

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1201 Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Duncan Leith, Chair | Lance Harris |
| Joseph Sova, Vice-chair | Stacey Jackson |
| Cynthia Bazinet | Julianne Kelley |
| Carmelo Bazzano | James Mason |
| Colleen Cipro | Robert Pelczarski |
| William Clute | Norman Plourde |
| Kristine Goodwin | Dawn Torres-Gale |
| Steven Hammond | Margaret Watson |

Committee Members Absent:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Robert Imber | Michelle Sciabarrasi |
| Robert Remillard | Athas Tsongalis |

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:

None

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 7:13 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1200th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 25, 2011

Member Watson made a correction to the draft minutes – Page 5, motion remanding the review of amended policy AP8211 should be to the Community Outreach Subcommittee, not to the Education Subcommittee.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held April 25, 2011, as corrected.

(J. Sova)
(M. Watson)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held April 25, 2011 were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Members Bazinet, Bazzano, Clute, Goodwin, Harris, and Mason 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. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Leith thanked members for re-electing him as Chair of the School Committee.

Chair Leith welcomed new School Committee members, Carmelo Bazzano of Holden and James Mason of Sterling.

Chair Leith asked all members to complete and turn in their subcommittee preference sheets.

Chair Leith thanked Members Hammond, Sciabarrasi and Sova for volunteering to represent the School Committee at the June 21st 8th grade graduation ceremonies in Holden, Princeton and Sterling. Member Clute volunteered to attend the Paxton Center School graduation ceremony and Member Cipro volunteered to attend the Central Tree Middle School ceremony.

Chair Leith reminded members that the high school graduation would be held on Saturday, June 4th, at 1:00 PM at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Chair Leith commented on the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) *Wind Beneath Their Wings* ceremony which was held May 24th at Davis Hill Elementary School. Chair Leith congratulated Superintendent Pandiscio and Director McCall for their nominations and awards.

B. Student Representatives

There were no Student Representatives in attendance.

C. Management Subcommittee

The Management Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

D. Education Subcommittee

The Education Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

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

The Business/Finance Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting, although the subcommittee has continued to sign both Payroll and A/P warrants.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sova reported plans for a fall 2011 fundraiser are moving forward.

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee

The Community Outreach Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

G. Audit Advisory Board (J. Sova)

AAB Member Sova reported the Audit Advisory Board has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported this building committee will meet next on June 14, 2011.

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

Chair Leith reported that the Town of Rutland will hold a special election on Monday, June 20, 2011, to re-visit the MSBA Green Repair Program/Naquag Elementary School. He reported the Green Repair School Building Committee will meet next after the June MSBA meeting.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School, Chocksett Middle School, Davis Hill Elementary School, Dawson Elementary School, Glenwood Elementary School, Houghton Elementary School, Mayo Elementary School, Mountview Middle School, Naquag Elementary School, Paxton Center School, Thomas Prince School, Wachusett Regional High School, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, Early Childhood Center

Member Jackson – Davis Hill Elementary School – May 19th SIMCO meeting

Member Jackson – SEPAC – May 24th 2nd annual *Wind Beneath Their Wings* ceremony. Member Jackson read aloud the nomination of Superintendent of Schools Tom Pandiscio (attachment 2)

Member Watson – Mayo Elementary School – May 2nd SIMCO meeting

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

At Member Kelley's request, Superintendent Pandiscio defined "Super-users" and spoke about the purchase of response systems and LimeLight software.

Member Kelley asked if the District has any statistics about the number of home schooled students who enroll in/return to the public schools for their high school education. The Superintendent would need to research this question.

Member Jackson questioned the health insurance shortfall in the FY12 budget. Superintendent Pandiscio explained how the District initially budgets for open enrollment, then went on to explain what the District encountered after the FY12 budget was set (12% increase in Fallon Select premiums; Harvard Pilgrim – the lower cost plan changed what physicians/hospitals are covered, resulting in a number of employees

switching to the higher cost Harvard Pilgrim plan; employees enrolling for family plans).

Discussion about the FY12 budget continued, with the Superintendent commenting on School Choice revenue, Medicaid earnings, and the state Foundation budget.

7:48 PM Member Goodwin left the table.

Member Cipro thanked Business Manager Brennan for providing data about the Town of Rutland and answering questions that were asked at the Rutland Town Meeting, information included in his most recent report. Member Cipro stated it might be helpful to have such information in advance of Annual Town Meetings.

7:51 PM Member Goodwin returned to the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed copies of a May 24, 2011 letter he received from Princeton Selectboard Chair Raymond Dennehy (attachment 3). Based upon the decision of the Town of Princeton that Princeton middle school students will not be attending school in Holden at Mountview Middle School, the Superintendent spoke at length about possible plans for Thomas Prince School. Discussion ensued.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the 2011-2012 School Committee meeting schedule, as presented.

(J. Sova)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde

Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the Title I grant (305) in the total amount of \$1,057 to the Professional Development revolving account

(J. Sova)
(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's Vacation carry-over.

(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Carmelo Bazzano

Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

At the request of a constituent, Member Kelley asked that the Chair remand to the appropriate subcommittee (Community Outreach) review of Policy 8211 *Organization and Function of School Councils*, specifically reviewing the bullet referencing student representation, particularly students in grades 6 – 8, on School Councils.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute

Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp