

**WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING**

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1193 Monday, January 10, 2011

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Robert Pelczarski
Cynthia Bazinet	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Robert Remillard
Colleen Cipro (7:05 PM)	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Shirley Conrad (7:06 PM)	Joseph Sova
Steven Hammond	Dawn Torres-Gale
Lance Harris	Athas Tsongalis
Robert Imber	Margaret Watson
Julianne Kelley	

Committee Members Absent:

Stacey Jackson	Kristine Goodwin
William Clute	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations  
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources  
Peter Brennan, Business Manager  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Brian Clement

Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet - attachment 1).

Chair Leith called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:02 PM. He explained the meeting was being taped, but was not being played live. Chair Leith asked for a moment of silence in honor of those injured and killed in the recent shooting in Tucson, Arizona.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1192<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 13, 2010

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held on December 13, 2010.

(M. Watson)  
(N. Plourde)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held December 13, 2010 were approved, by consensus, with Members Kelley and Torres-Gale abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Leith reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Business Manager'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.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Leith introduced Mayo Elementary School Principal Judy Evans.

7:05 PM Member Cipro joined the meeting.

Principal Evans highlighted three topics – MCAS, bullying, fundraisers and events taking place at Mayo Elementary School.

7:06 PM Member Conrad joined the meeting.

Principal Evans explained in detail how Mayo Elementary School's MCAS results have improved, how the school addresses bullying, and what the school community is doing to raise funds as well as to enjoy social events. Following Principal Evans' presentation, members of the Committee had the opportunity to ask questions of the principal.

7:17 PM Directors McCall and Sullivan left the meeting to attend the National Honor Society induction ceremony.

There was discussion of the PEP grant and what equipment grant funds have helped purchase. Superintendent Pandiscio will include fitness information materials in his next Report. Following the Q&A session, Principal Evans was thanked for her presentation.

7:22 PM Principal Evans left the meeting.

B. Student Representatives (Brian Clement, Katie Carlson, Katie Sands)

Student Representative Brian Clement spoke of many fundraising events and activities taking place at WRHS. He reported Winter Carnival will take place on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

C. Management Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, J. Sova, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, C. Cipro, R. Imber, J. Kelley, N. Plourde, M. Watson)

Chair Leith reported the Management Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting. He expects to call a meeting of this subcommittee in February/March and the subcommittee will begin its portion of the evaluation of the Superintendent. Chair Leith told the Committee that documents used in the evaluation of the Superintendent will be included in the January 20<sup>th</sup> Superintendent's Report.

D. Education Subcommittee (S. Hammond, Chair, S. Jackson, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, L. Harris, R. Imber, R. Pelczarski, N. Plourde, D. Torres-Gale, M. Watson)

Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported the Education Subcommittee will meet next on January 31<sup>st</sup>. He told of two items that will be on the agenda for that meeting: Jr. ROTC and the FY12 budget.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (J. Sova, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, C. Cipro, W. Clute, D. Leith, M. Sciabarrasi, A. Tsongalis)

Subcommittee Chair Sova reported the Business/Finance Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (K. Goodwin, Chair, A. Tsongalis, Vice-chair, L. Harris, R. Pelczarski, M. Sciabarrasi, M. Watson)

Community Outreach Vice-chair Tsongalis reported on the meeting of this subcommittee that took place immediately before this School Committee meeting. This subcommittee will meet next on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

G. Audit Advisory Board (S. Conrad, J. Sova)

AAB Chair Conrad reported the Audit Advisory Board has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Business Manager's Contract (C. Cipro, S. Conrad, D. Leith, M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

Member Sova reported this ad hoc subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee, but that he expects to convene a meeting in the near future.

Member Sova also reported on WEFT (Wachusett Educational Foundation Trust). The Board of Trustees will meet next on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Central Office.

I. Building Committee

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported on the December 16<sup>th</sup> Mountview Building Committee meeting and told that the Mountview Building Committee will meet next on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Leith reported the Green Repair School Building Committee will meet on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (C. Cipro), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (S. Jackson), Dawson Elementary School (R. Carter), Glenwood Elementary School (A. Tsongalis), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (M. Watson), Mountview Middle School (S. Hammond), Naquag Elementary School (J. Kelley), Paxton Center School (W. Clute), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Sciabarrasi), Wachusett Regional High School (M. Sciabarrasi), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (S. Jackson)

Member Watson – Mayo Elementary School SIMCO met this date at 4:00 PM.

Member Kelley – Special Education Parent Advisory Council workshop to be held January 20<sup>th</sup> at Davis Hill Elementary School.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Kelley commended Superintendent Pandiscio and Business Manager Brennan on their work to complete and provide paperwork needed by MSBA in order for the Town of Rutland to collect \$533,931 for the Glenwood Elementary School. Member Kelley wanted it known that their efforts were very much appreciated.

Member Plourde asked that a copy of the District's Bullying Plan be included in the next Superintendent's Report.

Member Carter asked the Superintendent to list three needs in the school system that will not be addressed this coming budget season because of budget constraints. This question resulted in discussion around the table. The Superintendent stated the three areas he is most concerned about in the coming budget are: programs that might be threatened (i.e. middle school foreign language); class size parameters; no growth in needs-based and discretionary budgets. Upon query from Member Remillard, the Superintendent explained measures the District has looked into in an effort to save money (outsourcing of special education services, food services, custodial support and cleaning services, etc.). This topic rolled into a discussion that the District needs to do a better job selling itself and letting the public know what efforts are being made to save money and that District administration is in fact very fiscally responsible.

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed copies of a January 6, 2011 article that appeared in *The Landmark* (attachment 2). Superintendent Pandiscio explained this course offering will be a tuitioned elective course for high school students to be taught by Assumption College faculty, either after the school day or in the evening. Students who opt to participate will earn Assumption College credits. Member Torres-Gale noted for the record that she had approached the School Committee before being a member of the Committee, encouraging some sort of a financial literacy course for high school students, and she was very pleased to learn of this opportunity.

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed a January 6, 2011 memorandum from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees informing school superintendents and school committee members of a January 19<sup>th</sup> free webinar on Common Core Standards (attachment 3).

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$488,442 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Dawson Elementary School

(S. Hammond)

(R. Remillard)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$688,982 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Dr. Leroy Mayo Elementary School

(A. Tsongalis)

(R. Carter)

Comment was made that District Administration should consider reducing the number of half days scheduled for professional development when drafting the calendar for school year 2012-2013.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$693,572 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Davis Hill Elementary School

(A. Tsongalis)

(M. Watson)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris

Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the recommendation to award Robert L. McCarthy & Son, Inc. *An Atlantic Express Company* the contract to provide school bus transportation to the Wachusett Regional School District for the school years July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014, with an option for the District to extend the contract two additional years from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016.

(J. Sova)

(A. Tsongalis)

This motion and the contract with Robert L. McCarthy & Son, Inc. were discussed. Member Imber asked if including late busses had been a part of the bid, to which Superintendent Pandiscio responded in the negative, explaining it would not be good strategy to roll late busses in with the regular transportation contract. This led to the Superintendent agreeing to investigate the possible use of vans by smaller, special education transportation vendors, to provide late bus service. School bus transportation continued to be discussed.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley



Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: That the School Committee formally accept the gift of an all-in-one printer, scanner, and fax machine given to the Dawson Elementary School by Holden residents Dr. and Mrs. Rosenfeld.

(R. Carter)  
(M. Watson)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: That the School Committee formally accept the gift of one thousand dollars given to the Houghton Elementary School by Sterling residents Anne Mirth and David Gauthier.

(L. Harris)

(A. Tsongalis)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

Lisa Call of Sterling addressed the School Committee..

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VIII. New Business

Member Watson reported she had arrived at the high school for the 6:00 PM Community Outreach meeting and found the exterior lights to be off. She recommended the exterior lights be turned on before the start of evening meetings held at the high school.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(S. Hammond)

(R. Carter)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp