

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1196 Monday, February 28, 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
Steven Hammond	Margaret Watson
Lance Harris (7:03 PM)	

Committee Members Absent:

Kristine Goodwin	Athas Tsongalis
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 Carlson	Brian Clement
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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 7:00 PM. He reported the meeting was being broadcast live. Chair Leith again passed along a comment from a viewer, asking that members speak loudly and clearly 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 the 289th Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on February 12, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the special School Committee meeting held on February 12, 2011.

(S. Hammond)
(M. Watson)

The minutes of the special meeting of the School Committee held February 12, 2011 were approved, by consensus.

B. Approval of 1195th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 14, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held on February 14, 2011.

(M. Watson)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held February 14, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Cipro, Conrad, Imber, Kelley and Pelczarski abstaining.

C. Approval of Minutes of the Executive Session of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on February 14, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session of the School Committee held on February 14, 2011, not to be released.

(M. Watson)
(S. Hammond)

Chair Leith asked members to review the minutes and if no corrections of substance were noted, these minutes could be approved in public session. If substantive corrections are noted, the minutes would be approved in executive session.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith

Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski

Motion passed 11-0-5.

7:03 PM Member Harris joined the meeting.

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 thanked those members who have already submitted to him their completed instrument evaluating the Superintendent and asked other members to submit their evaluation materials to him as soon as possible. Chair Leith did explain that members can send their completed evaluation instruments electronically and the member can sign the document at a later date. He explained that the evaluation instruments are part of the public record and require the signature of the School Committee member completing the form.

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

Student Representative Katie Carlson told the Committee of the upcoming visit by ten French students who will be staying with Wachusett families and experiencing Wachusett Regional High School. She then reported that winter sports teams are coming to the end of their seasons, noting that the ice hockey team finished the season with a 14-4-2 record, the boys basketball team will be in the playoffs, and members of the boys and girls indoor track teams will be competing post-season.

Student Representative Brian Clement reported that the senior class trip is being planned, and he also reported that pet supplies and related items are being collected by the NHS. He informed the Committee that he had spoken with some high school students about the financial literacy course being offered in conjunction with Assumption College and learned that there was not much student interest due to the cost.

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 he will be scheduling a meeting of the Management Subcommittee sometime in the next several weeks.

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)

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

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

(S. Hammond)

(L. Harris)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith

Joseph Sova

Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported the Education Subcommittee will be meeting March 7th at 7:00 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

- 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 on the meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee that took place immediately before this School Committee meeting. The subcommittee met with Superintendent Pandiscio to begin the evaluation process, and the subcommittee is also in the process of completing the Business Manager's evaluation questionnaire. The date for the next Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting has not yet been scheduled.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

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

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

In the absence of Community Outreach Chair Goodwin and Vice-chair Tsongalis, Member Sciabarrasi noted that the subcommittee last met on February 14th, immediately before the regular School Committee meeting.

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

AAB Chair Conrad 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 16th, at 7:00 PM.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported the Mountview Building Committee has not met since the last School Committee meeting; the next meeting will be held on March 8th.

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

Chair Leith reported on the Green Repair School Building Committee which was held Tuesday, February 22nd. This building committee will meet next on March 9th 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 Watson – Mayo Elementary School SIMCO February 28,
2011

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Vice-chair Sova commented on the excellent job Business Manager Brennan had done in his report speaking about the budget. Vice-chair Sova also commended District administration for the fine job being done controlling expenses. When asked by Member Kelley about the increase in health insurance costs reported in the Business Manager's report, Mr. Brennan explained that there have been many (54) new enrollees in the District's health insurance coverage since July 1, 2010.

Member Kelley referenced attachment 4 of the Superintendent's Report of February 18, 2011, the results of a survey conducted by Princeton to assess the town's opinion about the future of middle school enrollment at Thomas Prince School. Superintendent Pandiscio gave an overview of the February 15th meeting of the TPS Middle School Enrollment Committee which he attended. He told the Committee that he was impressed by the membership of the Enrollment Committee, a group of individuals who are very open, honest, and forthright. He is of the opinion that the town seems to be leaning towards keeping Thomas Prince School as it is.

Superintendent Pandiscio continued by saying having Princeton middle school students attend Mountview Middle School in Holden makes the best planning sense, but if the Town of Princeton does not wish to go with that option, his and District administration's job will be to find the best way to educate Princeton middle school students. There was discussion about Princeton's demographic make up, housing development (or lack thereof), NESDEC enrollment data. Comment was made that Princeton parents should be encouraged/persuaded to have their children attend Thomas Prince School. Superintendent Pandiscio voiced it is going to be important for the School Committee to have a historical record of its position regarding Princeton and middle school enrollment. This record is something he feels can be addressed/prepared sometime in the next six months or so, but it is important that the Committee's stand be recorded and kept on file.

Member Harris asked why it seems that some schools are more expensive to maintain, which he noted in the summary of total expenditures per school facility included in Business Manager

Brennan's report. Mr. Brennan explained that schools that have had the buildings' univents cleaned during the summer months resulted in higher costs. He also explained that Chocksett Middle School had a drainage problem that needed to be repaired and that Central Tree Middle School may be facing a similar expense because of a walkway drainage flaw.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

There were no items 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 School Committee.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Robert Remillard

Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp