

**WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

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

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1188 Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Robert Imber
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson
Robert Carter	Julianne Kelley
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
William Clute	Robert Remillard
Shirley Conrad	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kristine Goodwin	Dawn Torres-Gale
Steven Hammond	Athas Tsongalis
Lance Harris (7:02 PM)	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
-----------------	-------------------

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
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:

Katie Carlson  
Brian Clement  
Katie Sands

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 7:01 PM.  
Chair Leith announced the meeting was being taped and broadcast live.

I. Public Hearing

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

7:02 PM Member Harris joined the meeting.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1187<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 13, 2010

Member Watson asked that a correction be made on page 4 of the DRAFT minutes; under ad hoc subcommittees, the word "disbanded" should be changed to "discharged."

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held on September 13, 2010, as corrected.

(M. Watson)  
(J. Kelley)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held September 13, 2010 were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Member Conrad abstaining.

- B. Approval of Minutes of the Executive Session of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 13, 2010

Chair Leith asked members to review the minutes and if no corrections of substance were noted, these minutes could be approved in public session. If substantive corrections are noted, the minutes would be approved in executive session.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session of the School Committee held September 13, 2010, not to be released.

(J. Sova)  
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin

Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

*Abstained:*  
Sherry Conrad

(Motion passed 17-0-1)

### 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

Members were provided with a corrected copy of the WAA contract preamble, which was corrected to read ".....made this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 2010," (attachment 2).

Chair Leith turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio, who showed a PowerPoint presentation and spoke of 2010 WRSD MCAS results (attachment 3). Following the presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Superintendent. The Superintendent's presentation and the Q & A session concluded at 7:56 PM.

Chair Leith announced he was designating Member Carter to serve as the WRSDC's official voting delegate at the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's annual business meeting on November 3, 2010. Vice-chair Sova will serve as the alternate voting delegate.

Chair Leith congratulated District administration and staff on the successful application for a Carol M. White Physical Education Program grant (PEP grant).

B. Student Representatives (Brian Clement, Katie Carlson, Katie Sands)

Student Representative Katie Carlson reported on the October 16<sup>th</sup> Power Positive March for Melanoma from Wachusett (Regional High School) to Wachusett (Mountain).

Student Representative Katie Sands reported on the October 8<sup>th</sup> football game that was televised and was a great boost to school spirit. She also reported that the school store at the high school will soon be selling Wachusett scarves, which should be very popular. Ms. Sands did make note that the lack of parking for high school juniors is an issue for some students.

Student Representative Brian Clement reported there will be a presentation of *Rachel's Challenge* on October 26<sup>th</sup>. He also wanted to address any misunderstandings about comments he made at the September 13<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. Mr. Clement was quick to say he "loves Wachusett" and is very grateful for the opportunities afforded him at WRHS.

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

Chair Leith plans to post a meeting of the Management Subcommittee before the end of this month.

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 September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Education Subcommittee and noted the subcommittee will meet next on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (J. Sova, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, C. Cipro, W. Clute, D. Leith, M. Sciabarrasi, A. Tsongalis)

Subcommittee Chair Sova reported on the September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of this subcommittee, at which meeting the subcommittee reviewed and approved the Business Manager's Goals 2010-2011. He went on to explain that Members Cipro, Leith, Sciabarrasi and Sova will serve on an ad hoc subcommittee to review the Business Manager's contract and compensation, a task he hopes

can be completed by the end of this calendar year. The Business/Finance Subcommittee will begin policy review at its next meeting.

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

Community Outreach Chair Goodwin reported this subcommittee had met immediately before this regular School Committee meeting and she reported on the meeting. She took time to explain the format for future subcommittee meetings: Community Outreach Subcommittee meetings will be scheduled for 6:00 PM the dates of the first regular School Committee meeting each month, subcommittee business will be conducted from 6:00 to 6:30 PM and from 6:30 to 7:00 PM time will be set aside for members of the public who wish to speak to/meet with members of this subcommittee. On the dates of the second regular School Committee meeting each month at least some members of the subcommittee will be available at 6:30 PM to meet with members of the public.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (S. Conrad, J. Sova)

AAB Chair Conrad reported the Audit Advisory Board will meet with the auditors on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 PM at the Central Office.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Supplemental Revenue FY11 (M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

Member Sova reported he will be attending a meeting at the Central Office on October 13<sup>th</sup>, at which time it is expected that the work of this ad hoc subcommittee can be wrapped up, in advance of the October 15<sup>th</sup> discharge of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Supplemental Revenue FY11.

- I. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (C. Cipro), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (S. Jackson), Dawson Elementary School (R. Carter), 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 (M. Sciabarrasi), Special Education

Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (S. Jackson)

Member Jackson – The Special Education Parent Advisory Council will be hosting a workshop entitled *MCAS – Assess and Achievement for Students with Disabilities* on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Davis Hill Elementary School.

Member Jackson – The Early Childhood Center will host an open house on January 5<sup>th</sup> for parents interested in enrolling their children for the 2011-2012 school year. She also reported tuition will increase to \$15/day beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

Member Jackson – Davis Hill Elementary School SIMCO will meet on October 14, 2010.

Member Imber commented briefly on the public hearing at the September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Thomas Prince Middle School Enrollment Study Committee.

## V. Superintendent's Report

### A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio reported on his October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting with Member Town administrators.

Superintendent Pandiscio explained some of the details of the recently awarded Carol M. White Physical Education Program grant (PEP grant). He reported on a conference call he had with a Grants Manager from the United States Department of Education in Washington. The Superintendent will be providing the Committee with a more substantive report about this grant and what components of fitness it will cover. There was general discussion about the PEP grant and what it might and/or might not cover.

Member Goodwin appreciated having the summaries of parent surveys included in the most recent Superintendent's Report and requested copies of survey raw data for Community Outreach review. Comment was made that the results of the high school survey could be seriously flawed, as a cross section of parents participating in a survey is necessary. It was suggested that the WRHS School Council provide input on ways to get surveys into the hands of most/more parents. Community Outreach Chair Goodwin said that the Community Outreach Subcommittee will look at the surveys and will work towards a common format.

Member Torres-Gale asked for an update on collective bargaining negotiations, to which the Superintendent reported the clerical unit is still in mediation and the nurses have submitted their official notification of their intent to enter negotiations, as that bargaining unit's contract expires June 30, 2011.

Member Watson suggested that the Superintendent add an additional goal to his memorandum dated October 7, 2010 "Goals of the Superintendent of Schools for School Year 2010 – 2011," one which would address working on a solution to the declining enrollment at Thomas Prince School.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To approve Proposed FY11 Appropriation and Proposed FY11 Assessment

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed copies of the Proposed FY11 Appropriation (attachment 4). Superintendent Pandiscio explained to the Committee the proposed amendments to the FY11 Appropriation. Upon inquiry, the Superintendent spoke about Jobs Bill funds and how those funds are intended to be spent.

8:45 PM Katie Carlson and Katie Sands left the meeting.

Discussion continued.

Motion: To reduce the FY11 Appropriation from \$73,605,419 to \$73,189,842, as presented.

(J. Sova)

(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber

Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To reduce the FY11 Member Town assessments by \$54,676, from \$37,649,965 to \$37,595,289.

(J. Sova)

(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Shirley Conrad  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
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 Carter had questions about the number of teachers within the District who have been granted professional status, dismissal of teachers with professional status, if low performing teachers tend to be moved from school to school. Superintendent Pandiscio explained professional status and spoke about teacher assignments.

Motion: To direct the Wachusett Regional School District Committee to publicly state its opposition to Question 3 on the November 2, 2010 ballot asking the reduction of the State's sales tax from 6.25% to 3%, the result of which will have an adverse effect on the education of the children under our charge. Therefore, the Wachusett Regional School District Committee urges a "No" vote on Question 3 on the November 2, 2010 election.

(N. Plourde)

(R. Carter)

Chair Leith spoke about the School Committee By-Law language (Article IV, Section 2) which requires advance notice to School Committee members when a motion is brought before the Committee for a vote "*Motions to be acted upon under New Business must be sent to the School Committee Chair, in writing with rationale appended, for placement on the next available regular School Committee agenda. Excluded from this requirement will be routine motions such as acceptance of gifts and other acknowledgements.*"

There was discussion of this By-Law language and Chair Leith conducted an informal poll of members seeking direction on how to proceed. Following this informal poll, it was determined this motion would be on the agenda of the October 27, 2010 School Committee meeting. Member Conrad reported she is unable to attend the October 27, 2010 School Committee meeting, but asked that it be on the record that she is in favor of Member Plourde's motion.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(A. Tsongalis)

(K. Goodwin)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp