

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1198 Monday, March 28, 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 |
| Colleen Cipro | Robert Remillard |
| Shirley Conrad | Michelle Sciabarrasi |
| Steven Hammond | Dawn Torres-Gale |
| Lance Harris | Margaret Watson |
| Robert Imber | |

Committee Members Absent:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| William Clute | Athas Tsongalis |
| Kristine Goodwin | |

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:

Brian Clement

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 7:11 PM. Chair Leith explained the agenda of the regular meeting had been amended, moving action required on the adoption of the *FY12 Appropriation* to IV.A (attachment 2). He 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 #1198, as revised.
(J. Sova)
(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

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 1197th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSDC held on March 14, 2011

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

(J. Sova)
(N. Plourde)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held March 14, 2011 were approved by consensus, with Members Cipro, Conrad, Imber and 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. Superintendent's Report

A. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Adoption of the *FY12 Appropriation* in the amount of \$75,790,510 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden: \$20,784,753.
Paxton: \$ 5,059,980.
Princeton: \$ 4,844,515.
Rutland: \$ 8,066,349.
Sterling: \$ 9,474,108.

Motion: To adopt, as presented, the *FY12 Appropriation* in the amount of \$75,790,510 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden: \$20,784,753.
Paxton: \$ 5,059,980.
Princeton: \$ 4,844,515.
Rutland: \$ 8,066,349.
Sterling: \$ 9,474,108.

(M. Watson)
(S. Conrad)

Chair Leith 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. Chair Leith encouraged members to support the budget, as presented.

Many members offered comments, shared opinions and asked questions, which Superintendent Pandiscio answered. Vice-chair Sova commended the Superintendent and District administration for being able to present a budget in the \$75 million range. Member Watson reviewed, for public information, the tax rates for the five Member Towns, and the student enrollment in the five Member Towns. Member Plourde read a prepared statement (attachment 3). Member Harris read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad

Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Julianne Kelley
Robert Remillard

The motion passed 15-2.

Chair Leith thanked members for both their comments and for their support of the *FY12 Appropriation*. He added a comment that he is confident all who sit around the table are in support of education.

7:40 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

V. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Leith thanked all members for submitting the instruments used to evaluate the Superintendent of Schools. He reminded members the School Committee would vote on the final evaluation of the Superintendent at the April 28th School Committee meeting.

7:42 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

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

Student Representative Brian Clement reported to the Committee that members of the Class of 2011 are receiving decisions on college applications. A fundraiser for the Red Cross will be held to support relief efforts in Japan. The musical *Footloose* will be presented at Wachusett Regional High School April 8th, 9th, and 10th.

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

Chair Leith reported the Management Subcommittee will meet on March 31st at 6:00 PM in the Curriculum Center.

- 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 April 4th 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, R. Remillard, M. Sciabarrasi, D. Torres-Gale, A. Tsongalis)

Subcommittee Chair Sova expects to schedule a meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee the week of April 4th.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sova reported that the WEFT Board of Trustees will meet on April 6th, at 6:00 PM in the Development Office at the District Central Office.

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

Community Outreach Member Pelczarski reported, in the absence of Subcommittee Chair Goodwin and Subcommittee Vice-chair Tsongalis, that the Community Outreach Subcommittee has not met since the last 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, but expects to have a final meeting for this year in the near future.

- 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 met in executive session on March 16th. He reported progress is being made and a final report will be given to the full School Committee after the next Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting.

- I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson gave a report on the March 15th meeting of the Mountview Building Committee and announced the Building Committee will meet next on April 12th.

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

Chair Leith reported on the March 22nd meeting of the Green Repair School Building Committee.

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 March 28th School Council meeting

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio explained to the Committee that the reason they will be asked to vote approval of an amendment to the 2011-2012 school calendar is to accommodate the high school, explaining having a half day of school (for professional development) moved ahead one week (to October 12th) will allow high school students in all four grades to be engaged in the same activities that morning (freshmen writing assessment, sophomore and junior PSAT testing (national testing date is October 12th), senior college and career planning).

Superintendent Pandiscio called the Committee's attention to attachment 15 of his March 24th Report, expense reimbursement request from a high school teacher who took the initiative to track down and purchase fifteen used textbooks for AP classes, at a cost of \$150. It is commendable that teachers often go out of their way to see that students have needed classroom materials – this is a testimony to teachers.

Member Carter enjoyed seeing his granddaughter's letter in the March 24th Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Pandiscio enthusiastically spoke of the MCAS Pep Rally he attended at Dawson Elementary School on March 21st.

8:11 PM Municipal Representative Joseph O'Brien joined the meeting

8:11 PM Member Conrad left the meeting.

Members will be provided with a copy of the District's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan, once final approval is received from DESE.

8:13 PM Member Pelczarski left the table.

In reference to the Update to the School Committee: Educating High Achieving Students, which the Superintendent sent to the Committee on March 15th, Member Torres-Gale commented she was impressed with Houghton Elementary School's use of Child Profile Cards, asking if such could be considered "best practice," and used in other schools.

8:18 PM Member Pelczarski returned to the table.

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

(J. Kelley)

(C. Cipro)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. To approve revised method for posting School Committee meetings and agendas

Superintendent Pandiscio explained Section 29.03 (4)(b) of 940 CMR 29.00: Open Meetings was amended in October 2010 and it now reads: *(b) As an alternative method of notice, a regional school district committee may post a meeting notice on the regional school district's website. A copy of the notice shall be filed and kept by the secretary of the regional school district committee or the secretary's designee.* He explained that a page could be added to the District website where interested parties could find WRSDC meeting postings and agendas. He further explained that postings would still be faxed to the Member Towns, local newspapers, and District schools.

Motion: To approve the revised method for posting School Committee meetings and agendas.

(D. Torres-Gale)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

3. To approve amended 2011-2012 School Calendar

Motion: To approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar, as amended.

(J. Sova)

(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

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.

IX. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

X. Executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations, not to return to public session

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations, not to return to public session.

(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp