

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1205 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
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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 7:00 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1204th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on August 15, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held August 15, 2011.

(N. Plourde)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held August 15, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Cipro, Torres-Gale, and Watson abstaining.

- B. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on August 25, 2011

Motion: Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on August 25, 2011

The minutes of the special School Committee meeting held August 25, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Cipro, Hammond, Harris, and Torres-Gale 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 was pleased to welcome 4 X 800 team members Jeremy Bennie, Colin Bennie, and Hayden Frechette-McCall, also referencing 2011 WRHS graduate Alex Jagelsky who was unable to attend due to being away at college, and asked the Committee to join him in congratulating the boys on their impressive successes this past spring competing post-season. Jeremy Bennie spoke on behalf of the track team and thanked the Committee for inviting them to the meeting to be recognized. The School Committee gave the runners a hearty round of applause.

- B. Student Representatives (Tyler Gibbs, John Latino)

John Latino spoke of the boys' and the girls' soccer teams already being off to good starts. He encouraged members to stop by a game if they are able; he assured them they would enjoy the experience.

Tyler Gibbs reported on the boys' golf team's winning record, to date. At the request of some students, who asked that this issue be brought before the School Committee, Mr. Gibbs asked that iPod use (or non-use) during study periods at the high school be reconsidered.

- 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 he will be posting a meeting of the Management Subcommittee for Monday, October 17th. Members of the Management Subcommittee will be polled to determine the time for the meeting.

- 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)

Education Chair Hammond reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting. The subcommittee will meet on Monday, September 19th, at 7:00 PM.

- 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 has posted a meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee for Wednesday, September 21st, at 6:30 PM.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sova reminded those present of the WEFT kick-off event – *21st Century Skills* - planned for Thursday, October 20th, at Wachusett Regional High School.

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

Community Outreach Chair Sciabarrasi reported the subcommittee met just before this School Committee meeting and Member Tsongalis was elected Vice-chair of the Community Outreach Subcommittee. This subcommittee will meet at 6:00 PM before every School Committee meeting, at least for the short term.

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

AAB Chair Sova reported District auditors Powers & Sullivan have completed their field work and draft copies of the auditor's reports should be available shortly. A meeting of the Audit Advisory Board will be called when the reports are available.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson and Superintendent Pandiscio reported on progress being made with this project. Superintendent Pandiscio reported on a September 12th conference call involving MSBA, the Town of Holden, and the District. Superintendent Pandiscio did comment that progress on this project is a "painfully slow process." The Mountview Building Committee is slated to meet on September 13th.

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

Business Manager Brennan told the Committee of bid opening dates for these projects. There is no meeting of the building committee scheduled at this time.

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 be hosting a workshop, entitled *Skills for Behavior Management and Discipline at Home*, on Wednesday, September 21st, in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office.

Member Jackson – Davis Hill Elementary School – This school council has not yet met, but Member Jackson reported on the high energy and excitement going on throughout this elementary school.

At Member Imber's query, Superintendent Pandiscio gave an update on PCB cleanup progress being made at Thomas Prince School and how this cleanup project relates to the Green Repair project planned for the Princeton school (windows, boilers, roof).

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Sova asked Superintendent Pandiscio to explain the accounting error that was reported on in the Business Manager's report. The Superintendent explained that two accounting entry errors were discovered by Powers and Sullivan during the annual audit, and these accounting entry errors resulted in the need to decrease the projected surplus by \$383,645. This deficit has resulted in a tight budget (FY12) becoming even tighter, and Superintendent Pandiscio is concerned that next year (FY13) will be a very difficult year for the District.

Member Plourde raised the matter of the Jefferson Convenience Store, located at 1406 Main Street, Holden considering applying for a retail beer and wine license and seeking the District's input before moving forward with this process. Members' attention was called to attachment 8 of the September 8, 2011 Superintendent's Report, a letter from Attorney Brian Forts on behalf of his client Ritul Gupta, owner of the Jefferson Convenience Store. There was considerable discussion about this matter, with members and the Student Representatives asking questions and giving opinions.

Motion: The Wachusett Regional School District Committee does not object to the Jefferson Convenience Store applying for a retail beer and wine license.

(J. Sova)
(N. Plourde)

Comment was made by two members that the Committee does not need to vote on this matter since the WRSDC is not objecting to the Jefferson Convenience Store applying for a retail beer and wine license. Discussion ensued, following which Member Sova withdrew his motion, agreed to by the seconder of the motion. Discussion about this matter continued.

Motion: To direct Superintendent Pandiscio to respond to Attorney Brian Forts' letter of August 9, 2011 informing Attorney Forts and his client Ritul Gupta that the Wachusett Regional School District Committee has no position, for or against, the Jefferson Convenience Store applying for a retail beer and wine license.

(J. Mason)

(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

Kristine Goodwin
Dawn Torres-Gale

Motion passed 16-2.

Motion: To appoint Member Julianne Kelley as the WRSDC's voting delegate at the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's annual business meeting in November 2011.

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.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to enter into an Agreement with Apple Financial Services, with an annual payment of \$20,898, relating to a 4-year lease and purchase of Apple equipment to be used at the Wachusett Regional High School.

(J. Sova)
(J. Kelley)

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.

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 Watson requested that arrangements be made to be sure exterior lights are illuminated when there are evening meetings at the high school.

IX. Executive Session

Motion: To adjourn to executive session, not to return to public session.

(J. Sova)

(R. Imber)

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.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

TGP:rlp