

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1190 Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair (7:48 PM)	Stacey Jackson
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Julianne Kelley
Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Colleen Cipro	Robert Remillard
William Clute	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Shirley Conrad	Dawn Torres-Gale
Kristine Goodwin	Margaret Watson
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

Steven Hammond	Athas Tsongalis
Lance Harris	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
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).

Vice-chair Sova explained that Chair Leith would be late arriving and had asked Vice-chair Sova to act as Chair until his arrival. Vice-chair Sova called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:02 PM. Vice-chair Sova 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 1189th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 27, 2010

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held on October 27, 2010.

(R. Carter)

(D. Torres-Gale)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held October 27, 2010 were approved, by consensus, with Members Bazinet, Clute, Conrad and Goodwin abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Vice-chair Sova 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

Vice-chair Sova introduced Glenwood Elementary School Principal Anthony Gasbarro. Principal Gasbarro highlighted for the Committee the many exciting and positive activities and events taking place at Glenwood Elementary School. He also reported on the reconfiguration of the Rutland elementary schools and was pleased to report the transition went very smoothly. Following Principal Gasbarro's address, members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the principal. At the conclusion of the Q & A session, Vice-chair Sova thanked the principal for his presentation.

Vice-chair Sova deferred Chair's Opening Remarks until Chair Leith joins the meeting.

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

Student Representative Katie Carlson reported that both the girls' and the boys' soccer teams, as well as the field hockey team, have made it to Districts.

7:23 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

7:23 PM Principal Gasbarro left the meeting.

Student Representative Brian Clement reported that the method for calculating high school student GPAs is under review.

Student Representative Katie Sands spoke on behalf of the Arts Department and told the Committee of the upcoming drama production, *And Then There Were None*, to be performed November 19th, 20th and 21st.

7:25 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned 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)

Vice-chair Sova deferred the Management Subcommittee report until Chair Leith joins 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 Vice-chair Jackson reported, in Subcommittee Chair Hammond's absence, that the Education Subcommittee will meet next on November 15th to continue review of the draft anti-bullying policy, DP6438. The expectation is that this draft policy will be ready for full School Committee review at the November 22, 2010 regular School Committee meeting.

- 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 the subcommittee will meet on November 16th at 6:30 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

7:28 PM the Student Representatives left the 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 on the meeting of the subcommittee that took place immediately before this School Committee meeting. Community Outreach Subcommittee representation will be available to meet with interested members of the public at 6:30 PM before the start of the next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting.

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

AAB Chair Conrad reported on the October 21, 2010 meeting with District auditors and also reported that the auditor's reports will be provided to the full School Committee in the next Superintendent's Report. It is not expected that this board will meet again until after the first of the year.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

Member Watson, who is representing the School Committee on the Mountview Building Committee, gave a report on the first meeting of that building committee, held November 4th. The next meeting of this building committee is tentatively scheduled for November 16th. Member Watson also reported the results of the vote taken at the special Town Meeting held in Holden on November 8th, where attendees voted support of a feasibility study to be done in connection with the Mountview project. Member Jackson commented on the powerful PowerPoint presentation that was made at the special Town Meeting.

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 – SEPAC will be hosting a workshop (WRSD Basic Rights, Procedural Safeguards and District-wide Programs) on November 17th at 6:30 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

Member Jackson – Davis Hill SIMCO meeting, November 4, 2010

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio read aloud a just received opinion from Attorney McCabe regarding whether a School Committee member could serve as a Trustee of the Wachusett Regional School District Charitable Trust (attachment 2). Superintendent Pandiscio will include a copy of Attorney McCabe's letter in his next Report. Superintendent Pandiscio explained he wanted to bring this opinion before the School Committee in advance of the first meeting of the WEFT Board of Trustees on Thursday, November 18th.

Two pieces of information included in the Superintendent's November 4, 2010 Report (attachment 4 - school choice enrollment summary and information contained in Director McCall's report stating there are 100 students in the District who are home schooled) were questioned and discussed.

At Member Carter's inquiry, Superintendent Pandiscio gave an overview of stimulus money received and how the funds have been/will be used.

7:48 PM Chair Leith joined the meeting.

Member Kelley made the suggestion that the Superintendent provide Committee members with a school choice status report in the spring, in advance of the School Committee's annual consideration of school choice participation.

Chair Leith thanked Vice-chair Sova for covering in his absence.

Chair Leith extended congratulations to Member Carter for receiving the MASC Life Time Achievement Award, presented to him at the annual MASC/MASS Joint Conference the first part of November. Member Carter was given a round of applause. Member Carter thanked Chair Leith, Members Sova and Torres-Gale, and Superintendent Pandiscio for attending the Joint Conference and the award recognition dinner.

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

Chair Leith addressed this deferred agenda item. Chair Leith told the Committee he had spoken with Attorney Naomi Stonberg, who was a

presenter at the Joint Conference, about the Superintendent's evaluation process and she agreed to provide Chair Leith an opinion about this process. Chair Leith spoke about policy review by the various subcommittees and that policy review might focus on older policies and polices that may be affected by new laws/legislation. Chair Leith called the Committee's attention to the November 1, 2010 edition of the *Worcester Business Journal* and statistics (school district spending, MCAS scores) listed in the publication, showing the District's MCAS results are above the state average, while the District's per-pupil expenditure and average teacher salary are below the state average (attachment 3).

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

There were no matters requiring School Committee action.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Chair Leith shared comments made by Attorney Stonberg, complimenting Superintendent Pandiscio on his use of counsel when negotiating bargaining unit contracts, noting his not being afraid to ask questions, when necessary, but that he accomplishes most collective bargaining negotiations on his own. Member Torres-Gale added her appreciation to bargaining unit leaders for the recent successful negotiations.

When questioned by Member Kelley, Superintendent Pandiscio confirmed there is a new scaling system under consideration at the high school.

VIII. New Business

Member Torres-Gale asked the status of negotiations with the clerical union, which will be given in executive session at the next meeting, if there is anything to report.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Carter)
(R. Pelczarski)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp