

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1172 Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Julianne Kelley
John Nunnari	Duncan Leith
Robert Carter (7:35 PM)	Michael Pantos (7:16 PM)
Colleen Cipro	Robert Pelczarski
William Clute	Norman Plourde
Sherry Conrad (7:08 PM)	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kristine Goodwin	Kori Stuart
Steven Hammond	Dawn Torres-Gale
Robert Imber	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Cynthia Bazinet	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  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

Greg Savageau

*Invited Guests (members of the High School Building Committee):*

Maria Millett  
Kelly Maxwell  
Ralph Rondinone  
Suzanne Breen

*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 7:07 PM. She explained that the meeting is being taped live.

I. Public Hearing

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

7:08 PM Member Conrad joined the meeting.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1171<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on October 27, 2009

The following correction was made to the minutes: Page 14, Unfinished Business, sentence #2 should read: "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."

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held October 27, 2009, as corrected.

(J. Nunnari)  
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held October 27, 2009 were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Members Clute and Goodwin abstaining.

- B. Approval of Minutes of Special School Committee Meeting #286 held on November 3, 2009

The following correction was made to the minutes: Page 7, the motion was seconded by Member Goodwin and the phrase "and not directly affect children" is to be deleted.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the special School Committee meeting held November 3, 2009, as corrected.

(R. Imber)  
(K. Goodwin)

The minutes of the special meeting of the School Committee held November 3, 2009 were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Members Pelczarski and Plourde abstaining.

- C. Approval of Minutes of Special School Committee Meeting #286 Executive Session held on November 3, 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.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session held November 3, 2009, not to be released.

(S. Conrad)  
(K. Stuart)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Kori Stuart  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Duncan Leith  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde

(The motion passed 12-0-3)

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 welcomed High School Building Committee members Maria Millett, Ralph Rondinone and Building Project Administrative Assistant Suzanne Breen and asked High School Building Committee Chair Duncan Leith to address the Committee. Building Committee Chair Leith introduced the Building Committee members who were present and referenced Building Committee members, past and present, who were unable to attend this

meeting: John Brennan, Catherine Collins, John Rokicki, Michael Tsotsis, Emerson Wheeler and ex officio member David White.

7:16 PM Member Pantos joined the meeting.

Building Committee Chair Leith told that the final meeting of the High School Building Committee was held on November 5, 2009.

7:20 PM Building Committee member Kelly Maxwell joined the meeting.

Ms. Breen, Ms. Millett and Mr. Rondinone addressed the School Committee and Building Committee Chair Leith introduced Building Committee member Maxwell, who had just arrived at the meeting.

The School Committee gave the Building Committee a hearty round of applause in acknowledgement of their many years of service. Chair Watson read the official discharge of the Building Committee (attachment 2).

7:32 PM Ms. Breen, Ms. Maxwell, Ms. Millett and Mr. Rondinone left the meeting.

Chair Watson told that Holden Police Chief Sherrill and Holden Town Manager Brian Bullock are planning to attend the December 14<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting to recognize individuals for their efforts during the December 2008 ice storm.

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

Student Representative Savageau reported that first quarter report cards have been distributed. He gave updates on fall sports teams. Mr. Savageau told that two new honor societies (the Math National Honor Society and the Foreign Language National Honor Society) would both be holding induction ceremonies this week. He then extended his thanks to the High School Building Committee for their service.

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

1. Approval of Proposed Amendments to Wachusett Regional School Committee By-Laws

Chair Watson called the Committee's attention to page 2 of attachment 11 of the November 5, 2009 Superintendent's Report (Wachusett Regional School Committee By-Laws). Chair Watson read aloud the proposed amended language found in Article II, Section 4.

Motion: To amend Article II, Section 4, last sentence of paragraph #5, of the WRDSC By-Laws to read: Only **appointed** members of

**a standing subcommittee or ad hoc subcommittee shall attend executive sessions of that subcommittee except by invitation or in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B.**

(R. Imber)  
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Kori Stuart  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

2. Draft Policy – DP1670 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Executive Sessions** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of DP1670 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Executive Sessions**, waiving the reading.

(J. Nunnari)  
(D. Leith)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond

Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Kori Stuart  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*  
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Member Torres-Gale asked about executive session minutes that have been approved, but are not posted on the District website.

The next meeting of the Management Subcommittee will be 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)

Vice-chair Hammond reported the Education Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting, but will meet on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

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

Motion: To approve the second reading of DP3820 ***Policy Relating to Education Observation of Education Programs for Special Needs Students***, waiving the reading.

(S. Hammond)  
(C. Cipro)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond

Robert Imber  
Duncan Leith  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Kori Stuart  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*  
Julianne Kelley

(The motion passed 15-1.)

- 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, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. Treasurer James Dunbar will attend that meeting.

Subcommittee Chair Leith explained the Business/Finance Subcommittee is recommending minor amendments to three policies in the 7000 Series (Policies Relating to Support Operations). He outlined the amendments for the Committee.

1. Amended Policy – AP7151 **Policy Relating to Support Operations School Plans** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP7151 **Policy Relating to Support Operations School Plans**, waiving the reading.

(D. Leith)

(S. Conrad)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Michael Pantos

Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Kori Stuart  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*  
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

7:35 PM Member Carter joined the meeting.

2. Amended Policy – AP7152 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Safety Procedures and Programs** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP7152 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Safety Procedures and Programs**, waiving the reading.

(D. Leith)  
(S. Conrad)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Kori Stuart  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*  
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)



3. Amended Policy – AP7210 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Transportation Routes and Services** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP7210 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Transportation Routes and Services**, waiving the reading.

(D. Leith)  
(S. Conrad)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Kori Stuart  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

- 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 reported 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)

All School Committee members were provided with their copies of the reports prepared by Powers & Sullivan for the year ended June 30, 2009 (*Management Letter, Report on Examination of Basic Financial Statements, Reports on Federal Award Programs*), as well as a copy of AAB Chair Conrad's report on the October 22, 2009 Audit Advisory Board meeting.

Acceptance of these audit reports will be on the agenda of the November 23, 2009 School Committee meeting.

The AAB will meet next on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 7:00 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

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

Co-chair Sciabarrasi reported that the first meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee, held on November 4<sup>th</sup>, went well and will meet again on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center.

I. Building Committee (D. Leith, Chair)

1. High School

Since Chair Watson had discharged the Building Committee at the beginning of this meeting, no report was necessary.

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)

Kristine Goodwin – reported on the service held at Mountview Middle School on October 27<sup>th</sup> in memory of Lydia Walz.

Shirley Conrad – Houghton Elementary School

Julianne Kelley – reported on a SEPAC meeting and tour held November 4<sup>th</sup> at WRHS.

Robert Carter – Davis Hill Elementary School  
Discussion of full day kindergarten ensued.

V. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report

Member Pelczarski commended the Superintendent on his letter to Secretary of Education Reville and many members agreed it was very well written. It was suggested that this letter be posted on the District website for the public's information. Discussion of the recent 9C cuts ensued and contacting Governor Patrick's office to voice objections about these cuts was suggested. Superintendent Pandiscio will prepare a letter to parents explaining the recent cuts to regional transportation and will ask principals to have the letter sent home to parents via student backpacks.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

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

Superintendent Pandiscio explained to the Committee that attachments 5, 6 and 7 of his November 5, 2009 Superintendent's Report were not accurate proposals and the Committee was provided with copies of Scenario #2a – Revenue (Proposed FY10 Assessment 11.10.09) and Expenditures (Proposed FY10 Appropriation 11.10.09), and Scenario #2b – Revenue (Proposed FY10 Assessment 11.10.09) and Expenditures (Proposed FY10 Appropriation 11.10.09) (attachments 3, 4, 5, & 6).

Superintendent Pandiscio walked the Committee through the four attachments, giving detailed explanations of the information contained in the spreadsheets. At the conclusion of this in depth review, Superintendent Pandiscio told the Committee it is his recommendation, supported by District administration, that Scenario #2b be approved by the School Committee.

Motion: To approve Scenario #2b, Proposed FY10 Appropriation 11.10.09 and Proposed FY10 Assessment 11.10.09, as presented.

(R. Imber)

(M. Pantos)

8:25 PM Member Hammond left the table.

Discussion continued.

8:27 PM Member Hammond returned to the table.

The motion on the floor continued to be reviewed and discussed. When asked if funds would be taken from District E&D, Superintendent Pandiscio said not at this time. When asked if he was comfortable with the anticipated FY10 school choice receiving tuition (\$200,000) and FY10 interest earnings and Medicaid (\$250,000), Superintendent Pandiscio answered he was. The possible reduction of the number of buses on the roads to transport

Wachusett students was raised. When asked if Member Towns would hold special Town Meetings on the revised assessments and appropriation, Superintendent Pandiscio said he cannot presume to speak for the towns; that would be a decision made by the towns. Members thanked the Superintendent and the administration for preparing Scenarios #2a and #2b.

8:45 PM Member Nunnari left the table.

When asked, Superintendent Pandiscio confirmed that the proposed assessment to Member Towns will not be greater than what was assessed the towns on June 23, 2009.

8:48 PM Member Nunnari returned to the table.

Chair Watson explained that fourteen votes in favor are needed to pass this motion.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Kori Stuart  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*

John Nunnari

(The motion passed 16-1.)

The question was asked if savings can be realized by reducing the number of buses that transport District students and the topic was discussed.

Motion: To have District administration examine regular education transportation costs and report back to the School Committee at its next regular meeting.

(R. Imber)

(K. Stuart)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Carter  
Robert Imber  
Kori Stuart  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*

John Nunnari  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michelle Sciabarrasi

*Abstained:*

Margaret Watson

(The motion failed 4-12-1.)

VI. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan of Holden addressed the School Committee, thanking those who served on the High School Building Committee for their hard work and efforts.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Pantos)  
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Kori Stuart  
Dawn Torres-Gale

*Opposed:*

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp