

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1242 Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Lance Harris, Chair	Sarah LaMountain
Robert Pelczarski, Vice-chair	Matthew Lindberg
Scott Brown	James Mason
Lisa Call (7:08 PM)	Robert McCarthy
William Clute	Tiffany Ralli
Thomas Curran	Robert Remillard
Robert Imber	Erik Scheinfeldt
Stacey Jackson	Margaret Watson
Julianne Kelley	Charles Witkes
Deidre Kosky	

Committee Members Absent:

Matthew Ehrenworth	Christina Smith
Kenneth Mills	

Administration Present:

Anthony Gasbarro, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Jeffrey Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Darryll McCall, Deputy Superintendent
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Nate Birnbaum	Jon O'Brien
---------------	-------------

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

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

Motion: To amend the meeting agenda, adding “Presentation by Dawson Elementary School Principal Patty Scales” to the meeting agenda, under Chair’s Opening Remarks.

(M. Lindberg)

(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris

Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1241st Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 9, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on September 9, 2013.

(R. Imber)
(M. Watson)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held September 9, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Members Kosky and Remillard abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Harris reminded the Committee that if there are questions regarding the report of the Director of Business and Finance, members should contact the Interim Superintendent; if there are questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Presentation by Dawson Elementary School Principal Patty Scales
Teaching and Learning Elementary Math

At Chair Harris' request, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro introduced Dawson Elementary School Principal Patty Scales. Principal Scales addressed the School Committee, speaking about elementary math instruction, as well as teaching of other subjects that takes place in elementary classrooms. Principal Scales circulated samples of student work and called members' attention to photographs she wanted shared with the School Committee, found in Dropbox.

7:08 PM Member Call joined the meeting.

At the conclusion of Principal Scales' presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions of Mrs. Scales. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro took the opportunity to praise Mrs. Scales' leadership skills and abilities as a building principal. At the conclusion of the Q&A session, Principal Scales was given a round of applause and thanked for addressing the Committee.

7:40 PM Principal Scales left the meeting.

B. Student Representatives

Student Representative Jon O'Brien spoke about Homecoming festivities planned for October 26, 2013, and some of the activities planned at the high school during "Spirit Week." Student Representative Nate Birnbaum let the School Committee know that budget issues are being noticed by students.

C. Management Subcommittee (L. Harris, Chair, R. Pelczarski, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Mason, K. Mills, E. Scheinfeldt, M. Watson)

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 1170 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operations Use of Electronic Messaging Between and Among School Committee Members**

(M. Watson)

(R. Imber)

Management Subcommittee Chair Harris read aloud the amended policy. Members were asked who had, and who has not, set up wrsd.net emails accounts. Discussion took place around whether

members can be “forced” or “mandated” to set up a District-connected email account.

Motion: To call the question.

(J. Mason)
(E. Scheinfeldt)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Vote on main motion:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg

James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

- D. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, M. Watson, Vice-chair, L. Call, R. Remillard, C. Smith)

Education Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting. This subcommittee will meet next on November 12, 2013 at 6:00 PM.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (E. Scheinfeldt, Chair, W. Clute, Vice-chair, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, J. Mason, R. McCarthy, T. Ralli, C. Smith, C. Witkes)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported this subcommittee met on October 2nd, at which time the RFP for transitional audit services was reviewed and it was agreed to narrow the scope of services for state auditor consideration. Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported the evaluation of the Director of Business and Finance has been completed and is available in the District Central Office. The October 16th meeting that had been posted was rescheduled to October 24th due to quorum issues.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

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

In Subcommittee Chair Mills' absence, Vice-chair Lindberg called the Committee's attention to attachment 17 of the Superintendent's Report – Legal Affairs Subcommittee Statement of Purpose.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy **Policy Relating to School Committee Operations Collective Bargaining**

(J. Kelley)

(M. Lindberg)

Member Watson made a point of order, explaining the policy number should be included when making a motion to approve a first or second reading of a policy.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 1112 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operations Collective Bargaining**
(J. Kelley)
(M. Lindberg)

Subcommittee Vice-chair Lindberg read aloud the draft policy. Lengthy discussion ensued. Chair Harris pointed out that Attorney Naomi Stonberg will be addressing the School Committee at a special meeting on October 28th, and one of the topics of her address will be collective bargaining. More discussion took place.

Motion: To amend Draft Policy 1112 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operations Collective Bargaining** by deleting the sentence “Members of the School Committee may serve as observers during negotiations.”

(R. Imber)
(J. Kelley)

Discussion continued.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Pelczarski
Lisa Call
William Clute
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Lindberg
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson

Abstained:

Lance Harris

Motion passed 12-6-1.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 1112 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operations Collective Bargaining**, as amended.

(J. Kelley)
(M. Lindberg)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Erik Scheinfeldt

Abstained:

Lance Harris

Motion passed 17-1-1.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Draft Policy 1340 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School District Counsel**, waiving the reading.

(M. Lindberg)
(S. Brown)

Discussion ensued, with Member Watson stating for the record that the Town of Holden's annual retainer for Town Counsel is in the \$72,000 range. She explained that currently the Wachusett Regional School District does not pay a retainer to District Counsel. Member Watson

further explained that she was not speaking in opposition to the motion, but just making the School Committee aware of possible costs. Some discussion about legal counsel retainers took place.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

- G. Facilities & Security Subcommittee (J. Mason, Chair, M. Ehrenworth, Vice-chair, W. Clute, D. Kosky, M. Lindberg, R. McCarthy, R. Remillard)

Facilities & Security Subcommittee Chair Mason reported on the September 10th meeting of this subcommittee and that the next meeting is posted for October 21st at 7:00 PM.

- H. Audit Advisory Board (J. Kelley, T. Ralli)

Audit Advisory Board Chair Kelley reported on the September 25th meeting of the Audit Advisory Board and told that the AAB will meet next on October 23rd at 7:00 PM.

- I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Kelley, Chair, W. Clute, R. Imber)

No report was made.

2. Superintendent Screening Subcommittee

Chair Harris announced the members of the Superintendent Screening Subcommittee have been appointed. Chair Harris commented how appreciative the District is to have received many applications from volunteers willing to serve on this subcommittee. Letters to those who were not appointed will be sent out. The subcommittee had its first meeting on October 9th and will meet next on October 22nd at 7:00 PM. Chair Harris wanted to alert the full School Committee to the possibility of a special School Committee meeting on November 4, 2013. At Member Kelley's inquiry, Chair Harris confirmed that all applications would be available for review by members of the Superintendent Screening Subcommittee.

8:45 PM Member Call left the table.

J. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported the Mountview Building Committee had met on September 24th and will meet next on October 23rd.

8:50 PM Member Call returned to the table.

Member Kelley has questions about the solar panels proposed for the Mountview Middle School project, specifically who will be responsible for the solar panels (repairs, maintenance, etc.) and who will get the energy credits for the energy generated by these solar panels.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee

Director of Business and Finance Scanlon will include an update on these projects in his next report.

L. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (J. Kelley), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Smith), Dawson Elementary School (D. Kosky), Glenwood Elementary School (R. Remillard), Houghton Elementary School (L. Call), Mayo Elementary

School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (M. Watson), Naquag Elementary School (M. Ehrenworth), Paxton Center School (W. Clute), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Lindberg), Wachusett Regional High School (K. Mills), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (TBD)

Member Watson – Mountview Middle School October 8, 2013

Member Jackson – SEPAC

Member Jackson – Davis Hill Elementary School/Disability Awareness Program grant

Member Call – Houghton Elementary School

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Kelley noted that in the *Annual Report and FY14 Appropriation* there is a statement "As of July 1, 2013, the District had accepted 60 new school choice students...." Member Kelley stated she will propose a motion, to be included on the agenda for the next School Committee meeting, to discontinue school choice for the 2014-2015 school year. Member Kelley will also propose a motion that the School Committee be given the opportunity to review and approve final versions of Annual Reports, in advance of the reports being published/distributed. Member Kelley asked for an update on the District's plans for wireless.

Member Mason commented on the increasing number of students attending the Early Childhood Center, resulting in the need for an additional classroom.

Member Ralli referenced CR 10A found on page 58 of the Final Report Coordinated Program Review, which was an attachment to the Superintendent's Report, asking where parents can find the code of conduct for teachers. Deputy Superintendent McCall will provide a copy of that document.

Member Jackson questioned a statement in WRHS Principal Beando's report about the elimination of fees charged to high school students. After much discussion, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro agreed to research this matter further and report back to the School Committee.

9:12 PM Student Representative Jon O'Brien left the meeting.

Several members of the Committee asked for additional information/clarification about the number of school choice students attending Wachusett schools. Deputy Superintendent McCall reported that for the 2013-2014 school year, 47 new school choice students were added to the student count, bringing the total number of school choice students attending District schools to 269.

Member Kelley asked for additional information/details about PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career), which is getting much press. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro reported that he and Deputy Superintendent McCall will be attending a “drive-in conference” sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and DESE on October 21, 2013. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained PARCC is a “moving target” at this point, but he is hoping to learn much at the October 21st meeting. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro will be keeping the School Committee updated on PARCC and what will be expected of the District as plans roll out.

9:20 PM Student Representative Nate Birnbaum left the meeting.

Some additional discussion took place around PARCC v MCAS, and how the District will be impacted.

Member Jackson will be bringing a motion, under New Business, before the School Committee regarding the FY15 budget and budget priorities.

Chair Harris informed the Committee that this year’s MCAS presentation will be made to the full School Committee on Monday, October 28th, rather than in November, as originally scheduled.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro told the Committee he and Deputy Superintendent McCall have meetings with principals scheduled, to review principals’ curriculum improvement goals.

At Member LaMountain’s inquiry, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro spoke about the new teacher mentoring program and how the process works.

9:45 PM Member Call left the meeting.

9:45 PM Member Kosky left the meeting.

Member Lindberg noted that a report about the Thomas Prince School is not included in the *Annual Report and FY14 Appropriation*.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$439,721 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Mountview Middle School

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(T. Curran)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Jackson reiterated she would like clarification about student fees.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session to discuss contract negotiations with union personnel, not to return to public session.

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(J. Mason)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent