

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1207 Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

Duncan Leith, Chair	James Mason
Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
Carmelo Bazzano	Norman Plourde
Colleen Cipro	Robert Remillard
Lance Harris	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Robert Imber	Dawn Torres-Gale
Stacey Jackson	Athas Tsongalis
Julianne Kelley	Margaret Watson

*Committee Members Absent:*

William Clute	Steven Hammond
Kristine Goodwin	Joseph Sova, Vice-chair

*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  
Jonathan 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 7:07 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1206<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 12, 2011

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

(N. Plourde)

(M. Watson)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held October 12, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Imber, Mason 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 reminded members who have not completed the Ethics Commission conflict of interest online training to do so as soon as possible and to provide the Central Office with a copy of the certificate of completion.

Chair Leith commended the WEFT Board of Trustees, included School Committee members Michelle Sciabarrasi and Joseph Sova, for the great job done in organizing and orchestrating the WEFT kick-off event that took place at Wachusett Regional High School on Thursday evening, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Chair Leith also extended thanks to Leominster Credit Union and Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Worcester for their generous support of this event.

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

Tyler Gibbs reported that the high school is in the midst of Spirit Week, which will conclude the coming weekend with the soccer game on Friday night, the football game Saturday afternoon, and the Homecoming Dance Saturday evening. He also noted that the first term will close on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Jonathan Latino told that the first musical concert for this school year was recently performed, after which WRHS Principal Beando received a handwritten letter from a local veteran who had attended the performance praising the Wachusett school community. Mr. Latino raised the matter of the weighted grading system at the high school, stating there is some confusion on the part of students, and there is a lack of communication between administration and students.

- 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 would be posting a meeting of the Management Subcommittee for 7:00 PM on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. He asked subcommittee members to advise if they could not meet that date and time.

- 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)

In Education Subcommittee Chair Hammond's absence, Vice-chair Jackson reported this subcommittee had not met since the last School Committee meeting. The subcommittee will meet next on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

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

In Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sova's absence, Vice-chair Remillard reported this subcommittee had not met since the last School Committee meeting. The subcommittee will meet next on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM in the Media Center at WRHS.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sciabarrasi reported on the October 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> *Century Skills* kick-off event and wanted to thank those involved in making the evening a success.

- 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 this subcommittee had met just before this School Committee meeting. The subcommittee is in the process of reviewing 2010-2011 school surveys. The subcommittee will meet next at 6:00 PM on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

AAB Member Mason reported on the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting with District auditors Powers & Sullivan. The Audit Advisory Board will meet next on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM.

Chair Leith mentioned he is still seeking a Paxton resident to serve on the Audit Advisory Board.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson referenced Superintendent Pandiscio's Mountview building project update which was in his October 20<sup>th</sup> Report. Superintendent Pandiscio explained how the 800 student enrollment number was arrived at. He also reported on meetings and conference calls he has participated in with MSBA and the Town of Holden.

Motion: To authorize Chair Duncan Leith, on behalf of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, and Superintendent of Schools Thomas G. Pandiscio, on behalf of the Wachusett Regional School District, to sign the Design Enrollment Certification for the proposed project at the Mountview Middle School in Holden, Massachusetts.

(R. Imber)  
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmelo Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Leith reported the Naquag Elementary School and the Paxton Center School green repair projects are moving along and work schedules are in the process of being worked out. Superintendent Pandiscio reported on the October 25<sup>th</sup> site visits at Naquag and PCS. Bid openings for the Thomas Prince School green repair projects are scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Pandiscio gave a status report on the PCB clean up underway at Thomas Prince School.

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 – Davis Hill Elementary School

Member Jackson – SEPAC

Member Imber – Reported the Town of Princeton had voted at a Special Town Meeting in support of funds needed to remove PCBs/address the PCB issue at Thomas Prince School. Superintendent Pandiscio shared that the Princeton residents and town officials have been extremely supportive and understanding as the town and the District deal with this situation.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed two spreadsheets (History of Revenues to Budget (attachment 2) and Per Pupil Expenditures (PPE) Foundation v Actual (attachment 3)) and provided explanation of the data. Many questions were asked and answered. Superintendent

Pandiscio then showed a brief PowerPoint presentation (Wachusett Regional School District 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Initiative AIM<sub>21</sub> (attachment 4)), which was very well received. Member Kelley suggested the Superintendent be available to share this presentation with Member Town Selectboards and Finance Committees/Advisory Board, which Superintendent Pandiscio is willing to do.

8:22 PM Member Cipro left the table.

Very lengthy discussion, involving most members of the Committee, ensued.

8:25 PM Member Cipro returned to the table.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Chair Leith asked School Committee members if they would be willing to take action, at this meeting, or if they would want to hold off action until the next School Committee meeting. Members asked the status of paying for oil remediation at the Jefferson School. After discussion, members were in agreement to act on this matter at this meeting.

Motion: To replace the \$1 million dollar oil remediation debt authorization with technology acquisition authorization for the same amount.

(C. Bazinet)  
(J. Kelley)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmelo Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To request that Member Towns schedule Special Town Meetings no later than mid-January 2012 to seek debt authorization.

(A. Tsongalis)

(J. Mason)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmelo Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Member Watson asked for ability to access the names of Wachusett Adams Scholarship qualifiers.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To direct District administration to formulate a plan to implement curriculum coaches at the middle school level. This plan should include personnel, scheduling, and budget considerations.

(R. Pelczarski)

(J. Kelley)

Member Pelczarski spoke to the motion. Chair Leith explained a vote in favor of this motion would be to direct the administration to bring forward to the School Committee a proposal and a plan, but would not put coaches in classrooms at this time. Discussion ensued.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmelo Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
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

Member Harris asked what had been learned about James Dunbar holding positions as District Treasurer and Treasurer for the Town of Princeton. Superintendent Pandiscio explained that upon Director of Human Resources Sullivan's return from vacation she would be contacting the Ethics Commission for direction.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)  
(A. Tsongalis)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith



Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmelo Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
Lance Harris  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
James Mason  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Athas Tsongalis  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp