

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1200 Monday, April 25, 2011

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Robert Pelczarski
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Robert Remillard
Colleen Cipro	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Steven Hammond	Dawn Torres-Gale
Robert Imber (7:45 PM)	Athas Tsongalis
Stacey Jackson	Margaret Watson
Julianne Kelley	

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Kristine Goodwin
William Clute	Lance Harris
Shirley Conrad	

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
Katie Carlson
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 broadcast live.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1199th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 11, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held April 11, 2011.

(A. Tsongalis)

(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held April 11, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Kelley and Pelczarski abstaining.

- B. Approval of Minutes of the Executive Session of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on April 11, 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 April 11, 2011, to be released.

(S. Hammond)

(A Tsongalis)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Robert Remillard

Motion passed 11-0-3.

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 Chocksett Middle School Principal Margaret Morgan. Principal Morgan addressed the Committee, speaking about Chocksett's school/parent communication, student growth, both academically and socially, the school's anti-bullying efforts, and informing the Committee that the atrium at Chocksett Middle School no longer leaks. At the conclusion of Principal Morgan's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Following the Q & A portion, Chair Leith thanked Ms. Morgan for addressing the School Committee.

7:19 PM Principal Morgan left the meeting.

Chair Leith announced this would be Member Carter's last meeting as a School Committee member, and he thanked Mr. Carter for his efforts on behalf of the WRSD's students and staff. Chair Leith also noted that Sterling Representative Shirley Conrad, who was absent from the meeting, would not be seeking reelection and extended the thanks of the Committee for her terms of service. Outgoing Members Carter and Conrad were given a round of applause.

Chair Leith then extended thanks to this year's Student Representatives, high school seniors Brian Clement and Katie Carlson, and high school junior Katie Sands. Chair Leith wished the students well and the Committee gave Brian, Katie and Katie a round of applause.

Chair Leith reminded members that the Community Outreach Subcommittee, the Education Subcommittee, and the Management Subcommittee would be disbanded until after the May 25th Organizational meeting, when a new Chair will be elected and new subcommittees will be assigned. The Business/Finance Subcommittee will continue to function until the next Chair appoints the 2011-2012 Business/Finance Subcommittee. Chair Leith thanked outgoing subcommittee chairs and those who served on the subcommittees. Chair Leith also thanked members who served on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Business Manager's Contract and discharged that ad hoc subcommittee.

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

Student Representative Katie Carlson happily announced that high school seniors have 18 school days left. She reported AP exams will be administered the weeks of May 2nd and May 9th. She also commented on a very successful Model U.N. event that took place on April 15th. Ms. Carlson thanked the Committee for the opportunity to serve for two years as a Student Representative.

Student Representative Katie Sands told of the upcoming premiere of the documentary 'One Pair at a Time,' to be shown at Wachusett Regional High School. She also reported that two student groups will be traveling to Florida in the coming weeks.

Student Representative Brian Clement reported on a recent voter registration drive, which resulted in over 100 high school seniors registering to vote. He also voiced his opinion that instituting a Jr. ROTC program in this District is not appropriate.

Chair Leith informed the Committee of the recent passing of Howard Greis. Mr. Greis had served on the School Committee, had served as Chair, and was a founding member of Science Seminar.

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

There is no Management Subcommittee business to report, per Subcommittee Chair Leith.

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)

There is no Education Subcommittee business to report, per Subcommittee Chair Hammond.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (J. Sova, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, C. Cipro, W. Clute, D. Leith, M. Sciabarrasi, A. Tsongalis)

There is no Business/Finance Subcommittee business to report, per Subcommittee Chair Sova.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sova reported the WEFT Executive Board would meet on April 27th and the full Board of Trustees would meet on May 11th.

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

The Community Outreach Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting, per Subcommittee Vice-chair Tsongalis.

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

Community Outreach Member Watson read aloud the amended language and spoke to the amendment.

Motion: To approve the first reading of amended policy AP8211 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Organization and Function of School Councils**, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)
(A. Tsongalis)

Discussion ensued. Member Plourde voiced his opinion that the timing to amend a policy is inappropriate, with this being the last meeting of the sitting School Committee. Discussion continued. Superintendent Pandiscio noted, for the record, that two issues, raised by the subcommittee, of common questions and scientific validity are not included in/covered by the amended language.

7:45 Member Imber joined the meeting.

Discussion continued. Community Outreach Vice-chair Tsongalis added his comment that perhaps the amendment needs to be reviewed and revised by the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

Motion: To table the motion on the floor.

(A. Tsongalis)

There was no second to the motion. Discussion continued. Following discussion, Members Watson and Tsongalis, the maker and seconder of the motion on the floor to approve the first reading of amended policy 8211 withdrew their motion.

Motion: After the reorganization of School Committee subcommittees in May/June 2011, remand to the Community Outreach Subcommittee review of amended policy AP8211 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Organization and Function of School Councils**.

(S. Hammond)

(A. Tsongalis)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

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

AAB Member Sova reported the Audit Advisory Board will meet next in the summer.

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)

Chair Leith discharged this ad hoc subcommittee earlier in the 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; therefore, there is nothing to report.

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

Chair Leith reported that the towns of Paxton, Princeton and Rutland are moving forward to get votes in support of this program at the upcoming Annual Town Meetings in Paxton, Princeton and Rutland.

Chair Leith encouraged all School Committee members to attend the Annual Town Meetings in their towns.

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 – Davis Hill Elementary School SIMCO April 14, 2011

Member Jackson - May 5th SEPAC will host a workshop by Dr. Joseph Petner, Inclusion Specialist. SEPAC's 2nd *Annual Wind Beneath Their Wings* ceremony will be held Tuesday, May 24th, at Davis Hill Elementary School. Member Jackson proudly announced two nominees for the award this year: Superintendent of School Tom Pandiscio and Director of Operations Darryll McCall.

Member Imber – The Thomas Prince Middle School Enrollment Study Committee presented its final report to the Princeton Selectboard April 25, 2011.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Leith called the Committee's attention to attachment 5 of the Superintendent's April 15, 2011 Report, the Evaluation of Superintendent Thomas G. Pandiscio by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee 2010-2011. Chair Leith read aloud the evaluation narrative, noting a couple of typographical errors that will be corrected for the official copy of the evaluation document (attachment 2).

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To accept the 2010-2011 evaluation of Superintendent Thomas G. Pandiscio, as presented.

(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To support the following resolution, and to approve forwarding a note of support to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees:

Common Core Resolution

Whereas: Scholastic achievement is vital to success of students in the Commonwealth

Therefore be it resolved that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees shall file legislation before the General Court to override the July 21, 2010 vote of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopting national education standards; i.e. the Common Core standards in English language arts and mathematics and furthermore retain the MCAS assessment based on the state's own curriculum frameworks as the standard for scholastic achievement in Massachusetts.

(J. Kelley)
(A. Tsongalis)

Member Kelley spoke to the motion, explaining the intent of the resolution. She explained that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees needs five Massachusetts school committees to submit support of the resolution in order to move forward. Discussion of the motion and the resolution ensued.

Motion: To move the question.

(A. Tsongalis)
(R. Pelczarski)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

Robert Carter
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Remillard
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Joseph Sova
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber

Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis

Abstained:
Duncan Leith

Motion failed 6-8-1.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Cipro read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(A. Tsongalis)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp