

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1276 Tuesday, October 20, 2015

7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Committee Members Present:

Lance Harris, Chair	Kenneth Mills
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Jon Edward Novak
Scott Brown	Steve Porter
Matthew Ehrenworth	Barbara Renzoni
Susan Hitchcock	Asima Silva
Linda Long-Bellil	Christina Smith
Lauren Maldonado	Megan Weeks

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Curran	Sarah LaMountain
Michael Dennis	Robert McCarthy
Harriet Fradellos	Charles Witkes
Stacey Jackson	Adam Young

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

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 7:05 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris thanked voters and town officials for supporting the FY16 budget. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of all and for the patience shown awaiting the approval of the FY16 budget.

Chair Harris pointed out that the agenda had the Committee's action on a motion regarding discontinuation of formal reporting of class rank immediately after the conclusion of a presentation WRHS Principal Beando and Guidance Department Head Jon Krol. Chair Harris asked if any members objected to the order of these agenda items. No members objected.

Chair Harris invited Principal Beando and Mr. Krol to the podium. Mr. Beando and Mr. Krol showed a PowerPoint presentation, while explaining to the Committee the background for recommending the discontinuation of formal reporting of class rank at WRHS beginning with the graduating class of 2016. Mr. Beando and Mr. Krol gave examples of other districts/schools that have discontinued reporting class rank. They also reported on what stock colleges and universities put on class rank when considering college applications. At the conclusion of the presentation, members were told they would have the opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Beando and Mr. Krol.

Motion: To discontinue the formal reporting of class rank at Wachusett Regional High School beginning with the graduating class of 2016.

(R. Imber)

(S. Porter)

Most members had questions to ask or comments to make about the presentation and the motion on the floor.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Matthew Ehrenworth
Susan Hitchcock
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Student Representative Budd reported she is in favor of the elimination of class rank and thanked the Committee for supporting the motion.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Hitchcock commented that she was "surprised" by what some principals reported about MCAS in their monthly reports. For inclusion in the next Report, Member Hitchcock requested (1) the school level for every school in the District; (2) MCAS results for sub-groups (special education, ELL, Title 1, etc.) for every school in the District. Superintendent McCall explained that, based on 2015 MCAS tests, school levels will not be available by the November 16, 2015 School Committee meeting. Member Hitchcock acknowledged that, and said school levels based on 2014 MCAS testing would be sufficient. Some additional discussion about MCAS testing and how schools ranked ensued.

Director Scanlon approached the podium to answer questions about fund balance and buying forward.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

No action was required of the Committee.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1275th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 17, 2015

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on September 17, 2015.

(B. Renzoni)

(K. Mills)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris

Robert Imber

Scott Brown
Matthew Ehrenworth
Susan Hitchcock
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The minutes were approved unanimously.

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, S. Jackson, K. Mills)

Chair Harris reported on the October 13 and October 20, 2015 meetings of the Management Subcommittee. The Superintendent's goals for 2015-2016 were discussed at both meetings and the Management Subcommittee voted to recommend approval of the minutes by the full School Committee (attachment 3).

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's Goals 2015-2016

(K. Mills)

(M. Ehrenworth)

The Superintendent's 2015-2016 goals were reviewed and some discussion ensued.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Matthew Ehrenworth
Susan Hitchcock
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported on the meeting of the subcommittee that took place immediately before this School Committee meeting.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (S. Jackson, Chair, M. Dennis, Vice-chair, H. Fradellos, R. McCarthy, E. Novak, B. Renzoni, C. Witkes, A Young)

In Subcommittee Chair Jackson's and Vice-chair Dennis' absence, Member Renzoni reported on the most recent meeting of this subcommittee.

1. Amended Policy – 4620 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Investing**
– second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy 4620
Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Investing, waiving the reading.
(M. Ehrenworth)
(K. Mills)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Matthew Ehrenworth
Susan Hitchcock
Linda Long-Bellil

Lauren Maldonado
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Amended Policy – 7156 **Policy Relating to Support Operations
Emergency Response Plan** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy 7156
Policy Relating to Support Operations Emergency Response Plan,
waiving the reading.

(B. Renzoni)

(K. Mills)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Matthew Ehrenworth
Susan Hitchcock
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported on the October 14, 2015 meeting of this subcommittee. A topic on the agenda was political signs on public property, including schools.

1. Amended Policy – 5252 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management**
Physical Restraint Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support Policy
– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 5252 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management** ~~**Physical Restraint Restraint**~~ **Prevention and Behavior Support Policy** waiving the reading.

(M. Ehrenworth)

(M. Weeks)

Subcommittee Chair Mills spoke to the amended policy, explaining there are changes to the state law which will be imposed January 2016. Some discussion ensued.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Matthew Ehrenworth
Susan Hitchcock
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Draft Policy – 5236 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management**
Domestic Violence Leave Policy– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 5236 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management** **Domestic Violence Leave Policy**, waiving the reading.

(B. Renzoni)

(K. Mills)

Subcommittee Chair Mills spoke to the policy, giving some background on why the policy was drafted. Discussion ensued. Member Renzoni questioned if the policy would give the Superintendent the authority to continue paying an employee once their accrued time (vacation, personal, sick) is expended. Discussion continued. Superintendent McCall will speak with District Counsel about Member Renzoni's concerns/questions.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Matthew Ehrenworth
Susan Hitchcock
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Audit Advisory Board

In AAB Chair Jackson's and AAB Vice-chair Dennis' absence, a report was not made.

F. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review Evaluation and Hiring Policy (K. Mills, Chair, S. Brown, M. Ehrenworth, C. Smith)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Mills reported this subcommittee had met immediately before this School Committee meeting. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Mills feels the work of this subcommittee had been completed. The subcommittee will have the final meeting on November

16, 2015, with the only agenda item being approval of minutes, after which time the School Committee Chair will be asked to disband the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review Evaluation and Hiring Policy.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (S. Hitchcock, Chair, R. Imber, K. Mills, B. Renzoni, C. Witkes)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock reported this subcommittee met for the first time on October 7, 2015 and will meet next on November 5, 2015. Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock listed the sections of the Regional Agreement that this subcommittee will focus on.

G. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Superintendent McCall reported on the October 13, 2015 Building Committee meeting and the October 17, 2015 tour of the site. Superintendent McCall applauded the work of Mountview Middle School Principal Erik Githmark during this building project. Superintendent McCall reported Mountview Middle School would be in session on the November 4th Professional Development day and the school would be closed a date in the spring (to be determined) to allow Mountview teachers and staff the opportunity to move from the old building to the new. An April 2016 move in date is still anticipated.

H. School Council Reports:

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

Chair Harris reported there are still several schools in need of a School Committee member to act as liaison on the school councils. Willing volunteers were asked to speak with Chair Harris if able to volunteer.

Mountview Middle School – October 6, 2015, Member Brown.
Central Tree Middle School – October 21, 2015, Member Maldonado
Davis Hill Elementary School – October 19, 2015, Member Silva

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

Motion: To adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with bargaining units (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants, Wachusett Cafeteria Association), as the Chair deems a discussion in public session would have an adverse effect on the District’s bargaining position, not to reconvene in public session

(K. Mills)

(A. Silva)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Matthew Ehrenworth
Susan Hitchcock
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Steve Porter
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp