

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1227 Monday, November 26, 2012

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Kenneth Mills
William Clute	Norman Plourde
Steven Hammond	Robert Remillard
Robert Imber	Erik Scheinfeldt
Stacey Jackson	Margaret Watson
James Mason	

Committee Members Absent:

Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair	Sarah LaMountain
Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
Lance Harris	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Julianne Kelley	Athas Tsongalis
Deidre Kosky	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Kelley Gangi, Director of Curriculum
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Emily Lindberg

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 7:00 PM. Chair Leith noted many members were absent, for various reasons. In Vice-chair Cipro's absence, Chair Leith called upon Member Hammond to serve as Acting Vice-chair.

I. Public Hearing

There were no members of the public who wished to address the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1226th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 14, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on November 14, 2012.

(J. Mason)
(M. Watson)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held November 14, 2012 were approved, by consensus, with Members Imber and Jackson abstaining.

- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 14, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session held on November 14, 2012.

(M. Watson)
(N. Plourde)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
William Clute
Robert Imber
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson

Motion passed 9-0-2.

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 noted that Joseph Scanlon was in the audience. Chair Leith explained that Mr. Scanlon's current employer approached WRSD seeking permission for Mr. Scanlon to continue his employment with Quabog Regional School District through December 21, 2012. Chair Leith told the School Committee that Mr. Scanlon will join the administrative team as the Director of Business and Finance beginning January 2, 2013.

Chair Leith took the opportunity to speak about his attendance at the November 19, 2012 meeting of the Holden Selectboard.

B. Student Representatives

Emily Lindberg reminded members of the Wachusett's Got Talent contest to be held at WRHS on November 30th. Ms. Lindberg also reported that the high school football team will play in a playoff game on November 27th, and, if the team wins that game, it will advance to the Super Bowl, to be played December 1st. She also reported on the Autism Awareness Club and told that Senior Mentors have visited the middle schools.

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.

7:08 PM Member Clute left the table.

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 on the November 19th meeting of the Education Subcommittee. Policy 6562 had been reviewed and the requirement to carry personal liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000/\$300,000 is being discussed. Superintendent Pandiscio gave brief history of that insurance requirement. Investigation into this requirement will continue.

7:13 PM Member Clute returned to the table.

The Education Subcommittee will meet next on Monday, December 17th.

- 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. The subcommittee met with District Treasurer Jim Dunbar, to conduct the Treasurer's annual evaluation. This subcommittee will meet next at 6:30 PM on Monday, December 10th.

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)

Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair Jackson reported this 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)

Member Mason reported this Board has not met since the last School Committee meeting. He took the opportunity to remind the Committee that representatives from MASBO (Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials) will be at the Central Office on November 28 & 29, 2012 to conduct a *Financial Operations Review*.

- 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 has scheduled a brief meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee, 6:15 PM, Monday, December 10th. The purpose of the meeting will be to approve minutes. Following that meeting, it is expected this ad hoc subcommittee will be disbanded.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Kelley, Chair, W. Clute, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde)

In Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley's absence, Member Plourde 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 RFPs are scheduled to be opened at 5:00 PM on Monday, December 3, 2012, followed by the ad hoc subcommittee meeting convening at 6:00 PM, to immediately enter executive session to begin review of the RFP proposals for consultant services.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported the Mountview Building Committee will meet on November 27th at 7:00 PM at Mountview Middle School. Member Watson reminded members and the public that all are welcome to attend these meetings.

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

Chair Leith had nothing to report at this time.

J. School Council Reports:

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 Mills – Davis Hill Elementary School, November 15, 2012

Member Scheinfeldt – Mountview Middle School, November 19, 2012

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

At Member Watson's inquiry, Superintendent Pandiscio reported he is waiting to hear back from Attorney McCabe to obtain an opinion to determine whether charging students in the Wachusett District fees for their academic subjects is legal.

VIII. New Business

Motion: That a paper version of a student's report card shall be sent home with each student each quarter. The exception will be for those students that a parent and teacher conference is held, such as grade one and kindergarten (first quarter).

Action on this motion was deferred due to the absence of the maker of the motion (Member Pelczarski).

Motion: To request that the administration give a presentation to the School Committee about its response to the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids act, including preliminary observations about the impact of the implementation of the act on student nutrition, on potential food waste, on children with alternative dietary needs (such as diabetic and allergy issues) and on District expenses.

(K. Mills)

(E. Scheinfeldt)

Director Sullivan reported that a presentation is in the works, and the School Committee can expect a presentation at a near future meeting.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Member Watson spoke about a letter written by Holden resident David White regarding snowplowing services at the District Central Office and Wachusett Regional High School. Director Sullivan reported on the bid process, explaining procurement requirements, and how such bids are awarded.

Member Jackson reminded members of the School Committee online bulletin, which is available if anyone wishes to speak on such a matter.

IX. Executive Session

Chair Leith read aloud the language on the meeting agenda “Executive Session to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with union personnel, not to return to public session,” but explained the School Committee did not need to adjourn to executive session because District administration is waiting for feedback from the WREA. Chair Leith confirmed Municipal Representative Lavigne had been contacted and advised of the cancellation of the executive session.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Mason)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:
In favor:

Duncan Leith
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp