

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1212 Monday, January 23, 2012

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Robert Imber
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson
Cynthia Bazinet	James Mason
Carmelo Bazzano	Robert Pelczarski
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
William Clute	Dawn Torres-Gale
Steven Hammond	Athas Tsongalis
Lance Harris	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Julianne Kelley	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Robert Remillard	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
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:

Tyler Gibbs
Jonathan Latino

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 7:01 PM.

I. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to address the Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1211th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 9, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held January 9, 2012.

(M. Watson)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held January 9, 2012 were approved, by consensus, with Members Leith and Sova 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 Apple Education Development Executive Jim Moulton and WRSD Director of Curriculum Kelley Gangi. Ms. Gangi began the presentation by giving a brief overview of some of what is being done in this district's schools using "21st century technology." Mr. Moulton then addressed the Committee and gave a very informative presentation of Apple products and how these 21st century learning tools can be used in schools by students and teachers. At the conclusion of the presentation members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Following the Q&A session, Chair Leith thanked Mr. Moulton and Ms. Gangi, and they were given a round of applause.

Chair Leith thanked Member Hammond for serving as Chair in Chair Leith's absence at the January 9, 2012 meeting.

Chair Leith extended thanks to former Holden School Committee representative Kristine Goodwin for her service on the Committee and wished her well.

Chair Leith took a moment to commend the students who performed at the Wachusett Rotary Club sponsored senior breakfast, which was held in December. He also noted that members of the Mountview Community Connection went caroling through some of the neighborhoods in Holden and how very nice that treat was.

Members were reminded that the National Honor Society induction ceremony will be held Monday, January 30th, at 7:30 PM in the WRHS auditorium.

B. Student Representatives (Tyler Gibbs, Jonathan Latino)

Tyler Gibbs reported that mid-terms conclude this date. He also reported he will be speaking at the January 30th NHS induction ceremony.

Jonathan Latino apologized for not having a plan for the vegetable garden proposal he spoke about at the last School Committee meeting. He is hopeful to have a plan to present in the near future.

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

Chair Leith will be scheduling a meeting of the Management Subcommittee in the next several weeks. Chair Leith explained that the process for evaluating the Superintendent will be the same as used in years past. He advised new members to speak with veteran members if they have questions about how the process works.

- 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)

Education Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported on the January 17th meeting of the Education Subcommittee, and announced the subcommittee will meet next on January 30th. The subcommittee plans to bring forward a draft concussion policy for full School Committee consideration in February.

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

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sova reported this subcommittee had met just before this School Committee meeting. He told that the subcommittee had a preview of the District's budget website, and had discussed the formation of a Revenue Sharing Task Force.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Vice-chair Sova reported WEFT held its Annual Meeting on January 11, 2012. He announced that members of the Board of Trustees are making arrangements to attend PTA/PTO/SIMCO meetings hoping to be able to work together on meaningful fundraising.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (M. Sciabarrasi, Chair, A. Tsongalis, Vice-chair, C. Bazzano, L. Harris, J. Mason, R. Pelczarski, M. Watson)

Community Outreach Subcommittee Member Watson reported on the meeting of the subcommittee that took place immediately before this School Committee meeting. The subcommittee has voted to amend Policy 8211, and the amended policy will be brought to the full School Committee for action.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (J. Sova, Chair, J. Mason)

AAB Chair Sova reported the meeting of the Audit Advisory Board scheduled for January 24th has been rescheduled to Thursday, February 2nd. At that meeting, the AAB will interview of audit firms.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

Member Hammond reported on the first meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee, which was held January 17th. He felt it was a good opening meeting. The subcommittee will meet next on January 31st at 7:00 PM.

- I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported on the January 10th meeting of this building committee. She reported progress is being made on the feasibility study agreement. The committee will meet next on January 24th.

8:14 PM Member Harris left the table.

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

A member noted that what was reported in Business Manager Brennan's report about the roofing contractor hired to work on the Naquag Elementary School and Paxton Center School roofs was disturbing and asked if any of the issues have been resolved. Business Manager Brennan reported on the daily feedback from the principal, the weekly meetings taking place, and the general overview of the project in connection with the PCS roof, and said he feels comfortable with this monitoring. Similar monitoring will take place with the Naquag roof project.

At MSBA's encouragement the District filed a Statement of Interest for work needed at the Early Childhood Center.

Superintendent Pandiscio will keep the Committee apprised of any decision made by MSBA.

8:16 Member Harris returned to the table.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (C. Cipro), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (S. Jackson), Dawson Elementary School (C. Bazzano), 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 (C. Bazinet/M. Sciabarrasi), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (S. Jackson)

Member Jackson – ECC – Now that the Early Childhood Center has been recognized as a school, a School Council is being formed.

8:17 PM Member Clute left the table.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Jackson commended Superintendent Pandiscio and staff for the budget website, which she said is "wonderful."

Member Plourde made note of the MASC Division IV meeting to be held January 26th.

8:19 PM Member Clute returned to the table.

At Member Hammond's request, Superintendent Pandiscio gave some details about the solar hot water proposal mentioned in the Superintendent's Report.

At Member Imber's request, Superintendent Pandiscio gave an update on the status of the wind study being conducted on the high school property. The data collection is almost complete.

8:25 PM Member Cipro left the table.

Member Bazzano had questions about Director of Curriculum Gangi's January 4, 2012 report, specifically about data collected and included on FitnessGrams. Director Gangi explained that the PEP Action Committee reviews data and meets to discuss how to address concerns raised by the data.

She also spoke about the nutritional aspect of data collected and the importance of teaching good nutrition.

8:27 PM Member Cipro returned to the table.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To approve revenue sharing proposal.

(J. Sova)

(S. Hammond)

Superintendent Pandiscio spoke about revenue sharing, explaining it is his opinion this proposal would be good for educational services and good for town services. He told that if this proposal is supported by the School Committee, the District's budget website will become the repository for budget information. With a successful vote this evening to move forward with this proposal, the budget website would become public by the end of the week. Discussion ensued. Following discussion, Member Hammond made a friendly amendment to the motion on the floor to read: "To explore the feasibility of a revenue sharing model."

Motion: To accept the friendly amendment to the motion on the table.

(J. Sova)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To explore the feasibility of a revenue sharing model.

(J. Sova)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Following the vote in favor of exploring the feasibility of a revenue sharing model, Vice-chair Sova spoke about the make up of a task force to address this matter. Discussion ensued.

Motion: To appoint a Revenue Sharing Task Force consisting of five School Committee members and five representatives from the five Member Town officials.

(J. Sova)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro

William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Motion: To Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Fifth Amendment to the School Lease Agreement Between the Town of Rutland and the Wachusett Regional School District
(J. Sova)
(J. Mason)

Roll call vote:

In favor:
Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

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

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

Chair Leith spoke about the letter Holden School Committee representatives received from Holden Town Manager Nancy Galkowski, inviting Holden School Committee representatives to attend Holden Selectboard meetings on a monthly or bi-monthly basis (copy of letter included in Superintendent's Report). Chair Leith is waiting to speak with Ms. Galkowski about logistics (dates of meetings (first and third Mondays - ???), where meetings are held, when could School Committee representation begin, etc.). Chair Leith would plan to attend, when able, and would like to have attendance by members scheduled on a rotating basis. When Chair Leith speaks with Town Manager Galkowski, he will bring more information and details to the Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(S. Hammond)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp