

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1203 Monday, July 11, 2011

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Robert Remillard	Athas Tsongalis
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*Administration Present:*

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
Peter Brennan, Business Manager  
Kelley Gangi, Director of Curriculum  
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations  
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

Tyler Gibbs  
John Latino

*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 7:07 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 1202<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on June 13, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held June 13, 2011.

(M. Watson)  
(C. Bazinet)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held June 13, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Clute, Harris, Imber, and Sova 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 new Student Representatives Tyler Gibbs and John Latino and told the students he would schedule a meeting of the Management Subcommittee in the near future to give the students an opportunity to be oriented to their roles and responsibilities as Student Representatives to the School Committee.

Chair Leith spoke about the new subcommittee assignments and explained, for new member Bazzano, how membership on the subcommittees is determined.

Chair Leith told the Committee he had received correspondence from Beverly Mansfield of Holden, regarding Holden Days, to be held this year on August 27<sup>th</sup>, asking if the School Committee will be represented at this annual event again this year. This matter will be further discussed at a future meeting.

Chair Leith announced that four WRHS track team members (Jeremy Bennie, Alex Jagelsky, Hayden Frechette-McCall, and Colin Bennie) have achieved great success this spring competing post-season. The 4 X 800 team finished first in the June 11<sup>th</sup> New England Championship Meet and finished fifth in the New Balance Nationals the following weekend, setting new Wachusett and state records.

B. Student Representatives (Tyler Gibbs, John Latino)

The students both spoke briefly, letting the Committee know they are looking forward to serving as Student Representatives this year.

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

As noted above, Chair Leith plans to schedule a meeting of the Management Subcommittee in the near future.

D. Education Subcommittee (S. Hammond, Chair, C. Bazinet, L. Harris, R. Imber, S. Jackson, R. Pelczarski, N. Plourde, D. Torres-Gale, M. Watson)

Subcommittee Chair Hammond announced the Education Subcommittee will meet before the next School Committee meeting and the subcommittee will re-address the Jr. ROTC issue.

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

Business/Finance Chair Sova plans to schedule the first meeting of this subcommittee in September.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

The WEFT Board of Trustees is planning the first WEFT event to take place on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Member Sova reported these plans are in the preliminary stage, but he will keep the Committee apprised as plans develop.

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (M. Sciabarrasi, Chair, C. Bazzano, K. Goodwin, L. Harris, J. Mason, R. Pelczarski, A. Tsongalis, M. Watson)

Community Outreach Chair Sciabarrasi reported the newly appointed subcommittee has not yet met.

G. Audit Advisory Board (J. Sova, Chair, J. Mason)

The Audit Advisory Board has not met since the last School Committee meeting. AAB Chair Sova reported he expects the Board will meet with the auditors in October.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported on the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of this building committee, which will meet next on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Member Watson reported that the Town of Princeton will not be sending middle school students to Mountview Middle School.

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

Chair Leith reported this building committee will meet on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (C. Cipro), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (S. Jackson), Dawson Elementary School (C. Bazzano), 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 (C. Bazinet/M. Sciabarrasi), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (S. Jackson)

Member Jackson – SEPAC – SEPAC met on June 16<sup>th</sup> – election of officers and the final meeting of the school year

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Upon inquiry by Member Jackson, Superintendent Pandiscio spoke about the State budget which was signed this date, commenting that the impact the final State budget will have on this district's budget is about what he expected it would be.

Member Watson asked the Superintendent about the new teacher evaluation system that is being implemented. Superintendent Pandiscio explained that a Teacher Evaluation Task Force had been working on this new system since early winter. Superintendent Pandiscio spoke very highly of this task force, complimenting the membership on all it accomplished. Superintendent Pandiscio explained that school year 2011-2012 will be considered a "practice

year.” He also reported that the District has petitioned the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to be an “early adopter” of this new evaluation system. The District is awaiting word from DESE if the District is accepted as an “early adopter.” Superintendent Pandiscio will prepare and share with the Committee an overlay of State Frameworks and how Wachusett’s rubric will work with the State Frameworks.

Member Harris asked for clarification of the notice that was in the June 10, 2011 *District News* informing employees that the District would not be offering a flexible spending account opportunity. The Superintendent explained Aflac needed a certain number of participants to be able to offer this benefit and that minimum number was not attained.

In following up to recent discussion, Member Torres-Gale asked for an update about online learning at Thomas Prince School. Superintendent Pandiscio had nothing definitive to report at this time.

Member Goodwin asked about letters to parents reporting students’ BMI (body mass index) and said that these letters raised questions from parents about the lack of recess at Mountview Middle School. Following discussion, Member Goodwin asked that Member Hammond bring this matter to the Mountview SIMCO. When asked why letters reporting students’ BMI were mailed to parents, Superintendent Pandiscio explained it was a state mandate.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the sale of a \$11,400,000 2.00 percent General Obligation Revenue Anticipation Note (the “Note”) of the District dated July 25, 2011, and payable June 29, 2012, to TD Securities (USA) LLC at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$125,514.

Further voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Note, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated June 30, 2011, and a final Official Statement dated July 7, 2011, each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further voted: that the District Treasurer and the Chair of the Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a significant events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Note for the benefit of the holders of the Note from time to time.

Further voted: that the Chair of the Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

(J. Sova)  
(L. Harris)

Member Watson made a friendly amendment, adding the following language to the motion on the floor: "Further voted: that the consent to bid as executed by the Treasurer to First Southwest Company, the financial advisor, to bid the note is hereby confirmed." The maker and seconder of the motion accepted this friendly amendment.

Motion: To add the following language to the motion on the floor: "Further voted: that the consent to bid as executed by the Treasurer to First Southwest Company, the financial advisor, to bid the note is hereby confirmed."

(M. Watson)  
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the sale of a \$11,400,000 2.00 percent General Obligation Revenue Anticipation Note (the "Note") of the District dated July 25, 2011, and payable June 29, 2012, to TD Securities (USA) LLC at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$125,514.

Further voted: that the consent to bid as executed by the Treasurer to First Southwest Company, the financial advisor, to bid the note is hereby confirmed

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Further voted: that the Chair of the Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

(J. Sova)  
(L. Harris)

7:55 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmelo Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber

Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: That the Wachusett Educational Foundation Trust, according to Chapter 272 Section 40A of MGL, be authorized to sell or possess alcoholic beverages during non-school hours provided a proper license is obtained. Further that this authorization relate only to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills kick-off event to be held after school hours on October 20, 2011.

(J. Sova)  
(C. Bazinet)

7:58 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

Much discussion about the motion on the table ensued. Members had many questions, which were answered by WEFT Board of Trustee members Sciabarrasi and Sova.

Motion: To table the motion on the floor until the August 15, 2011 School Committee meeting.

(R. Imber)  
(J. Mason)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmelo Bazzano  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Michelle Sciabarrasi

*Opposed:*

Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond



Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

Motion failed 7 - 11.

Motion: That the Wachusett Educational Foundation Trust, according to Chapter 272 Section 40A of MGL, be authorized to sell or possess alcoholic beverages during non-school hours provided a proper license is obtained. Further that this authorization relate only to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills kick-off event to be held after school hours on October 20, 2011.

(J. Sova)

(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Joseph Sova  
Carmelo Bazzano

*Opposed:*

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

*Abstained:*

Duncan Leith  
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Motion failed 2 – 14 - 2.

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 Plourde read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Member Sciabarrasi complimented the Superintendent on his message to Staff sent by *District News* on June 22, 2011.

Member Pelczarski is seeking to receive more first hand knowledge about staffing, and staffing changes, in District schools. Chair Leith suggested Member Pelczarski put his request in writing and submit it to the Central Office for inclusion in the next Superintendent's Report.

8:39 PM Member Cipro left the table.

There proceeded to be discussion about Member Pelczarski's request. Member Jackson noted that new hires and recent resignations are listed in *District News*, which the Committee receives in the Superintendent's Reports. Discussion continued.

8:41 PM Member Cipro returned to the table.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Watson)  
(M. Sciabarrasi)

Vote:

*In favor:*

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

Norman Plourde  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp