

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session
Monday, October 22, 2007

Cafeteria
Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Steven Hammond
Cynthia Bazinet, Vice-chair	Robert Imber
Thomas Ackerman	Julianne Kelley
Robert Carter	Duncan Leith
Shirley Conrad	John Nunnari
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
Melinda Coyle	Kathleen Sweeney

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Ahearn	Michael Sherman
Mark James	Joseph Sova
Judith Newton	Marcie Zaharee

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Municipal Representative:

Michael Quinlivan (9:42 PM)

Chair Watson called the executive session of the School Committee to order at 9:27 PM. Chair Watson turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio.

The Superintendent reported to the School Committee that he had met with Attorney Paul James and Attorney Paul Mulroney of the firm Holland & Knight. He further reported that Attorney Roy Bourgeois (Bourgeois, White, Dresser and Beard) has elected not to continue representing the District in connection with the high school renovation and construction project. Attorney Bourgeois has met with Attorneys James and Mulroney to discuss the high school project and to provide background on legal matters connected with the project.

With the approval of the School Committee, the Superintendent will sign a letter of engagement to hire the firm Holland & Knight of Boston to serve as construction attorneys for litigation connected with the high school renovation and construction project.

Motion: To approve engaging Holland & Knight LLP to represent the Wachusett Regional School District in connection with the Wachusett Regional High School Addition and Renovation Project.

(D. Leith)
(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

9:42 PM Municipal Representative Michael Quinlivan joined the meeting.

Members were provided with a copy of Susan Sullivan's memorandum to the Superintendent, dated October 22, 2007, summarizing negotiations with the food service bargaining unit (attachment 1). Superintendent Pandiscio reviewed this memorandum, point by point, noting his opinion that this bargaining unit may need professional input regarding paragraph #5 (Article X, Hours and Conditions of Employment).

Motion: To endorse the Superintendent's recommendation with regard to food service negotiations, as presented.

(R. Carter)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter

Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney

Michael Quinlivan

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously)

It was noted that bargaining union contracts should have a line for signature on behalf of the School Committee

Chair Watson reminded members that discussions during executive session are confidential.

9:52 PM Member Nunnari recused himself and left the meeting.

Members were provided with a copy of Susan Sullivan's memorandum to the Superintendent, dated October 22, 2007, summarizing negotiations with the ABA program assistants bargaining unit, and a copy of the proposed Agreement Between WRSD and SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2010 (attachment 2). Superintendent Pandiscio noted a correction in the second sentence of the first paragraph of the memorandum; the correct date should read "April of 2007." The Superintendent explained this is a new bargaining group, this being their first proposed contract with the District, and the contract has been created from the ground up. He went on to detail the roles played by ABA program assistants.

Motion: To extend the meeting until 10:20 PM.

(R. Carter)
(K. Sweeney)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle

Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously)

The Superintendent reviewed the contract language, article by article.

Motion: To ratify the Collectively Bargained Agreement Between the Wachusett Regional School District and the SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants *July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2010*, as presented.

(J. Kelley)
(K. Sweeney)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney

Michael Quinlivan

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously)

The Superintendent briefly updated the School Committee on other negotiations. He reported the nurses negotiations are complete, the District is close to agreement with the aides union, and there has been no recent action on the part of the Wachusett Administrators Association.

Motion: To adjourn the executive session.

(R. Carter)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

TGP:rlp