

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1171 Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Julianne Kelley
John Nunnari	Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Colleen Cipro	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Sherry Conrad	Kori Stuart (7:05 PM)
Steven Hammond	Dawn Torres-Gale
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

William Clute	Michael Pantos
Kristine Goodwin	Joseph Sova
Stacey Jackson	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Deputy Superintendent
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Leanne Becker	Katie Carlson
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Guest Speaker:

Dixie Herbst, Principal, Naquag Elementary School

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

Chair Watson 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. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1170th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on October 13, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held October 13, 2009.

(R. Imber)

(R. Carter)

Two corrections to the minutes were noted:

Page 7, the vote on the second reading of amended policy 1170 – Member Torres-Gale did not vote in favor of the motion.

Page 10, second sentence of first paragraph, should be corrected to read "...the Superintendent said he would have no ~~(to)~~ problem..."

Last sentence of first paragraph should be corrected to read "Discussion ensued, with several members voicing their opinions of not being in favor of directly passing along the Superintendent's email verbatim."

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held October 13, 2009 were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Members Nunnari and Pelczarski abstaining.

- B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRDSC held on October 13, 2009

Chair Watson asked members to review the minutes and if no corrections of substance were noted, these minutes could be approved in public session. If substantive corrections are noted, the minutes would be approved in executive session.

7:04 PM Student Representative Katie Carlson joined the meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session held October 13, 2009, not to be released.

(C. Bazinet)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson

Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter

Colleen Cipro

Shirley Conrad

Steven Hammond

Robert Imber

Julianne Kelley
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
John Nunnari
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski

(The motion passed 11-0-3)

7:05 PM Member Stuart joined the meeting.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Business Manager'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.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson introduced Naquag Elementary School Principal Dixie Herbst who addressed the School Committee and told of many events, activities and accomplishments taking place at that Rutland school. Principal Herbst answered questions posed by members. At 7:26 PM Chair Watson thanked Principal Herbst for her fine presentation and she was given a round of applause.

7:33 PM Principal Herbst left the meeting.

Chair Watson encouraged the Committee to read the *Annual Report and FY10 Appropriation* (the Annual Report), copies of which were given to the members at the last meeting, as it contains much interesting information. She explained copies of the Annual Report are sent to Member Town Selectboards, Finance Committees/Advisory Board and town libraries.

Chair Watson reported that the High School Building Committee has been invited to attend the November 9th School Committee meeting, at which time Chair Watson will discharge the Building Committee and members will be thanked for their service. Holden Police Chief George Sherrill and Holden Town Manager Brian Bullock are also expected to attend that same meeting.

- B. Student Representatives (Greg Savageau, Leanne Becker, Katie Carlson)

Student Representatives Becker and Carlson both contributed to the report on recent activities taking place at Wachusett Regional High School.

- C. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, J. Nunnari, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, R. Imber, J. Kelley, D. Leith, N. Plourde, K. Stuart)

1. Amended Policy – AP1680 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Minutes of School Committee**– second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy – AP1680 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Minutes of School Committee**.

(D. Leith)

(S. Conrad)

Chair Watson read aloud the amended language.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

2. Amended Policy – AP1681.2 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Video Taping of School Committee Meetings** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy –
AP1681.2 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Video
Taping of School Committee Meetings.**

(R. Imber)

(D. Leith)

Chair Watson read aloud the amended language.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

3. Amended Policy – AP1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee
Operation Evaluation of the Superintendent** – first reading

Chair Watson referenced attachment #14 of the Superintendent's Report of October 22, 2009 (Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument) and explained that the Management Subcommittee had not made any changes of substance from the instrument used to evaluate the Superintendent last year. The instrument, as well as the evaluation process, was discussed.

Motion: To accept the instrument to evaluate the Superintendent of Schools.

(C. Bazinet)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart

Opposed:
Dawn Torres-Gale

(The motion passed 14-1.)

Chair Watson referenced attachment #13 of the Superintendent's Report of October 22, 2009 (Timelines for Superintendent's Evaluation Spring 2010) and reviewed and explained the document for the Committee.

Motion: To accept the Timelines for Superintendent's Evaluation Spring 2010.

(S. Conrad)
(K. Stuart)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy – AP1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Evaluation of the Superintendent.**

Chair Watson read aloud the proposed deleted language, found in paragraph #6. Chair Watson explained how this proposed amendment came about. Chair Watson and Superintendent Pandiscio spoke of contract negotiations that took place in the spring/summer of 2009. Members asked questions and discussion continued.

The first reading of amended policy AP1312 died due to lack of motion.

Chair Watson referenced attachment #15 of the Superintendent's Report of October 22, 2009 (Superintendent's Goals for the Year: Time Frame) and read the document aloud. She explained that this document would be appended to the Superintendent's contract. Discussion ensued and it was debated if this document should be appended to the Superintendent's contract or if it should be attached to the evaluation instrument. Discussion continued.

Motion: To adopt the Superintendent's Goals for the Year: Time Frame, which will be attached to the Superintendent's evaluation instrument.

(R. Imber)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

4. Draft Policy – DP1670 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Executive Sessions** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy – DP1670 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Executive Sessions**.

(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Chair Watson read aloud the draft policy. The draft policy was discussed. A minor change was made to the third sentence in paragraph #5.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

8:40 PM Student Representative Katie Carlson left the meeting.

Chair Watson called the Committee's attention to attachment #11 of the Superintendent's October 22nd Report and advised the Committee they

would be asked to vote on this By-Law amendment at the November 9, 2009 School Committee meeting.

The next meeting of the Management Subcommittee will be posted for Monday, November 30, 2009, at 7:00 in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office.

D. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Nunnari, R. Pelczarski, N. Plourde, D. Torres-Gale)

1. Draft Policy – DP3820 ***Policy Relating to Education Observation of Education Programs for Special Needs Students*** – first reading

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet explained that between the time the draft policy was included in the Superintendent's Report and now, this draft policy had been reviewed at a principal Cabinet meeting and a minor edit was suggested, which she explained (at the end of paragraph #2 add the following sentence: "Observers may be accompanied by an administrator or designee at the discretion of the building principal."). Discussion of this draft policy continued, with the suggestion of two more edits: (paragraph #2, sentence #3, add "school" between "five" and "days." Paragraph #3, sentence #4, replace "expected" with "requested"). All suggested edits were accepted by Subcommittee Chair Bazinet, who read the draft policy aloud.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy DP3820
Policy Relating to Education Observation of Education Programs for Special Needs Students.

(C. Bazinet)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

Julianne Kelley

Abstained:

Robert Carter

(The motion passed 13-1-1)

The next meeting of the Education Subcommittee will be posted for Monday, November 16, 2009, at 7:00 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, R. Carter, W. Clute, M. Pantos, M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

Subcommittee Chair Leith announced the next meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee will be Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at 6:00 PM. At this meeting the Treasurer's evaluation instrument will be reviewed in preparation for the annual evaluation of the Treasurer. He reminded the Committee that Treasurer Dunbar's contract will expire December 31, 2009.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (C. Cipro, Chair, R. Pelczarski, Vice-chair, R. Carter, K. Goodwin, M. Sciabarrasi, K. Stuart, D. Torres-Gale)

Subcommittee Chair Cipro announced the next meeting of this subcommittee will be Tuesday, November 17, 2009, at 6:30 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (S. Conrad, J. Sova)

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported on the AAB meeting with District auditors Powers & Sullivan which was on Thursday, October 22, 2009. School Committee members will be provided copies of the final audit reports at the next School Committee meeting. In order to get meeting minutes approved, AAB Chair Conrad plans to schedule a meeting of the Audit Advisory Board in December or January.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Supplemental Revenue FY11 (M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

The first meeting of the ad hoc subcommittee will be Wednesday, November 4th, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center.

- I. Building Committee (D. Leith, Chair)

1. High School

Building Committee Chair Leith reported the final meeting of the High School Building Committee is posted for Thursday, November 5th, at 6:00 PM in the Curriculum Center. The Building Committee will be asked to approve a few last minute bills connected with the high school project. Building Committee members have been invited to attend the November 9th School Committee meeting.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Pantos), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (R. Carter), Dawson Elementary School (D. Torres-Gale), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Kelley), Houghton Elementary School (S. Conrad/N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (K. Goodwin), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (W. Clute), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Sciabarrasi), Wachusett Regional High School (D. Leith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (S. Jackson)

Dawn Torres-Gale – Dawson Elementary School

Julianne Kelley – Glenwood Elementary School

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Kelley informed the Committee that the Town of Rutland has called a Special Town Meeting for Monday, November 9, 2009, the same evening as the next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting.

Superintendent Pandiscio reported on the October 26th meeting with Member Town Boards of Health representatives to discuss the plan of action for upcoming H1N1 immunization clinics. The Superintendent gave a brief report on student and staff absenteeism.

9:26 PM Member Pelczarski left the table.

Members were provided their copies of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, adopted by Member Towns in May 2008 and approved by the DESE in September 2009, as well as copies of correspondence from DESE Commissioner Mitchell Chester, dated September 25, 2009, and from District Counsel McCabe, dated October 22, 2009 (attachment 2).

9:28 PM Member Pelczarski returned to the table.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To approve Proposed FY10 Assessment and Proposed FY10 Appropriation, as presented

Superintendent Pandiscio called the Committee attention to attachment 8 of his October 22, 2009 Report (attachment 3). Superintendent Pandiscio explained the reason for this adjustment.

Motion: To approve Proposed FY10 Appropriation 10.27.09 and Proposed FY10 Assessment 10.27.09, as presented.

(J. Nunnari)

(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

2. To approve the DRAFT 2010 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion: To approve the 2010 School Committee meeting schedule, as presented.

(D. Leith)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

3. To approve the corrected 2009- 2010 School Calendar, as presented.

Superintendent Pandiscio explained that this calendar reflects the correct 180th school day, June 16, 2010 (attachment 4).

Motion: To approve the corrected 2010 School Committee meeting schedule, as presented.

(S. Conrad)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Stuart inquired the status of a report on regionalizing middle schools in the District. The Superintendent explained high school scheduling vs middle school scheduling and why a high school schedule model has not typically been implemented in a middle school setting.

VIII. New Business

Chair Watson explained that Member Carter will be the WRDSC delegate at the November 2009 MASC/MASS Joint Conference, as he has several years in the past. In preparation for voting on resolutions at the Joint Conference, the School Committee was asked to give Member Carter direction on action he should take when voting on these resolutions.

Motion: The School Committee trusts Member Robert Carter's judgment to vote in the best interest of education when acting as the WRDSC's delegate at the November 2009 MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

(N. Plourde)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Motion: To acknowledge receipt of books presented to the Dawson Elementary School from the Carr family of Holden and to have the Chair of the School Committee thank the Carr family on behalf of the School Committee.

(C. Bazinet)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(S. Hammond)
(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro

Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp