

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1103, Tuesday, January 10, 2006
7:00 PM

Cafeteria
Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Mary Catherine Maher (7:12 PM)
Michael Sherman, Vice-chair	Kelly Maxwell
Cynthia Ahearn (8:46 PM)	Phillip Mighdoll
Cynthia Bazinet	Judith Newton
Elizabeth Brennan	John Nunnari
Shirley Conrad (7:24 PM)	Norman Plourde
David Gibbs	Kathleen Sweeney (7:08 PM)
Mark James	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Tammy Tod

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Administrative Services
Jason Newton, Director of Student/Information Services
Peter Brennan, Comptroller
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).

Chair Livdahl called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Chair Livdahl opened the meeting asking for a moment of silence to pay respect to former School Committee member John Kane and two Wachusett District students who recently passed away.

I. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Karen King, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1102nd Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on December 12, 2005

The following edits are to be made to the minutes of December 12, 2005:

- Member Norman Plourde was present
- The presence of both legislators in attendance (Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Lewis Evangelidis) should be recorded in the minutes
- Page 2, continuation of paragraph from page 1, "affect" to be corrected to "effect."

Motion: Approval of minutes of December 12, 2005, as corrected.
(D. Gibbs)
(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Bazinet
E. Brennan
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Livdahl reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Comptroller'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.

Performance Hearing – WRSD Budget

Superintendent Tom Pandiscio distributed hardcopies of the PowerPoint presentation *Benefits to Schools from FY06 Budget Restoration & FY07 School Improvement Budget Preview* (attachment 4). While the PowerPoint presentation was shown, Superintendent Pandiscio spoke about the budget and the hopes and plans for the upcoming budget season. Following the twenty-four minute presentation, School Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

V. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Livdahl thanked former School Committee member and Rutland resident Cheryl Rauh for her service on the School Committee.

The Town of Rutland now has a vacant seat on the School Committee. Chair Livdahl will speak with Rutland School Committee members about interest in serving on the Central Tree Middle School SIMCO, a position vacated by Cheryl Rauh.

Chair Livdahl welcomed Norman Plourde back to the School Committee, and appointed Member Plourde to the Community Outreach Subcommittee and the Education Subcommittee, as well as the School Committee representative to the Houghton School Council.

Chair Livdahl appointed John Nunnari to the Business/Finance Subcommittee.

Chair Livdahl commented on the recent announcement of the Adams Scholarships, noting that 28% of the current Wachusett Regional High School senior class qualified for these scholarships.

Chair Livdahl mentioned the recent SJC opinion on the inequity suit. Chair Livdahl also spoke of Chapter 70 reform and decisions that could be made in the near future.

Chair Livdahl expressed thanks to District administration for work done in connection with School Building Authority funding of the High School Project.

After being informed that it has been said that the School Committee is unwilling to reconsider bus transportation fees, Chair Livdahl stated that the School Committee is looking to revisit this issue.

Chair Livdahl reminded the members of changes made in School Committee meeting dates (1/17/06 to 1/18/06; 1/23/06 to 1/24/06; Budget Advisory Task force will meet 1/26/06).

Chair Livdahl reminded the members that Holden for Children will be hosting an event on January 19, 2006 at 7:00 PM.

B. Student Advisory Committee

No members of the Student Advisory Committee were present. A copy of MGL Chapter 71, Section 38M Student advisory committees was distributed (attachment 5). This matter will be investigated.

C. Management Subcommittee (A. Livdahl, Chair, C. Ahearn, E. Brennan, C. Capparelli, R. Carter, M. C. Maher, J. Newton, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

1. Second reading of Draft Policy 5273.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Alternative to Travel and Travel Expense Reduction***.

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 5273.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Alternative to Travel and Travel Expense Reduction***, waiving the reading.

(M. Sherman)

(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
E. Brennan
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde

K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Second reading of Draft Policy 1311 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation, *Committee-Superintendent Relationship***.

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 1311 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation, *Committee-Superintendent Relationship***, waiving the reading.

(M. Sherman)

(K. Sweeney)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
E. Brennan
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. First reading of Amended Policy 1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation, *Evaluation of the Superintendent***.

There was much discussion regarding the wording of this policy, particularly with regard to the length of time a School Committee member would have to have served on the School Committee in

order to be able to fairly evaluate the Superintendent. Suggested wording to be inserted in paragraph #3 as follows:

3. *Each member of the School Committee who has served on the School Committee at least 90 days shall.....*

District Counsel Leo McCabe will be asked to review the amended wording, with edit noted above, in preparation for a second reading at the January 24, 2006 School Committee meeting.

Motion: To accept the first reading of Amended Policy 1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation, Evaluation of the Superintendent** with edit, referring the amended wording to District Counsel Leo McCabe for review before the second reading at the January 24, 2006 School Committee meeting.

(M. Sherman)
(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
S. Conrad
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney

Opposed:

C. Bazinet
D. Gibbs
P. Mighdoll
M. Watson

(Motion passed 12-4)

Member Brennan left the meeting at 8:28 PM.

4. First reading of Draft Policy 5264.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management, Payment or Reimbursement for Meals.**

Motion: To accept the first reading of Draft Policy 5264.1
Policy Relating to Personnel Management, *Payment or Reimbursement for Meals*, waiving the reading.

(M. Sherman)

(K. Maxwell)

Much discussion revolved around this draft policy. Friendly amendments were made, and accepted by the makers of the motion, as follows:

- to insert the following in the second sentence of the second paragraph: **In the absence of the Superintendent, AND ACTING IN HER/HER STEAD, the Directors.....**
- second paragraph, two paragraph breaks to be added
- last paragraph, end of sentence, replace words “be controlling” with the word “prevail”.

Motion: To accept the first reading of Draft Policy 5264.1
Policy Relating to Personnel Management, *Payment or Reimbursement for Meals*, waiving the reading, with edits as noted.

(M. Sherman)

(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

5. First reading of Draft Policy 5273.2 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management, Reimbursement Mileage, Parking, Tolls.**

Minor edits were made, as follows:

Fifth paragraph, end of sentence, replace words “be controlling” with the word “prevail”

Sixth paragraph, end first sentence after School Committee; begin next sentence with Such approval....

Motion: To accept the first reading of Draft Policy 5273.2 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management, Reimbursement Mileage, Parking, Tolls**, waiving the reading, with edits as noted.

(M. Sherman)

(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

6. First reading of Draft Policy 5273.3 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management, Employee Travel for Workshops, Conferences, Visitations.**

Minor edit, as follows:

Last paragraph, end of sentence, replace words “be controlling” with the word “prevail”

Motion: To accept the first reading of Draft Policy 5273.3 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management, *Employee Travel for Workshops, Conferences, Visitations***, waiving the reading, with edit as noted.

(M. Sherman)
(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

- D. Education Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, C. Bazinet, D. Gibbs, A. Livdahl, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney)

Motion: To incorporate the long-range library plan for the District’s library services into the Superintendent’s long-range plan, specifically Goal #5, with the understanding that the library long-range plan be a discrete plan, which would require the services of a specialized consultant.

(M. Watson)
(D. Gibbs)

Friendly amendment made by Member Sherman, seconded by Member Maxwell, to change the word “would” to “may” in the motion made by Member Watson.

Motion: To make slight change the wording of the motion made by Margaret Watson and seconded by David Gibbs, deleting “would” and inserting “may.”

(M. Sherman)
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

M. Sherman
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton

Opposed:

C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Abstained:

A. Livdahl

(Motion failed 4-10-1)

Vote on main motion:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

1. First reading of Draft Policy 3421 **Policy Relating to Education, *Library Information Services***

Member Watson read the draft policy.

Motion: To accept the first reading of Draft Policy 3421
Policy Relating to Education, *Library Information Services*.
(M. Watson)
(J. Nunnari)

After considerable discussion, this motion was withdrawn and policy wording referred back to the Education Subcommittee, with the approval of the makers of the motion.

9:33 PM Member Mighdoll left the table.

2. First reading of Draft Policy 6532 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services, *Videotaping and Photographing of District Students***

Member Watson read the draft policy.

9:35 PM Member Mighdoll returned to the table.

Motion: To accept the first reading of Draft Policy 6532
Policy Relating to Pupil Services, *Videotaping and Photographing of District Students*
(M. Watson)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
J. Newton

J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
P. Mighdoll

(Motion passed 14-1)

3. First reading of Amended Policy 6910 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services, *Student Records***

Member Watson read the draft policy.

Motion: To accept the first reading of Draft Policy 6910
Policy Relating to Pupil Services, *Student Records*
(M. Watson)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
J. Newton

(Motion passed 14-1)

9:39 PM Member Maxwell left the meeting.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, M. James, A. Livdahl, M. C. Maher, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton, T, Tod)

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the Business/Finance Subcommittee of a one year appointment of James Dunbar as WRSD Treasurer, January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

(M. Sherman)
(P. Mighdoll)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the Business/Finance Subcommittee to grant a 3% annual increase to the contract amount for James Dunbar as WRSD Treasurer, January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

(M. Sherman)
(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton

J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Copies of the Analysis – Transportation Bids were handed out
(attachment 6).

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the Business/Finance Subcommittee to award Robert L. McCarthy & Son, Inc. *An Atlantic Express Company* the contract to provide school bus transportation to the Wachusett Regional School District for the school years July 01, 2006 to June 30, 2009, with an option for the District to extend the contract two additional years from July 01, 2009 to June 30, 2011

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (E. Brennan, Chair, C. Ahearn, S. Conrad, K. Maxwell, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton, N., Plourde)

Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair Brennan had left this meeting.

G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Develop a Plan for Establishing a Permanent Audit Committee (S. Conrad, Chair, R. Carter, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton)

- a. First reading of the Draft Policy 4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance *Audit Advisory Board***

Motion: To approve Draft Policy 4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance *Audit Advisory Board***, waiving the reading

(S. Conrad)

(M. Sherman)

After considerable discussion of this draft policy, the motion to approve the first reading was withdrawn and the request made that if School Committee members have comments to make about this policy, their comments should be emailed to the Superintendent no later than January 13, 2006. Comments will be shared with the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for review and the draft policy will then be sent back to the full School Committee for consideration.

Motion: To extend the meeting by 30 minutes

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Vote::

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Recommendations requiring action by the School Committee #4, #5 and #6 to be taken out of order.

Motion: To appropriate School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$1,699,227 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Dawson Elementary School, Davis Hill Elementary School and Dr. Leroy E. Mayo Elementary School

(M. James)

(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the grants identified in the Superintendent's Report of 1/5/06 in the total amount of \$55,610 to the Professional Development revolving account

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman

C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing strategies of collective bargaining and contract negotiations, not to return to public session

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

H. Building Committees

1. High School

In the absence of Member Maxwell, Superintendent Pandiscio gave an update on the high school project.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan

I. School Council Reports:

Passed over until January 24, 2006 meeting.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

See above.

VII. Public Hearing

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

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 9, 2004

B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 28, 2005

C. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 11, 2005

D. Approval of the 266th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 27, 2005

E. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on November 7, 2005

The regular meeting adjourned to executive session at 10:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP/rlp/School Committee/Minutes