

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session Monday, September 12, 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 |
| Colleen Cipro | Norman Plourde |
| William Clute | Robert Remillard |
| Kristine Goodwin | Michelle Sciabarrasi |
| Steven Hammond | Dawn Torres-Gale |
| Lance Harris | Athas Tsongalis |
| Robert Imber | Margaret Watson |

Committee Members Absent:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Carmelo Bazzano | Robert Pelczarski |
|-----------------|-------------------|

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Chair Leith called the executive session of the School Committee to order at 8:14 PM and turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio.

Superintendent Pandiscio reported on the very productive negotiations he had with the Wachusett Regional Nurses Association. Members were provided with a Memorandum of Agreement between the Wachusett Regional School District and the Wachusett Regional Nurses Association (attachment 1). Superintendent Pandiscio walked the Committee through the new contract language proposals and he explained the salary schedule on the second page of the MOA.

Motion: To ratify the contract between the Wachusett Regional School District and the Wachusett Regional Nurses Association, as presented.

(C. Bazinet)
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro

William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Pandiscio turned the meeting back over to Chair Leith. Chair Leith called members' attention to the confidential memorandum Superintendent Pandiscio had addressed to the Committee, dated September 8, 2011, which had been included in the September 8, 2011 Superintendent's Report packet (attachment 2). Chair Leith reminded members that this memorandum is confidential and should be turned in at the end of the meeting. Members were also provided with copies of three School Committee policies (P1110, P1111, P1160) (attachment 3). At Chair Leith's request, Member Remillard gave his accounting of what transpired since he received an email from a neighbor on August 31, 2011. Chair Leith then asked Member Tsongalis to give his accounting of the situation. Member Tsongalis read aloud a letter dated September 12, 2011 signed by Rutland Chief of Police Donald A. Happakoski (attachment 4).

Motion: To censure School Committee member Athas Tsongalis and to direct Member Tsongalis to not represent himself as a member of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee when dealing with matters that are not School Committee related.

(J. Kelley)
(S. Jackson)

Lengthy discussion ensued. Following the discussion, Member Kelley withdrew her motion, which was agreed to by Member Jackson. More discussion followed.

Motion: To advise Member Athas Tsongalis to write a letter of clarification to all involved parties, explaining he was not operating as a WRSDC member. Further, to direct Chair Leith to write a letter to the parties, through their attorney, that the School Committee addressed this issue, and to also note that threatening issues and issues of bullying should be reported to and dealt with by the police department.

(K. Goodwin)
(J. Mason)

Further discussion resulted.

Motion: To move the question.

(J. Mason)
(N. Plourde)

Chair Leith explained the motion to move the question needs a two-thirds vote in favor to pass.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Joseph Sova
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Stacey Jackson
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Margaret Watson

Abstained:

Duncan Leith
Athas Tsongalis

Motion failed 9-7-2.

Discussion continued. Member Cipro told of a conversation she had had with Member Tsongalis.

9:35 PM Member Goodwin left the table.

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

Duncan Leith

Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Motion failed 1-16.

Motion: To censure member Athas Tsongalis.

(C. Bazinet)
(J. Mason)

9:41 PM Member Goodwin returned to the table.

Discussion ensued.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard

Opposed:

Joseph Sova
Kristine Goodwin
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongali
Margaret Watson

Motion passed 10-8.

Member Goodwin asked that the minutes show the vote to censure was not unanimous.

Motion: To direct the Chair to write letters to Rutland residents Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Enrenworth, copying their attorney Christopher P. Yates, and Mr. and Mrs. Steven Shong informing the parties that the School Committee took the matter outlined in Attorney Yates' letter of September 6, 2011 and the Shong's email of September 7, 2011 under advisement, resulting in the School Committee censuring Member Athas Tsongalis.

(C. Bazinet)

(J. Mason)

9:45 PM Member Torres-Gale left the meeting.

Discussion continued. Member Hammond made a friendly amendment to the motion, to seek District Counsel's input on the Chair's letter to Rutland residents Enrenworth and Shong. Both the maker and seconder of the motion accepted this friendly amendment.

Motion: To direct the Chair to consult with District Counsel McCabe in crafting letters to Rutland residents Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Enrenworth, copying their attorney Christopher P. Yates, and Mr. and Mrs. Steven Shong informing the parties that the School Committee took the matter outlined in Attorney Yates' letter of September 6, 2011 and the Shong's email of September 7, 2011 under advisement, resulting in the School Committee censuring Member Athas Tsongalis.

(C. Bazinet)

(J. Mason)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Kristine Goodwin
Lance Harris

Abstained:

Athas Tsongalis

Motion passed 14-2-1.

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Mason)
(C. Cipro)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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