

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1290 Monday, October 17, 2016
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Robert McCarthy (7:38 PM)
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Steve Porter
Scott Brown	Barbara Renzoni
Thomas Curran	Michael Rivers
Susan Hitchcock	Asima Silva
Stacey Jackson	Christina Smith
Sarah LaMountain	Megan Weeks
Matthew Lavoie	Charles Witkes
Linda Long-Bellil	Adam Young
Lauren Maldonado	

Committee Members Absent:

Michael Dennis	Jon Edward Novak
Harriet Fradellos	

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
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:

Alyssa Stark	Chloe Tolderlund
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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 7:04 PM. Chair Mills announced the meeting was being recorded but not being shown live. Chair Mills read aloud the Guidelines for Public Hearing.

I. Public Hearing

Richard Durland of Paxton began to read a prepared statement. Member Rivers made a point of order because the speaker's statement included names of individuals. Chair Mills asked Mr. Durland to refrain from naming a specific individual, explaining that the public hearing is used to voice general concerns, not to speak about a complaint about a specific individual. Chair Mills advised Mr. Durland if he has specific complaints or issues about a Wachusett-related individual, he should address these concerns with the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Durland put the Committee on notice that he will go to the next level if he is not allowed to address the School Committee at the public hearing. Chair Mills explained to Mr. Durland that his issues could be addressed to the School Committee in executive session and, if he is interested in doing so, he should submit such a request to the secretary and an executive session could be scheduled.

Heidi Lahey, WREA President, addressed the School Committee.

Maureen Young, SEPAC Co-chair, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

With no objection from the School Committee about altering the order of the agenda, Chair Mills invited the Student Representatives to give their report to the School Committee.

II. Student Representatives' Reports (Alyssa Stark, Chloe Tolderlund)

Student Representative Chloe Tolderlund spoke about recent "no test days." At Vice-chair Imber's request, Superintendent McCall spoke and advised the students to speak with Principal Beando or one of the Assistant Principals to begin discussions about no test days and how they could be better handled in the future. Discussion ensued, with it being agreed that annual "no test days" is a complicated issue. Member Jackson read from Policy 3240 *Policy Relating to Education Ceremonies and Observances*. Member Lamountain requested the Committee be kept updated on how this matter will be addressed. The students were thanked for bringing forward this complicated topic.

7:38 Member McCarthy joined the meeting.

III. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills read aloud a resolution titled Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools, signed by then-Chair Lance Harris on March 28, 2016 (attachment 3).

Chair Mills invited Administrator of Special Education Kim Merrick to the podium. Dr. Merrick provided members with a packet of materials, which included a copy of the PowerPoint presentation made by Dr. Merrick (attachment 4).

7:49 PM Member Smith left the table.

7:54 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

At the conclusion of Dr. Merrick's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions, with most members asking questions of Dr. Merrick. Dr. Merrick's presentation concluded at 8:45 PM.

8:45 PM Student Representative Alyssa Stark left the meeting.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Mills explained the 2016 – 2017 Strategic Action Plan will be addressed under Management Subcommittee business.

Superintendent McCall briefly spoke about the October 12, 2016 opioid/addiction community awareness panel facilitated by District Attorney Early's office and held at the high school.

Superintendent McCall extended thanks to Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services Cathy Knowles for her efforts connecting the Wachusett Regional School District with the SHINE Initiative.

Upon Member Jackson's inquiry about eighth grade students taking MCAS tests using computer-based mode, Superintendent McCall spoke about students taking MCAS tests using computers and how the schools throughout the District are currently equipped, or not, to be able to support this method of testing. Several members joined in the discussion about MCAS testing and pencil v computer mode of testing.

9:07 PM Member Witkes left the meeting.

At Member Jackson's inquiry, Director Scanlon spoke about the part of his report addressing special education.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

9:13 PM Superintendent McCall left the table.

Motion: To approve expenses incurred in connection with Member Harriet Fradellos' attendance at November 2 – 5, 2016 MASC/MASS Joint Conference in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

(R. McCarthy)

(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills

Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Stacey Jackson
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Imber
Susan Hitchcock
Sarah LaMountain

The motion passed 15-0-3.

The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Unfinished Business

1. Presentation by Administrator of Special Education

Presentation made by Dr. Kim Merrick earlier in the meeting.

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1289th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 12, 2016

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on September 12, 2016.

(R. McCarthy)
(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran

Susan Hitchcock
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Michael Rivers
Christina Smith
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

The minutes were approved 13-0-5.

B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 12, 2016

Motion: To approve minutes of the executive session of the WRSDC held on September 12, 2016, to be released.

(R. McCarthy)

(B. Renzoni)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Michael Rivers
Christina Smith
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

The minutes were approved 13-0-5.

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, R. Imber, Vice-chair, S. Brown, B. Renzoni)

Chair Mills deferred the Management Subcommittee report until Superintendent McCall returns to the table.

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

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee had met immediately before this School Committee meeting. He reported a first reading on amending Policy 3323 *Policy Relating to Education Home Assignments* will not be brought before the full School Committee at this time.

9:20 PM Superintendent McCall returned to the table.

A. Management Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, R. Imber, Vice-chair, S. Brown, B. Renzoni)

Chair Mills announced Member Curran has agreed to represent the School Committee on the recently-formed Holden Education Options Committee.

9:22 PM Student Representative Chloe Tolderlund left the meeting.

At Chair Mills' request, Superintendent McCall addressed the Committee, calling attention to the 2016 – 2017 Strategic Action Plan, which had been shared with the Committee in the Superintendent's Report (attachment 5). Superintendent McCall invited members to email or call him with any questions, comments, or suggestions

about the 2016 – 2017 Strategic Action Plan. Chair Mills explained that the School Committee vote on this plan/goals will be on the agenda for the November regular School Committee meeting.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (B. Renzoni, Chair, R. McCarthy, Vice-chair, M. Dennis, L. Long-Bellil, E. Novak, C. Witkes, A Young)

Subcommittee Chair Renzoni reported on the October 11, 2016 meeting of this subcommittee.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy 4211 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Town Assessment Payments**, waiving the reading.

(R. McCarthy)

(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 4110.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Capital Budget**, waiving the reading.

Subcommittee Chair pointed out two edits to the amended policy:

Bullet #2 under TIMELINE – delete “and approve” from the sentence

Bullet #3 under TIMELINE – delete “and approve” from the sentence

Motion: To amend Amended Policy 4110.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Capital Budget**, deleting “and approve” from bullets #2 and #3 under TIMELINE.

(R. McCarthy)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 4110.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Capital Budget**, as amended, waiving the reading.

(S. Jackson)

(R. McCarthy)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson

Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Brown, Chair, T. Curran, H. Fradellos, S. Hitchcock, S. Jackson)

Subcommittee Chair Brown reported on the September 28, 2016 meeting of this subcommittee and reported that two of the eight bargaining units have scheduled initial negotiating sessions.

- E. Audit Advisory Board (B. Renzoni, Chair, C. Witkes, Vice-chair)

AAB Chair Renzoni reported membership on the Audit Advisory Board is lacking representatives from Princeton and Rutland. The two towns have been contacted, seeking possible representatives to serve on the AAB to represent Princeton and Paxton. AAB Chair Renzoni invited Audit Advisory Board members and Business/Finance Subcommittee members to the exit interview with District auditors, scheduled for October 21, 2016.

Chair Mills and Superintendent McCall reminded members of the FY18 Budget Roundtable scheduled for 6:30 PM on Wednesday, November 2, 2016.

- F. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the School Calendar

Subcommittee Chair Smith reported on the October 12, 2016 meeting of this subcommittee and the subcommittee will meet next on November 1, 2016 at 7:00 PM. Subcommittee Chair Smith spoke briefly about a survey to go out, with Chair Mills cautioning that only one response per participant should be insured.

G. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Member McCarthy reported on the October 15, 2016 ribbon cutting ceremony and open house, and he also reported on the October 11, 2016 meeting of the Building Committee. Superintendent McCall also spoke highly of the October 15th event.

H. School Council Reports:

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

Member Lavoie – Glenwood Elementary School

Member Curran – Mayo Elementary School

Member Young – Dawson Elementary School

Member Rivers – Houghton Elementary School

Member Brown – Mountview Middle School and Wachusett Regional High School

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

Chair Mills asked that the condition of school playgrounds be included on future agendas under New Business.

Member LaMountain asked about School Committee responsibility for a safety protocol (i.e. ALiCE), which previously fell under the Facilities and Security Subcommittee. Superintendent McCall reported school safety is discussed at his monthly meetings with local Police and Fire officials. Chair Mills reported school safety will now fall under the responsibility of the Business/Finance Subcommittee.

Motion: To extend the meeting for 30 minutes, until 10:30 PM.

(S. Porter)
(R. McCarthy)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Robert McCarthy
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Adam Young

Opposed:

Thomas Curran
Lauren Maldonado

The motion passed 16-2.

Member Silva spoke briefly about an upcoming discussion about Islamophobia, to take place at the College of the Holy Cross.

- XI. Executive Session to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools), to return to public session.

Motion: To enter executive session to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools), not to return to public session.

(R. McCarthy)
(S. Jackson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Susan Hitchcock

Stacey Jackson
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

The School Committee adjourned to executive session at 10:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp