

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1303

Monday, October 16, 2017
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Amy Michalowski
Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Benjamin Mitchel
Scott Brown	Jon Edward Novak
Thomas Curran	Michael Rivers
Stephen Godbout	Asima Silva (7:03 PM)
Susan Hitchcock	Megan Weeks
Matthew Lavoie	Charles Witkes
Linda Long-Bellil	Adam Young
Lauren Maldonado	

Committee Members Absent:

Michael Dennis	Sarah LaMountain
Harriet Fradellos	Robin Van Liew
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

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

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Chair Mills announced the meeting was not being shown live nor was it streaming on Holden Cable Television, but the meeting was being recorded. It was noted that the reporter from *The Landmark* was also recording the meeting.

I. Public Hearing

Heidi Lahey, WREA President, addressed the School committee.

7:03 Member Silva joined the meeting.

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills reported Superintendent McCall would not be at the meeting due to illness. Chair Mills welcomed new Holden representative Amy Michalowski to the table and to the Committee.

Chair Mills thanked Daniel Haynes for volunteering to serve on the Audit Advisory Board, representing the town of Rutland until a resident of Rutland steps forward to sit on the AAB. Chair Mills noted the AAB is still seeking a member to represent the town of Paxton, as well as a permanent appointee to represent Rutland.

Chair Mills reported the FY19 Budget Roundtable is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2017, 6:30 PM and it will be held at the Holden Senior Center. He reported this meeting is posted, to avoid open meeting law violations.

Chair Mills reminded members that State Auditor Suzanne Bump and members of her team will be at the District Central Office on Friday, October 27, 2017, from 10:15 to 11:30 AM. This is an opportunity to hear what the State Auditor has to say about the soon- to-be-released report titled *Supporting Student and Community Success: Updating the Structure and Finance of Massachusetts Regional School Districts*. Chair Mills gave a brief overview of what he knows about the report, and he assured members a copy of the full report would be provided to them once released. Chair Mills encouraged members to sit in on the meeting on October 27th, if able.

Chair Mills and Superintendent McCall are attempting to schedule a time when a representative from the Office of the State Auditor might be able to come to Central Massachusetts to present the findings outlined in *Supporting Student and Community Success: Updating the Structure and Finance of Massachusetts Regional School Districts*. He explained this would be an open meeting, held at WRHS, and would be an opportunity for officials from Wachusett and Quabbin Member Towns, representatives from both School Committees, and other interested stakeholders to hear what the report is recommending and to brainstorm on possible remedies to regional school districts fiscal dilemmas.

Chair Mills reported on a meeting held just before this School Committee meeting with representatives from Quabbin Regional School District. This is the second time members of both school districts' School Committees and administrations have met to discuss their regional school districts and possibilities of collaborating and/or sharing offerings and opportunities. Another meeting has been scheduled for after the new year.

III. Student Representatives' Reports

Student Representative Ferdinand reported that students at the high school have signed a petition, seeking a "return to serving the milk brand which was used during the 2016 – 2017 school year" (attachment 2). Discussion ensued, with Deputy Superintendent Berlo approaching the podium, assuring members and students that District administration would look into this change in milk brand.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Novak requested an update on textbook purchases and asked if new books are in classrooms/in students' hands. Deputy Superintendent Berlo was at the podium and he reported on the status of textbook purchases and what is currently underway with regard to new textbooks.

Upon inquiry, Deputy Superintendent Berlo spoke about the October 4, 2017 incident at Wachusett Regional High School, assuring the Committee and the public that there were no weapons involved, no drugs were involved, and that WRHS students and staff were not in harm's way that morning. Member Novak commented that he felt notification to parents was too delayed.

At Member Lavoie's inquiry, Deputy Superintendent Berlo explained how the Central Office and the high school are able to monitor Chromebook usage at the high school, in connection with the 1:1 initiative. Member Maldonado asked the number of Chromebooks distributed to high school freshmen. Deputy Superintendent Berlo explained that over 600 Chromebooks were purchased for the 1:1 initiative, with just less than 600 distributed to high school freshmen, and the remaining Chromebooks being available as loaners to students.

Member Michalowski had questions about the high school accreditation/NEASC progress report, 21st century skills, etc. Vice-chair Smith referred Member Michalowski to the WRHS webpage.

Chair Mills had questions about information in Director Scanlon's report. Director Scanlon approached the podium. Chair Mills requested Director Scanlon and the Business/Finance Subcommittee provide additional information and an update about Special Education budget numbers and the status of the Special Education budget at this point in time. General discussion about special education services (in-District v out-of-District, explanation of contracted services, etc.) ensued. Administrator of Special Education Kimberly Merrick will be invited to a future School Committee meeting to provide the Committee with a report on the District's special education programs.

Chair Mills asked about the status of Mountview Middle School, referencing Attachment J of Director Scanlon's monthly report (Snapshot of Facilities Operations and Maintenance FY17). Discussion about the Mountview project ensued.

Member Godbout, speaking as the father of a WRHS student, reported he was pleased with the response of and action by high school and District administration on October 4, 2017.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To accept the gift of a Hoyer lift, donated by James Heller of Acton.

(T. Curran)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1302nd Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 11, 2017

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on September 11, 2017.

(A. Young)

(T. Curran)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Jon Edward Novak
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Michael Rivers

The minutes were approved 14-0-3.

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Mills 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 (K. Mills, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, M. Dennis, S. Hitchcock)

Chair Mills reported this subcommittee is scheduled to meet on October 25, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

- B. Education Subcommittee (C. Smith, Chair, M. Lavoie, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. LaMountain, L. Long-Bellil, L. Maldonado, A. Silva, R. Van Liew, M. Weeks)

Education Subcommittee Chair Smith reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting, and is scheduled to meet next on November 13, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, Adam Young, Vice-chair, L. Long-Bellil, B. Mitchel, J. E. Novak, C. Witkes)

In Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Dennis' absence, Vice-chair Young reported on the October 10, 2017 meeting of the subcommittee.

7:46 PM Member Brown left the table.

Motion: To approve the second reading of amended Policy 4610 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Bank Account Maintenance**, waiving the reading.

(A. Young)

(J. E. Novak)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the first reading of amended Policy 4251 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Student Activity Fee Schedule**, waiving the

reading.

(A. Young)

(B. Mitchel)

Vice-chair Young gave a brief explanation of the proposed amendments to the policy.

At Member Rivers' inquiry, Director Scanlon approached the podium and spoke about the fees charged to students for parking at the high school. Some discussion about student parking at the high school took place.

7:49 PM Member Brown returned to the table.

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Hitchcock, Chair, S. Brown, Vice-chair, T. Curran, H. Fradellos, Stephen Godbout, Michael Rivers)

Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock reported this subcommittee is scheduled to meet on October 23, 2017 at 6:00 PM. She informed the Committee that she expects the full Committee will enter executive session at the conclusion of the November regular School Committee meeting, at which time the full Committee will be brought up-to-date on negotiations with the eight bargaining units.

- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, S. LaMountain, M. Lavoie, M. Weeks)

Chair Mills reported on the October 11, 2017 meeting of this subcommittee and noted the subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on October 25, 2017. Members had been provided with the Superintendent's proposed goals and action plan in the October 12, 2017 Superintendent's Report (attachments 3 & 4). There was general discussion about Superintendent McCall's goals and the importance of the full Committee being kept updated on his progress addressing his goals.

Motion: To recommend approval of the Superintendent's Goals 2017-2018.

(A. Young)

(J. E. Novak)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Audit Advisory Board (C. Witkes, Chair, R. McCarthy)

AAB Chair Witkes reported this Board has not met since the last School Committee meeting. Chair Mills again mentioned the need for representatives from Paxton and Rutland to serve on the Audit Advisory Board.

G. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Budget Sustainability (K. Mills, Chair, A. Young, Vice-chair, M. Lavoie, L. Long-Bellil)

Chair Mills reported on the October 10, 2017 meeting and reported this ad hoc subcommittee will meet next on October 24, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

H. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Mountview project discussed earlier in the meeting.

I. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (J. E. Novak), Chocksett Middle School (S. Godbout), Davis Hill Elementary School (A. Silva), Dawson Elementary School (A. Young), Glenwood Elementary School (M. Lavoie), Houghton Elementary School (S. Godbout), Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (C. Witkes), Paxton Center School (B. Mitchel), Thomas Prince School (M. Weeks), Wachusett Regional High School (S. LaMountain/M. Rivers), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (A. Young), Early Childhood Center (L. Maldonado)

Member Brown – Mountview Middle School, October 3, 2017

8:09 PM Member Maldonado left the table.

Member Witkes – Naquag Elementary School

Member Rivers – Wachusett Regional High School

Member Mitchel – Paxton Center School

Member Weeks – Thomas Prince School School Council to meet October 17, 2017

Member Young – Dawson Elementary School School Council to meet October 18, 2017

Member Young – SEPAC – Trunk or Treat event to be held October 27, 2017

8:13 PM Member Maldonado returned to the table.

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

Member Novak asked the status of review of school start times, which will be on the agenda for a future Education Subcommittee meeting.

Student Representative Ferdinand and Member Godbout thanked WREA members who were in the audience for attending the meeting.

Chair Mills reminded members of the FY19 Budget Roundtable scheduled for November 2, 2017 at 6:30 PM, to be held at the Holden Senior Center.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(T. Curran)

(S. Hitchcock)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Sign-in sheets
- Attachment 2 – WRHS Student Petition
- Attachment 3 – Superintendent Goal 2017 – 2018 DRAFT (9/8/2017)
- Attachment 4 – Educator Plan Form DRAFT (9/8/2017)