

**WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING**

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1184 Monday, June 14, 2010

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Robert Imber
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson
Cynthia Bazinet	Julianne Kelley
Robert Carter	Robert Pelczarski
Colleen Cipro (7:40 PM)	Norman Plourde
William Clute	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Shirley Conrad	Dawn Torres-Gale
Kristine Goodwin	Athas Tsongalis
Steven Hammond	Margaret Watson
Lance Harris	

Committee Members Absent:

Michael Pantos

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 7:02 PM. He informed the Committee that the meeting was being taped and microphones were in use, and was being broadcast live.

Chair Leith took the opportunity to wish Deputy Superintendent Locke and WRHS teacher and School Committee meeting videographer Tim Ethier well in their upcoming retirements.

Chair Leith noted members had been provided with a corrected copy of the School Improvement Plans Table of Contents (attachment 2).

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 26, 2010

Motion: To approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held May 26, 2010.

(R. Carter)

(C. Bazinet)

The minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the School Committee held May 26, 2010 were approved, by consensus, with Member Imber abstaining.

B. Approval of 1183<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSDC held on May 26, 2010

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held May 26, 2010.

(M. Watson)

(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held May 26, 2010 were approved, by consensus, with Member Imber 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 welcomed Davis Hill Elementary School Principal Mark Aucoin who addressed the School Committee, highlighting, with the use of a PowerPoint presentation, the opportunities and activities that take place at Davis Hill Elementary School. Following Mr. Aucoin's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions and to make comments, after which Chair Leith thanked Mr. Aucoin for his presentation.

7:37 PM Mr. Aucoin left the meeting.

Chair Leith reminded members of the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduations to take place Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Chair Leith also spoke of the high school graduation which took place at the DCU Center in Worcester on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Vice-chair Sova for representing the School Committee at the high school graduation.

7:40 PM Member Cipro joined the meeting.

Chair Leith provided members of the Committee with the listing of 2010-2011 Subcommittee Assignments (attachment 3). Chair Leith reviewed the membership of the four standing subcommittees, noting a just made addition of Member Watson to the Community Outreach Subcommittee. Chair Leith is seeking a volunteer to serve as the School Committee liaison on the Dawson Elementary School School Council.

Chair Leith reminded those members who have not yet completed and turned in their biographical sheets to please do so, so that their personal information can be posted on the District website.

B. Student Representatives

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 noted that the final payroll warrant for this school year will need Business/Finance signatures by June 18, 2010.

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 the Audit Advisory Board has not met since the last School Committee meeting. Chair Leith reported that the Holden representative to the AAB, Richard Carr, has agreed to serve another three year term. Chair Leith is waiting to hear from Brian Quinlivan, Rutland's representative on the Audit Advisory Board, whose term will expire on June 30, 2010; Chair Leith will ask Mr. Quinlivan if he will agree to serve another term on the AAB.

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 has plans to send out one last letter of appeal to parents, after which this subcommittee's work should be completed.

There was discussion about a District initiative not being in competition with the newly formed 501(c)3 corporation under the direction of people affiliated with the WRHS alumni.

I. 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 Sova - Chocksett Middle School

Member Jackson announced SEPAC's officer election recently took place.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Jackson asked the status of one of Business Manager Brennan's goals: *Commence exploration of interest in renovation/addition/replacement of ECC/Jefferson*. Superintendent Pandiscio explained that at this time attention to possible building projects will be focused on Mountview Middle School.

At Member Kelley's questioning, Superintendent Pandiscio reported his best "guess" at the number of new school choice students who will be attending Thomas Prince School beginning September 2010 would be 30 students. Superintendent Pandiscio explained that he, along with Members Imber and Sciabarrasi and TPS Principal Mary Cringan, will be attending the June 21, 2010 meeting of the Princeton Selectboard to begin discussions addressing the declining enrollment at the Princeton school.

At Member Hammond's questioning, Superintendent Pandiscio spoke about Mountview Middle School and the preliminary discussions that have taken place with the Town of Holden and the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Member Goodwin encouraged members to read attachment 3 of the May 26, 2010 School Committee meeting minutes (*The Learning Compact Redefined: A Call to Action* A Report of the Commission on The Whole Child).

There was general discussion about homework, "binder checks," assessment and grading.

Upon inquiry, Superintendent Pandiscio explained the rationale behind the recommendation that the District issue a Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN) once, for FY11, rather than more often, as has been done in the past.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To authorize the Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer, acting under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 16(g) as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 17.

Motion: To authorize the Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer, acting under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 16(g) as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 17.

(J. Sova)

(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. To authorize the Establishment of the Position of Development Director

Motion: To authorize the Establishment of the Position of Development Director

(J. Sova)

(S. Conrad)

The Superintendent addressed the Committee, explaining his recommendation that use of a grant consulting service, an agency to help the District to find available grant funds, would be a wise strategy to pursue and he is planning to schedule a meeting this summer with representatives from such an agency. It is anticipated the cost for such consulting services would be in the range of \$25,000/year. Superintendent Pandiscio then called the Committee's attention to a draft job description – Development Director (attachment 4). The Superintendent explained to the Committee that the first order of business for this newly established position would be the establishment of a charitable foundation. There was discussion of the charitable foundation already established by the School Committee, the 501(c)3 trust set up for the High School and fundraising methods vs a 501(c)3 foundation. Superintendent Pandiscio spoke briefly about how he intended to fund these two strategies - the grant consultant and the Development Director - in light of the possible reorganization of the Central Office caused by the pending retirement of Deputy Superintendent John Locke. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Motion: To table the motion to a time certain, July 19, 2010.

(L. Harris)

(A. Tsongalis)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

William Clute

Kristine Goodwin

Lance Harris

Robert Imber

Robert Pelczarski

Norman Plourde

Athas Tsongalis

*Opposed:*

Duncan Leith  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Joseph Sova  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 7-12)

Vice-chair Sova reminded members that the motion on the floor is to authorize the establishment of the position of Development Director.

Roll call vote on motion on the table: To authorize the Establishment of the Position of Development Director

(J. Sova)

(S. Conrad)

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Sherry Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson



*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Kristine Goodwin  
Norman Plourde  
Athas Tsongalis

(Motion passed 16-0-3)

3. To approve the FY11 Pre-Approved Vendor List

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed the correct FY11 Pre-Approved Vendor List (attachment 5).

Motion: To approve the FY11 Pre-Approved Vendor List, as presented.

(S. Conrad)  
(A. Tsongalis)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. To accept the 2010-2011 Wachusett Regional School District School Improvement Plans, as summarized

Motion: To accept th 2010-2011 Wachusett Regional School District School Improvement Plans, as summarized.

(C. Bazinet)

(K. Goodwin)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Sherry Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
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

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)  
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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