

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1204 Monday, August 15, 2011

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Stacey Jackson
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Julianne Kelley
Cynthia Bazinet	James Mason
Carmelo Bazzano	Robert Pelczarski
William Clute	Norman Plourde
Kristine Goodwin (7:27 PM)	Robert Remillard
Steven Hammond	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Lance Harris (7:14 PM)	Athas Tsongalis
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

Colleen Cipro	Margaret Watson
Dawn Torres-Gale	

*Administration Present:*

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
Peter Brennan, Business Manager  
Kelley Gangi, Director of Curriculum  
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations  
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 7:02 PM. Chair Leith asked those present to observe a moment of silence for the late Joshua Thibodeau.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1203<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on July 11, 2011

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

(J. Sova)

(R. Imber)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held July 11, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Remillard and Tsongalis 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 turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio, who distributed hard copies of a PowerPoint presentation he will be showing (attachment 2).

7:14 PM Member Harris joined the meeting.

Superintendent Pandiscio showed the PowerPoint presentation "AIM<sub>21</sub> 2011-2012" and spoke in detail to each slide.

7:27 PM Member Goodwin joined the meeting.

At the conclusion of the Superintendent's presentation, Chair Leith gave members the opportunity to ask questions about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Initiative. Many members had questions, which they asked and which the Superintendent answered and provided additional detail. Superintendent Pandiscio explained the next couple of steps will be to (1) bring this initiative to the Education Subcommittee; and (2) to give the full School Committee a preliminary estimate ("first brush stroke") of what the capital investment will likely look like in order to move forward with this initiative. Discussion of this topic concluded at 8:24 PM.

Chair Leith mentioned he is hopeful members of the winning 4 X 800 track team will be able to stop by the Media Center during the September 12<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

8:26 PM Member Clute left the table.

Both Chair Leith and Superintendent Pandiscio took a moment to commend both the Holden Fire and Police Departments, for services recently performed in connection with the unfortunate incident on a soccer field and a fire related incident at Chair Leith's home. Both praised the departments and noted that Holden should be proud of these public servants.

B. Student Representatives (Tyler Gibbs, John Latino)

Tyler Gibbs spoke briefly, noting opening day for schools in the District was fast approaching, just two weeks away!

8:30 PM Member Clute returned to the table.

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)

Chair Leith reported the Management Subcommittee had met immediately before this School Committee meeting. The Student Representatives attended the subcommittee meeting and were oriented as to their roles and responsibilities as Student Representatives.

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

Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported on the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Education Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chair Hammond read aloud for the full Committee's information the motion voted on by the Education Subcommittee at its April 4, 2011 meeting: *Motion: The Education Subcommittee endorses the establishment of a Jr. ROTC program at Wachusett Regional High School, when time, space, and finances permit.* Subcommittee Chair Hammond spoke about Jr. ROTC and the Education Subcommittee's endorsement of the program without any specific timeline. Subcommittee Chair Hammond also called the School Committee's attention to attachment 19 of the August 11, 2011 Superintendent's Report ("Developing citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community").

1. Draft Policy – DP6637 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Service Animals for Students, Employees, and Guests of the Wachusett Regional School District*** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of DP6637 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Service Animals for Students, Employees, and***

*Guests of the Wachusett Regional School District*, waiving the reading.

(S. Hammond)

(C. Bazinet)

Member Kelley has concerns about this draft language and suggested that the Education Subcommittee review language drafted by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

8:39 PM Member Pelczarski left the table.

Following further conversation about DP6637, Members Hammond and Bazinet withdrew their motion.

Subcommittee Chair Hammond announced the Education Subcommittee will meet next on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM at the District Central Office.

- 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>. As Member Sova had reported at a previous meeting, these plans are in the preliminary stage, but he will keep the Committee apprised as plans develop. Member Sova announced that Leominster Credit Union will be “partnering” with WEFT and will help finance the October 20<sup>th</sup> event. There was general discussion about WEFT and its relationship with the District and School Committee.

8:41 PM Member Pelczarski returned to the table.

- 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 this subcommittee may meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month, just before regular School Committee meetings. She expects to call a meeting for September.

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

AAB Chair Sova reported District auditors Powers & Sullivan will soon be at the District Central Office to begin field work.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

In Member Watson's absence, Superintendent Pandiscio reported on the status of this project.

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

Chair Leith reported this building committee will meet on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

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 will host a family outing at the Holden pool on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

Member Jackson – Davis Hill Elementary School – Davis Hill will host an open house on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Jackson was pleased to learn about this year's format for presentations to the School Committee.

Member Kelley suggested that during the next round of contract talks District administration consider developing an evaluation rubric for paraprofessionals.

There was discussion about professional development opportunities afforded teachers this summer. Superintendent Pandiscio wanted to be sure the School Committee was aware of the fact that Wachusett has been named one of ten DESE “early adopters” of the new educator evaluation regulations. A conference call to discuss what is expected of participating schools/districts is scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Pandiscio called the Committee’s attention to attachment 13 of his August 11<sup>th</sup> Report, reporting the District had received a \$218,444 grant from the Massachusetts Math and Science Initiative (MMSI).

9:25 PM Member Bazinet left the meeting.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to enter into a Vending and Dispensing Rights Agreement with Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. relating to the sale of beverages through fountains, vending machines and coolers installed at the Wachusett Regional High School.

(J. Sova)

(S. Hammond)

Questions were asked about the length of the contract, what sort of beverages are dispensed, if the District would be able to get out of the contract if regulatory changes are made, etc. The motion was discussed and the questions were answered.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Athas Tsongalis

*Opposed:*

Carmelo Bazzano

Motion passed 15-1.

Motion: To authorize the Business Manager to transfer within the same major FY11 Appropriation categories surplus account balances to deficit account balances.

(S. Hammond)  
(N. Plourde)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Carmelo Bazzano  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Athas Tsongalis

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To authorize the Business Manager to transfer from surplus major FY11 Appropriation categories (Personnel – Salaries and Employee Benefits & Insurance, Pupil Services, Special Education Tuitions, and Transportation) to deficit Appropriation categories (Instructional Support, Operations & Maintenance, Other Operating Costs and Capital/Debt Service)

(J. Sova)  
(J. Kelley)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Carmelo Bazzano  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin

Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Athas Tsongalis

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To request the administration to present a weekly report regarding all new hires, transfers, dismissals, and changes in roles and/or titles of all Wachusett Regional School District employees  
(R. Pelczarski)  
(J. Kelley)

Member Plourde spoke to the motion. Member Harris inquired if what is being requested by this motion could be met by adding the School Committee to the *District News* mail list, as new hires and resignations are listed in *District News*. After discussion, it was determined that action would not suffice. Chair Leith noted that some employee dismissals cannot be shared publicly. Member Goodwin asked the Superintendent how District administration could meet the requirements of the motion, without being too burdensome. Much discussion ensued. Friendly amendments were made, resulting in the motion reading: *“To request the administration provide, as a part of Superintendent’s Reports, a report regarding all new hires, transfers, and changes in roles and/or titles of all Wachusett Regional School District employees, plus provide a current list of employees at the beginning of every academic year.”* The friendly amendments were accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Motion: To request the administration provide, as a part of Superintendent’s Reports, a report regarding all new hires, transfers, and changes in roles and/or titles of all Wachusett Regional School District employees, plus provide a current list of employees at the beginning of every academic year.  
(R. Pelczarski)  
(J. Kelley)

Roll call vote:  
*In favor:*  
Joseph Sova

Carmelo Bazzano  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Athas Tsongalis

*Opposed:*

Duncan Leith  
Steven Hammond

Motion passed 14-2.

Motion: To accept the donation of science equipment to the  
Glenwood Elementary School, from Rutland resident Jon DiVito  
(S. Hammond)  
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Carmelo Bazzano  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Athas Tsongalis

*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.

(N. Plourde)  
(A. Tsongalis)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Carmelo Bazzano  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Athas Tsongalis

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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