

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1199 Monday, April 11, 2011

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Lance Harris
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson
Cynthia Bazinet	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Robert Remillard
Colleen Cipro	Michelle Sciabarrasi
William Clute	Dawn Torres-Gale
Shirley Conrad	Athas Tsongalis
Kristine Goodwin	Margaret Watson
Steven Hammond	

Committee Members Absent:

Robert Imber	Robert Pelczarski
Julianne Kelley	

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 Sands

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 7:00 PM. He announced the meeting was being taped but was not being broadcast live.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing held March 28, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing held March 28, 2011.

(M. Watson)
(S. Conrad)

The minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing held March 28, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Clute, Goodwin and Tsongalis abstaining.

B. Approval of 1198th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 28, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held March 28, 2011.

(M. Watson)
(S. Conrad)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held March 28, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Clute, Goodwin and Tsongalis abstaining.

C. Approval of Minutes of the Executive Session of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on March 28, 2011

Chair Leith 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 on March 28, 2011, to be released.

(C. Bazinet)
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Athas Tsongalis

Motion passed 13-0-4.

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 Davis Hill Elementary School Principal Mark Aucoin. Principal Aucoin thanked the Committee for inviting him to speak and told that he had brought "characters" to help with his presentation. Principal Aucoin first quickly reviewed the Davis Hill Elementary School website, which was projected on a screen for members to see. He explained the school's use of the webpage for school/parent communication, saving much in paper and electricity. He did explain that hardcopies of any documents available on the website are always made available upon request. Following the review of the webpage, Principal Aucoin introduced Davis Hill teacher Ms. Poh, who spoke to the Committee, explaining Destination Imagination and Davis Hill's involvement in this program. Seven Davis Hill students performed an eight minute DI skit, from set up to conclusion, for the enjoyment of the Committee. Following this performance, Principal Aucoin, Ms. Poh and the students were thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

7:25 PM Principal Aucoin and the other Davis Hill attendees left the meeting.

Chair Leith encouraged all members to attend the next meeting of the School Committee, Monday, April 25th, to vote on the 2010-2011 evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. Chair Leith thanked all members for completing and submitting the evaluation instruments.

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

Student Representative Katie Sands reported on a successful blood drive recently held and told the Committee that the performance of *Footloose* the second weekend in April was “great.”

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

Chair Leith reported on the March 31st meeting of the subcommittee. This subcommittee will not meet again until after the Member Town annual elections in May.

Chair Leith asked for volunteers willing to represent the School Committee at the upcoming Annual Town Meetings.

2. 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 April 4th meeting of this subcommittee. He explained policy review had been deferred, due to a lack of time. He reported the Education Subcommittee’s Superintendent’s evaluation narrative had been accepted by the subcommittee. He reported on the Jr. ROTC presentation made by Lieutenant Colonel Ed Ireland and provided members with copies of the PowerPoint presentation made by Lieutenant Colonel Ireland (attachment 2). Subcommittee Chair Hammond read to the full Committee a motion made and voted at the April 4th meeting: “*The Education Subcommittee endorses the establishment of a Jr. ROTC program at Wachusett Regional High School, when time, space, and finances permit.*”

Motion: The full School Committee endorses the establishment of a Jr. ROTC program at Wachusett Regional High School, when time, space, and finances permit.

(S. Hammond)
(L. Harris)

Discussion of Jr. ROTC ensued, to include how instructors are compensated, that schools in under-subscribed states (one of which is Massachusetts) tend to go to the top of the list when applying for the establishment of a new program, programs and services some members feel should be reinstated before the establishment of a Jr. ROTC program at WRHS. Member Bazinet read a prepared statement (attachment 3). Member Plourde read a prepared statement (attachment 4). Discussion continued.

Motion: To table the motion that is on the floor and remand this matter to the Education Subcommittee for further review.

(L. Harris)

(A. Tsongalis)

Subcommittee Chair Hammond objected to the motion to table and remanding the matter back to the Education Subcommittee, as he is of the opinion that the subcommittee has fulfilled its role with regard to Jr. ROTC. Members Harris and Tsongalis agreed to delete the language “and remand this matter to the Education Subcommittee for further review.” from the motion on the floor.

Motion: To table the motion on the floor.

(L. Harris)

(A. Tsongalis)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

William Clute
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Robert Remillard
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale

Abstained:

Kristine Goodwin

Motion failed 6-10-1.

Superintendent Pandiscio suggested that the motion on the floor be withdrawn, which, after discussion, was agreed to by the maker and seconder of the motion. Motion was withdrawn.

- 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 on the April 5th and April 11th meetings of this subcommittee, informing the full Committee the subcommittee had

approved the Business/Finance Subcommittee's Superintendent's evaluation narrative. No meetings of this subcommittee will be scheduled until after the upcoming town elections.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sova announced two new members to the WEFT Board of Trustees – Phyllis Jaillet and Barry Sclar. A sub-group of the Board of Trustees will meet on April 27th and the full Board of Trustees will meet on May 11th at 5:30 PM.

8:14 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

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

Community Outreach Chair Goodwin reported this subcommittee had met just before the start of this School Committee meeting and will re-convene following the executive session to vote on the subcommittee's Superintendent's evaluation narrative. No meetings of this subcommittee will be scheduled until after the upcoming town elections.

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

AAB Chair Conrad announced there should be one more meeting of the Audit Advisory Board this fiscal year, which she expects to be posted in the next couple of weeks.

8:17 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

- 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 has completed its assignment and will make a recommendation to the full School Committee in executive session at the conclusion of this meeting.

- I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported this building committee has not met since the last School Committee meeting. She reported that some members of the Mountview Building Committee appeared before the MSBA on April 4th regarding the Owner's Project Manager

and the committee is awaiting action from MSBA. This building committee will meet next on April 26th at 7:00 PM.

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

Chair Leith reported that the Green Repair School Building Committee will meet on April 12th.

8:20 PM Member Conrad left the meeting.

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 hosted a *Sensory Processing Workshop with District Occupational Therapist* on March 16th. SEPAC is accepting applications for *Wind Beneath Their Wings* nominations.

Member Jackson – Davis Hill Elementary School science and art night on April 8th. Davis Hill Elementary School surveys were distributed April 8th.

Member Jackson – ECC surveys were distributed April 8th

Member Sciabarrasi – WRHS SIMCO to meet April 12th

Member Sciabarrasi – April 8th *Odd Girl Out* presentation at Worcester Technical High School, attended by some middle school girls throughout the District

V. Superintendent's Report

8:25 PM Student Representative Katie Sands left the meeting.

A. Discussion of Report

Member Watson called attention to attachment 13 of the Superintendent's April 7th Report, Superintendent's Pandiscio's April 4, 2011 memorandum to parents/guardians regarding the Conflict of

Interest law/revised advisory regarding gifts to employees, suggesting perhaps this is something that should be referred to the Management Subcommittee for study and policy.

Upon inquiry by Member Jackson and comment by Member Remillard, Superintendent Pandiscio spoke about school choice. He explained that applications for school choice for the coming school year (2011-2012) has been limited to those students entering grades K – 4 and grades 9, 10, and 11. Superintendent Pandiscio assured the Committee he considers school choice to be a revenue source, not a revenue drain. When asked about the high number of current 8th graders (602) and how that large class would impact the freshman enrollment at Wachusett Regional High School in September, Chair Leith and Superintendent Pandiscio both commented that all current Wachusett 8th graders will not attend high school at Wachusett. Superintendent Pandiscio estimates approximately 15% of the 602 students will attend high school else where.

Food safety and recent news reports about use of food after expiration dates were next discussed. Superintendent Pandiscio told the Committee that while he does not believe there is any problem with food use in any of the District's cafeterias, in order to be completely sure he has directed the Supervisor of Food Services to check each and every cafeteria individually and to report back to him her findings. The Superintendent will provide the Committee with an update, by email, by the end of the week.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent or his designee to enter into a four year lease to purchase agreement with Hewlett Packard for the purchase of classroom response systems and related equipment and training.

(N. Plourde)

(M. Watson)

Chair Leith explained because this is a multi-year lease, it requires a vote of the School Committee. Chair Leith called the Committee's attention to attachment 6 of the Superintendent's April 7th Report, Superintendent Pandiscio's April 5, 2011 memorandum to the Business/Finance Subcommittee explaining the proposed lease/purchase of 4,004 classroom response systems from Hewlett Packard. Superintendent Pandiscio very enthusiastically explained classroom response systems and what this technology can bring to classrooms throughout the District.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Carter asked the status of the financial literacy course offered to high school students, in collaboration with Assumption College. Superintendent Pandiscio will make inquiry and will report back to the School Committee by the end of the week.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

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

Motion: To adjourn to executive sessions, not to return to public session.

(K. Goodwin)

(A. Tsongalis)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp