

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1225 Monday, October 22, 2012

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Julianne Kelley
Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair	Deidre Kosky (7:45 PM)
Cynthia Bazinet	Sarah LaMountain
William Clute	Kenneth Mills
Steven Hammond	Robert Pelczarski
Lance Harris	Norman Plourde
Robert Imber	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Stacey Jackson	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

James Mason	Erik Scheinfeldt
Robert Remillard	Athas Tsongalis

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Kelley Gangi, Director of Curriculum
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

There were no Student Representatives in attendance.

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

Chair Leith called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:01 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Ed Meyer, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1224th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 9, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held October 9, 2012.

(S. Jackson)

(J. Kelley)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held October 9, 2012 were approved, by consensus, with Members Bazinet, Hammond, and Pelczarski abstaining.

B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 9, 2012

Approval of the minutes of the executive session held on October 9, 2012 was deferred.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Leith reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Leith took the opportunity to speak about the October 3, 2012 Regional Selectboard meeting, and told the Committee how bothered he was that elected and appointment officials are pointing blame at the Central Office staff and principals. As Chair of the WRSDC, Chair Leith asked that the public record reflect his appreciation for what the District staff does for the students and residents of the Member Towns.

B. Student Representatives

There were no Student Representatives in attendance.

C. Management Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, C. Cipro, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde, R. Remillard, M. Sciabarrasi, M. Watson)

Chair Leith reported he plans to schedule a meeting of this subcommittee in the near future, perhaps piggybacking with a meeting of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Superintendent Search.

D. Education Subcommittee (S. Hammond, Chair, N. Plourde, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, L. Harris, R. Imber, K. Mills, R. Pelczarski, M. Watson)

Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported on the October 10th meeting of this subcommittee, and reported the subcommittee will meet next on November 19th.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (R. Remillard, Chair, E. Scheinfeldt, Vice-chair, W. Clute, L. Harris, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, D. Leith, J. Mason, M. Sciabarrasi)

Neither Subcommittee Chair Remillard or Vice-chair Scheinfeldt were in attendance to give a report on the Business/Finance Subcommittee. Chair Leith reported there will be a Joint Meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee and the Audit Advisory Board on Monday, November 5, 2012, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office. Representatives from the District auditors, Powers & Sullivan, will also attend the meeting.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

No report was made.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (S. Jackson, Chair, M. Sciabarrasi, Vice-chair, L. Harris, J. Kelley, J. Mason, K. Mills, A. Tsongalis, M. Watson)

Community Outreach Chair Jackson reported this subcommittee has not met since the October 9th School Committee. She reported the meeting that had been scheduled for November 7th at Thomas Prince School in Princeton has been rescheduled, due to a question of a quorum. The subcommittee is now scheduled to meet on December 5, 2012, in Princeton. Subcommittee Chair Jackson reported the WRSDC Bulletin Board is up and running, and has received 300 hits to date. Subcommittee Chair Jackson publicly thanked Director of Human Resources Susan Sullivan and Supervisor of Information Services Barry Sclar for their assistance getting this site ready for public viewing. Subcommittee Chair Jackson requested the link to the WRSDC bulletin board be added to the District homepage.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (J. Mason, R. Remillard)

As Chair Leith reported earlier in the meeting, there will be a Joint Meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee and the Audit Advisory Board on Monday, November 5, 2012, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office. Representatives from the District auditors, Powers & Sullivan, will also attend the meeting.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Hire a Business Manager (W. Clute, L. Harris, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, D. Leith, J. Mason, R. Remillard, E. Schneifeldt, M. Sciabarrasi)

Member Kelley reported this subcommittee will interview two, or possibly three, candidates for the Business Manager position on October 23, 2012.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Kelley, Chair, W. Clute, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley reported that Christine Lynch of DESE is not available to meet with this subcommittee until sometime in November. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley will correspond with Member Town officials, alerting them that the review of the Regional Agreement has started and inviting Member Town input and participation. At Vice-chair Cipro's inquiry, Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley explained two possible ways this subcommittee could gather Member Towns input (be a part of the regular Member Town Selectboard and/or Finance/Advisory Board meeting agendas, or schedule meetings of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement to meet with the Member Town officials). Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley will let the Member Towns decide the best way to conduct these information/input gathering sessions.

3. Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Superintendent Search (S. Hammond, Chair, N. Plourde, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, C. Cipro, R. Imber, D. Leith, R. Pelczarski, R. Remillard, M. Sciabarrasi, M. Watson)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hammond plans to schedule the first meeting of this subcommittee in the next week, anticipating the posting of a Request for Proposal shortly after that meeting.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson did not have anything to report at this time. Superintendent Pandiscio told the Committee about the positive presentation/meeting he, the Owner's Project Manager, and the architects attended at the MSBA offices in Boston on October 17, 2012. Superintendent Pandiscio gave an overview of some of the spaces that are being proposed for a new middle school in Holden (cafeteria, gymnasium, special education classrooms, and media center).

2. Green Repair School Building Committee (D. Leith)

Chair Leith had nothing to report at this time.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (A. Tsongalis), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (S. Jackson, K. Mills), Dawson Elementary School (D. Kosky), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Kelley), Houghton Elementary School (L. Harris/N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (M. Watson), Mountview Middle School (S. Hammond/E. Scheinfeldt), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (W. Clute/R. Pelczarski), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Sciabarrasi), Wachusett Regional High School (C. Bazinet/M. Sciabarrasi/A. Tsongalis), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (J. Mason)

Member Jackson – SEPAC Disability Awareness meeting at Glenwood Elementary School, and the November 15, 2012 SEPAC workshop (*WRSD Basic Rights, Procedural Safeguards, and District-wide Programs*)

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

There was some discussion about stipends paid for extra-curricular leaders and charging students/parents for an academic class/lab taken at the high school. Superintendent Pandiscio clarified that lab fees for some elective courses have been in place for several years (five/six), and he apologized if he had not made that clear.

At Member Jackson's inquiry, Superintendent Pandiscio explained the \$3.2 million deficiency which showed under Special Education Tuitions on the MUNIS report which was a part of Director Sullivan's report.

Motion: To consult with District Counsel to determine if charging fees for academic courses is legal.

(M. Watson)
(K. Mills)

Chair Leith offered the suggestion that action on this motion be deferred until the November 14, 2012 regular School Committee, and that the motion language be included on the agenda for that meeting, since Chair Leith is of the opinion this is a major motion and School Committee members should be aware of such in advance of acting on the motion. The maker and seconder of the motion agreed to withdraw the motion.

Member Cipro may put together a motion for action at the November 14, 2012 meeting that would address student fees to be charged for the 2013-2014 school year.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Transfers of Funds

Motion: To approve the transfer of \$40,000 from Tuitions Other Schools and \$27,000 from Transportation to Personnel.

(L. Harris)

(S. Hammond)

Superintendent Pandiscio explained the reason for this action, and Chair Leith re-read the motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Revised FY13 Appropriation (attachment 3)

Motion: To approve the revised FY13 Appropriation.

(J. Kelley)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith

Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

3. To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$336,471 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for Naquag Elementary School

Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$336,471 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for Naquag Elementary School.

(J. Kelley)

(C. Cipro)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

4. To approve a 60 month contract with Xerox Corporation c/o Connecticut Business Systems

Motion: To take off the table the motion tabled at the October 9, 2012 regular School Committee meeting (*To approve a 60 month contract with Xerox Corporation c/o Connecticut Business Systems.*)

(L. Harris)

(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve a 60 month contract with Xerox Corporation c/o Connecticut Business Systems, at an annual cost of \$58,648.80.

(L. Harris)

(R. Imber)

At Chair Leith's invitation, Director of Curriculum Gangi provided details about the proposed contract with Xerox

Corporation c/o Connecticut Business Systems, and members were provided with an updated "OFF32 Photocopiers, Facsimile/Multifunctional Equipment and Digital Duplicators Confirmation Form" (attachment 4).

7:45 PM Member Kosky joined the meeting.

Director of Curriculum Gangi also spoke about print management and how such can be implemented throughout the District. Member Sciabarrasi voiced her concern that the School Committee has not had sufficient time (14 days) since first learning about this proposal, and suggested further vetting of this proposal be done by the Business/Finance Subcommittee. Discussion continued.

Motion: To move the question.

(N. Plourde)

(M. Watson)

A two-thirds vote in favor is required to pass this motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Kenneth Mills
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Motion failed 9-7.

Additional discussion continued.

Motion: To remand the motion on the table (*Motion: To approve a 60 month contract with Xerox Corporation c/o*

Connecticut Business Systems, at an annual cost of \$58,648.80.) to the Business/Finance Subcommittee.
(S. Jackson)
(R. Pelczarski)

Discussion ensued. Since the Xerox contract offer expires December 31, 2012, a vote of the full School Committee must be taken by the December 10, 2012 regular School Committee meeting. Chair Leith noted that the Business/Finance Subcommittee would need to report back to the full School Committee no later than the November 26, 2012 regular School Committee meeting.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

William Clute
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Norman Plourde
Margaret Watson

Abstained:

Colleen Cipro

Motion passed 9-6-1.

VI. Public Hearing

Lisa Call, Sterling, addressed the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee

8:30 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

VIII. New Business

Motion: That the Management Subcommittee consider whether a policy should be developed whereby official contacts or questions are directed to outside agencies.

(M. Watson)

(N. Plourde)

Member Jackson read a prepared statement (attachment 5).

Discussion ensued.

8:43 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

Discussion continued. Member Watson re-read the motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

William Clute
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Robert Pelczarski

Motion passed 10-6.

Member Watson encouraged members to read the *Annual Report and FY13 Appropriation*, copies of which had been provided to members of the School Committee and will be mailed to Member Town officials.

8:55 PM Member Kelley left the meeting.

District administration was asked to compile information and provide a report to the School Committee on the full-day kindergarten program (number of full-day K

students, full-day K tuitions received, expenses related to the full-day K classrooms, and how any excess funds are spent).

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(S. Hammond)

(N. Plourde)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp