

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1277 Monday, November 16, 2015
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Committee Members Present:

Lance Harris, Chair	Robert McCarthy (7:25 PM)
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Lauren Maldonado (7:12 PM)
Scott Brown	Kenneth Mills
Thomas Curran	Jon Edward Novak
Michael Dennis	Barbara Renzoni
Matthew Ehrenworth	Asima Silva
Harriet Fradellos	Christina Smith (7:20 PM)
Susan Hitchcock	Megan Weeks (7:08 M)
Stacey Jackson	Charles Witkes
Linda Long-Bellil (7:09 PM)	Adam Young (7:07 PM)

Committee Members Absent:

Sarah LaMountain	Steve Porter
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Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
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 meeting to order at 7:04 PM. He announced the meeting was being recorded, but not being shown live.

Chair Harris publicly announced that on October 20, 2015 the School Committee had voted to ratify contracts with two bargaining units: Agreement Between Wachusett Regional School District and Wachusett Cafeteria Association July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017, and Agreement Between Wachusett Regional School District and SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017.

I. Public Hearing

Duncan Leith, Holden resident, addressed the School Committee.

7:07 PM Member Young joined the meeting.

7:08 PM Member Weeks joined the meeting.

7:09 PM Member Long-Bellil joined the meeting.

7:10 Mr. Leith concluded his statement.

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris asked members who might be interested in serving on the interview committee for the Deputy Superintendent position to let him know. Chair Harris also announced School Committee members are needed to serve on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee and any member willing to serve should let him know.

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

Student Representative Fritsche thanked the School Committee for voting in support of eliminating class rank. Student Representative Budd also expressed thanks for this action.

7:12 PM Member Maldonado joined the meeting.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Harris polled members about comments and/or questions that would be raised about the Superintendent's Report. Chair Harris turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall. Superintendent McCall thanked Mr. Leith for his continued support of the District and the budget. Superintendent McCall gave an overview of the FY17 Budget Roundtable held on November 3, 2015. He reported the meeting was well attended and much discussion about the coming budget season took place. Superintendent McCall requested that School Committee members think about what they consider FY17 budget priorities in advance of the Annual Budget Retreat, to be held the end of January. Superintendent McCall reported on his meeting with representatives of the MARS Consulting Group (Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools), the consultants who will be facilitating the development of the District' strategic plan. Superintendent McCall is looking for School Committee members willing to serve on the Steering Committee. Chair Harris informed the Committee that a special meeting of the School Committee will be held on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 6:00 PM, at which time representatives from MARS Consulting Group will address the School Committee, explain the

process to be followed as the strategic plan is developed, and to conduct the School Committee focus group seeking input from the Committee about the District strategic plan.

Member Curran publicly extended congratulations to Holden resident and Mountview Middle School student Katharine Herlihy on her nomination to represent Mountview Middle School as one of this year's Project 351 ambassadors. Member Curran spoke about the program and acknowledged the good work of all five Wachusett middle school ambassadors.

7:20 PM Member Smith joined the meeting.

Member Jackson asked how new positions, possible following the approval of the FY16 budget, will be integrated into the schools this school year. Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services Catherine Knowles explained interviews for the three middle school counselor positions will be held November 23, 2015. Superintendent McCall spoke about the five positions at the high school and reported on the status of those hires. Superintendent McCall reported, to date, twenty-one applications have been entered into SchoolSpring for the Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment position. District administration is in the process of contacting six to seven viable candidates to schedule preliminary interviews, being planned for sometime the beginning of December. Superintendent McCall is seeking two School Committee members able to participate in the interview process. Member Witkes questioned the quality of the applicants since the posting went up mid-school year. Superintendent McCall acknowledged this concern, and stated that if a qualified candidate cannot be found in this pool of applicants, the position would be re-posted for a July 1, 2016 start date.

7:25 PM Member McCarthy joined the meeting.

Member Jackson asked about MCAS/MCAS 2.0 testing for the spring 2016, expressing her concern about technology should testing be done by computer. She explained her concern is around the number of available laptops and space needed if computers need to be used by entire classes for testing. Superintendent McCall responded, informing the Committee assessment testing specifics are unclear at this time. Superintendent McCall will participate in a webinar on November 17, 2015, seeking clarification from the state about how testing will be conducted in the spring of 2016. Superintendent McCall will keep the Committee apprised as more information is obtained from the DESE.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

No action was required of the Committee.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1276th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 20, 2015

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on October 20, 2015.

(S. Brown)

(K. Mills)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Matthew Ehrenworth
Susan Hitchcock
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Stacey Jackson
Robert McCarthy
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

The minutes were approved 13-0-7.

- B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 20, 2015

Motion: To approve minutes of the executive session of the WRSDC held on October 20, 2015.

(K. Mills)

(M. Ehrenworth)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Matthew Ehrenworth
Susan Hitchcock
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Harriet Fradellos
Stacey Jackson
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

The minutes were approved 12-0-8.

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, S. Jackson, K. Mills)

Chair Harris reported on the November 12, 2015 meeting of the Management Subcommittee.

- B. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, S. LaMountain, L. Long-Bellil, L. Maldonado, S. Porter, A. Silva, M. Weeks)

Education Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee had met immediately before this regular School Committee meeting, and will meet next on December 16, 2015. The subcommittee is focusing on bullying/anti-bullying at this point in time.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (S. Jackson, Chair, M. Dennis, Vice-chair, H. Fradellos, R. McCarthy, E. Novak, B. Renzoni, C. Witkes, A Young)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Jackson reported on the November 9, 2015 meeting of this subcommittee, which will meet next on December 7, 2015.

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

Legal Affairs Subcommittee Chair Mills reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting. The Legal Affairs Subcommittee will meet next on December 9, 2015.

1. Amended Policy – 5252 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management**
Physical Restraint Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support Policy
– second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy 5252
Policy Relating to Personnel Management ~~**Physical Restraint**~~
Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support Policy waiving the
reading.

(R. Imber)

(R. McCarthy)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Linda Long-Bellil

Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Draft Policy – 5236 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Domestic Violence Leave Policy**– second reading

Subcommittee Chair Mills spoke to the concern of some members about the Superintendent having discretion to approve use of days in the case when an employee would need time off from work due to domestic violence.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy 7156 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Emergency Response Plan**, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)

(R. McCarthy)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva

Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Audit Advisory Board

AAB Chair Jackson reported on the November 9, 2015 meeting of the Audit Advisory Board.

F. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review Evaluation and Hiring Policy (K. Mills, Chair, S. Brown, M. Ehrenworth, C. Smith)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review Evaluation and Hiring Policy Chair Mills reported this ad hoc subcommittee met immediately before this regular School Committee, with the only agenda item to approve minutes. Following the meeting this evening, the ad hoc subcommittee's work has been completed and Chair Harris officially discharged the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review Evaluation and Hiring Policy.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (S. Hitchcock, Chair, R. Imber, K. Mills, B. Renzoni, C. Witkes)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement Chair Hitchcock reported this ad hoc subcommittee held the first meeting on November 5, 2015, and will meet next on December 10, 2015. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock informed the Committee that some of the areas the ad hoc subcommittee will focus on during this review include the composition of the School Committee, the frequency of review of the Regional Agreement, Member Town assessment payments and schedule, and leases with the Member Towns.

G. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Member McCarthy gave an overview of the progress being made on the Mountview building project.

7:38 PM Member Fradellos left the table.

At Member McCarthy's request, Superintendent McCall spoke about the Mountview building project construction schedule. Superintendent McCall attended the November 10, 2015 construction meeting, when there was discussion about moisture in the flooring at the new building and how the contractor is planning to address this issue.

Superintendent McCall reported he has been advised there "may" be a delay in the move in date, but it is too early to know for certain at this point. A projected construction schedule is very hard to predict. Superintendent McCall should know more details following the November 17, 2015 construction meeting.

H. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (J. E. Novak), Chocksett Middle School, Davis Hill Elementary School (A. Silva), Dawson Elementary School, Glenwood Elementary School, Houghton Elementary School, Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School, Paxton Center School (H. Fradellos), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Weeks), Wachusett Regional High School, Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center

Chair Harris continues to seek School Committee liaisons to serve on some of the school councils. He asked that anyone willing to volunteer speak with him.

Member Novak – October 21, 2015, Central Tree Middle School

Member Silva – Davis Hill Elementary School

Member Fradellos – November 10, 2015, Paxton Center School

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

Member Novak reported that he had attended the November MASS/MASC Joint Conference in Hyannis, along with Member Fradellos, informing the Committee what a valuable experience it was and he would highly recommend other members attend next year, if able. Member Fradellos echoed Member Novak's comments.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. McCarthy)

(M. Ehrenworth)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Matthew Ehrenworth
Harriet Fradellos
Susan Hitchcock
Stacey Jackson
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Jon Edward Novak
Barbara Renzoni
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp