

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1260 Tuesday, October 14, 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
Timothy Ethier	Robert Remillard
Harriet Fradellos	Barbara Renzoni
Susan Hitchcock	Erik Scheinfeldt
Stacey Jackson	Christina Smith
Julianne Kelley	Charles Witkes
Sarah LaMountain	

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Curran	Deidre Kosky
Michael Dennis	Brian Ruttle
Matthew Ehrenworth	

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

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

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

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

MCAS Presentation

Chair Harris turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall, who introduced Administrator of Assessment and Accountability Nancy Fournier. Ms. Fournier approached the podium; Chair Harris announced the microphone at the podium was not working. A PowerPoint presentation was shown, which Ms. Fournier spoke to (attachment 2).

7:28 PM Member Brown left the table.

7:32 PM Member Brown returned to the table.

At the conclusion of Ms. Fournier's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions about MCAS testing and results. Ms. Fournier called members' attention to two handouts (Hess: Rigor Relevance Matrix and Massachusetts' New Accountability measures) (attachment 3).

7:50 PM Member Smith left the table.

Many members of the Committee asked questions of Ms. Fournier.

7:56 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

8:35 PM Student Representative Fritsche left the meeting.

Ms. Fournier's presentation concluded at 8:45 PM.

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

Student Representative Budd reported on Homecoming weekend, which was the previous weekend. She reported that this year Model U.N. has 70 (+/-) members, but Model U. N. conferences are not hosted at WRHS often due to cost (\$400 (+/-)). Superintendent McCall suggested Ms. Budd speak with Mr. Jourdain, and have Mr. Jourdain contact Superintendent McCall about this.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent McCall invited members to send him any questions they may have about MCAS or the MCAS presentation.

Superintendent McCall introduced Joe Buckley, who is working with Superintendent McCall as a part of the New Superintendent's Induction Program. Mr. Buckley was invited to address the School Committee to speak about the NSIP, which he did from the podium.

Member Jackson asked about the status of a letter received from Dawson Elementary School parents regarding an incident at that school on September 22, 2014. This matter will be addressed by the Facilities & Security Subcommittee when that subcommittee meets on October 21st.

When asked when a task force to address possible re-districting in Holden would be named, Superintendent McCall answered he expected the task force to be in place sometime in November.

Other topics raised included school initiatives and ELL students and ELE teachers at Davis Hill Elementary School and Dawson Elementary School.

Member Witkes reported he, and others, have concerns about the transition to Eureka Math. Superintendent McCall told the Committee that teachers are being provided support and professional development by Looney Math consultants on the District's Professional Development Days. He also reported the Math Leadership Team is meeting once a month. Superintendent McCall assured the Committee that the transition from one math curriculum to another takes time, but he has confidence in the new programs.

9:03 PM Member Remillard left the meeting.

Member LaMountain suggested a presentation on Eureka Math be made to the School Committee. She also asked about middle school math. Superintendent McCall reported the Math Department Head and the Middle School Curriculum Coordinator would be working together on curriculum alignment.

9:06 PM Member Smith left the meeting.

Member Kelley reported she has heard from parents that students are having difficulties with math homework, adding that homework should not require parental assistance.

Member Hitchcock reported the only vacant seat on the Collaborative Budget Task Force is the Town of Sterling seat. Superintendent McCall will reach out to Sterling Town Administrator Jeff Ritter to seek an appointee from that town.

Member Porter asked if there is a mentoring program for new principals, similar to the new superintendent mentoring program. Superintendent McCall reported he is meeting with the three new principals on a regular basis.

9:10 PM Student Representative Budd left the meeting.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: That in order to reduce interest costs on outstanding debt, the District is authorized to issue bonds or notes for the purpose of refunding all or any portion of the principal of and interest on any bonds of the District outstanding as of the date hereof, including, if any, the payment of premium and accrued interest associated therewith, and all other costs incidental and related thereto, under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 21A of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other enabling authority.

Further: That the District Treasurer, or any other officer of the District, is authorized to file an application with the appropriate officials of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the "Commonwealth") to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all refunding bonds or notes of the District authorized pursuant to this vote, and to provide such information and execute such documents as such officials of the Commonwealth may require in connection therewith.

(R. Imber)

(K. Mills)

At Chair Harris' invitation, Director Scanlon approached the podium and spoke to the motion.

9:13 PM Member LaMountain left the meeting.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Timothy Ethier
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$527,900 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for Central Tree Middle School
(J. Kelley)
(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Timothy Ethier
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$338,045 to the Town of Paxton for reimbursement for Paxton Center School School
(R. McCarthy)
(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Timothy Ethier
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy

Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$877,664 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Mountview Middle School
(R. McCarthy)
(S. Jackson)

Vote:
In favor:
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Timothy Ethier
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

Motion: To amend motion to accept School Improvement Plans with the exception of Davis Hill Elementary School

Vote:
In favor:
None

Opposed:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Timothy Ethier
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Charles Witkes

The motion failed unanimously.

Motion: To accept the 2014-2015 Wachusett Regional School District School Improvement Plans

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Timothy Ethier
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting 1259th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 15, 2014

Motion: To approve minutes of regular meeting #1259 of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 15, 2014
(J. Kelley)
(R. McCarthy)

The minutes were unanimously approved.

- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 15, 2014.

Motion: To approve minutes of the September 15, 2014 executive session of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, not to be released.
(R. McCarthy)
(S. Jackson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Timothy Ethier
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Barbara Renzoni
Erik Scheinfeldt
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Harriet Fradellos
Steve Porter

The minutes were approved 13-0-2.

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 will meet at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, October 21, 2014.

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

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee met just before this School Committee meeting. Member Smith was elected Vice-chair of the Education Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chair Imber read aloud three goals for the Superintendent developed by the Education Subcommittee. He further reported there are two policies that will be forwarded to the full School Committee for a first reading.

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

Subcommittee Chair Renzoni reported on the October 6, 2014 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee, and reported the subcommittee will meet next on October 20, 2014. She further reported the subcommittee is working on evaluations of the Director of Business and Finance and the District Treasurer.

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

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported on the October 9, 2014 meeting of the subcommittee. This subcommittee has been reviewing policies, some of which will be brought before the full School Committee for a first reading. Subcommittee Chair Mills announced there will be a joint meeting of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee and the WREA, which will be an open meeting, on Saturday, November 8, 2014. At this meeting there will be training provided around interest-based bargaining. Other dates for future Legal Affairs meetings are November 20, 2014 and December 4, 2014.

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

Facilities & Security Chair Scheinfeldt reported on the September 16, 2014 meeting of this subcommittee. Ron Ernenwein of AA Transportation attended that meeting to discuss student transportation at the start of this school year. This subcommittee will meet next on Tuesday, October 21, 2014.

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

AAB Chair Kelley reported District auditors are finishing up their site work and she is hoping for an exit interview with the auditors on Wednesday, October 22, 2014.

- G. Collaborative Budget Task Force (S. Jackson, Chair, R. Imber, S. Hitchcock, J. Keley, B. Renzoni)

Task Force Chair Jackson reported on the October 1, 2014 meeting of this task force, and announced the second meeting will be held October 15, 2014.

9:30 PM Member Scheinfeldt left the meeting.

- H. 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)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Mills reported on the October 9, 2014 meeting of this subcommittee.

9:32 PM Member Jackson left the meeting.

- I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Member McCarthy reported this building committee met this date, which neither he or Superintendent McCall could attend. He spoke briefly about the September 20th groundbreaking ceremony at Mountview Middle School.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee

No report made.

- J. 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 Fradellos announced a SEPAC workshop, *Navigating the
Special Education Process*, will be held October 23, 2014 at the Davis
Hill Elementary School

Member Renzoni – Paxton Center School

Member Brown – Mountview Middle School

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

Member Kelley spoke about the Mountview building project and the fact the
new building is being built to house 800 students. She wanted to bring
attention to the fact that Holden's population continues to grow.

9:36 PM Member Fradellos left the meeting.

Due to a lack of quorum, Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp