

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1189 Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Julianne Kelley
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Robert Pelczarski (7:45 PM)
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Colleen Cipro	Robert Remillard
Steven Hammond	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Lance Harris	Dawn Torres-Gale (7:06 PM)
Robert Imber	Athas Tsongalis
Stacey Jackson	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Shirley Conrad
William Clute	Kristine Goodwin

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 7:02 PM. Chair Leith announced the meeting was being taped and copies of the DVD would be distributed to the Member Towns.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1188th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 12, 2010

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held on October 12, 2010.

(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held October 12, 2010 were approved, by consensus.

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

Upon inquiry by Member Carter, a discussion ensued regarding the Member Towns' twice annual assessment payments to the District. It was explained that a change in this method of payment would require a Regional Agreement change and, as such, would require the approval of four of the five Member Towns. Additionally, it was noted that making a change in the method of payment has been discussed in the past.

7:06 PM Member Torres-Gale joined the meeting.

Chair Leith introduced Thomas Prince School Principal Mary Cringan, who was pleased to point out that two of the Student Representatives are TPS graduates. Principal Cringan addressed the Committee, covering many topics relating to Thomas Prince School, from school choice to declining enrollment to the many successes being achieved by students who attend TPS. Following Principal Cringan's address, members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the principal. At the conclusion of the Q & A session, Chair Leith thanked Principal Cringan, who was given a round of applause.

7:45 PM Member Pelczarski joined the meeting.

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

Student Representative Katie Carlson's first comment was that she thoroughly enjoyed her years as a student at Thomas Prince School. She went on to report on the high school's recent Spirit Week and Homecoming celebrations.

7:46 PM Principal Cringan left the meeting.

Student Representative Brian Clement reported on the recent fundraising walk - Wachusett to Wachusett (from WRHS to Wachusett Mountain in Princeton). He reported this walk raised in excess of \$21,000.

Student Representative Katie Sands wanted the Committee to know that she hears many comments about the fact there is no late bus service available and she needed to bring that concern to the table.

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

The Management Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, October 28th, at 7:00 PM and Chair Leith asked that subcommittee members review the 1000 Series polices in advance of 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)

Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported on the October 18th meeting of the subcommittee and gave a general overview of the draft bullying policy, referencing attachments 6, 7 and 8 of the Superintendent's Report. The subcommittee will meet next on November 1st to continue review of this draft policy. Subcommittee Chair Hammond invited School Committee members who might have questions or concerns about the draft policy language to attend the November 1 meeting of the Education Subcommittee.

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

Subcommittee Chair Sova will be posting a meeting of this subcommittee in November. He also told the Committee that a subcommittee of the

Business/Finance Committee will convene to review the Business Manager's contract.

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

Community Outreach Vice-chair Tsongalis explained the plan of the subcommittee to meet once monthly, at 6:00 PM, before the first regularly scheduled School Committee meeting each month and to be available to the public at 6:30 PM those evenings, plus member(s) of the subcommittee will be available to meet with members of the public at 6:30 PM before the second regularly scheduled School Committee meeting each month.

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

AAB Member Sova reported on the October 21st meeting when the Audit Advisory Board was given a very satisfactory report by District auditors. The final reports from the auditors should be available within a month's time.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

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

Member Sova reported that a final letter from this ad hoc subcommittee, signed by himself and Member Sciabarrasi, will be going home to parents, via back packs and this ad hoc subcommittee has now completed its tasks. Member Sova circulated a copy of the letter for members' information.

- 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 Watson – October 18th Mayo Elementary School SIMCO meeting

Member Tsongalis – October 13th Glenwood Elementary School
SIMCO meeting

Member Imber – October 26th Thomas Prince Middle School
Enrollment Study Committee meeting

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Leith reported that he and Vice-chair Sova had met with Superintendent Pandiscio and Business Manager Brennan on October 22nd to discuss WEFT (the Wachusett Regional School District Charitable Educational Foundation Trust). Chair Leith announced members of the WEFT Board of Trustees, to date:

Representing:

Holden – TBD
Paxton – TBD
Princeton – Michelle Sciabarrasi
Rutland – Thomas McNamara
Sterling – Joseph Sova

Disinterested Members:

Peter Brennan
Kelley Gangi

Chair Leith explained the terms of appointment will be staggered and that the Board of Trustees membership may increase to seven or nine members at some point. Member Torres-Gale asked that the record show her suggestion that Robert Lavigne, a member of the Holden Selectboard, be considered the Holden representative to serve on the WEFT Board of Trustees. Chair Leith went on to explain that WEFT will not be in competition with WISE (Wachusett Independent Scholastic Endowment). Superintendent Pandiscio explained the difference between WEFT and WISE. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of Chair Leith, Superintendent Pandiscio and Business Manager Brennan. The question was raised about School Committee members serving on the WEFT Board of Trustees. An opinion will be sought from Attorney McCabe. There was discussion about the goals of the Development Director.

The upcoming special Town Meeting in Holden on Monday, November 8th, and the status of the Mountview Middle School project

were the next topics of discussion. The Superintendent has prepared a letter explaining the needs at Mountview Middle School and the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) process. This letter will be sent to Holden parents via student back packs.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. 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)

(M. Watson)

Discussion ensued.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Member Watson called the Committee's attention to the Goals of the Superintendent of Schools for School Year 2010-2011, as outlined in Superintendent Pandiscio's memorandum to the School Committee dated October 21, 2010 (attachment 2).

Motion: That the School Committee formally accept the Goals of the Superintendent of Schools for School Year 2010-2011, as presented.

(M. Watson)
(J. Sova)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

The 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 Kelley questioned the number of school choice students enrolled in Wachusett schools, stating her concern about the school choice population that will eventually land at the high school. The Superintendent spoke about school choice numbers and told the Committee he would provide school choice enrollment data in his next Report.

8:49 PM Vice-chair Sova left the table.

Discussion of school choice and the impact it is having on the District continued.

8:52 PM Vice-chair Sova returned to the table.

Chair Leith suggested this discussion might be followed up when the Committee is provided school choice statistics, to be included in the Superintendent's next Report.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(A. Tsongalis)
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp