

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1197 Monday, March 14, 2011

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Stacey Jackson
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Julianne Kelley
Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
William Clute (7:38 PM)	Robert Remillard
Kristine Goodwin	Dawn Torres-Gale
Steven Hammond	Margaret Watson
Lance Harris	

Committee Members Absent:

Colleen Cipro	Athas Tsongalis
Shirley Conrad	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Robert Imber	

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:

Katie Carlson	Katie Sands
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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 7:01 PM. He announced the meeting was being broadcast live, and live broadcasting should continue from this meeting forward.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1196th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 28, 2011

Member Kelley noted that on page 3 of the minutes, the roll call vote to approve the February 14, 2011 executive session minutes should be corrected to show five members abstained (Members Cipro, Conrad, Imber, Kelley, Pelczarski).

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held on February 28, 2011, as corrected.

(M. Watson)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held February 28, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Goodwin and Plourde 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 Central Tree Middle School Principal Nancy Fournier. Principal Fournier's presentation to the Committee touched on many aspects of life at Central Tree Middle School: teacher professional development, clubs, sports, community service opportunities, CTMS's partnership with Naquag, CTMS's partnership with Johns Hopkins, field trips, school assemblies, student of the month. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Leith thanked Principal Fournier for addressing the Committee.

7:20 PM Principal Fournier left the meeting.

Chair Leith asked that members interested in being registered for the MASC Day on the Hill, March 29, 2011, to please contact Rebecca Petersen.

Chair Leith thanked those members who have turned in completed instruments evaluating the Superintendent of Schools and asked that any members who have not yet submitted the evaluation materials do so as soon as possible. Chair Leith explained that once he has all evaluation instruments in hand he will tabulate the data and will share the calculations with subcommittee chairs, to aid when writing subcommittee evaluation narratives. Subcommittee narratives are due to the Chair of the School Committee by April 11, 2011. The full School Committee will vote on the Superintendent's evaluation at the April 25, 2011 School Committee meeting.

Chair Leith reminded members of the Annual Budget Hearing on Monday, March 28, 2011, at 7:00 PM in the Media Center at Wachusett Regional High School. This special meeting will be immediately before the start of the regular School Committee meeting on March 28th. Chair Leith explained to the Committee that a positive vote by two-thirds of the members (14 votes in favor) is needed to pass the FY12 budget at the School Committee level. Chair Leith strongly encouraged all members to attend the meeting on March 28th.

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

Student Representative Katie Sands reported on the DECA State Conference in Boston held the weekend of March 12th. She noted that two Wachusett students, including herself, will be moving forward to the upcoming DECA competition in Florida this spring.

Student Representative Katie Carlson told the Committee of a fundraiser, sponsored by DECA and the boys' basketball team, on March 15th when the Harlem Wizards will be performing/playing in the gymnasium at Wachusett Regional High School. Tickets at the door are \$12.

Member Pelczarski raised the point that he read in the newspaper that "many" Wachusett students did very well at the recent science fair held at WPI.

Member Harris commented on the successful season the Wachusett boys hockey team experienced this year. He wanted to commend the coaches and the players on their season and expressed appreciation for the "great experience" he enjoyed when attending some of the games with his young son.

- 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 in the near future, at which meeting the subcommittee will review and approve the subcommittee's Superintendent evaluation narrative.

- 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 March 7th meeting of the Education Subcommittee, which WRHS Principal Beando attended and spoke about Jr. ROTC. Subcommittee Chair Hammond explained discussion of Jr. ROTC will continue at the next meeting to be held Monday, April 4th.

- 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 this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting. He plans to schedule a meeting in the near future so the subcommittee can review and approve the B/F Subcommittee's Superintendent evaluation narrative.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sova reported a subcommittee of the WEFT Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, March 22nd, at 4:30 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. Director of Operations Darryll McCall attended the subcommittee meeting to review and discuss school surveys. The subcommittee would like to assist principals with: (1) how to formulate a good survey; (2) collection of data; (3) how to interpret and use data. No members of the public attended the Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting. Member Watson will be available to meet with interested members of the public at 6:30 PM on Monday, March 28th. The next regular meeting of the Community Outreach Subcommittee will be Monday, April 11th, at 6:00 PM.

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 16th, at 7:00 PM in hopes of finalizing its work.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported on the March 8th meeting of the Mountview Building Committee, and noted the Building Committee will meet next on March 15th.

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

Chair Leith reported that the Green Repair School Building Committee had met on March 9th and selected the firm LBPA as the project designer. This building committee will meet next on March 22nd.

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 be hosting a *Sensory Processing Workshop with District Occupational Therapist* on March 16th at 6:30 PM at Davis Hill Elementary School.

Member Jackson – Davis Hill Elementary School SIMCO meeting on March 10th.

Member Jackson – ECC is at full enrollment for September 2011.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Goodwin thanked Superintendent Pandiscio for including *The Intellectual and Policy Foundations of the 21st Century Skills Framework* in his March 10, 2011 Report (attachment 2 of the Report).

7:38 PM Member Clute joined the meeting.

Member Watson wanted to bring two items to the public's attention: attachment 5 of the Superintendent's March 10th Report – noting the District's energy "cost avoidance" of \$3.3 million between November 2006 and January 2011; and attachment 6 of the Superintendent's March 10th Report – notification of continued accreditation of Wachusett Regional High School from the New England Association of Schools & Colleges.

At the request of Member Harris, Director of Operations Darryll McCall reported on the full-day kindergarten lottery held Friday, March 11th. Director McCall confirmed there would be two full day kindergarten classrooms at Mayo Elementary School, Naquag Elementary School, and Houghton Elementary School. Member Remillard spoke about projected kindergarten enrollment in Rutland and inquired about the possibility of soliciting additional interest in full day kindergarten in Rutland, which could result in a third full day kindergarten classroom at Naquag. Superintendent Pandiscio commented he did not see a downside to sending out another notice to parents of incoming Rutland kindergarten students, seeking additional enrollees. A similar letter could also be sent to parents of incoming Paxton kindergarten students.

Member Hammond asked if the Superintendent knew the status of the House Ways & Means budget and when it, and other budget information, might be available from the State. Superintendent Pandiscio reported he has been told by Senator Brewer that the District can expect to hear something the first part of April. Superintendent Pandiscio noted the budget he will bring before the School Committee will be the tightest budget he has presented to date. When asked by Chair Leith, Superintendent Pandiscio spoke about the positive

meetings he has had in the last several weeks with the towns of Rutland, Princeton, and Sterling. He told the Committee he will be meeting with the Holden Finance Committee on March 23rd and is hoping to meet with Paxton representatives sometime in the next several weeks. Superintendent Pandiscio did note that he is doubtful the Town of Rutland will vote in support of the District's budget at the town's Annual Town Meeting in May.

Member Torres-Gale questioned how records/reports on bullying are kept. She asked if bullying data and reports are public information. Superintendent Pandiscio explained that the District is required to compile and file with the State an annual disciplinary report, due June 30th of each year. Discussion ensued.

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

Member Harris asked that status of District administration's report to the School Committee following a vote taken by the Committee in January 2010 ("To revisit differentiated instruction by November 1, 2010 to review input school councils have provided on addressing the needs of high achieving students."). Superintendent Pandiscio will soon provide the Committee with a copy of the update on educating high achieving students and he apologized for the tardiness getting this report into the hands of the Committee.

VIII. New Business

Member Plourde referenced the February 28, 2011 issue of *Policy News* from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, giving schools, districts and School Committees notice of new policy requirements/recommendations (Service Animals, Students Transferring from Commonwealth Charter Schools, and Concussions/Head Injuries). District administration is aware of these new requirements/recommendations and has already been working on addressing such.

When speaking about MASC, the Committee was informed of the next Division IV – Central Division (Wachusett's division) meeting to be held March 23rd from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at Algonquin Regional High School in

Marlborough. Discussion of Wachusett's participation in Division IV activities and events will be on a future Management Subcommittee agenda.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(S. Hammond)

(K. Goodwin)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp