

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1262 Monday, November 10, 2014  
7:00 PM

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School  
1401 Main Street, Holden

*Committee Members Present:*

Lance Harris, Chair	Sarah LaMountain
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Robert McCarthy
Scott Brown	Kenneth Mills
Michael Dennis	Steve Porter
Harriet Fradellos	Robert Remillard
Susan Hitchcock	Barbara Renzoni
Stacey Jackson	Erik Scheinfeldt
Julianne Kelley	Christina Smith
Deidre Kosky	Charles Witkes

*Committee Members Absent:*

Thomas Curran	Timothy Ethier
Matthew Ehrenworth	Brian Ruttle

*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	Liam Fritsche
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*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 7:04 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris publically reported that the Memorandum of Agreement between the WRSD and AFSCME, Council 93, Local 2885- Custodial Employees had been ratified by the School Committee, in executive session, on October 28, 2014.

Chair Harris reported on post-season competitions still underway for the WRHS girls' cross country team and the boys' soccer team.

Chair Harris explained that due to illness the presentation by WRHS Principal Beando will be postponed until the November 24, 2014 School Committee meeting.

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

Student Representative Fritsche reported on the very successful showing by WRHS Model U. N. participants in a recent competition held at Brown University. Student Representative Budd also praised the Model U. N. team.

### IV. Superintendent's Report

#### A. Discussion of Report

Chair Harris turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall, who first reported on a November 10, 2014 meeting he had with Holden Town Manager Jacquie Kelly to begin discussions about the increasing pupil population in Holden. Ms. Kelly had told the Superintendent that Holden's population is up to almost 20,000 (adding 1,000 (+/-) Holden residents every year). Superintendent McCall anticipates a task force will be appointed comprised of representatives from the School Committee, parents, community members, Holden school administration, and Holden town officials, as well as others as deemed appropriate. Those interested in volunteering to serve on this task force should contact the District Central Office. Parents will be informed that a task force will be named via a School Messenger message, and will be instructed how to volunteer to serve. Superintendent McCall also reported he will work with the local press to let members of the community know the District and the Town of Holden need to look at Holden's population and student enrollment numbers and volunteers from the community at-large to serve on a task force will be needed. At Member Smith's inquiry, Superintendent McCall confirmed that informational forums will be held to give others the opportunity to learn about re-districting as the process moves forward.

Superintendent McCall briefly reported on the progress of the Mountview Middle School building project. He reported the targeted move in date, which was originally thought might be February 2016, has been reconsidered and will most likely be changed to April 2016, due to weather considerations for the move. Superintendent McCall will keep the Committee informed when more definitive plans are in place.

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent McCall will be sending a three question survey out to parents, seeking their opinions/comments about this district. At a later date, a link to the survey will be made available so that members of the public will also be able to complete the survey.

At Member Porter's inquiry about school leadership in six of the District's schools being "new" come July 2015, Superintendent McCall explained that he has been meeting regularly with the three principals who were appointed July 1, 2014 and these meetings will continue. He plans to have similar meetings with new principals who will be appointed July 1, 2015.

At Member Remillard's inquiry, Superintendent McCall spoke about the recent problems accessing PowerSchool, explaining the technology outage was due to a fire in Worcester, out of the hands of the District. He acknowledged that this technology snafu came at a very bad time due to the release of first quarter report cards.

Vice-chair Imber asked for an update about the Eureka math curriculum and professional development being provided to teachers. Superintendent McCall reported on the November 4, 2014 professional development day, on the November 6, 2014 Curriculum Meeting, and what plans are being made to provide staff with the needed professional development. Discussion about the math curriculum ensued, with many members of the Committee participating in the discussion. Superintendent McCall assured the Committee he is aware of the need for math professional development, especially for the Eureka Math program. When asked, Superintendent McCall commented the middle school transition to the Big Ideas math curriculum seems to be going along fairly well, noting Big Ideas is not as "vocabulary intensive" as Eureka Math.

Member Jackson asked the Superintendent when he is looking for School Committee input/direction about school choice participation, to which he answered "sooner than later." Chair Harris asked if the Education Subcommittee and the Business/Finance Subcommittee could include school choice on upcoming meeting agendas, with the hope these subcommittees could bring their recommendations to the full School Committee in time for consideration at the Annual Budget Retreat in January.

Member Mills asked what the District's plans are with regard to the ALICE (Alert/Lockdown/Inform/Counter/Evacuate) philosophy. Facilities & Security Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported this topic is on that subcommittee's November 13, 2014 meeting agenda.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$431,555 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Mountview Middle School

(R. McCarthy)

(K. Mills)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Deidre Kosky  
Harriet Fradellos  
Sarah LaMountain  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting 1261<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 28, 2014

Motion: To approve minutes of regular meeting #1261 of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 28, 2014

(K. Mills)

(C. Witkes)

The minutes were approved, with Members Imber, Hitchcock, Jackson, Kosky, and Scheinfeldt abstaining.

- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 28, 2014.

Motion: To approve minutes of October 28, 2014 executive session of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, to be released.

(S. Brown)

(E. Scheinfeldt)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Scott Brown  
Michael Dennis  
Harriet Fradellos  
Sarah LaMountain  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Robert Imber  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Deidre Kosky  
Steve Porter  
Erik Scheinfeldt

The motion passed 11-0-7.

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, K. Mills, Barbara Renzoni, E. Scheinfeldt)

Chair Harris reported on the October 21, 2014 meeting of the subcommittee and that the next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2014. At the meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> the subcommittee will review District goals

submitted by each subcommittee, with the intent to bring forward to the full School Committee at the November 24, 2014 meeting four to six District goals for School Committee review and approval.

There was brief discussion about a District long-range plan and, at Member Kelley's request, the 2007-2012 District Strategic Plan will be shared with School Committee members.

The Management Subcommittee had also discussed the issue of employee use of personal cell phones while working. Superintendent McCall will be addressing this concern with school principals and the language about cell phone use that is in the Employee Handbook will be updated.

- B. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, T. Ethier, H. Fradellos, R. Remillard)

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee had met just before this regular School Committee meeting.

1. Amended Policy – 6312 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Regular Attendance** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 6312  
**Policy Relating to Pupil Services Regular Attendance**

(B. Renzoni)

(R. McCarthy)

Subcommittee Chair Imber read aloud the amended policy. Discussion ensued. Some minor edits were suggested, including having MGL referenced on the amended policy. When asked if the amended policy had been reviewed by counsel, and learning that it had not been, Chair Harris asked Superintendent McCall to have counsel review the amended policy and if found to be in good form by counsel, the Committee's vote on a first reading can stand and the second reading can be on the agenda for the November 24, 2014 regular School Committee meeting. If counsel suggests edits to the amended policy, the first reading will need to be re-done at the November 24, 2014 School Committee meeting. More discussion took place.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley

Harriet Fradellos  
Robert McCarthy  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Deidre Kosky  
Sarah LaMountain  
Kenneth Mills

*Abstained:*

Lance Harris

The motion passed 14-3-1.

2. Draft Policy – 6531.2 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)** – first reading

Subcommittee Chair Imber spoke about the development of this draft policy and reported the draft policy had been reviewed by counsel. Subcommittee Chair Imber read aloud the draft policy.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 6531.2 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)**

(J. Kelley)

(S. Jackson)

Much discussion took place, and minor typographical edits were recommended. The two Student Representatives reported having wifi in the cafeteria is very helpful. After discussing the draft policy, Subcommittee Chair Imber explained that currently there is no policy to address students' use of personal technology devices; this draft policy is something to start with.

Motion: To amend Draft Policy 6531.2 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)** by removing the bullet formatting under the subsection **Guidelines**.

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(S. Jackson)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown

Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Deidre Kosky  
Harriet Fradellos  
Sarah LaMountain  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued. Member Scheinfeldt voiced his hope that having a BYOD policy in place would not preclude expansion of the District's technology needs.

Vote on main motion:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Deidre Kosky  
Harriet Fradellos  
Sarah LaMountain  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None



The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported on the meeting of the subcommittee that took place immediately before this School Committee meeting. The subcommittee is reviewing Policy 3323 *Home Assignments*. District administration has been asked to gather information about this topic, which will be reviewed by the subcommittee at the January 26, 2015 Education Subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee will also address life threatening allergies concerns. District administration will gather information about this topic, which will be reviewed by the subcommittee at the first meeting in February 2015.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (B. Renzoni, Chair, M. Dennis, Vice-chair, S. Jackson, B. Ruttle, C. Witkes)

Subcommittee Chair Renzoni reported on the November 3, 2014 meeting of this subcommittee. She reported that the Business/Finance Subcommittee is recommending to the full School Committee, but not making a formal motion about such, that the School Committee in conjunction with District administration address the District's short and long term goals.

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

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported this subcommittee met immediately before this regular School Committee meeting, to address District goals. The subcommittee will meet, in executive session, on November 19, 2014. The subcommittee will meet again on December 4, 2014. Subcommittee Chair Mills reported the IBB (interest-based bargaining) training session has been rescheduled to Saturday, December 6, 2014.

- E. Facilities & Security Subcommittee (E. Scheinfeldt, Chair, R. McCarthy, Vice-chair, T. Curran, S. LaMountain, S. Porter)

Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported this subcommittee will meet on November 13, 2014.

- F. Audit Advisory Board (J. Kelley, Chair)

AAB Chair Kelley reported the Audit Advisory Board was invited to meet with District auditors on October 22, 2014, at the conclusion of the auditors' work at the District Central Office. The AAB will meet on November 12, 2014.

- G. Collaborative Budget Task Force (S. Jackson, Chair, R. Imber, S. Hitchcock, J. Keley, B. Renzoni)

Task Force Chair Jackson reported on the November 5, 2014 meeting and told that the next meeting will be December 3, 2014. Vice-chair Imber, who serves on the Collaborative Budget Task Force, encouraged members to attend the Foundation Forum that will be held in the auditorium at Wachusett Regional High School on Thursday, November 20, 2014, beginning at 6:30 PM.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review Evaluation and Hiring Policy (K. Mill, Chair, R. Remillard, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Ehrenworth, C. Smith)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Mills reported this subcommittee will meet next on December 4, 2014.

- I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

As Superintendent McCall previously reported, this building project is moving along smoothly.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee

The Green Repair projects have been completed and all MSBA monies have been received. Chair Harris discharged the Green Repair School Building Committee.

- J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (TBD), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Smith), Dawson Elementary School (D. Kosky), Glenwood Elementary School (TBD), Houghton Elementary School (TBD), Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (M. Ehrenworth), Paxton Center School (TBD), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/B. Ruttle), Wachusett Regional High School (E. Scheinfeldt), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (TBD)

Member Witkes (reporting in Member Ehrenworth's absence) – Naquag Elementary School

Member Jackson – SEPAC workshop to be held November 13, 2014

Member LaMountain – Chocksett Middle School

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

Member Kelley asked that the Management Subcommittee reviewed School Committee By-Laws to consider amending the language setting School Committee meeting frequency.

Member Kelley reported on the MASS/MASC Joint Conference which she attended the beginning of November.

In preparation for the Annual School Committee Budget Retreat, Member Scheinfeldt would like District administration to prepare a report on Central Office staffing, due to his concern that the Central Office is currently understaffed. For planning purposes, Member Scheinfeldt asked that this report be made available in advance of the Retreat.

Also in preparation for the Annual Budget Retreat, Member Smith would like to know more about the socio-emotional needs of middle school and elementary school students.

Chair Harris reported on the possibility the State is looking at a \$325 million shortfall, which could result in 9(C) cuts, which could have a great impact on this district. The Committee will be kept apprised as this possibility develops.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(S. Brown)  
(R. Remillard)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Michael Dennis  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Deidre Kosky  
Harriet Fradellos  
Sarah LaMountain

Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp