

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #289 Saturday, February 12, 2011

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Robert Imber
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson
Cynthia Bazinet	Julianne Kelley
Robert Carter	Robert Pelczarski
Colleen Cipro	Robert Remillard
William Clute	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Shirley Conrad	Dawn Torres-Gale
Kristine Goodwin	Athas Tsongalis (9:12 AM)
Steven Hammond	Margaret Watson
Lance Harris	

Committee Members Absent:

Norman Plourde

*Administration Present:*

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

Chair Leith called the special meeting of the School Committee to order at 9:03 AM and then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio. Members were provided a copy of the meeting agenda (attachment 1). Superintendent Pandiscio distributed copies of budget preparation materials (attachment 2).

9:12 AM Member Tsongalis joined the meeting.

A significant amount of time was spent reviewing and discussing Annual School Committee Retreat attachment 1 (Inadequacy of Foundation – Insurance v Foundation v Assessments). Following discussion of skyrocketing health care costs, Superintendent Pandiscio called members' attention to Annual School Committee Retreat attachments 2 and 3 (Increase in Assessment as % of Municipal Revenue Growth and FY12 Assessment Change to Individual Town Municipal Revenue Growth Change) and reviewed and explained the spreadsheets. The next two Annual School Committee Retreat attachments (attachment 4 (FY12 Salary Comparison Estimated 2011 v Estimated 2012) and

attachment 5 (WREA Comparisons)) were briefly reviewed, the Superintendent explaining the information on the attachments will serve as back up for the salary budget.

9:55 AM Member Harris left the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio explained to the Committee that the NECC and FLLAC classrooms will be phased out next school year and the District will take over management of those classrooms.

9:57 AM Member Harris returned to the table.

The next attachment Superintendent Pandiscio discussed was Annual School Committee Retreat attachment 6 (Preliminary Working FY12 Appropriation). Superintendent Pandiscio explained that the “10% estimated premium increase” for GIC health insurance is not set in stone, as GIC has not yet determined the new rates. There was some discussion of the line “Deduct for expenditures to be charged to Education Jobs Bill” (\$882,000) and Member Goodwin asked that the record show the Committee spoke of this matter and she suggested that Annual School Committee Retreat attachment be reworked to show an accounting for assessing and collecting a similar amount (the \$882,000) as a reserve in FY12 for use in FY13.

10:31 AM Member Cipro left the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio continued his review and explanation of Annual School Committee Retreat attachment 6. Note was made of the 3.55% increase in the transportation contract. Review of preliminary numbers continued.

10:34 AM Member Cipro returned to the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio asked members to turn to page 4 of the Annual School Committee Retreat attachment 6 (Preliminary Working FY12 Assessments – Impacts to FY12 Assessments).

10:41 AM Member Goodwin left the table

Superintendent Pandiscio directed members’ attention to page 3 of Annual School Committee Retreat attachment 6 (Preliminary Working FY12 Assessments). Spreadsheets were explained and discussed.

10:45 AM Member Goodwin returned to the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio next asked members to look at Annual School Committee Retreat attachment 7 (Preliminary Working FY12 Appropriation – Increase Elementary School Class Size). Discussion ensued.

11:00 AM Member Clute left the meeting.

Class size was discussed.

11:04 AM Member Pelczarski left the table.

11:06 AM Member Pelczarski returned to the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio advised the Committee that he is not yet prepared to bring a budget recommendation to the Committee for consideration. At this time, State budget numbers are still “soft.” He expects to have more definite budget numbers by mid-March.

General budget discussion continued.

11:25 AM Member Harris left the table.

The use of grant funds for instructional support and supplies was raised, to which the Superintendent responded that grant funds generally cannot be used for such expenses, as that would be supplanting.

11:28 AM Member Harris returned to the table.

11:29 AM Member Sciabarrasi left the meeting.

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Watson)  
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Robert Remillard  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp