

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1208 Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Robert Imber
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson (7:01 PM)
Cynthia Bazinet	Julianne Kelley
Carmelo Bazzano	James Mason
Colleen Cipro (7:07 PM)	Norman Plourde
William Clute	Robert Remillard
Kristine Goodwin	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Steven Hammond (7:04 PM)	Dawn Torres-Gale
Lance Harris	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Robert Pelczarski	Athas Tsongalis
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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
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 7:00 PM.

I. Public Hearing

7:01 PM Member Jackson joined the meeting.

Ed Carlson of Princeton read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

7:04 PM Member Hammond joined the meeting.

7:07 PM member Cipro joined the meeting.

Ken O'Brien of Holden addressed the School Committee.

Chair Leith asked those present to observe a moment of silence in memory of Rutland resident Jamie Lee Cruz.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1207th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 25, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held October 25, 2011.

(N. Plourde)

(R. Imber)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held October 25, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Clute, Goodwin, Hammond, and Sova 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 introduced Director of Curriculum Kelley Gangi who addressed the School Committee, who spoke about the Carol M. White PEP Grant and also showed a PowerPoint presentation (attachment 3). At the conclusion of Ms. Gangi's presentation, many questions were asked and answered and the PEP Grant and physical education in general were discussed.

Chair Leith reported that four members of the School Committee (Bazzano, Kelley, Leith, Sova) had recently attended the MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

B. Student Representatives (Tyler Gibbs, John Latino)

Tyler Gibbs spoke about Advanced Placement course offerings at the high school. He made the suggestion that in the future these classes be

divided by grade level (sophomores/juniors/seniors). Mr. Gibbs also encouraged having late busses available again.

Jonathan Latino gave a fall sports update.

- 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 announced the meeting of the Management Subcommittee, posted for November 21, 2011, has been canceled.

Chair Leith took this opportunity to encourage School Committee members to attend Member Town Selectboard meetings when Superintendent Pandiscio would be attending to discuss the *21st Century Skills Initiative*. Superintendent Pandiscio will be in Paxton and Holden Monday evening, November 21st, 7:00 PM in Paxton and 8:00 PM in Holden.

8:00 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

- 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 Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported on the November 7th meeting of this subcommittee.

Motion: That the School Committee create an ad hoc subcommittee consisting of representatives of parents, teachers, students, administration, and the School Committee, to collaboratively recommend a social media policy to the full School Committee by March 12, 2012.

(S. Hammond)
(J. Kelley)

Subcommittee Chair Hammond spoke of Education Subcommittee members' rationale for seeking appointment of such an ad hoc subcommittee, which was included in the November 10th Superintendent's Report:

"1) We view this as an excellent opportunity to engage our community around this issue and to demonstrate of the values of AIM₂₁ and a 21st Century workplace.

2) The ad hoc subcommittee should be aware that the recommended policy may not be adopted by the School

Committee. It may be amended, or remanded to a standing subcommittee or the ad hoc subcommittee

3) The social media policy will end up being owned by one of the standing subcommittees, who will be responsible for it, according to current processes, going forward. That is to say, we shouldn't expect to reconvene an ad hoc subcommittee to review and edit the policy every couple of years.

4) It is currently unclear if this policy would go to the Education Subcommittee or to the Management Subcommittee.

5) While the Chair has the authority appoint members, we (the Education Subcommittee) suggest 1-2 from each group, including somebody from Management and Education subcommittees and our Student Representatives."

8:03 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

Much discussion about the motion ensued, with most members of the Committee contributing to the exchange.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Leith asked that if members have a recommendation for membership on this ad hoc subcommittee to please speak with him.

Member Goodwin asked the Education Subcommittee, through Subcommittee Chair Hammond, to take under advisement Mr. O'Brien's recommendation about increasing/improving community service requirement(s) for students.

8:31 PM Member Cipro left the table.

Subcommittee Chair Hammond announced the next meeting of the subcommittee will be Monday, December 5th, at 7:00 PM 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)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sova told that the subcommittee had not met since the last School Committee meeting. The subcommittee will meet on Monday, November 28th, at 6:00 PM, before the regular School Committee meeting. District Treasurer Dunbar will be invited to attend the meeting and the evaluation of the Treasurer and contract extension will be the only agenda item. Business/Finance will meet again on Tuesday, December 13th, at 6:30 PM, before the regular School Committee meeting.

- 1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sova reported the WEFT executive board had met on November 14th and will meet again on December 6th.

8:35 PM Member Cipro returned to the table.

- 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 will meet next on November 28th at 6:00 PM, before the regular School Committee meeting.

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

AAB Chair Sova reported the Audit Advisory Board will meet on November 17th and the newest member, Eugene Fradellos from Paxton, is expected to be in attendance.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported on the October 26th meeting of the Mountview Building Committee.

8:43 PM Member Harris left the table.

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

At Chair Leith's request, Business Manager Brennan reported briefly on the projects at Thomas Prince School and Paxton Center 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 – SEPAC – *Basic Rights and Procedural Safeguards* workshop, November 17, 2011

Member Bazinet – WRHS – November 8, 2011

8:46 PM Member Harris returned to the table.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Kelley reported she has information (RE: the evaluation of the Superintendent; evaluation of members of school committees; open meeting law) she gathered when attending the Joint Conference that she suggests be addressed by the Management Subcommittee. She will provide copies for the subcommittee's use.

8:55 PM Member Cipro left the meeting.

Vice-chair Sova referenced two attachments in the Superintendent's November 10th Report (the relative financial solvency of Member Towns as compared with the District; a series of charts that compares Wachusett's finances with other regional school districts). He voiced this information will be useful when talking with residents about District finances.

9:00 PM Member Bazinet left the meeting.

General discussion about the budget took place. Member Jackson spoke about the vote taken by the School Committee on October 25, 2011 (*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.*). Member Kelley asked that the Committee consider a motion at the November 28, 2011 School Committee meeting to have District administration include such a plan in the FY13 budget proposal.

9:21 PM Member Jackson left the meeting.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Chair Leith read aloud the motion that was included on the School Committee meeting agenda.

Motion: To request that Member Towns schedule Special Town Meetings no later than mid-January 2012 to see if voters of the Member Towns will approve the amendment of the 2008 vote approving the borrowing by the Wachusett Regional School District of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of paying environmental remediation and cleanup costs of the oil spill at the Jefferson School Building, the actual costs of which amounted to \$1,000,000, by adding thereto, the purpose "of implementing the 21st Century Skills Initiative Technology Program in the District," in all other respects the 2008 approval vote is hereby ratified and confirmed, and to act or do anything relative thereto.

Further, to request that votes taken at January 2012 Special Town Meetings be by printed Yes/No ballots.

(J. Sova)
(R. Imber)

9:32 PM Member Goodwin left the meeting.

Roll call vote:
In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
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

Member Sciabarrasi commented that after school on Wednesdays seem to be busy afternoons at WRHS and having late busses available Wednesday afternoons would be helpful.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Mason)
(N. Plourde)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber

Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp