

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1264 Monday, December 15, 2014  
7:00 PM

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School  
1401 Main Street, Holden

*Committee Members Present:*

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lance Harris, Chair      | Sarah LaMountain (7:44 PM) |
| Robert Imber, Vice-chair | Robert McCarthy            |
| Scott Brown              | Kenneth Mills              |
| Thomas Curran            | Steve Porter               |
| Matthew Ehrenworth       | Robert Remillard           |
| Timothy Ethier           | Barbara Renzoni            |
| Harriet Fradellos        | Erik Scheinfeldt           |
| Susan Hitchcock          | Christina Smith            |
| Stacey Jackson           | Charles Witkes             |
| Julianne Kelley          |                            |

*Committee Members Absent:*

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Michael Dennis | Brian Ruttle |
| Deidre Kosky   |              |

*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 |
|-------------|---------------|

*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 7:02 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Matthew Lavoie, Rutland, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris announced he would forego opening remarks.

III. Student Representatives Reports

Student Representative Fritsche reported on WRHS holiday concerts, and he asked if there had been any responses to the correspondence sent regarding 9C cuts. Student Representative Budd reported high school seniors are beginning to receive college acceptance letters.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent McCall responded to Student Representative Fritsche's inquiry about the status of 9C cuts, reporting there has been no further discussion at this time. Superintendent McCall and Directors Scanlon and Carlson are looking at how the potential reductions might impact the District, but they are still waiting to hear from the state if the proposed 9C cuts will be imposed.

At Member Ethier's inquiry about contributing to a legal fund being established by MARS (Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools) to help pay legal costs associated with investigating the legality of 9C cuts, Superintendent McCall explained what he understands to be the intent of MARS collecting funds, but he has suggested that MARS be more definitive about the request for funds, how the funds will be used, and how much money MARS is seeking from districts.

Superintendent McCall reported on the excellent training on interest-based bargaining that was presented by Tim Fitzgerald of Mutualgain on Saturday, December 6, 2014.

Member Jackson called members' attention to Attachment 10 of the December 11, 2014 Superintendent's Report, a document provided to the Committee in response to a November 24, 2014 request by Member Ethier. Member Jackson reviewed the information and provided explanations.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To request the Town of Holden undertake an FY 2016 Capital Budget Project at the Mayo Elementary School for Improvements to the Heating Ventilation (HV) System with a projected budget cost of Twenty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$28,700)

(E. Scheinfeldt)  
(K. Mills)

Chair Harris noted that the number that appeared on the meeting agenda was inaccurate (Twenty-Eight Thousand Dollars; the number should read Twenty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$28,700)).

Director of Business and Finance Scanlon approached the podium, confirming the \$28,700 figure is accurate, and explained the FY16 funding request. Some discussion about the process ensued. Facilities & Security Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported that subcommittee recommends approval of the motion. Superintendent McCall reported that the District is looking to be proactive and take care of maintaining buildings before the cost to repair issues exceeds the \$25,000 threshold. Some additional discussion took place.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To request the Town of Princeton undertake an FY 2016 Capital Budget Project at the Thomas Prince School for Replacement of Damaged Floor Tiles with a projected budget cost of One-Hundred and Eight Thousand and Thirty-Five Dollars (\$108,035).

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(T. Curran)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
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 Minutes of Regular Meeting 1263<sup>rd</sup> of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 24, 2014

Motion: To approve minutes of regular meeting #1263 of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 24, 2014

(S. Jackson)

(K. Mills)

The minutes were approved, with Member Kelley abstaining.

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 the Management Subcommittee had not met since the last regular School Committee meeting.

Motion: To approve the proposed amendments to Article III, Section 1 of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee By-Laws.

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(J. Kelley)

Chair Harris spoke to the motion, explaining that this change in the By-Laws would not preclude there being more than one meeting per month, but it does not require there be more than one meeting per month.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

- 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 School Committee meeting, and one of the agenda items was school choice participation. Subcommittee Chair Imber reported subcommittee members reviewed Policy 6130, School Choice, noting particularly the last sentence of the policy which reads “On an annual basis, the Superintendent will provide to the School Committee the current status of school choice student numbers and anticipated vacancies.”

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

Subcommittee Chair Renzoni reported on the December 8, 2014 meeting of this subcommittee, at which meeting the members discussed the District Treasurer’s contract, proposed 9C cuts, net metering, school choice, and the FY15 budget status.

Motion: To renew the contract by and between the Wachusett Regional School District Committee and James J. Dunbar, referred to as the Treasurer, for a period of eighteen months (1/1/2015 – 6/30/2016), and to grant an increase of 2% in compensation, a monthly payment of \$1,226.05 beginning 1/1/2015.

(B. Renzoni)

(S. Jackson)

7:44 PM Member LaMountain joined the meeting.

Subcommittee Chair Renzoni spoke to the motion.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith

Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported on the December 4, 2014 meeting of this subcommittee, at which time there was discussion about proposed 9C cuts and the request for funds from MARS.

Subcommittee Chair Mills raised the topic of having to read aloud policies in advance of voting on amending or adopting. Under Parliamentary procedure, per Chair Harris, it is not necessary to read aloud policies in advance of voting a first or second reading.

1. Amended Policy – 3321 **Policy Relating to Education Field Trips**– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Policy 3321 **Policy Relating to Education Field Trips**, waiving the reading.

(J. Kelley)

(S. Jackson)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Member Kelley asked if the Education Subcommittee could review this policy, specifically taking into consideration the role and the responsibilities of field trip chaperones.

2. Amended Policy – 3321.1 ***Policy Relating to Education Field Trips Involving Late Night or Overnight Travel*** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Policy 3321.1 ***Policy Relating to Education Field Trips Involving Late Night or Overnight Travel***, waiving the reading.

(C. Witkes)

(E. Scheinfeldt)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

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



Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported on the December 15, 2014 meeting of this subcommittee which took place just before the School Committee meeting, at which time there was discussion about capital budgets, monthly meetings between Member Town Fire and Police Chiefs and District administration, and ALiCE training, which the subcommittee does not have a recommendation about at this time. Brief comment was made about a school security survey that had been sent out to principals the first part of the school year.

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Kelley reported on the December 10, 2014 meeting of the AAB. The Committee was asked if there would be objections to AAB Member Tammy Tod addressing the School Committee. No objections were raised and Mrs. Tod approached the podium. Mrs. Tod gave an overview of the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting which was attended by a representative of District auditors Lynch, Malloy, Marini LLP. Mrs. Tod reported LLM did an excellent job conducting the FY14 audit and reviewing the audit findings with the AAB and District administration. AAB Chair Kelley also added comments about the meeting with District auditors. AAB Chair Kelley reported on two topics that arose from the meeting with the auditors: District funds cannot be kept in credit unions; and might the Management Subcommittee look to expanding the authority to sign warrants from current members of the Business/Finance Subcommittee to current members of the Business/Finance Subcommittee and alternate signers, which might include former members of the Business/Finance Subcommittee.

Director of Business and Finance Scanlon will come up with a plan of action about moving District funds out of credit unions.

Motion: To accept the *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for Independent Auditor's Report, Suggestions for Improvement in Accounting Procedures and Internal Control, and Financial Report Pursuant to OMB Circular A-333* prepared by Lynch, Malloy, Marini, LLP for fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.

(J. Kelley)

(S. Jackson)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris

Robert Imber

Scott Brown

Thomas Curran

Matthew Ehrenworth

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

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

There was brief discussion about the recently completed audit by the State Auditor's Office. AAB Chair Kelley reported the Audit Advisory Board did review and accept the final document, noting that the audit did not exactly address the scope of the RFP. District administration will contact the State Auditor's Office to convey that message.

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

Task Force Chair Jackson reported on the December 3, 2014 meeting of this task force and announced the next meeting will be January 7, 2015 at 7:00 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 on the December 4, 2014 meeting of the subcommittee. At Subcommittee Chair Mills' request, Superintendent McCall will include a copy of the principal search process in his next Report.

1. Draft Policy – 5222 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Evaluation of Principals** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 5222 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Evaluation of Principals**, waiving the reading.

Subcommittee Chair Mills spoke to the motion.

(K. Mills)

(S. Hitchcock)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Amended Policy – 5221 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Promotion, Recruitment, and Selection**– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 5221 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Promotion, Recruitment and Selection**, waiving the reading.

(K. Mills)

(S. Hitchcock)

Subcommittee Mills spoke to the motion.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Steve Porter  
Robert Remillard  
Barbara Renzoni  
Christina Smith  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

Erik Scheinfeldt

*Abstained:*

Lance Harris

The motion passed 17-1-1.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

Member McCarthy reported on the December 2, 2014 meeting of the Mountview 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 Ehrenworth – Naquag Elementary School

Member Mills – Davis Hill Elementary School

Member Jackson – SEPAC

IX. Public Hearing

Tammy Tod, Rutland resident and member of the Audit Advisory Board, addressed the School Committee.

X. New Business

Member Scheinfeldt read aloud a motion he asked be brought before the School Committee on January 12, 2015. Chair Harris explained that statute requires a public hearing be held if the Committee is going to consider school choice participation, or non-participation, for the 2015-2016 school year. Chair Harris will schedule a special School Committee meeting on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM, just before the next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting. Chair Harris explained this January 12, 2015 special meeting will be similar in format to annual budget hearings.

Member Kelley asked that the Business/Finance Subcommittee review policy language that addresses term limits for District Auditors.

Member Kelley commented on the statement made in the first public hearing by Mr. Lavoie and she asked Superintendent McCall how parents of special education students will be included in the special education action plan. Chair Harris asked that discussion on this topic be deferred until all members of the School Committee have access to the information Member Kelley is referencing.

Member Kelley asked if the Facilities & Security Subcommittee or the Management Subcommittee could be charged with investigating the possibility District schools no longer being used as voting sites.

Member Scheinfeldt took the opportunity to recognize retired WRSD Principal Charlie Gruszka, who entertained Member Scheinfeldt with his accordion playing when Member Scheinfeldt was in second grade and continues to entertain children in the District to this day.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. McCarthy)  
(S. Jackson)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
Robert Imber

Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Timothy Ethier  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
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 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp