

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1226 Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	James Mason
Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair	Kenneth Mills
Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
William Clute	Norman Plourde
Steven Hammond	Robert Remillard
Lance Harris	Erik Scheinfeldt
Julianne Kelley	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Deidre Kosky	Athas Tsongalis
Sarah LaMountain	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Robert Imber	Stacey Jackson
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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:

Emily Lindberg	Emily Tomczyk
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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 7:07 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Leith reported that Richard Carr, Audit Advisory Board member, is expected to attend the meeting to address the School Committee, and Chair Leith will allow Mr. Carr to speak upon his arrival.

Eugene Fradellos, Audit Advisory Board member, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the 295th Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 22, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of the School Committee held October 22, 2012.

(S. Hammond)
(M. Watson)

The minutes of the special meeting of the School Committee held October 22, 2012 were approved, by consensus, with Members Bazinet, Kosky, Mason, Remillard, and Tsongalis abstaining.

- B. Approval of 1225th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 22, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held October 22, 2012.

(S. Hammond)
(N. Plourde)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held October 22, 2012 were approved, by consensus, with Members Mason, Remillard, Scheinfeldt, and Tsongalis abstaining.

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

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session held on October 9, 2012.

(N. Plourde)
(M. Watson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Lance Harris
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Robert Pelczarski
Athas Tsongalis

Motion passed 14-0-4.

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 wish members a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chair Leith addressed the letter received from the Princeton Board of Selectmen, which was included in the November 8, 2012 Superintendent's Report. Because Superintendent Reports and associated attachments are now delivered electronically, Member Town officials are able to receive all materials, not just the Superintendent's Report. Member Kelly asked that the Princeton Board of Selectmen letter of November 6, 2012 be referred to the Business/Finance Subcommittee. Chair Leith encouraged School Committee members to attend their town's Selectboard meetings, when able.

B. Student Representatives

Emily Lindberg reported on fall sports teams that advanced to District playoffs, a food collection drive taking place, collecting of toys for New Jersey victims of Hurricane Sandy, and November 16, 17, 18 production of the fall play *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Emily Tomczyk reported winter sports tryouts will begin November 26th, the annual open house for 8th grade students will be hosted in November, Wachusett's Got Talent contest November 30th, and the Wachusett Thanksgiving Day football game against Holy Name High School will be played at Wachusett on November 22nd at 10:00 AM.

- 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 the Management Subcommittee will meet Tuesday, December 4th, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center. He is hoping that future meetings of this subcommittee can be piggybacked with meetings of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Superintendent Search since both subcommittee memberships overlap.

- 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 the Education Subcommittee will meet Monday, November 19th, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center.

- 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)

Subcommittee Chair Remillard reported this subcommittee had met at 6:00 PM just before this regular School Committee meeting. Subcommittee Chair Remillard reported that one item on the Business/Finance agenda was to review and consider entering into a 60 month contract with Xerox Corporation c/o Connecticut Business Systems, at an annual cost of \$58,648.80. Subcommittee Chair Remillard reported the Business/Finance Subcommittee took no action on this agenda item. Subcommittee Chair Remillard reported at the subcommittee meeting Superintendent Pandiscio had provided the members with an *FY13 Summary to Date* and *MUNIS Year-to-Date Budget Report* (attachment 2).

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)

In Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair Jackson's absence, Subcommittee Vice-chair Sciabarrasi reported that the Community Outreach Subcommittee will meet at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 5th. This meeting will be held at Thomas Prince School in Princeton.

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

Motion: To accept the recommendation of the Audit Advisory Board to accept *Management Letter, Report on Examination of Basic Financial Statements, and Reports on Federal Award Programs* for fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

(J. Mason)
(E. Schneifeldt)

Member Kelley questioned why the School Committee needs to vote acceptance of the auditors' reports. Discussion ensued concerning the End-of-Year Report, the annual audit, the Department of Revenue, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Member Harris suggested inviting representatives from DOR and DESE to a School Committee meeting to address the School Committee and District administration and advise how the FY12 budget should be handled. It was advised this might be a matter to raise under New Business. Discussion continued.

7:40 PM Student Representative Lindberg left the meeting.

7:40 PM Audit Advisory Board member Richard Carr joined the meeting.

Chair Leith invited Mr. Carr to address the School Committee. At the conclusion of Mr. Carr's statements, Mr. Fradellos added his additional comments regarding the findings/opinions of the Audit Advisory Board. At the conclusion of the Mr. Carr's and Mr. Fradellos' addresses, Chair Leith reminded School Committee members of the motion on the table, and invited members to ask additional questions or make additional comments, before voting on the motion. Some members asked questions of Mr. Carr and Mr. Fradellos.

7:55 PM Member Scheinfeldt left the table.

Member Hammond pointed out that the motion on the table is only to accept the recommendation of the Audit Advisory Board. The motion on the table would not prevent future action to proceed with another/additional audit(s).

7:56 PM Member Scheinfeldt returned to the table.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond

Lance Harris
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Abstained:

Sarah LaMountain

Motion passed 14-3-1.

8:02 PM Audit Advisory Board Members Carr and Fredellos left 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 Remillard gave the history of meetings and actions of this ad hoc subcommittee. Member Remillard announced the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Hire a Business Manager to appoint Joseph Scanlon as Director of Business and Finance. Member Remillard gave an overview of Mr. Scanlon's background and experience.

Motion: To hire Joseph Scanlon as Director of Business and Finance, effective December 17, 2012, subject to contract negotiations.

(R. Remillard)

(J. Kelley)

8:05 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet

William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Leith recognized Mr. Scanlon, who was in the audience, and he invited Mr. Scanlon to address the School Committee, which he did.

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 this ad hoc subcommittee will meet Wednesday, November 28th, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center.

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 reported on the first meeting of the ad hoc subcommittee, held November 1, 2012. He explained that following the November 1st meeting, an RFP seeking consulting services for a Superintendent search was advertised as well as mailed. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported this subcommittee will meet next at 6:00 PM on December 3rd, in executive session, to review proposals received.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported on the November 13th meeting of the Mountview Building Committee and she also reported that MSBA met on November 14th to continue the review of the the Mountview project.

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

Chair Leith had nothing to report at this time.

J. School Council Reports:

8:14 PM Member Clute left the table.

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 Watson – October 25, 2012 Mayo Elementary School

Member Pelczarski – November 13, 2012 Paxton Center School.

8:17 PM Member Clute returned to the table.

Member Harris – November 13, 2012 Houghton Elementary School.

Member Harris read for the record a commendation the Houghton Elementary School received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, we are pleased to confer upon you this Governor's Citation in honor of your being selected as a 2012 Commendation School and in recognition of your school's high achievement, high progress, and/or narrowing proficiency gaps.

This seventeenth day of October in the year 2012

Member Tsongalis – reported on an anti-bullying assembly to take place November 15th

Member Kelley – November 14, 2012 Glenwood Elementary School

Member Mason – October Early Childhood Center

8:22 PM Member Kelley left the table.

8:23 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

Member LaMountain – Chocksett Middle School School Council to meet next week

8:25 PM Member Kelley returned to the table.

Vice-chair Cipro reported on an article recently featured in *Country Folks*, reporting on the renovation of the greenhouse at Naquag Elementary School.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

There were no questions raised regarding the Superintendent's Report.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

There were no recommendations requiring action brought before the School Committee.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished business

Vice-chair Cipro asked the next step, in light of the Business/Finance Subcommittee taking no action regarding a 60 month contract with Xerox Corporation c/o Connecticut Business Systems. Member Harris, as the maker of a motion at the October 22, 2012 School Committee meeting to approve the contract, offered to withdraw that motion. Because, according to Roberts Rules, motions belong to the entire School Committee, this offer was declined.

8:27 PM Member Mason left the table.

Discussion continued.

8:30 PM Member Mason returned to the table.

Discussion continued. Vice-chair Cipro had a point of order, noting there is no motion on the table, but there is much discussion. More discussion continued.

Motion: To accept the recommendation of the Business/Finance Subcommittee to take no action regarding a 60 month contract with Xerox Corporation c/o Connecticut Business Systems.

(R. Remillard)

(A. Tsongalis)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Erik Scheinfeldt

Motion passed 17-1.

Member Mills asked the status of an RFP for a forensic audit. At Chair Leith's request, Director Sullivan reported on what Nashoba School District had done when that district was faced with conducting a forensic audit. Director Sullivan further reported that the Audit Advisory Board had offered to provide input if a RFP for a forensic audit is sought. It was noted that MASBO (Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials) has been contracted to conduct a *Financial Operations Review*, which will take place November 28 and 29, 2012.

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed WRSD Full Day K – 2012 – 2013 (attachment 3). Member Harris thanked District administration for providing this information. Both Superintendent Pandiscio and Director McCall spoke to this topic.

8:45 PM Student Representative Tomczyk left the table.

VIII. New Business

Motion: That District Counsel be consulted to determine whether charging students in the Wachusett District fees for their academic subjects is legal.

(M. Watson)

(A. Tsongalis)

Member Watson spoke to the motion.

8:48 PM Student Representative Tomczyk returned to the table.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To request that administration develop an “activity fee” based on the same philosophies that determine the “athletic fee” charged to students across the District. That is, to determine one set amount that is sufficient to cover costs of programming and is consistent for all students.

(C. Cipro)

(J. Kelley)

Vice-chair Cipro spoke to the motion. The motion was discussed and some edits were offered. Student Representative Tomczyk spoke about the motion on the table. Discussion continued. At member LaMountain’s inquiry, Vice-chair Cipro confirmed this motion is referencing fees charged at both middle schools and the high

school. Member Hammond reminded the Committee that the motion is just asking administration to develop an “activity fee” for consideration. The maker and seconder of the motion accepted some edits to the motion.

Motion: To request that administration develop an “activity fee” based on the same philosophies that determine the “athletic fee” charged to students across the District. That is, to determine one set amount that mitigates costs of programming and is consistent for all participating students.

(C. Cipro)
(J. Kelley)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis

Opposed:

Margaret Watson

Motion passed 17-1.

Member Harris again suggested a representative from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education be invited to a School Committee meeting. Superintendent Pandiscio offered to contact DESE and request an opinion in writing.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, and to discuss pending litigation, not to return to public session.

(J. Mason)
(R. Pelczarski)

Chair Leith said that at the advice of Attorney Naomi Stonberg he wanted to advise the Committee the non-union position to be discussed in executive session would be the Director of Business and Finance.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp