

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1177 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 (8:12 PM)	Robert Pelczarski
William Clute (7:10 PM)	Norman Plourde
Kristine Goodwin (7:18 PM)	Michelle Sciabarrasi (8:07 PM)
Steven Hammond	Dawn Torres-Gale
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

Sherry Conrad
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Deputy Superintendent
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:

Leanne Becker
Katie Carlson
Greg Savageau (7:07 PM)

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

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 PM. She informed the Committee that the meeting was not being taped and microphones were not in use.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1176th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on January 25, 2010

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held January 25, 2010.

(R. Imber)

(M. Pantos)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held January 25, 2010 were approved, by consensus, with Member Bazinet abstaining.

Chair Watson explained that the method of implementing a vote taken at the January 25, 2010 School Committee meeting (*When transportation funds, which had been cut by the state (9C cuts), are refunded to the District by the state, those funds will be returned to the Member Towns.*) has been remanded to the Business/Finance Subcommittee for direction.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson 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

7:07 PM Student Representative Greg Savageau joined the meeting.

Chair Watson called the Committee's attention to Attachments 14 – 18 of the Superintendent's most recent report – documents to be used during this spring's evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools.

7:10 PM Member Clute joined the meeting.

Chair Watson read aloud attachment 14, **Guidelines for the Superintendent's Evaluation**. She reminded members that the Superintendent's evaluation is based on job performance.

7:18 PM Member Goodwin joined the meeting.

Chair Watson offered to answer any questions members may have about the evaluation process. Chair Watson informed the full School Committee that

three of the four subcommittees have scheduled meetings, which the Superintendent will attend, to begin the evaluation process (Business/Finance on February 23rd, Management on March 1st, Education on March 2nd) and mentioned that all School Committee members are welcome to attend any of the subcommittee meetings.

B. Student Representatives (Greg Savageau, Leanne Becker, Katie Carlson)

Student Representative Katie Carlson reported on the high school's participation in the Soles4Souls project, collecting shoes to be sent to those in need in Haiti. A rally was held at WRHS on February 5th and Soles4Souls organizer Alexander Diaz attended that rally. Student Representative Carlson also reported on a meeting of the International Club and told of both boys and girls track teams winning Leagues on February 6th. Student Representative Leanne Becker reported on the February 6th Winter Carnival held at the DCU Center and on some Valentines Day activities taking place at the high school. Student Representative Greg Savageau told of a blanket drive being held at the high school.

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

Chair Watson reported that the Management Subcommittee meeting scheduled for February 1st was postponed to February 11th due to an anticipated quorum problem. Following the February 11th meeting, the Management Subcommittee will meet next on March 1st to begin to evaluate the Superintendent of Schools.

D. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Nunnari, R. Pelczarski, N. Plourde, D. Torres-Gale)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet gave an overview of the February 4th Education Subcommittee meeting and said that the subcommittee will meet next on March 2nd to begin to evaluate the Superintendent of Schools.

1. Amended Policy – AP3311.1 **Policy Relating to Education Graduation Requirements** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy – AP3311.1 **Policy Relating to Education Graduation Requirements** – waiving the reading.

(C. Bazinet)
(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, R. Carter, W. Clute, M. Pantos, M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

Subcommittee Chair Leith reported that the Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, February 23rd, at 6:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. Mr. Harold Lane, Mr. George Balko and Ms. Carol Sullivan have been invited to attend the meeting to give the B/F Subcommittee an update on the status of their recently established 501c3 Corporation. Also on that meeting agenda will be the evaluation of the Superintendent and the method to “return” transportation funds to the Member Towns in light of the vote taken by the School Committee on January 25, 2010.

As a side note, Superintendent Pandiscio encouraged School Committee members to attend the Science Fair, scheduled for February 23rd, 5:00 – 8:00 PM at the high school.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (C. Cipro, Chair, R. Pelczarski, Vice-chair, R. Carter, K. Goodwin, M. Sciabarrasi, K. Stuart, D. Torres-Gale)

Subcommittee Vice-chair Pelczarski told the next meeting of the Community Outreach Subcommittee has been posted for Tuesday, February 16th, at 7:00 PM in the Superintendent’s Conference Room.

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

In Members Conrad’s and Sova’s absence, Chair Watson reported the AAB has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Supplemental Revenue FY11 (M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

In Members Sciabarrasi's and Sova's absence, Chair Watson reported the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Supplemental Revenue FY11 has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

I. School Council Reports:

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

There were no School Council reports given.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Watson announced there would be an executive session at the conclusion of the regular meeting, for the purpose of contract negotiations, not to return to public session.

Member Bazinet called the Committee's attention to attachment 10 of the Superintendent's Report, recently received New England School Development Council (NESDEC) enrollment projections, with particular concern about the declining enrollment in Princeton at the Thomas Prince School. Superintendent Pandiscio noted that the first step to take needs to be defining the problem, what is contributing to the declining enrollment, before the problem can be addressed. The Superintendent went on to explain that currently there are two classrooms at each grade level at TPS, which does limit opportunities that can be offered, but is doable. He continued by saying that having limited classrooms available at the elementary level is one thing, but problems can emerge at the middle school level when it is required that teachers be certified in subject areas. This problem can certainly be discussed and explained at this meeting, but the problem cannot be solved at this meeting. Discussion ensued. The Superintendent recommended, and the Committee endorsed, that he formally inform the Town of Princeton of this enrollment problem and make the

suggestion that Princeton town officials and District administration meet to discuss their concerns.

Member Plourde referenced attachment 11 of the Superintendent's Report which highlighted the academic accomplishments of the Class of 2009. Member Plourde suggested, and the Superintendent agreed to, that these documents be shared with the Member Towns to let the residents of the towns know what the most recently graduated class from WRHS has accomplished. Superintendent Pandiscio noted for the record that student enrollment growing at the same time as student achievement growing, as exhibited by the results of last year's Advanced Placement exam results, is not typical. Student Representative Carlson added that such results are in large part due to "many fantastic AP teachers," with which the Superintendent agreed, noting they are a very committed group that has done a great job.

Member Kelley asked the Superintendent for details about the wind turbine being proposed for the high school site. Superintendent Pandiscio spoke of recent meetings he has had about this possible project.

7:50 PM Member Bazinet left the table.

It was asked if a representative from *PLACES* Site Consultants might be able to attend a School Committee meeting to address the Committee and answer questions. Superintendent Pandiscio, with Chair Watson's support, will contact Mr. William Murray of *PLACES* Site Consultants to invite him to the February 22, 2010 School Committee meeting. The Superintendent was thanked for pursuing this possible alternative energy option. Discussion continued.

7:53 PM Member Bazinet returned to the meeting.

Member Pelczarski returned to the topic of declining enrollment at Thomas Prince School. It was explained that the Education Subcommittee has been following this matter and there is a Task Force in place that has been meeting for some time to address this problem. Education Subcommittee Chair Bazinet will invite Thomas Prince School Principal Mary Cringan to attend the March 2, 2010 Education Subcommittee meeting to discuss this subject.

8:02 PM Member Pantos left the table.

Discussion about enrollment at TPS continued.

8:05 PM Member Pantos returned to the table.

Discussion continued.

8:07 PM Member Sciabarrasi joined the meeting.

Member Imber stressed the importance of informing the Town of Princeton of this issue.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

There were no recommendations requiring action by the School Committee.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee

VIII. New Business

Member Kelley asked about the lottery for next year's full day kindergarten. The lottery will be held Friday, March 5, 2010, at 4:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. This event is open to the public.

8:12 PM Member Cipro joined the meeting.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session, not to return to public session.

(J. Nunnari)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson

John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter

William Clute

Kristine Goodwin

Steven Hammond

Robert Imber

Stacey Jackson

Julianne Kelley

Duncan Leith

Michael Pantos

Robert Pelczarski

Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Colleen Cipro

(The motion passed 16-0-1.)

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp