

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1259 Monday, September 15, 2014
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Committee Members Present:

Lance Harris, Chair	Robert McCarthy
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Kenneth Mills
Scott Brown	Steve Porter
Michael Dennis	Robert Remillard
Matthew Ehrenworth	Barbara Renzoni
Timothy Ethier	Brian Ruttle (7:02 PM)
Susan Hitchcock	Erik Scheinfeldt
Stacey Jackson	Christina Smith
Julianne Kelley	Charles Witkes
Sarah LaMountain	

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Curran	Deidre Kosky
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Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

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

Chair Harris called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Heidi Lahey, WREA President, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

7:02 PM Member Ruttle joined the meeting.

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris called members' attention to Audit Questionnaires prepared for each, asking they complete and signed. These questionnaires are needed by District auditors as part of the annual audit.

Chair Harris is still seeking volunteers willing to serve as School Committee liaisons on five School Councils. Interested members should speak with the Chair.

Chair Harris announced that Members Hitchcock and Renzoni have volunteered to serve on the Collaborative Budget Task Force, School Committee members representing the towns of Paxton and Sterling. This Task Force will meet on October 1, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

III. Student Representatives' Reports (Linnea Budd, Liam Fritsche)

Student Representative Fritsche reported that the Guidance Department was open to making schedule changes, and he asked for an update on the development of a District-wide calendar, which Superintendent McCall reported a broader District calendar is being investigated.

Student Representative Budd also spoke about the Guidance Department and how helpful staff has been. She also reported that many freshmen are showing up at club registrations and seem to be interested in being involved in the school community.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent McCall made a very brief presentation, showing the newly released Wachusett District app and explaining its features.

Superintendent McCall gave a report on student transportation the first two weeks of the school year. He reported Ron Ernenwein of AA Transportation will be attending the September 16, 2014 meeting of the Facilities & Security Subcommittee to speak about transportation and to answer any questions subcommittee members may have. Member Dennis asked for an explanation of the magnitude of impact of busing issues the first several days of school and the cause for such disruptions. Director of Business and Finance Scanlon approached the podium, reporting that Ron Ernenwein of AA Transportation has prepared a written response, detailing the areas of concern, and Director Scanlon is preparing a corrective action plan.

7:48 PM Member Scheinfeldt left the table.

Superintendent McCall spoke about the September 4th visit to Thomas Prince School by Governor Patrick and Secretary of Education Malone.

Member Kelley has questions about the capacity for the new Mountview Middle School, currently under construction, and asked that Superintendent McCall research this matter, in light of a recent article in *The Landmark* which listed school capacity numbers out of line with what she, as a School Committee member, understood.

Member Dennis would like an analysis of student move-ins and move-outs.

7:50 PM Member Scheinfeldt returned to the table.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$55,075 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Mountview Middle School

(R. Imber)

(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Timothy Ethier
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Brian Ruttle
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion: To accept \$500 grant from the Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation (Kid's Fitness Challenge) awarded to Dawson Elementary School

(S. Porter)
(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Timothy Ethier
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Brian Ruttle
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee

VI. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of Special Meeting 1258th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on August 11, 2014

Motion: To approve minutes of regular meeting #1258 of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on August 11, 2014

(K. Mills)

(C. Smith)

The minutes were approved, with Members Imber, LaMountain, and Remillard abstaining.

- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on June 23, 2014.

Motion: To approve minutes of the June 23, 2014 executive session of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, not to be released.

(K. Mills)
(S. Jackson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Timothy Ethier
Stacey Jackson
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Susan Hitchcock
Steve Porter
Robert Remillard
Brian Ruttle
Erik Scheinfeldt

The motion passed 12-0-7.

VII.. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Harris 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 (L. Harris, Chair, R. Imber, Vice-chair, K. Mills, Barbara Renzoni, E. Scheinfeldt)

Chair Harris reported the Management Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

- B. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, T. Ethier, R. Remillard, C. Smith)

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee will meet at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (B. Renzoni, Chair, M. Dennis, Vice-chair, S. Jackson, B. Ruttle, C. Witkes)

Subcommittee Chair Renzoni reported on the September 10, 2014 meeting of this subcommittee, when the main agenda item was the evaluation process for the Director of Business and Finance.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, S. Brown, Vice-chair, M. Ehrenworth, S. Hitchcock, J. Kelley)

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported on the August meeting of this subcommittee, and announced the subcommittee would meet next on September 18, 2014.

1. Amended Policy – 5241.12 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Criminal Record Check (CORI*) Background Checks** – second reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 5241.12 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Criminal Record Check (CORI*) Background Checks**, waiving the reading
(M. Ehrenworth)
(J. Kelley)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Timothy Ethier
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Robert Remillard

Barbara Renzoni
Brian Ruttle
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to continue legal services from Brody, Hardoon, Perkins and Kesten for the purposes of collective bargaining with the Wachusett Regional Education Association, Inc.

(M.Ehrenworth)
(S. Jackson)

Subcommittee Chair Mills spoke briefly to the motion.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Timothy Ethier
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Brian Ruttle
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Facilities & Security Subcommittee (E. Scheinfeldt, Chair, R. McCarthy, Vice-chair, T. Curran, S. LaMountain, S. Porter)

Facilities & Security Chair Scheinfeldt reported this subcommittee will meet next on September 16, 2014.

- F. Audit Advisory Board (J. Kelley, Chair)

AAB Chair Kelley reported three new members have been appointed to the Audit Advisory Board. She then reported on the September 9, 2014 meeting of the AAB. AAB Chair Kelley reported the draft audit may be ready by the end of October.

- G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review Evaluation and Hiring Policy (K. Mill, Chair, R. Remillard, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Ehrenworth, C. Smith)

- a. Amended Policy – 5100 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Personnel Policy Policies Goals** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Draft Policy 5100 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Personnel Policy Policies Goals**, waiving the reading

(K. Mills)

(M. Ehrenworth)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Timothy Ethier
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Brian Ruttle
Erik Scheinfeldt

Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Member McCarthy reported on the August meeting of the Building Committee, and Superintendent McCall reported on the September meeting. Members were reminded of the groundbreaking ceremony planned for Saturday, September 20th.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee

No report made.

I. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (TBD), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Smith), Dawson Elementary School (D. Kosky), Glenwood Elementary School (TBD), Houghton Elementary School (TBD), Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (M. Ehrenworth), Paxton Center School (TBD), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/B. Ruttle), Wachusett Regional High School (E. Scheinfeldt), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (TBD)

Member Smith – Davis Hill Elementary School, September 15, 2014 – Member Smith reported the Davis Hill SIMCO voted approval of the Davis Hill School Improvement Plan

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

Member Jackson reported that she and Member Kelley have been meeting with the Spencer Town Administrator, representatives of MASC and MARS, and area legislators to review and discuss MLC (Minimum Local Contribution) and the state Foundation Formula. A forum to discuss this topic in depth is being planning for Thursday, October 23, 2014, at 6:30 PM,

location to be determined, Members Jackson and Kelley will keep the Committee informed as plans for this forum continue to develop.

Member Dennis asked about the Superintendent's draft Performance Goals 2014-2015 and what the next steps will be. Chair Harris explained that each subcommittee should have the Superintendent's goals on their meeting agendas, for review and consideration. Chair Harris explained that he is hopeful Superintendent McCall's 2014-2015 goals will be finalized by the end of November. Chair Harris further explained that District-wide goals will be established after Superintendent McCall's goals are determined.

Member Dennis asked if the School Committee could hear from administration about the NEASC report recently received, following the spring 2014 accreditation visit. Superintendent McCall will ask WRHS Principal Beando to attend a School Committee meeting to report on the accreditation visit and findings.

Member Dennis requested an analysis of TellMass survey.

Member Scheinfeldt reported on the Mock Trial program now being offered at the high school, and he wanted to publically thank the Wachusett Booster Club for a \$1,000 donation. Member Scheinfeldt reported that others in the community had very generously donated start up funds for this extra curricular activity, for which he is very grateful.

Member Porter raised the matter of a recent newspaper article reporting on the \$1 million surplus and how such articles can cause credibility issues for the District. Chair Harris spoke about the newspaper article and the headlines, commenting that the School Committee cannot write the headlines. Discussion ensued about actions that should be./might be taken when an image damaging article appears in the newspaper. Suggestion was made to issue a press release rebutting inaccurate information reported in newspaper articles.

Member Smith wanted to publically thank Wachusett Regional High School teachers and staff who worked on the spring 2014 accreditation visit.

At Member Ethier's inquiry, Superintendent McCall briefly explained the \$1 million surplus, with Director Scanlon adding his explanatory comments. Discussion ensued.

Member LaMountain had questions about funding of two soccer teams at Central Tree Middle School, and requested an explanation be provided to the School Committee.

- XI. Executive session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with union personnel (AFSCME Council 93 Local 2885 – Custodial Employees, and the Wachusett Regional Educational Association, Inc.), as the Chair deems that a

discussion in open session may be detrimental to the District's bargaining position, not to reconvene in open session

(R. McCarthy)
(T. Ethier)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Timothy Ethier
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Robert Remillard
Barbara Renzoni
Brian Ruttle
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:40 PM, not to return to public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp