

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1183 Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Robert Imber

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:

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 7:21 PM. He informed the Committee that the meeting was being taped and microphones were in use, and was being broadcast live.

I. Public Hearing

Ed Carlson, Princeton, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1182nd Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSDC held on April 27, 2010

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held April 27, 2010.

(S. Conrad)
(C. Cipro)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held April 27, 2010 were approved, by consensus, with Members Clute, Goodwin, Harris, Sciabarrasi and Tsongalis abstaining.

- B. Approval of Minutes of the Executive Session of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 27, 2010

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 April 27, 2010, not to be released.

(S. Hammond)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Sherry Conrad
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski

Norman Plourde
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Lance Harris
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis

(Motion passed 14-0-5)

Member Plourde made a point of order that a vote to approve minutes of an executive session should be taken by roll call.

- C. Approval of the Minutes of Special Meeting #288 of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, Executive Session, held on May 3, 2010

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 May 3, 2010, not to be released.

(S. Conrad)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
Sherry Conrad
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Kristine Goodwin
Lance Harris
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Athas Tsongalis

(Motion passed 12-0-7)

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 welcomed Wachusett Regional High School Assistant Principal Catherine Knowles and high school students Paige Carney, Emily Fee, Jake Moody, Jake St. Germain, Maura Scott and Amy Mouradian. Mrs. Knowles explained the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Whole Child Initiative (attachment 3). Mrs. Knowles asked each of the students to address the Committee and explain their "tenet." Following the students' addresses, a short movie, which had been produced by WRHS students, was shown and was applauded upon its conclusion. Chair Leith thanked Mrs. Knowles and the students for sharing and explaining this exciting initiative.

7:51 PM Mrs. Knowles and the students left the meeting.

Chair Leith thanked the Committee for electing him Chair of the School Committee. Chair Leith explained that the Business/Finance Subcommittee continues until the new subcommittee is named. All other subcommittees are

disbanded. Chair Leith asked that members turn in their subcommittee preference sheets and he will work on subcommittee assignments.

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

There were no students 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 (D. Leith, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, R. Carter, W. Clute, M. Pantos, M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

Chair Leith reported the Business/Finance Subcommittee had posted a meeting for April 29, 2010, but a quorum was not achieved. On the agenda for that meeting was the assessment of the achievement of goals of the Business Manager. The Business/Finance Subcommittee's annual evaluation of the Business Manager will be included in the next Superintendent's Report.

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee

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 on a brief meeting of the Audit Advisory Board held on April 28, 2010 and noted that the AAB will meet again in August. AAB Chair Conrad also reported that the audit process will begin in June.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

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

Ad Hoc Co-chair Sova reported the ad hoc subcommittee met on May 18th, 2010. He continued by informing the Committee that this ad hoc

subcommittee is looking to fashion a letter to parents seeking support, hoping this letter will go out before the end of this fiscal year.

Superintendent Pandiscio called the Committee's attention to attachment 9 of his Report – Development Officer job description. Superintendent Pandiscio told the Committee that, following the vote at the Paxton Town Meeting on June 7th, he would consider a reorganization of the Central Office, in light of the retirement of Deputy Superintendent Locke, to include a Development Officer position. He explained to the Committee that when the District budget is approved by the Member Towns he would provide them with a more thorough recommendation.

I. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School, Chocksett Middle School, Davis Hill Elementary School (R. Carter), 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 announced SEPAC's first *Wind Beneath Their Wings* award presentation, which took place on May 25th at Davis Hill Elementary School. Member Jackson was pleased to report that sixty-one individuals had been nominated for this award. The next SEPAC business meeting will be on June 9th.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Leith asked members to encourage Paxton residents to attend their Annual Town Meeting on June 7th and to vote in support of the budget.

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed his confidential memorandum to the School Committee, dated May 26, 2010, explaining that the Committee does not have to adjourn to executive session for this matter, negotiations update, but the content of the memorandum has the stature of executive session information, thus the printing on red paper. Member Conrad asked that the Superintendent explain to the new members the importance of confidentiality when a matter is discussed in executive session and that minutes of executive sessions, and materials reviewed in executive sessions, should be kept in confidence until the matter is settled and the minutes are released.

Volunteers are needed to attend the five eighth grade graduation ceremonies to represent the School Committee. These ceremonies will take place on Thursday, June 17th. The following members volunteered:

Holden – Kristine Goodwin
Paxton – William Clute
Princeton – Michelle Sciabarrasi
Rutland – Colleen Cipro
Sterling – Joseph Sova

Chair Leith is unable to attend the high school graduation on Saturday, June 12th; Vice-chair Sova volunteered to attend the ceremony on behalf of the School Committee.

8:15 PM Member Carter left the table.

Chair Leith commented on the results of the recent Science Fair, where WRHS students were very successful, which is both impressive and a tribute to the students and to the high school science department.

8:17 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

Member Watson raised a question about a matter contained in Director of Operations McCall's Report. She referenced a statement contained in the Dawson Elementary School principal's report which reads: *Parents were concerned that there was inconsistency in the amount of homework given and the amount of time it takes to complete it. This has been addressed with the School Committee and suggested guidelines have been addressed as a school.* Member Watson questioned when this concern was brought before the School Committee. She further questioned if such concerns should be directed to the Education Subcommittee.

Motion: To refer concerns raised by the Dawson Elementary School parent community regarding homework to the Education Subcommittee.

(M. Watson)

(N. Plourde)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute

Sherry Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

8:20 PM Member Cipro left the table.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$1,034,230 to the Town of Sterling for reimbursement for Chocksett/Houghton Schools

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$1,034,230 to the Town of Sterling for reimbursement for Chocksett/Houghton Schools.

(N. Plourde)

(M. Pantos)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
William Clute
Sherry Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson

Julianne Kelley
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. To accept a \$500 donation received from Barre Savings Bank

Motion: To accept a \$500 donation received from Barre Savings Bank.

(S. Conrad)

(J. Kelley)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
William Clute
Sherry Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. To approve the 2010-2011 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion: To approve the 2010-2011 School Committee Meeting Schedule,
as presented.

(A. Tsongalis)

(M. Pantos)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
William Clute
Sherry Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

8:25 PM Member Cipro returned to the table.

Chair Leith reminded members to turn in their red folders and the confidential memorandum from the Superintendent.

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

Member Kelley posed a question to the Superintendent about the District's plans for implementing requirements contained in new legislation which addresses bullying. The Superintendent stated he feels the Wachusett District is ahead of the curve when it comes to bullying awareness. A few years ago, principals had been directed to develop anti-bullying programs in their buildings. This spring, the District has developed new bullying incident report forms and checklists to record when an incident of bullying is reported. Central Office administration has recently met with assistant principals to review these newly developed forms and to discuss how reports of bullying are to be handled. Attorney Matt MacAvoy will assist the District with incorporating the new legislation into policy. Attorney MacAvoy will be the speaker at this August's annual Administrative Retreat and his presentation will focus on bullying and the new legislation.

Member Bazinet raised the topic of the Common Core State Standards Initiative, strongly suggesting that District staff make an effort to learn what is being proposed.

Member Watson spoke to concerns raised in the meeting's first public hearing, stating she is sympathetic to the need for late buses and also reassuring the public that the District is working on improving the teacher evaluation system.

Member Pantos informed the School Committee of his intent to resign from the Committee sometime this summer. Chair Leith thanked Member Pantos for the time he has given the Committee and the District.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(S. Hammond)

(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith

Joseph Sova

Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter

Colleen Cipro

William Clute

Sherry Conrad

Kristine Goodwin

Steven Hammond

Lance Harris
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp