

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1179 Monday, March 8, 2010

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet	Michael Pantos (7:19 PM)
Robert Carter	Robert Pelczarski
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
Sherry Conrad	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kristine Goodwin (7:48 PM)	Joseph Sova
Steven Hammond	Kori Stuart
Robert Imber	Dawn Torres-Gale

Committee Members Absent:

William Clute	Julianne Kelley
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Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
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

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 7:05 PM. She informed the Committee that the meeting was being taped, but was not being shown live 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 1178th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on February 22, 2010

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held February 22, 2010.

(R. Carter)
(S. Conrad)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held February 22, 2010 were approved, by consensus, with Member Bazinet abstaining.

B. Approval of Minutes of the Executive Session of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on February 22, 2010

Chair Watson 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.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session of the School Committee held February 22, 2010, not to be released.

(R. Carter)
(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

Abstentions:

Cynthia Bazinet

(The motion passed 15-0-1.)

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

Chair Watson welcomed Mayo Elementary School Principal Judy Evans, who addressed the School Committee, highlighting writing, math and anti-bullying activities going on at Mayo Elementary School.

7:19 PM Member Pantos joined the meeting.

Following Principal Evans' presentation, members of the Committee had the opportunity to ask questions of Principal Evans. At the conclusion of the question and answer period, Principal Evans was thanked for attending the meeting and was given a round of applause.

7:29 PM Principal Evans left the meeting.

Chair Watson reminded the School Committee that the Annual Budget Hearing will take place at 7:00 PM on Monday, March 22, 2010, the same evening as the next regular School Committee meeting.

Chair Watson reminded members that their Superintendent evaluation submissions are due to subcommittee chairs this date and completed Standard I and Standard IID are due to the School Committee Chair on March 22, 2010. Chair Watson spoke to the evaluation process and told members to feel welcome to speak with her if they have questions about this process.

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

Student Representative Leanne Becker reported that the 2009 Super Bowl winning football team had been recognized at a banquet on March 7th and team members were proudly wearing their Super Bowl rings. She further reported that spring sports are now underway. Wachusett drama won a competition the past weekend and will be moving on to the next level of competition. Ms. Becker told the Committee of a free preview of the drama performance to be held on March 12th for anyone interested in attending. Students are in the midst of DECA competitions. A Student Council conference is scheduled for the coming week. Ms. Becker also reported that heat in the high school building is inconsistent, noting that some teachers have brought in space heaters and some students are wearing coats in class.

Superintendent Pandiscio and Member Leith, as the Chair of the High School Building Committee, spoke to this issue.

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

Management Subcommittee Vice-chair Nunnari reported on the March 1, 2010 meeting of the subcommittee. The evaluation of Superintendent Pandiscio was addressed at the meeting. Vice-chair Nunnari noted that the subcommittee will be recommending amendments to the School Committee By-laws, of which he gave an overview.

7:48 PM Member Goodwin joined the meeting.

1. Amended Policy – AP5241.9 ***Policy Relating to Personnel Management Employee Communicable Disease and Serious Illness***– second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of amended policy AP5241.9 ***Policy Relating to Personnel Management Employee Communicable Disease and Serious Illness***, waiving the reading.

(M. Pantos)

(J. Sova)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Vice-chair Nunnari told the next meeting of the Management Subcommittee is posted for Monday, March 29, 2010, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center.

- 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 reported on the March 2, 2010 meeting, which Thomas Prince Principal Mary Cringan attended to speak to declining enrollment at the Princeton school. She also reported that Superintendent Pandiscio attended that meeting as part of his evaluation process. The subcommittee will meet next on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at 7:00 PM.

1. Amended Policy – AP6910 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Student Records** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of amended policy AP6910 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Student Records**, waiving the reading.
(C. Bazinet)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
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 on the February 23rd meeting of the subcommittee, at which Hal Lane and Carol Sullivan were present to discuss a recently established 501c3 organization. Subcommittee Chair Leith gave an overview of that 501c3. Any School Committee members who might be willing to serve on that organization's Board of Directors should let Chair Watson know of their interest.

Subcommittee Chair Leith reported that the Superintendent's evaluation was addressed at the February 23rd meeting.

Subcommittee Chair Leith then reported on subcommittee discussions that lead to the following motion:

Motion: To recommend to the School Committee that the FY10 transportation reimbursement in the amount of \$1,087,576 be used to reduce Member Towns' FY11 assessments.

(D. Leith)

(S. Conrad)

Discussion ensued. Superintendent Pandiscio told of his recent meeting with Holden Town Manager Nancy Galkowski, and also spoke of his meetings with Paxton and Princeton town officials. The Superintendent told the Committee that he has been working on putting an explanation of this transportation reimbursement process on paper and he will, if so directed by the School Committee, prepare a letter to the Member Towns with the rationalization for the motion that is on the table. It was noted that the Business/Finance Subcommittee will be meeting with the Budget Advisory Task Force on Monday, March 15th.

The motion was re-read. Discussion continued.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos

Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
Margaret Watson

(The motion passed 17-1.)

8:20 PM Member Pantos left the table.

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

8:21 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

Subcommittee Chair Cipro reported on the March 4, 2010 meeting which Superintendent Pandiscio attended as part of his evaluation process. The subcommittee will meet again on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, at 7:00 PM.

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

AAB Chair Conrad reported on the March 3, 2010 meeting of the Audit Advisory Board.

8:23 PM Member Pantos returned to the table.

8:23 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

A copy of the end-of-year report will be placed in the Reading File. It is not expected that the AAB will need to meet again this fiscal year.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

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

Ad Hoc Co-chair Sciabarrasi reported the meeting scheduled for February 24th had been canceled due to weather and the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

- 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)

Dawson Elementary School – Dawn Torres-Gale

Special Education Parent Advisory Council – Stacey Jackson

Early Childhood Center – Stacey Jackson

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Imber had a question about Treasurer James Dunbar's memorandum of March 4, 2010 explaining the Revenue Anticipation Note FY10 (attachment 2A of the March 4, 2010 Superintendent's Report). Superintendent Pandiscio and Business Manager Brennan explained the spreadsheet found on page 5 of that attachment 2A.

Upon request of Member Stuart, Superintendent Pandiscio said he would provide a demographic breakdown of the student dropouts shown on attachment 4 of his March 4, 2010 Report.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the sale of a \$6,000,000 1.00 percent General Obligation Revenue Anticipation Note (the "Notes") of the District dated March 12, 2010 and payable May 12, 2010, to Jefferies & Company, Inc. at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$4,741.

Further voted that the consent to the financial advisor bidding for the Notes, as executed prior to the bidding for the Notes, is hereby confirmed.

Further voted that in connection with the sale of the Notes, the preparation of a Preliminary Official Statement dated February 25, 2010, and a final Official Statement dated March 4, 2010, each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further voted that the District Treasurer and the Chairman of the Regional District School Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to

execute and deliver a material events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Notes for the benefit of the holders of the Notes from time to time.

Further voted that the Chairman of the Regional School District School Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and here by are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

(M. Pantos)

(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

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 Pantos asked the status of the Central Tree Middle School principal search. Superintendent Pandiscio reported there are twelve candidates and that interviews will be conducted on Thursday and Friday, March 18th and 19th, at CTMS in Rutland.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(S. Hammond)

(D. Leith)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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