

**WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

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

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1195 Monday, February 14, 2011

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Lance Harris
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson
Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Remillard
Robert Carter	Michelle Sciabarrasi
William Clute	Dawn Torres-Gale
Kristine Goodwin	Athas Tsongalis
Steven Hammond	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Colleen Cipro	Julianne Kelley
Shirley Conrad	Robert Pelczarski
Robert Imber	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

Student Representatives Present:

Katie Sands

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 7:06 PM. He explained the meeting was being taped, but was not being shown live. Chair Leith passed along a request from a viewer, asking that members speak loudly and that microphones not be moved, as the noise is distracting.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1194<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 25, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held on January 25, 2011.

(J. Sova)

(A. Tsongalis)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held January 25, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Member Remillard 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 Naquag Elementary School Principal Dixie Herbst.

Principal Herbst told the Committee she would be highlighting three aspects of Naquag Elementary School – transition, community involvement, and a video showing the “hallways of Naquag.” Principal Herbst provided members with a listing of Naquag Elementary School Highlights and a brochure about the Rutland elementary school (attachments 2 & 3). At the conclusion of Principal Herbst's presentation and viewing the video, members asked questions of Principal Herbst. Following the Q & A session, Principal Herbst was thanked for her presentation.

7:34 PM Principal Herbst left the meeting.

Chair Leith reminded members the annual evaluation of the Superintendent is underway. Chair Leith encouraged members, especially the newer members, to contact the Superintendent if there is some portion of his evaluation they are unsure of or have questions about.

Chair Leith distributed copies of an email to Superintendent Tom Pandiscio from former Sterling School Committee representative Sarah Jordan, dated

February 2, 2011 (attachment 4). Chair Leith read the email aloud. Chair Leith gave the background of the one school/two school debate that went on before the start of the high school addition/renovation project. Chair Leith stressed the importance of working together for the common best for all students of the District and said he was appreciative of Ms. Jordan's email.

At Member Harris' request, the Superintendent's evaluation instrument will be electronically sent to members.

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

Student Representative Katie Sands reported both the boys' and the girls' indoor track teams will be competing in States on February 18<sup>th</sup>. She told of the Valentines' Day school-wide activity where hearts are posted throughout the high school and both students and faculty try to find where the heart with their name is posted. Collecting supplies for military troops is ongoing.

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 on the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Management Subcommittee. Chair Leith reminded the Committee that the Superintendent's evaluation will be voted on at the second regularly scheduled School Committee meeting in April.

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 on the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Education Subcommittee.

1. Amended Policy – AP6437 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Promoting Civil Rights and Prohibiting Harassment, Bullying, Discrimination and Hate Crimes** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP6437 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Promoting Civil Rights and Prohibiting Harassment, Bullying, Discrimination and Hate Crimes**, waiving the reading.

(S. Hammond)

(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Stacey Jackson  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Chair Hammond announced the next meeting of the Education Subcommittee will be Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

- 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 will meet on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM, immediately before the regularly scheduled School Committee meeting. The subcommittee will meet with Superintendent Pandiscio to begin that subcommittee's evaluation of the Superintendent.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sova reported that the WEFT Board of Trustees will meet on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 PM.

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

Community Outreach Chair Goodwin reported on the meeting of this subcommittee which took place immediately before this School Committee meeting. The subcommittee met with Superintendent Pandiscio to begin its

evaluation process. Subcommittee Chair Goodwin spoke about a possible showing of the documentary *Race to Nowhere* some time in the near future.

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

AAB Vice-chair Sova 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)

Vice-chair Sova reported this ad hoc subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported on the February 8<sup>th</sup> Mountview Building Committee meeting and told that the Mountview Building Committee will meet next on March 8<sup>th</sup>. She reminded members that copies of the Mountview Building Committee minutes will be available in the Reading File maintained at the Central Office

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

Chair Leith reported the Green Repair School Building Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 PM.

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 Jackson – SEPAC will host a parent workshop/program on February 17<sup>th</sup> at Davis Hill Elementary School.

Member Jackson – Davis Hill Elementary School SIMCO February 10, 2011

Member Tsongalis – Glenwood Elementary School February 10, 2011.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

There was brief discussion of the number of days schools had to be canceled already needed this winter and what the plan might be if additional days are needed. Superintendent Pandiscio explained that at this time the last day of school is scheduled to be Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. He explained to the Committee that starting the school year after Labor Day can make it hard to fit in 180 days of school, especially in a year when the winter months are harsh. Fortunately, Wachusett schools started before Labor Day this year. He spoke about WREA contract language and how the language addresses school schedule/school year.

7:59 PM Member Tsongalis left the table.

Chair Leith referenced the NESDEC projections which were included in the Superintendent's most recent Report. Comment was made about how the Town of Rutland has grown.

8:02 PM Member Tsongalis returned to the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio informed the Committee he will be attending a meeting of the Princeton Middle School Enrollment Committee on Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. He told the Committee he has been reviewing the results of the survey the Town of Princeton conducted and he will report more on this matter after his meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Approval of Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Holden

Superintendent Pandiscio reported to the Committee that the Intermunicipal Agreement had been reviewed by counsel for the Town of Holden and by Leo McCabe on behalf of the

District. He explained the purpose of this agreement, explaining reimbursements from MSBA are first sent to the District, and then the District in turns forwards the money to the Town. If the Committee votes to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement, only signatures of those in attendance at this meeting will be required.

Motion: To approve the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Holden and the Wachusett Regional School District.

(M. Watson)

(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Stacey Jackson  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Sciabarrasi shared she is proud that two of the Student Representatives are students from Princeton.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the Committee.

IX. Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, not to return to public session

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, not to return to public session.

(S. Hammond)

(A. Tsongalis)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Stacey Jackson  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp