

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1215 Monday, March 12, 2012

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

Duncan Leith, Chair	Deidre Kosky
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	James Mason
Colleen Cipro	Robert Pelczarski
William Clute	Norman Plourde
Steven Hammond	Robert Remillard
Robert Imber	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Stacey Jackson	Dawn Torres-Gale
Julianne Kelley	Margaret Watson

*Committee Members Absent:*

Cynthia Bazinet	Lance Harris
Carmelo Bazzano	Athas Tsongalis

*Administration Present:*

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

*Student Representatives Present:*

Tyler Gibbs

*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 7:04 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Leith introduced State Representative Kim Ferguson. Representative Ferguson apologized for not signing in, told that she was at the meeting on her own behalf and also representing her legislative colleagues in presenting to Superintendent Tom Pandiscio a citation recognizing his being awarded a Community Partnership Award by the Federation for Children with Special Needs. At Representative Ferguson's invitation, Superintendent Pandiscio joined her at the podium. Representative Ferguson read aloud the citation before presenting it to Superintendent Pandiscio. Superintendent Pandiscio received a round of applause.

Harriet Fradellos, Paxton, accompanied by Keri Taylor and Jackie Murphy, SEPAC Co-chairs, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Chris Stark, CTMS teacher and resident of Oakham, addressed the School Committee.

Liz Hilton, Dawson Elementary School teacher and resident of Holden, addressed the School Committee.

Bob Becker, WRHS teacher, resident of Holden, and WREA President, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1214<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 27, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held February 27, 2012.

(S. Hammond)  
(J. Sova)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held February 27, 2012 were approved, by consensus, with Member Sciabarrasi 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 welcomed Mountview Middle School principal Erik Githmark. Mr. Githmark spoke to the Committee explaining the many benefits community involvement provides students, teaching them responsibility, reliability, organization, the importance of follow through, and a host of other skills. Mr. Githmark listed some of the many events and activities Mountview students have taken on, organized, and seen through to the end. At the conclusion of Mr. Githmark's address, the Committee gave him a round of applause.

7:39 PM Mr. Githmark left the meeting.

Chair Leith briefly reported on the March 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Selectboard meeting which he attended, along with the School Committee members who have agreed to serve on a Revenue Sharing Task Force. There will be more discussion about the Revenue Sharing Task Force later in this meeting.

Members were provided with a copy of the March 6, 2012 letter Holden Town Manager Nancy Galkowski sent to Superintendent Pandiscio (a similar letter was sent to Chair Leith as well), and Superintendent Pandiscio's March 12<sup>th</sup> response (attachment 3). The letter served as an invitation to Superintendent Pandiscio to attend an April 3, 2012 meeting with representatives from the Member Towns to discuss the WRSD FY13 budget. Ms. Galkowski asked that Superintendent Pandiscio share the invitation with members of the School Committee. Chair Leith encouraged members of the School Committee to attend the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting if they are able.

Chair Leith reminded members that the instruments to be used to evaluate the Superintendent are due. He asked members who have not turned in their evaluations to get them to him as soon as possible, by March 16<sup>th</sup> at the latest so that he can have time to tabulate the submissions and to get that information to the four subcommittee chairs.

Chair Leith attended the recent science fair held at WRHS. He commented it was, once again, an impressive event.

Chair Leith took a moment to commend District custodial staff and administration for the hard work and effort to maintain District facilities.

B. Student Representatives (Tyler Gibbs, Jonathan Latino)

In follow up to comments having to do with class size made during the Public Hearing, Tyler Gibbs shared his opinion that class size is a concern at all levels, at the high school as well as at the elementary and middle school levels. Tyler happily reported the high school senior class started its fifty day countdown on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Tyler reported on post season play for some of the high school's sports teams. Upcoming events at WRHS include the annual performance by a hypnotist on March 16<sup>th</sup> and the spring musical in March. Member Kelley thanked Tyler Gibbs for attending the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Rutland Business Association and helping to field questions asked about the District and the schools.

C. Management Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, J. Sova, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, C. Cipro, S. Hammond, R. Imber, J. Kelley, N. Plourde, M. Watson)

Chair Leith reported the Management Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting. He asked that Management

Subcommittee members let him know what dates are not convenient for Management members to meet.

7:45 PM Member Clute left the table.

- 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 the Education Subcommittee will meet on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Lower Conference Room at the District Central Office. The subcommittee will review the Education Subcommittee's Superintendent's evaluation narrative, if it is ready for that meeting, and will continue to conduct policy review.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (J. Sova, Chair, R. Remillard, Vice-chair, C. Cipro, W. Clute, D. Leith, M. Sciabarrasi, D. Torres-Gale, A. Tsongalis)

Subcommittee Chair Sova reported the Business/Finance Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Vice-chair Sova reported that the WEFT Board of Trustees will meet at 5:30 PM on March 20<sup>th</sup> in the Lower Conference Room at the District Central Office.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (M. Sciabarrasi, Chair, A. Tsongalis, Vice-chair, C. Bazzano, L. Harris, J. Mason, R. Pelczarski, M. Watson)

Community Outreach Chair Sciabarrasi announced this subcommittee will meet next on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM in the Media Center at WRHS.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (J. Sova, Chair, J. Mason)

AAB Chair Sova reported the Audit Advisory Board has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

7:50 PM Member Clute returned to the table.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Develop a Social Media Policy (S. Hammond, J. Kelley, Student Representatives Tyler Gibbs and Jonathan Latino, and other non-School Committee members)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hammond explained this subcommittee is seeking input from the Committee, and others, before recommending a first reading of the draft policy developed by this ad hoc subcommittee (attachment 4). Comments and/or corrections should be sent to Member Hammond. The full School Committee will be asked to vote on the draft policy at future meetings this spring.

Motion: The Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Develop a Social Media Policy requests the Chair of the School Committee to direct the Management Subcommittee to create a communication ethics policy for District staff.

(S. Hammond)  
(J. Sova)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Deidre Kosky  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

The motion passed unanimously.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

The Mountview Building Committee met on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Member Watson reported ten designers submitted proposals for the Mountview project, following the February 15, 2012 walk through at Mountview Middle School. The Designer Selection Panel will meet, at the MSBA offices in Boston, on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Galkowski, Paul Challenger, and Tom Pandiscio will sit on this panel, along with twelve others. The next meeting of this building committee is not expected to be scheduled until April.

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

Chair Leith reported this building committee has not met on a regular basis since the three green repair projects have been underway. Superintendent Pandiscio reported the three projects are moving along smoothly and are moving towards completion.

Member Jackson asked the status of the Statement of Interest submitted for the Early Childhood Center. Business Manager Brennan reported he has been in contact with MSBA and has been told MSBA expects to make recommendations on SOIs sometime late spring/early summer.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (C. Cipro), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (S. Jackson), Dawson Elementary School (C. Bazzano), 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 (C. Bazinet/M. Sciabarrasi), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (S. Jackson)

Member Imber – Thomas Prince School SIMCO meeting

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

The question was asked what information the School Committee will be provided with when they vote on the FY13 budget on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Comment was made that the District has been accused of misinterpreting Department of Revenue website financial numbers, which lead to a discussion of the proposed Revenue Sharing Task Force. Member Hammond brought to the Committee's attention that there seemed to be two budget discussions on the table – the \$3+ million gap in the FY13 proposed budget and the proposed Revenue Sharing Task Force. Comment was made that similar line crossing

has taken place at other times and at other meetings when the budget is discussed. Discussion of the FY13 proposed budget and the Committee's stand on the proposed budget ensued. Member Cipro told of an email that Member Jackson had penned, "eloquently spelling out" how the District has dealt with budgets the last five years. Chair Leith asked Member Jackson if she could share her email with the Central Office, so others could read what she had to say. More budget conversation took place, with most members of the Committee contributing.

Superintendent Pandiscio reported that he and the Food Service Manager have been in contact about recently reported issues having to do with ground beef. The Food Service Manager is doing a thorough investigation to ensure tainted product is not being used in District cafeterias.

At Member Plourde's query, Director of Operations McCall gave an overview of the full-day kindergarten lottery conducted March 9<sup>th</sup>.

At Member Pelczarski's request, Superintendent Pandiscio explained Devereux School students' placements/assignments to WRSD schools.

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 School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Sova)  
(W. Clute)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute

Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Deidre Kosky  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp