

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1181 Monday, April 12, 2010

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Julianne Kelley
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet	Michael Pantos (8:10 PM)
Robert Carter	Robert Pelczarski
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
William Clute	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kristine Goodwin	Joseph Sova
Steven Hammond	Kori Stuart
Robert Imber	Dawn Torres-Gale
Stacey Jackson	

Committee Members Absent:

Shirley Conrad

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
Greg Savageau

Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:08 PM. She informed the Committee that the meeting was being taped, but was not being shown live and microphones were not in use. Chair Watson distributed copies of the *Superintendent's Goals for the Year: Time Frame*, approved by the School Committee on 10/27/09 (attachment 2).

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 on March 22, 2010

Motion: To approve the minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing held on March 22, 2010.

(J. Sova)
(D. Leith)

The minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing held on March 22, 2010 were approved, by consensus, with Member Pelczarski abstaining.

- B. Approval of 1180th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on March 22, 2010

Chair Watson pointed out three corrections that should be made to the minutes:

Page 1, first paragraph, third sentence should read: "She explained this revised agenda would require a vote of approval **by two-thirds of School Committee members in attendance.**"

Page 3, second full paragraph, second sentence should read: "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.

Page 4, the spelling of Member Stuart's last name should be corrected.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held March 22, 2010, as corrected.

(D. Leith)
(J. Sova)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held March 22, 2010 were approved, by consensus, with Member Pelczarski 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. Committee Reports

- A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson welcomed Chocksett Middle School Principal Margaret Morgan, who addressed the School Committee and highlighted for the Committee happenings and activities taking place at the Sterling school.

7:29 PM Member Goodwin left the table.

Following Principal Morgan's address, members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

7:30 PM Member Goodwin returned to the table.

At the conclusion of the question and answer period, Chair Watson thanked Principal Morgan for her presentation, followed by a round of applause.

7:32 PM Principal Morgan left the meeting.

7:32 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

Chair Watson announced which members would represent the School Committee at upcoming Annual Town Meetings:

Holden – Margaret Watson

Paxton – Robert Pelczarski

Princeton – Robert Imber

Rutland – Colleen Cipro

Sterling – Norman Plourde

Chair Watson thanked these members for volunteering.

Chair Watson asked members who had not yet completed the Conflict of Interest online training to please do so.

7:34 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

B. Student Representatives (Greg Savageau, Leanne Becker, Katie Carlson)

Student Representative Greg Savageau reported on the Model U. N. conference which took place in Fitchburg, the last Freshmen Mentoring meeting for this school year, and that five senior players have dominated on the volleyball team this spring.

Student Representative Leanne Becker reported that the high school choir has performed at Foxwoods, an open mic(rophone) night/coffee house was held on two Friday evenings and the evenings were enjoyed by many. Also SADD Awareness Week is upcoming. Ms. Becker further reported that seniors are excited about the end of the school year. Mention was made about April 7th "senior skip day."

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

Chair Watson asked that Management Subcommittee Vice-chair Nunnari explain the proposed revisions to the School Committee By-Laws. Management Vice-chair Nunnari pointed out the minor amendments being proposed and then explained the new bullet proposed to be added to Article IV, Section 2.

Motion: To approve the proposed amendments to the School Committee By-Laws, as presented.

(J. Nunnari)
(C. Bazinet)

Member Carter had a concern with the proposed new bullet to be added to Article IV, Section 2.

Motion: To divide the question.

(R. Carter)
(J. Kelley)

Chair Watson explained the motion to divide the question would require a simple majority to pass.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Carter
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Robert Imber
Duncan Leith
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 7-10-1)

Member Carter told the Committee he had reviewed School Committee meeting minutes from January 2009 to the present and he found that few votes were brought before the Committee under New Business. Management Vice-chair Nunnari gave additional explanation of the intent of the proposed new bullet under Article IV, Section 2.

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Robert Imber
Duncan Leith
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart

Opposed:

Robert Carter
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Dawn Torres-Gale

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 13-4-1)

Chair Watson announced the next meeting of the Management Subcommittee is scheduled for 6:30 PM on Monday, April 26th, immediately before the regular School Committee meeting.

- D. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Nunnari, R. Pelczarski, N. Plourde, D. Torres-Gale)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported on the March 23, 2010 meeting, which members of the West Boylston School Regionalization Committee attended. Subcommittee Chair Bazinet said that West Boylston was asked to provide additional information to WRSD, which has not yet been received. The last meeting of this school year of the Education Subcommittee is scheduled for Monday, April 26th, at 6:00 PM in the Media Center at the high school.

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

Subcommittee Chair Leith reported on the April 1st meeting of the subcommittee, to which Member Town officials had been invited to discuss the transportation assessment. He then reported on the meeting of this subcommittee that took place just before the start of this School Committee meeting. Subcommittee Chair Leith asked Superintendent Pandiscio to speak to the Committee and to explain the budget documents that had been reviewed and discussed at the Business/Finance meeting this date. Superintendent Pandiscio distributed copies of the budget documents (attachment 3).

8:05 PM Member Carter left the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio told the Committee of the numerous conversations he has had in the last few weeks with representatives of the Member Towns.

8:07 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio thoroughly reviewed page 2 of attachment 3 (Revenue and Assessment History).

8:10 PM Member Pantos joined the meeting.

Superintendent Pandiscio then called the Committee's attention to page 3 of attachment 3 (Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services Excess & Deficiency Certification 03.23.10). The Superintendent next called the Committee's attention to the September 29, 2008 executive session minutes (included in attachment 3) and to the High School Project Closeout Budget (included in attachment 3). Superintendent Pandiscio gave the history of borrowing for the high school project, also referencing the modular units. Superintendent Pandiscio assured the Committee that nothing has changed since the Committee took the vote on September 29, 2008, but that an oversight had been made. No additional appropriation is needed and no additional spending has been done beyond what the School Committee endorsed on September 29, 2008. He wanted to give the Committee a heads up that a vote would be required to borrow \$3.1 million when bonding information is available.

Motion: To adopt an assessment to the Member Towns of \$46,700,000, with a total appropriation of \$73,605,419.

(D. Leith)

(M. Pantos)

Members raised their concern about the FY12 budget. Discussion ensued. Chair Watson directed members to keep their comments to the motion on the

table. The motion was re-read. Chair Watson explained the vote on this motion will require at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The next meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee has not been scheduled.

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

Subcommittee Chair Cipro reported the subcommittee met just before the start of this School Committee meeting.

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

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

(J. Nunnari)

(M. Pantos)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
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** – second reading

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

(J. Nunnari)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously)

Subcommittee Chair Cipro called the Committee's attention to the Guidelines for Public Hearing, a copy of which had been included in the April 8th Superintendent's Report (attachment 4). Subcommittee Chair Cipro explained the proposed revisions to the Guidelines.

Motion: To accept the revisions to the Guidelines for Public Hearing, as presented.

(C. Cipro)
(M. Pantos)

9:20 PM Member Goodwin left the table.

Member Imber commented that there are two Public Hearings listed on School Committee meeting agendas. Chair Watson explained that the second public hearing is governed by School Committee By-Laws and is a time the public can address actions and/or activities covered during that meeting.

9:22 PM Student Representative Savageau left the meeting.

It was agreed that the presented Guidelines might not pertain to the second public hearing listed on School Committee agendas.

9:24 PM Member Torres-Gale left the table.

Subcommittee Chair Cipro suggested that the School Committee Chair might give verbal clarification to members of the public wishing to address the School Committee during the second public session.

Member Leith made a friendly amendment that in the first sentence of the presented Guidelines the words "before all" be substituted with "at." This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

9:26 PM Member Goodwin returned to the table.

9:26 PM Member Torres-Gale returned to the table.

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. He will confer with AAB Chair Conrad about when the next meeting should be posted.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

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

Ad Hoc Co-chair Sciabarrasi reported a meeting of the ad hoc subcommittee will be called for May, possibly May 18th or May 19th.

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)

Special Education Parent Advisory Council – Stacey Jackson

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Upon inquiry, Superintendent Pandiscio clarified that the School Committee need not vote on the District participating in school choice. A vote of the Committee is not required, unless the District is not going to participate in school choice. The Committee considered this matter and agreed that WRSD would participate in school choice for the 2010-2011 school year. Superintendent Pandiscio will send a letter to DESE confirming WRSD's participation in school choice.

Superintendent Pandiscio spoke of the April 5th Holden Selectboard meeting he attended. Topics of discussion included the condition of Mountview Middle School and the Statement of Interest submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Superintendent Pandiscio told the Committee that the Holden Selectboard concurred with moving forward with a feasibility study and the town will schedule a special town meeting for the fall. Mention was made of soliciting interest from the Town of Princeton in light of declining enrollment at Thomas Prince School. The Holden Selectboard was also supportive of the installation of a MET tower on the high school site. Superintendent Pandiscio was pleased to report that he had a very positive exchange with Holden at that April 5th meeting.

Superintendent Pandiscio encouraged members to read this year's March Memo which serves as an overview of what is being done in the schools and what the teaching staff is being asked to accomplish.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

There were no recommendations requiring action by the School Committee.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Kelley inquired about follow-up meetings with Rutland parents to prepare for the elementary school reconfiguration being implemented in September 2010. Meetings have been scheduled for 6:30 PM on Tuesday, May 11th (Naquag Elementary School) and Thursday, May 13th (Glenwood Elementary School).

VIII. New Business

Chair Watson called members' attention to attachments 15 and 16 of the Superintendent's April 8th Report, and to the *Superintendent's Goals for the Year: Time Frame*, which she had distributed at the start of the meeting. Member Plourde explained the reasoning behind his proposed change to the Superintendent's contract and the motion included in attachment 15 (of the Superintendent's April 8th Report).

Motion: Based on the results of the full Committee's performance evaluation, the Superintendent will identify areas of focus upon which a goal or goals for the following year is/are to be based. On or before September 1st, the Superintendent will develop a new goal or goals for the subsequent school year subject to approval by the full Committee.

(N. Plourde)

(M. Pantos)

Discussion of the motion ensued. Superintendent Pandiscio would be agreeable to making his annual evaluation and the establishment of goals and focal points a smoother process, without the need to open his contract. More discussion took place.

Motion: To extend the meeting for twenty minutes, to 10:20 PM.

(S. Hammond)

(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
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:
Robert Pelczarski

(The motion passed 18-1)

Member Goodwin offered friendly amendments to the motion on the table. The maker of the motion wished to hold off on accepting the friendly amendment until hearing from the Superintendent. Member Goodwin read the motion with her friendly amendments included: *Based on the results of the full Committee's performance evaluation and the recommendations of relevant subcommittees, the Superintendent will identify areas of focus upon which goals for the year are to be based. On or before September 1st, the Superintendent will develop goals for the school year subject to approval by the full Committee.* Superintendent Pandiscio spoke to the motion on the floor.

10:14 PM Member Cipro left the table.

Discussion continued. The motion, including the friendly amendments, was re-read.

10:15 PM Member Cipro returned to the table.

The Superintendent suggested adding the phrase “and other relevant data” to the first sentence of the motion including the friendly amendments.

Motion: To extend the meeting for fifteen minutes, to 10:35 PM.
(R. Carter)
(J. Sova)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart

Opposed:

Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Dawn Torres-Gale

(The motion passed 16-3)

Motion: To accept the friendly amendments to the main motion on the floor.

(K. Goodwin)

(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(The motion passed 13-5-1)

The main motion, which included the friendly amendments, was re-read. Chair Watson asked Member Plourde, the maker of the motion, if he would want to withdraw his original motion, which he did not wish to do.

Motion: Based on the results of the full Committee's performance evaluation, the recommendations of relevant subcommittees, and other relevant data, the

Superintendent will identify areas of focus upon which goals for the year are to be based. On or before September 1st, the Superintendent will develop goals for the school year subject to approval by the full Committee.

(N. Plourde)

(M. Pantos)

Vote (by a show of hands):

In favor:

John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(The motion passed 13-5-1)

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Sova)

(M. Pantos)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute

Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Kori Stuart
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp