

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session II
Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Cafeteria
Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet, Vice-chair	Judith Newton
Thomas Ackerman	John Nunnari
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Colleen Cipro	Michael Sherman
Steven Hammond	Joseph Sova
Robert Imber	Kathleen Sweeney
Mark James	Marcie Zaharee
Julianne Kelley	

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Ahearn	Melinda Coyle
Shirley Conrad	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Chair Watson called the second executive session of the School Committee to order at 9:21 PM and immediately turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio.

The Superintendent updated the School Committee on the status of the high school project. He told the School Committee that the District is being sued for \$4.2 million by TLT Construction of Wakefield, Massachusetts. Superintendent Pandiscio reviewed for the Committee recent activities and investigations being done by URS Corporation consultants. He explained that these consultants are not confident that Attorney Roy Bourgeois, the current attorney addressing legal matters associated with the high school project, has sufficient experience with construction law/construction claims to be effective counsel. The Superintendent is recommending augmenting Attorney Bourgeois' expertise with URS legal expertise. Superintendent Pandiscio explained to the Committee his opinion that Attorney Bourgeois is a competent lawyer, but he is not a construction attorney. Superintendent Pandiscio reported to the Committee that he has interviewed several attorneys who might be available to take on this legal matter and is hoping to bring a recommendation to the Building Committee on October 10, 2007. Depending on actions between now and the next School Committee meeting, there is the possibility that at the next School Committee meeting the Superintendent will bring forward a recommendation to enter into a contract for these additional legal services.

High School Building Committee Chair Leith voiced that he too was previously under the impression Attorney Bourgeois was a construction attorney and agrees with the Superintendent that the high school building project legal matters might be out of Attorney Bourgeois' area of expertise.

The question was raised why two attorneys would be contracted with to work on these legal issues and the Superintendent explained that Attorney Bourgeois could act as a shortcut to providing background and details relating to the erosion claim.

It was reiterated that securing additional services to augment the current legal team as quickly as possible will be in the best interest of this project.

Motion: To adjourn.

(T. Ackerman)
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

The executive session adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
TGP:rlp