

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1209 Monday, November 28, 2011

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

Duncan Leith, Chair	Julianne Kelley
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	James Mason
Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
Carmelo Bazzano	Norman Plourde
Colleen Cipro	Robert Remillard
William Clute	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kristine Goodwin	Dawn Torres-Gale
Steven Hammond	Athas Tsongalis
Robert Imber	Margaret Watson
Stacey Jackson	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Lance Harris

*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 7:04 PM. Chair Leith asked those present to observe a moment of silence in memory of Arthur Leo Esposito, grandson of District Counsel Leo McCabe.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Leith read aloud the Guidelines for Public Hearing.

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

II. Secretary's Report

Motion: To accept the amended agenda for Regular Meeting #1209 (attachment 3).

(J. Sova)

(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Carmelo Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
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.

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 spoke about the fifth annual Joe Riley Road Race, held Thanksgiving weekend. Chair Leith had words of praise and appreciation for members of the high school custodial staff, and

District employees in general. Chair Leith mentioned the Regional Selectboard meeting scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Rutland Town Hall. Chair Leith noted that Superintendent Pandiscio would speak more about this meeting later in this meeting.

Approval of 1208<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 15, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held November 15, 2011.

(J. Sova)  
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held November 15, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Members Pelczarski and Tsongalis abstaining.

B. Student Representatives (Tyler Gibbs, Jonathan Latino)

Tyler Gibbs spoke about athletics at the high school, explaining this is the time teams transition from fall sports to winter sports.

Jonathan Latino reported that Congressman Jim McGovern had been at the high school on November 28<sup>th</sup> and he addressed Spanish IV and AP World History students.

Chair Leith thanked both young men for their reports, and encouraged them to speak on any topics they wish when reporting to the School Committee.

Jonathan Latino added his opinion that he, as a Student Representative, is made to feel very comfortable and welcome by members of the School Committee.

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 will be scheduling a meeting of the Management Subcommittee to take place by mid-December.

7:19 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 the Education Subcommittee had not met since the last School Committee meeting.

1. Draft Policy – DP6637 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Animals in Schools*** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of DP6637 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Animals in Schools***.

(S. Hammond)  
(R. Imber)

Subcommittee Chair Hammond read aloud the draft policy language.

7:22 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

Two friendly amendments were made, both accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion (page two, first bullet, add quotation mark at “guide dogs;” and page two, second paragraph (Service Animals (Guide or Assistance Dogs)), first sentence, delete the word “Committee.”) Member Plourde suggested that when this policy is enacted all schools in the District should be provided with a copy of the referenced Department of Public Health publication “Guidelines for Animals in Schools or on School Grounds.”

Vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported a meeting of the Education Subcommittee is scheduled for Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, but if there are no agenda items that need to be addressed, the meeting may be canceled.

- 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 reported that this subcommittee had met at 6:00 PM this date. District Treasurer James Dunbar had attended the meeting and the process of the annual evaluation of the Treasurer was started. It is anticipated the Business/Finance Subcommittee will bring forward a recommendation at the next meeting of the full School Committee.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sova reported the WEFT executive board is scheduled to meet on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

- 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 Member Plourde read a prepared statement (attachment 4). Discussion of Policy 8211 and school surveys ensued. Superintendent Pandiscio asked the Committee for some meaningful direction on what the Committee is looking for in a school survey/survey template. It was suggested that a survey consultant could be considered. Discussion continued, with most members of the Committee giving input. The Community Outreach Subcommittee will continue to work on the matter of school surveys.

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

AAB Chair Sova reported on the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Audit Advisory Board.

1. Amended Policy – AP4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board** – first reading

AAB Chair Sova explained the Board had reviewed this policy and is recommending amending the bullet addressing term limits for District auditors. AAB Chair Sova read aloud the amended bullet.

2. Motion: To approve the first reading of AP4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board**

(J. Sova)

(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

AAB Chair Sova expects there will be additional amendments to this policy in the coming months.

School Committee members were told to advise the Superintendent's office if they would like to receive copies of the auditors' reports, either hardcopies or electronic versions.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

Chair Leith is seeking recommendations for membership on the ad hoc subcommittee charged with developing a social media policy.

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. The Building Committee is awaiting word from the MSBA about the proposed Project Manager.

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

At Chair Leith's request, Business Manager Brennan briefly 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 Watson – Mayo Elementary School, November 21, 2011

Member Plourde commented on Houghton Elementary School's school survey, remarking "Houghton is doing its student surveys the right way."

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed copies of Massachusetts School and District Profiles 2009-2010 Advanced Placement Performance Report (attachment 5). Superintendent Pandiscio explained the data in the report and discussion about Advanced Placement courses and the number of students taking advantage of these offerings resulted.

There was discussion about the two letters Superintendent Pandiscio sent to Senator Brewer about the foundation budget, copies of which were included in the November 22<sup>nd</sup> Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent Pandiscio reported on the meetings of the Paxton Selectboard and the Holden Selectboard that he had attended on November 21<sup>st</sup>. He reported that he will be attending the Regional Selectboard meeting in Rutland on December 1<sup>st</sup> and is scheduled to

attend meetings of the Princeton Selectboard, on December 5<sup>th</sup>, and the Rutland Selectboard, on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

8:59 PM Member Mason left the meeting.

Lengthy discussion about technology and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Initiative took place.

9:15 PM Member Tsongalis left the meeting.

The discussion about technology continued.

9:19 PM Member Bazinet left the meeting.

Member Jackson fully supports the Superintendent's suggestion about sharing data with our community/the Member Towns regarding the state of the District, which she had read about in the November 22<sup>nd</sup> Report. Superintendent Pandiscio will keep the Committee apprised as the planning for this event unfolds.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To direct District administration to include the middle school math coaching proposal when preparing the FY13 budget

(R. Pelczarski)

(C. Cipro)

Vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None



Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To authorize the transfer of funds to the Professional Development Revolving Account from the following grants:

240	IDEA – Federal Special Education Entitlement	\$17,049.
262	Early Childhood	<u>\$ 690.</u>
	<b>Total</b>	\$17,739

(R. Imber)

(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the Audit Advisory Board to accept the findings and recommendations contained in District Auditor Powers & Sullivan's *Management Letter, Report on Examination of Basic Financial Statements, and Reports on Federal Award Programs* for the year ended June 30, 2011

(J. Sova)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Carmelo Bazzano

Colleen Cipro  
William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Because of the time, action on the draft 2012-2013 school calendar was deferred until the next School Committee meeting.

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 Watson commented she was sorry to hear the remark made during the Public Hearing that a former Student Representative felt intimidated when serving; Member Watson acknowledged School Committee meetings are formal, but student input is always welcomed.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)  
(R. Remillard)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Duncan Leith  
Joseph Sova  
Carmelo Bazzano  
Colleen Cipro

William Clute  
Kristine Goodwin  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Robert Remillard  
Michelle Sciabarrasi  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Margaret Watson

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp