

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session

Monday, February 8, 2010

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Julianne Kelley
Cynthia Bazinet	Duncan Leith
Robert Carter	Michael Pantos
Colleen Cipro	Robert Pelczarski
William Clute	Norman Plourde
Kristine Goodwin	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Steven Hammond	Dawn Torres-Gale
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

Sherry Conrad
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Chair Watson called the executive session of the School Committee to order at 8:20 PM and turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio. Members were provided with copies of six revenue scenarios (attachment 1).

Superintendent Pandiscio thanked members for their patience at the Annual School Committee Retreat held February 6, 2010. He explained he is looking for some direction from the School Committee about FY11 revenue. He needs some sense of how the Committee is thinking before he can begin negotiating with the six collective bargaining units that have contracts set to expire this year. The Superintendent told the Committee he is talking about global terms/looking for ballpark figures.

Superintendent Pandiscio raised the matter of funds the Member Towns committed following the Governor's recent 9C cuts. Superintendent Pandiscio has spoken with representatives from two Member Towns and both cases he was told those towns would prefer an assessment reduction in FY11 rather than the funds being returned to the towns. Superintendent Pandiscio took this opportunity to remind members that what is said in

executive session is confidential and should not be discussed outside of the executive session.

Superintendent Pandiscio called the Committee's attention to Attachment 1 – pages A, B, C and reviewed each scenario in detail. He then called the Committee's attention to Attachment 1 – pages D, E, F and reviewed each scenario in detail. Superintendent Pandiscio said that while it is not prudent to give employees large salary increases, it is fair and in good faith to negotiate some salary increase. The Superintendent asked the Committee to relook at Attachment 1 – page D (*Contract Obligations Only with E&D*). He explained he is not looking for the Committee to take a vote on any proposal this evening, but he would like to get a consensus that the Committee could support one scenario.

8:37 PM Member Carter left the meeting.

Discussion ensued.

8:59 PM Member Bazinet left the meeting.

Discussion continued.

9:01 PM Member Kelley left the meeting.

Superintendent Pandiscio then asked the Committee to consider Attachment 1 – Page E (*Contract Obligations + 1% with E&D*). His recommendation would be for the Committee to endorse this scenario, for planning purposes only, so that he can begin contract negotiations knowing the Committee's stand.

Motion: To endorse Superintendent Pandiscio's recommendation that, for planning purposes only, he use *Revenue and Assessment History – Contract Obligations + 1% with E&D* (Attachment 1 – page E) when he is conducting contract negotiations with six of the District's collective bargaining units.

(J. Nunnari)
(N. Plourde)

Discussion continued. It was asked if the Superintendent had had dialogue with any representatives from the Town of Holden to learn if that town would prefer to have "transportation funds" returned. Superintendent Pandiscio said he has spoken with representatives of Paxton and Princeton, but not with a representative from Holden. Member Pantos expressed he would be uncomfortable taking a vote this evening on the motion on the table in light of the limited number of School Committee members at the table.

Motion: To postpone taking a vote on the motion on the table to a time certain, February 22, 2010. This matter will be included on the February 22, 2010 meeting agenda and will be discussed in executive session at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

(M. Pantos)
(D. Torres-Gale)

Chair Watson explained a simple majority is needed to pass this motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

William Clute
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

John Nunnari
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Norman Plourde

Abstained:

Margaret Watson
Kristine Goodwin

(The motion passed 8-4-2.)

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Pantos)
(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The executive session adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp