

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1180 Monday, March 22, 2010

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Julianne Kelley
Cynthia Bazinet	Duncan Leith
Robert Carter	Michael Pantos
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
William Clute	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Shirley Conrad	Joseph Sova
Kristine Goodwin	Kori Stuart
Steven Hammond	Dawn Torres-Gale
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

Robert Pelczarski

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Deputy Superintendent
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
Katie Carlson
Greg Savageau

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:35 PM. Chair Watson explained the agenda of the regular meeting had been altered, moving action required on the adoption of the FY11 Appropriation to IV.A. She explained this revised agenda would require a vote of approval by two-thirds of School Committee members in attendance.

Motion: To accept the agenda of the Regular Meeting #1180, as revised.
(M. Pantos)
(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1179th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on March 8, 2010

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held March 8, 2010.

(S. Hammond)
(J. Sova)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held March 8, 2010 were approved, by consensus, with Members Clute and Kelley abstaining.

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. Superintendent's Report

A. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Adoption of the *FY11 Appropriation* in the amount of \$73,605,419 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden: \$20,673,395
Paxton: \$ 5,030,515
Princeton: \$ 4,735,602
Rutland: \$ 7,889,604
Sterling: \$ 9,526,384

Motion: To adopt, as presented, the *FY11 Appropriation* in the amount of \$73,605,419 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden: \$20,673,395
Paxton: \$ 5,030,515
Princeton: \$ 4,735,602
Rutland: \$ 7,889,604
Sterling: \$ 9,526,384

(D. Leith)
(C. Bazinet)

Many members offered comments, shared opinions and asked questions, which Superintendent Pandiscio answered.

Chair Watson re-read the motion. She explained the vote must be by roll call and must secure at least a two-thirds vote of the Committee, 14 in favor, to pass.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber

Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart

Opposed:
Michael Pantos
Dawn Torres-Gale

(The motion passed 17-2)

V. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

8:00 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

Chair Watson introduced District Treasurer James Dunbar, who addressed the School Committee, giving his background and explaining the duties of the District Treasurer. Upon conclusion of his address, Mr. Dunbar answered questions posed by members.

8:15 PM Member Pantos left the table.

Chair Watson thanked Mr. Dunbar for attending the meeting.

Chair Watson reminded members that Standard I and Standard IID, parts of the Superintendent's Evaluation instrument, should be turned into her this date.

8:17 PM Member Stuart left the table.

Chair Watson called members' attention to attachment 18 of the March 18, 2010 Superintendent's Report, a handout she received when she attended a February MASC workshop. Chair Watson gave an oral report of that meeting.

8:18 PM Member Pantos returned to the table.

8:18 PM Mr. Dunbar left the meeting.

B. Student Representatives (L. Becker, K. Carlson, G. Savageau)

Student Representative Katie Carlson reported on a winning Robotics Team, four Wachusett girls track team members being named All American, and that

college acceptance letters are now being received or anxiously expected by seniors.

8:19 PM Member Stuart returned to the table.

Student Representative Leanne Becker reported that MCAS tests are being administered to sophomores. Student Representative Greg Savageau told the Committee that about Haiti Awareness Week and that a pasta dinner will be hosted on March 24th to raise funds for the Britney Gengel Poorest of the Poor Fund.

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

8:24 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

Chair Watson asked Management Vice-chair Nunnari to give the report from the Management Subcommittee with regard to proposed changes to the School Committee By-Laws. Vice-chair Nunnari asked the Committee to reference attachment 16 of the Superintendent's March 18, 2010 Report. Vice-chair Nunnari reviewed and explained the minor amendments found on pages 1, 2 and 3 of the By-Laws. Vice-chair Nunnari then explained the proposed amendment found on page 6 of the By-Laws, which adds a new bullet to Article IV, Section 2. When asked, Vice-chair Nunnari explained that the intent of this new language is to bring more structure to School Committee meetings when a new motion is brought before the Committee. Currently, there are times when a motion is made under New Business and the motion may not pertain to School Committee business or the motion may require input and/or information/data from the administration before the Committee can take an informed vote on the motion. It was noted that this new language received a unanimous vote at the subcommittee level. Discussion ensued. Members were assured that the School Committee Chair would not have the ability to "filter" a motion and decide whether or not it would be brought before the School Committee. This amendment would allow the School Committee time to consider a motion before taking a vote. Members were assured that in an emergency a motion could be brought before the Committee and voted on at that time.

Motion: To remand to the Management Subcommittee, for rewording and clarification, the proposed amendment to the School Committee By-Laws, which reads:

- **Motions to be introduced under New Business must be sent to the School Committee Chair, in writing with rationale appended, for placement on the next available regular School Committee agenda. Excluded from this requirement will be routine motions such as acceptance of gifts and other acknowledgements.**

(M. Pantos)

(J. Kelley)

Following discussion and a suggestion made by Member Imber, the maker and seconder of the motion withdrew the motion on the table.

Motion: To substitute the word “introduced” with the words “acted upon” in the proposed By-Law amendment which will now read:

- **Motions to be acted upon under New Business must be sent to the School Committee Chair, in writing with rationale appended, for placement on the next available regular School Committee agenda. Excluded from this requirement will be routine motions such as acceptance of gifts and other acknowledgements.**

(R. Imber)

(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

8:45 PM Student Representative Carlson left the meeting.

Chair Watson reminded the Committee the proposed By-Laws amendments will be acted upon at the April 12, 2010 School Committee meeting.

The Management Subcommittee will meet on 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)

Education Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported that the subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, March 23rd, in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. Representatives from the West Boylston Regionalization Task Force will be attending the meeting. The subcommittee will also vote on the Education Subcommittee narrative for the Superintendent's evaluation.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, R. Carter, W. Clute, M. Pantos, M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

Subcommittee Chair Leith referenced Holden Selectboard Chair Kimberly Ferguson's letter, dated March 15, 2010, sent on behalf of the Regional Selectboard (attachment 9 of the March 18, 2010 Superintendent's Report). Business/Finance Chair Leith reported that the Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, April 1st, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center and that Chairs of the Member Town Selectboards will be invited to also attend the meeting for the purpose of discussing transportation reimbursement. He noted that an invitation will also be extended to Member Town Finance Committees/Advisory Board chairs and Member Town administrators. Subcommittee Chair Leith did note that the meeting on April 1st is not a meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee with the Budget Advisory Task Force. Discussion ensued. Superintendent Pandiscio quoted from his Report of March 18th: "..... *that it is my intention, as it has been from the outset, to work cooperatively with Member Towns to settle this matter and will measure my recommendations to you against their collective will.*"

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

Community Outreach Chair Cipro reported that this subcommittee has met twice since the last School Committee meeting.

1. Amended Policy – AP8151 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Complaints About District Personnel** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of amended policy 8151 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Complaints About District Personnel.**

(C. Cipro)
(R. Carter)

Subcommittee Chair Cipro explained the reasons for deleting language and read aloud proposed new language.

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

2. Amended Policy – AP8211 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Organization and Function of School Councils** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of amended policy 8211 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Organization and Function of School Councils**, waiving the reading.

(C. Cipro)
(K. Stewart)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously)

3. Draft Policy – DP8100 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations School Committee/Community Relations** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of draft policy 8100 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations School Committee/Community Relations.**

(C. Cipro)
(M. Pantos)

Subcommittee Chair Cipro read aloud the draft policy. Discussion of the draft policy ensued. Member Plourde read a prepared statement (attachment 1).

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Julianne Kelley
Michael Pantos
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Stacey Jackson

Steven Hammond
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova

Abstained:

Margaret Watson
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kori Stuart

(The motion failed 5-9-5)

9:15 PM Member Torres-Gale left the meeting.

Subcommittee Chair Cipro called the Committee's attention to the Guidelines for Public Hearing, a copy of which was included in the Superintendent's Report. Subcommittee Chair Cipro noted three changes that need to be made to this version of the Guidelines. These changes will be made and the corrected version of the Guidelines will be brought back to the full School Committee.

The Community Outreach Subcommittee will meet next at 6:45 PM on Monday, April 12, 2010. Subcommittee Chair Cipro expects this may be the last meeting of this subcommittee for this school year.

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported the work of the AAB for this year has concluded.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

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

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Co-Chair Sciabarrasi reported this group has not met since the last School Committee meeting. Since this ad hoc subcommittee had committed to sending a second letter of solicitation to parents, that is one bit of business that should be tended to. The original charge to this ad hoc subcommittee stated that the final report of this subcommittee would be given at the first School Committee meeting in April 2010.

Motion: That the deadline for a final report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Supplemental Revenue FY11 be extended to May 26, 2010.

(M. Sciabarrasi)
(J. Sova)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

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)

Thomas Prince School – Michelle Sciabarrasi – TPS held an open house on March 17th for interested school choice parents and students.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Upon inquiry by Member Bazinet, Superintendent Pandiscio will gather more details about high school dropouts and will attempt to learn where these individuals are now and what they are doing since leaving the high school.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$336,471 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for Naquag Elementary School

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$336,471 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for Naquag Elementary School

(M. Pantos)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

VII. Public Hearing

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

VIII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

9:25 PM Student Representative Greg Savageau left the table.

IX. New Business

Copies of Director of Human Resources Susan Sullivan's memorandum, dated March 22, 2010, were distributed to members (attachment 2). Superintendent Pandiscio explained the new Conflict of Interest Law requirements, informing them of the April 2, 2010 deadline to complete online training. Members were asked to initial the last sheet of the packet, acknowledging receipt of the law summary. When each member has completed the online training, they were asked to forward their certificate of completion to Susan Sullivan at the Central Office. Chair Watson thanked Member Kelley for bringing this requirement to the Committee's attention.

9:28 PM Student Representative Greg Savageau returned to the table.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Pantos)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp