

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1224 Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Duncan Leith, Chair | Sarah LaMountain |
| Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair | Kenneth Mills |
| William Clute | 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:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Cynthia Bazinet | Robert Pelczarski |
| Steven Hammond | |

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 Lindberg | Emily Tomczyk |
|----------------|---------------|

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 7:00 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Louis Cornacchioli, Rutland, addressed the School Committee.

Melissa Goehl, Princeton, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of Executive Session I Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 10, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of executive session I of the Wachusett Regional School Committee held September 10, 2012.

(N. Plourde)

(M. Watson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

William Clute

Motion passed 16-0-1

- B. Approval of 1223rd Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 10, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held September 10, 2012.

(R. Imber)

(N. Plourde)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held September 10, 2012 were approved, by consensus, with Member Clute abstaining.

- C. Approval of Executive Session II Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 10, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of executive session II of the Wachusett Regional School Committee held September 10, 2012.

(J. Mason)
(M. Watson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

William Clute
Athas Tsongalis

Motion passed 15-0-2

- D. Approval of 294th Special School Committee Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 24, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of the School Committee held September 24, 2012.

(M. Watson)
(J. Mason)

The minutes of the special meeting of the School Committee held September 24, 2012 were approved, by consensus.

- E. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the special meeting of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 24, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session of the Wachusett Regional School Committee held September 24, 2012.

(L. Harris)

(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Remillard

Motion passed 16-0-1

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 expressed public thanks to Paxton Selectboard Member Fred Goodrich for facilitating an arrangement between Anna Maria College students and WRSD libraries for coverage, by AMC students, at some of the libraries in the District.

7:14 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

Chair Leith reported he had attended, as a School Committee representative, the October 1st meeting of the Holden Selectboard. He also reported on the October 3rd Regional Selectboard meeting, which he described as a “public lynching.” Chair Leith thanked those who attended the “very unpleasant meeting” with him. Chair Leith reported the meeting was taped and may be televised. Member Kosky thanked Chair Leith, and others, for representing the School Committee at the October 3rd meeting, but she would like to know why Superintendent Pandiscio did not attend the meeting.

7:17 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

Member Jackson voiced her objection to reading School Committee business in the newspaper, before she receives notification/information as a School Committee member. Chair Leith apologized for the lapse in communication and he assured Member Jackson, and others, he intends to be better about such in the future.

Chair Leith read into the record attachment 4 of the October 4, 2012 Superintendent’s Report, the September 20, 2012 letter to the Wachusett Regional School Committee from District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. (attachment 2).

Chair Leith read into the record a prepared statement (attachment 3). Chair Leith explained he was appointing the Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Superintendent Search, to be chaired by Member Hammond, Member Plourde to act as Vice-chair, and Members Bazinet, Cipro, Imber, Leith, Pelczarski, Remillard, Sciabarrasi, and Watson to sit on the subcommittee. Chair Leith noted that all School Committee members are welcome to attend meetings of this, and all, subcommittee.

B. Student Representatives

Emily Lindberg reported the high school is in the midst of “spirit week,” and she told of some of the many activities taking place at the high school this week. She went on to report that members of the senior class have been meeting with their Guidance Counselors about post-graduation/college plans, and is of the opinion that in the future these meetings should take place before the start of senior year. A volleyball fundraiser will be taking place. And lastly, Ms. Lindberg delivered a student complaint about the lack of supplies (soap and paper towels) in some of the girls’ restrooms.

Emily Tomczyk spoke about the Homecoming football game and bon fire scheduled for October 12th, reporting that the fields/outdoors areas have been sprayed, reducing the risk of EEE. The Homecoming dance

will be Saturday, October 13th. Ms. Tomczyk spoke about *edmodo* and what positive feedback she has heard and witnessed.

- 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 he plans to schedule a meeting of this subcommittee in the near future, to follow-up on items left on the table last spring.

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

In Subcommittee Chair Hammond's absence, Member Harris reported that the Education Subcommittee would be meeting October 10th at 7:00 PM. Member Jackson questioned some of the items on the subcommittee meeting agenda, feeling there may be agenda items that might fall under the jurisdiction of the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

- 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 first reported on the recent meetings of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Hire a Business Manager. This ad hoc subcommittee has met five times, most recently just before the start of this School Committee meeting. The subcommittee had invited three candidates to make 15 minute presentations before the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Hire a Business Manager, which they did on October 1, 2012. At the brief meeting on this date, the ad hoc subcommittee reviewed 13 additional resumes received as a result of posting the Business Manager position on sites other than SchoolSpring. The ad hoc subcommittee will invite two, and possibly three, candidates to be interviewed on October 15th.

7:35 PM Emily Tomczyk left the table.

Subcommittee Chair Remillard next reported that the Business/Finance Subcommittee met at 6:00 PM this date and voted to recommend to the full School Committee contracting with the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials to conduct a *Financial Operations Review*, at a cost of \$4,850.

Motion: To enter into a contract with the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials, Inc. for a *Financial Operations Review*,

at a cost of \$4,850. This review to be conducted November 28 & 29, 2012.

(J. Kelley)
(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

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 the October 17th meeting of this subcommittee has been rescheduled to Wednesday, November 7th, at 7:00 PM at the Thomas Prince School in Princeton.

7:38 PM Emily Tomczyk returned to the table.

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

Member Mason reported the AAB will meet once the draft audit reports are received from District auditors. For planning purposes,

Member Kelley asked if this meeting should be scheduled, even if it will not take place for several weeks, to be sure members of the Audit Advisory Board have the date on their calendars and can be ready to meet once Powers & Sullivan complete the 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)

Reported above.

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 the next meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee will be with Christine Lynch of DESE in attendance, to which Member Town Selectboard and Finance Committee/Advisory Board representatives will be invited. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley reported that meeting will be held in the Media Center of WRHS. It is anticipated the meeting will be scheduled for the end of October.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported on actions recently taken by this building committee. Superintendent Pandiscio reported he will be meeting with the Massachusetts School Building Authority at its Boston office on Wednesday, October 17th. OPM Gary Kaczmarek and representatives from Lamoureux Pagano will also attend the meeting.

7:45 PM Member Clute left the table.

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 (A. Tsongalis), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (S. Jackson, K. Mills), Dawson Elementary School (D. Kosky), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Kelley), Houghton Elementary School (L. Harris/N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (M. Watson), Mountview Middle School (S.

Hammond/E. Scheinfeldt), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (W. Clute/R. Pelczarski), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Sciabarrasi), Wachusett Regional High School (C. Bazinet/M. Sciabarrasi/A. Tsongalis), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (J. Mason)

There were no School Council reports.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Kosky asked Superintendent Pandiscio why he was not at the October 3, 2012 meeting of the Regional Selectboard, to which Superintendent Pandiscio responded he felt he "would be a lightning rod," additionally explaining he often did not attend meetings of that group.

7:48 PM Member Clute returned to the table.

With regard to the FY12 budget closeout, Member Kelley reported on discussions she has had with Christine Lynch of DESE, and Member Kelley noted she is seeking clarification from DOR, and she has learned that if the DOR certifies District accounts in "deficiency" and the "deficiencies" affect children, DOR and DESE could form "a control committee," take control of District finances, allow the District to borrow funds, and maintain control over the finances until it is felt the District can handle finances for itself. Superintendent Pandiscio spoke about the September 14, 2012 conference call he had with Richard Sullivan and Craig Peacock of Powers & Sullivan, Jay Sullivan and Christine Lynch of DESE, and District staff, and he also told the Committee of his lengthy telephone conversation the first part of October with Christine Lynch of DESE. Superintendent Pandiscio told the Committee there have also been several conversations with DOR. Superintendent Pandiscio spoke about DOR/DESE FY12 v FY13, saying he had been told that DESE will not put anything in writing about the District's current financial situation until they can see the District's "books." Superintendent Pandiscio told the Committee that Christine Lynch had not mentioned anything to him about "management by the state."

Member Kelley requested a copy of the end-of-year report when it is completed, which the Superintendent promised to provide. The Superintendent let the Committee know the District has been granted an extension to October 31st to file the end-of-year report.

Member Watson thanked the Superintendent for including October 1, 2012 enrollment numbers as an attachment in his Report.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

8:10 PM Emily Lindberg left the table.

1. To approve a 60 month contract with Xerox Corporation c/o Connecticut Business Systems

Motion: To approve a 60 month contract with Xerox Corporation c/o Connecticut Business Systems.

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(C. Cipro)

Member LaMountain said she had many questions and concerns about this proposal and asked for some background information and history, which Superintendent Pandiscio and Director of Curriculum Gangi attempted to provide. This initial questioning caused other members of the Committee to ask questions, and discussion ensued.

8:14 PM Emily Lindberg returned to the table.

Discussion about paper reduction, and the use and availability of copiers and printers continued.

8:22 PM Member Mason left the table.

Discussion continued.

8:25 PM Member Mason returned to the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio, mindful that many on the School Committee had questions about the motion on the table, invited members to email questions they may have about this initiative and District staff would answer the questions. Members should email their questions to Superintendent Pandiscio, and a member strongly suggested not copying all members of the School Committee on the emails.

Member Scheinfeldt, the maker of the motion, offered to withdraw the motion; Member Cipro, the seconder of the motion, did not support the offer to withdraw.

Brief discussion took place.

Motion: To table the motion on the floor until the October 22, 2012 meeting of the School Committee.

(S. Jackson)

(J. Kelley)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
William Clute
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Opposed:

Colleen Cipro
Lance Harris
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Motion passed 13-4.

VII. Public Hearing

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

VIII. Unfinished business

Member Kelley asked that the matter of student fees charged at the high school be followed up. Member LaMountain referenced Emily Tomczyk's comments earlier in the meeting about fees charged to participate in Honors Jazz and Choral, as well as Model United Nations. Superintendent Pandiscio will speak with the high school principal and will report back to the School Committee.

Motion: To refer Policy 6562 *Alternate Student Transportation* to the Education Subcommittee for further investigation into the current requirement to carry personal liability insurance on a vehicle in the amount of \$100,000 - \$300,000.

(M. Sciabarrasi)

(J. Kelley)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Lance Harris
Robert Imber

Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. New Business

Motion: To refer to the Education Subcommittee the review of P6614 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Child Abuse/Neglect**, to review and update if necessary.

(M. Watson)

(N. Plourde)

Member Watson explained she had been approached by a Member Town resident asking District policy and protocol if a student approaches school staff voicing concerns about abuse and/or suicidal thoughts.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To invite Mr. Richard Maurer (Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians) to a Special School Committee meeting for the purpose of giving a presentation on Robert's Rules of Order.

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(A. Tsongalis)

Member Scheinfeldt spoke to the motion, suggesting a special School Committee meeting be posted for 6:30 PM Monday, October 22, 2012.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Pandiscio will speak with high school administration and custodial staff regarding the complaint of the lack of soap and paper towels in some girls' restrooms.

- X. Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, Superintendent of Schools and Interim Superintendent of Schools.

Motion: To adjourn to executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, Superintendent of Schools and Interim Superintendent of Schools, not to return to public session.

(R. Imber)

(E. Scheinfeldt)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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