

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1210 Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Julianne Kelley
Joseph Sova, Vice-chair	James Mason
Carmelo Bazzano	Robert Pelczarski (7:47 PM)
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
William Clute	Robert Remillard
Steven Hammond	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Lance Harris	Dawn Torres-Gale
Robert Imber	Athas Tsongalis
Stacey Jackson	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Kristine Goodwin
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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
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 called the Committee's attention to the amended agenda for the meeting (attachment 2).

I. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to address the Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1209th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 28, 2011

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held November 28, 2011.

(M. Watson)
(R. Imber)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held November 28, 2011 were approved, by consensus, with Member Harris 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.

Members were provided a copy of the October 2011 Treasurer's Update (attachment 3).

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Leith introduced Diane Stephens, Director of Developmental Programs, and Robert Parry-Cruwys, ABA Consultant. Ms. Stephens and Mr. Parry-Cruwys addressed the School Committee, explaining what the District-wide ABA Program is and how the programs/classrooms are run. They shared with the Committee the WRSD District Wide ABA Program brochure (attachment 4). At the conclusion of the presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions. This presentation was very well received and Chair Leith thanked Ms. Stephens and Mr. Parry-Cruwys for their attendance.

Chair Leith told the Committee that on the date of the next School Committee meeting, January 9, 2012, the Committee would assemble in the auditorium of the high school for the first *State of the District* address. It is planned that this address will be recorded and copies of the DVD provided to the Member Towns. At the conclusion of the address members will adjourn to the Media Center for the regular School Committee meeting.

Chair Leith is putting together membership for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Develop a Social Media Policy and hopes to have the subcommittee named shortly.

Members were reminded that the 2012 Annual School Committee Retreat will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2012, from 9:00 – 12 noon in the Media Center at WRHS.

B. Student Representatives (Tyler Gibbs, Jonathan Latino)

Jonathan Latino reported on the holiday concerts being performed by high school students, December 13th and December 15th, and invited members to attend the December 15th performance if they are able.

Tyler Gibbs spoke about “blitz” performances (student directed/student performed short plays) being put on at the high school on December 16th.

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 the Management Subcommittee would be meeting on December 14th at 7:00 PM.

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 meeting scheduled for December 5th had been canceled. The subcommittee will meet next after the first of the year.

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

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

(S. Hammond)
(N. Plourde)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason

Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

- 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 this subcommittee had met just before this meeting and had voted on Treasurer Dunbar's contract extension, which will be acted on by the full School Committee later in this meeting.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

Member Sova reported the WEFT executive board met on December 6th. The first WEFT Annual Meeting will be held in January 2012.

- 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 Subcommittee Chair Sciabarrasi reported this subcommittee had met just before this meeting and will meet next on January 9th at 6:00 PM.

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

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

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

(A. Tsongalis)
(J. Sova)

Vote:
In favor:
Duncan Leith

Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported the Mountview Building Committee has a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 10th. Superintendent Pandiscio reported that the MSBA has approved Gary Kaczmarek as OPM.

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

Updates on Green Repair project progress can be found in Business Manager Brennan's report. Chair Leith mentioned the Committee will be asked to consider a Statement of Interest for the Early Childhood Center later in this meeting.

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 – Members of SEPAC and parents are undertaking a letter writing campaign to state legislators about special education funding. Superintendent Pandiscio commended SEPAC and parents for this outstanding effort.

Member Hammond – Mountview Middle School – December 13, 2011 meeting

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Vice-chair Sova voiced his support for the January 9th *State of the District* event being planned.

7:47 PM Member Pelczarski joined the meeting.

Member Jackson asked about the status of the new teacher evaluation system. Superintendent Pandiscio reported that he, along with Director of Curriculum Gangi and WREA President Becker, had sat on a panel comprised of representatives from three early adopter districts (Wachusett, Worcester and Franklin). This panel presentation was coordinated by Worcester State University, to discuss the new evaluation system and to report how the three early adopter districts are addressing this matter.

At Member Jackson's request, Director of Curriculum Gangi briefly spoke about the "math academy" at Mountview Middle School.

At Member Watson's inquiry, Superintendent Pandiscio spoke briefly about the DESE teacher certification process.

Member Sciabarrasi asked the Superintendent to summarize the 21st Century Skills Initiative. Superintendent Pandiscio addressed the Committee:

Development of five year plans:

- Five year budget plan
- Five year capital acquisition plan
- Five year technology acquisition plan

Digital conversion:

- In classrooms
- In offices

- At the School Committee level – Superintendent Pandiscio asked School Committee members to let him know if they want to continue receiving hardcopies of his Superintendent’s Report, because the plan is to transition from mailing hardcopies before each School Committee meeting to sending the Report and attachments electronically.

There will be a repository added to the District website where digital success stories will be posted.

Member Harris asked about recent meetings in the Member Towns that the Superintendent attended to discuss the 21st Century Skills Initiative. Superintendent Pandiscio reported on the meetings he attended in Holden, Paxton, and Princeton, and on the Regional Selectboard meeting held on December 1st.

Member Torres-Gale asked the Superintendent about a recent Connect-ED telephone call to high school parents about a possible bomb threat. Superintendent Pandiscio gave background which resulted in the Connect-ED call.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To approve the recommendation of the Business/Finance Subcommittee of a one year appointment of James Dunbar as WRSD Treasurer, January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012
(J. Sova)
(A. Tsongalis)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sova reported on the subcommittee’s vote to recommend James Dunbar’s contract as District Treasurer be renewed for one year and he be awarded a 3% salary increase.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski

Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Dawn Torres-Gale
Athas Tsongalis

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

Motion passed 17-0-1.

2. Motion: To approve MSBA Accelerated Repair Statement of Interest – Early Childhood Center

(J. Sova)

(C. Cipro)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
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.

3. To approve the School Calendar for School Year 2012-2013

Following discussion and a request to consider professional development half days not be limited to a certain day of the week (Wednesdays on the draft for consideration), vote on the 2012-2013 school calendar was deferred until the next School Committee meeting. District administration will discuss professional development half days with school principals and will bring forward alternative school calendars for School Committee consideration.

Motion: To table approval of the school calendar for school year 2012-2013 until the January 9, 2012 School Committee meeting.

(A. Tsongalis)

(R. Pelczarski)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
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.

4. Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$693,572 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for the Davis Hill Elementary School

(J. Sova)

(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
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.

5. Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$488,442 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for the Dawson Elementary School
(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
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.

6. Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$688,982 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for the Mayo Elementary School
(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
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.

7. Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$336,471 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for the Naquag Elementary School
(J. Sova)
(C. Cipro)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
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.

8. Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$1,034,230 to the Town of Sterling for reimbursement for the Houghton/Chocksett Schools
(N. Plourde)
(L. Harris)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
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

Motion: To remand, to the appropriate subcommittees, the following policies for review and consideration to amend, if necessary, and for the subcommittees to report back to the full School Committee by April 12, 2012:

P3311.31 *Policy Relating to Education Online Education Policy* (Education Subcommittee)

P3431 *Policy Relating to Education Audio-Visual Materials* (Education Subcommittee)

P6531 *Policy Relating to Pupil Services Student Internet Access* (Education Subcommittee)

P5234.1 *Policy Relating to Personnel Management Employee Use of Information Technology* (Management Subcommittee)

(L. Harris)

(A. Tsongalis)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
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.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(A. Tsongalis)
(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Joseph Sova
Carmelo Bazzano
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
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 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
TGP:rlp