

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1206 Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

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

*Committee Members Absent:*

Kristine Goodwin	James Mason
Robert Imber	Athas Tsongalis

*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

*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 7:06 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1205<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 12, 2011

Member Torres-Gale noted corrections to be made to the draft minutes: the spelling of her first name, on roll call votes, to be corrected to "Dawn;" and the motion and vote on pages 5 and 6 of the draft minutes, dealing with Jefferson Convenience Store applying for a retail beer and wine license, should reflect Member Torres-Gale voted in opposition – the motion passed 16 – 2.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held September 12, 2011, as corrected.

(D. Torres-Gale)  
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held September 12, 2011 were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Members Bazzano and Pelczarski abstaining.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee executive session held on September 12, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee executive session held on September 12, 2011, to be released.

(J. Sova)  
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Abstained:*

Carmelo Bazzano  
Robert Pelczarski

Motion passed 14-0-2.

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. Members were provided with hard copies of the WRSD 2011 MCAS "Overview and Next Steps" PowerPoint presentation (attachment 2). Members were also given copies of DART (District Analysis and Review Tool for Schools) data generated by DESE (attachment 3). The Superintendent explained the information on the DART sheets, and showed the PowerPoint presentation and spoke about the District information included in the presentation.

7:36 PM Member Pelczarski left the table.

7:41 PM Member Pelczarski returned to the table.

7:45 PM Member Harris left the table.

7:49 Member Harris returned to the table.

At the conclusion of Superintendent Pandiscio's presentation, Chair Leith gave members the opportunity to ask questions and to discuss the information provided by the Superintendent. There were many questions asked and answered and much discussion generated, with most members contributing to the exchange. After forty minutes, Chair Leith closed discussion, thanking the Superintendent for his presentation and thanking members of their participation in a worthwhile dialogue.

Chair Leith reminded members they are obligated to complete the State Ethics Commission's Conflict of Interest Law online training, deadline October 15, 2011. When members have completed this online training they should print out a certificate of completion and forward it to the Central Office for the record.

Chair Leith briefly reminded members of the upcoming WEFT kick-off event to take place Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Wachusett Regional High School. Chair Leith encouraged members to attend if they are able.

B. Student Representatives (Tyler Gibbs, John Latino)

Tyler Gibbs reported on a number of topics, including the activities students participated in the morning of the October 12<sup>th</sup> professional development day (college/career fair for seniors; administration of PSATs for juniors and sophomores; freshmen writing tests for the ninth graders); Spirit Week will be the week of October 24<sup>th</sup>; the first edition for this school year of *The Echo* will be available next week; The Madwoman of Chaillet will be performed the weekend of November 18<sup>th</sup>; the second annual Power Positive March for Melanoma Research will be Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>; the girls' volleyball team to hold a fundraiser for breast cancer on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

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 will meet Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Lower Conference Room at the District Central Office.

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 on the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Education Subcommittee and told the next meeting will be held on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

8:32 PM Member Sciabarrasi left the meeting.

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

Business/Finance Chair Sova reported on the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee and told that the subcommittee met just before this School Committee meeting. He explained this subcommittee plans to meet once a month, at 6:00 PM in the Media Center at WRHS, before the first regularly scheduled School Committee meeting of each month.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sova spoke about the WEFT kick-off event – *21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills* - planned for Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, at Wachusett Regional High School.

He encouraged School Committee members to attend and commended Member Sciabarrasi for all she has put into organizing this event.

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

In the subcommittee chair's and vice-chair's absences, Community Outreach Member Watson reported on the meeting of this subcommittee which took place immediately before this School Committee meeting. The subcommittee is working on school surveys.

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

AAB Chair Sova reported the Audit Advisory Board is in need of a representative from the Town of Paxton. If anyone can suggest a possible Paxton representative, they should speak with Chair Leith. AAB Chair Sova reported the AAB will meet with District auditors on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the District Central Office.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

- I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported the Mountview Building Committee has not met since the last School Committee meeting. Superintendent Pandiscio reported a conference call with MSBA has been scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

Chair Leith reported project costs have been received for the Paxton Center School and the Naquag Elementary School projects and it is expected these projects will begin by the end of October. Estimated costs for the Thomas Prince School project are expected in a month's 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 Bazinet – Wachusett Regional High School

Member Jackson – Davis Hill Elementary School

Member Jackson – SEPAC – SEPAC will be hosting a workshop, entitled *Skills for Behavior Management and Discipline at Home*, on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. SEPAC has sent out fundraising letters to 400 local businesses.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Watson questioned what she is to do with/what she should be looking at on the list of District employees the Superintendent is sending to the Committee monthly. Superintendent Pandiscio said that the list is being shared with the Committee for informational purposes only and he explained the different fonts and colors used on the listing to highlight new hires, new positions, and new work locations.

Member Watson questioned if it is appropriate that District Treasurer James Dunbar also serves as Treasurer for the Town of Princeton. District administration will get a ruling on this matter.

Member Watson commended and thanked Superintendent Pandiscio for his fine negotiations with the nurses' union.

Member Jackson extended accolades to Director Gangi for her work on the evaluation application that can be used on the iPad.

At Member Bazzano's prompting, there was some discussion about student BMI statistics and what is done with the information.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to execute and deliver the Project Funding Agreement and any amendments thereto for the Naquag Elementary School, Paxton Center School, and the Thomas Prince School projects (collectively called, the "Project") between the Wachusett Regional School District and the Massachusetts School Building Authority on behalf of the Wachusett Regional School District and to bind the Wachusett Regional School District to its terms and conditions and, to authorize the Superintendent to make

final binding decisions with respect to the Project described in the Project Funding Agreement and any amendments thereto, on behalf of the Wachusett Regional School District.

(J. Sova)  
(C. Cipro)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmello Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$527,990 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for Glenwood Elementary School

(J. Kelley)  
(J. Sova)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmello Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley

Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$338,045 to the Town of Paxton for reimbursement for Paxton Center School

(J. Sova)  
(R. Pelczarski)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmello Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Paxton and the Wachusett Regional School District.

(W. Clute)  
(J. Sova)

Superintendent Pandiscio explained that reimbursements from MSBA are first sent to the District, and then the District in turns forwards the money to the named towns. If the Committee votes this evening to approve the Intermunicipal Agreements with the towns of Paxton,



Princeton, and Rutland, all in connection with the Green Repair projects, members present will be asked to sign three Intermunicipal Agreements. Superintendent Pandiscio noted only signatures of those in attendance at this meeting will be required.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmello Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Princeton and the Wachusett Regional School District.

(J. Sova)

(L. Harris)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmello Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard

Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Rutland and the Wachusett Regional School District.

(J. Kelley)  
(S. Jackson)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmello Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
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

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Sova)  
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmello Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Steven Hammond  
Lance Harris  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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