley Conrad

Kristine Goodwin

Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*  
None

*Abstained:*  
Margaret Watson

(The motion passed 16-0-1)

Chair Watson reviewed for the audience amendments being proposed to the WRDSC By-Laws and explained that action on these proposed amendments will be taken at the October 13, 2009 School Committee meeting.

Chair Watson again reminded members the Management Subcommittee would meet on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office.

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

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported the Education Subcommittee will meet on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

- 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 on the September 2, 2009 meeting of the subcommittee.

1. Draft Policy – DP4621 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Deposits and Investments** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy – DP4621 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Deposits and Investments**, waiving the reading.

(J. Sova)  
(S. Conrad)

Business/Finance Chair Leith summarized this policy. Member Bazinet offered to make stylistic changes in order to make the policy language flow. This offer was accepted by the School Committee.

Vote:

*In favor:*

John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Margaret Watson

(The motion passed 15-0-1)

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

Subcommittee Chair Cipro reported on the Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting of August 26<sup>th</sup> and announced the subcommittee will meet next on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Motion: To recommend to the School Committee that the administration be asked to establish a list (email or regular US Postal mail) to be used, in addition to the regular practice of posting, for the purpose of notifying interested members of the community of the following:

- School Committee agendas for regular and special School Committee meetings;
- Notification of the approval of School Committee minutes with information as to where the minutes can be found on the District's website;
- School Committee press releases.

(C. Cipro)



(K. Goodwin)

Subcommittee Chair Cipro spoke to the motion and questions were asked by members. The Superintendent is seeking clarification of what is hoped to be achieved when implementing this motion. Following discussion about what would be accomplished by having press releases available online in advance of publication in local newspapers, Members Cipro and Goodwin accepted a friendly amendment deleting bullet #3 (School Committee press releases).

Motion: To recommend to the School Committee that the administration be asked to establish a list (email or regular US Postal mail) to be used, in addition to the regular practice of posting, for the purpose of notifying interested members of the community of the following:

- School Committee agendas for regular and special School Committee meetings;
- Notification of the approval of School Committee minutes with information as to where the minutes can be found on the District's website.

(C. Cipro)  
(K. Goodwin)

Vote:

*In favor:*

John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Margaret Watson

(The motion passed 15-0-1)

Superintendent Pandiscio will have suggestions prepared for Community Outreach review at its meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 on how this vote might be put into practice.

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported that a meeting of the AAB will most likely be scheduled in October.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committee (D. Leith, Chair)

1. High School

Building Committee Chair Leith reported a few purchase orders are still outstanding. Once all final invoices have been received and all purchase orders can be closed, a last meeting of the Building Committee will be scheduled. Superintendent Pandiscio reported the Commissioning Report has been turned over to the District.

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 the SEPAC business meeting will be September 23, 2009 at Davis Hill Elementary School.

ECC opening day - Stacey Jackson

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Kelley extended kudos to the Superintendent on the handling of President Obama's September 8<sup>th</sup> address to school students.

8:53 PM Student Representative Savageau left the meeting.

District Counsel McCabe's letter in reference to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Supplemental Revenue FY11 was reviewed. Chair Watson announced that Members Sciabarrasi and Sova have agreed to serve as co-chairs of this ad hoc subcommittee.

Attachment 6 of the Superintendent's September 10<sup>th</sup> Report, the September 9, 2009 memorandum from Deputy Superintendent Locke to the Superintendent, was discussed. Following review of the memorandum and general discussion, Superintendent Pandiscio gave the Committee his suggestions for the next course of action: (1) conduct a needs assessment; (2) assess programs and model programs; (3) prepare analysis of costs associated with any recommendations.

Motion: To remand Deputy Superintendent Locke's September 9, 2009 memorandum to Superintendent Pandiscio, including suggestions made by the Superintendent to (1) conduct a needs assessment; (2) assess programs and model programs; (3) prepare analysis of costs associated with any recommendations, to the Education Subcommittee for review. A report should be prepared for full School Committee review at the January 25, 2010 regular School Committee meeting.

(C. Bazinet)

(D. Torres-Gale)

Vote:

*In favor:*

John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Margaret Watson

(The motion passed 15-0-1)

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Approval of FY09 Final Appropriation

Motion: To approve the FY09 Final Appropriation, as presented (attachment 2).

(R. Imber)

(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

Member Kelley wished to follow up on the comments made by Student Representative Carlson regarding late buses. There was discussion of a voluntary charge to students/families for those interested in late bus service. Chair Watson questioned if any of the District school PTAs/PTOs had expressed interest in picking

up this expense. Superintendent Pandiscio did comment that late bus service from the high school to the five Member Towns would be very expensive for interested families. Business Manager Brennan confirmed that the District had saved \$134,000 in the FY10 budget by eliminating late bus service.

IX. Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, not to return to public session

Motion: To enter executive session to discuss pending litigation, not to return to public session.

(S. Conrad)  
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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