

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ? PAXTON ? PRINCETON ? RUTLAND ? STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1104, Tuesday, January 24, 2006
7:00 PM

Cafeteria
Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Phillip Mighdoll
Michael Sherman, Vice-chair	Judith Newton
Cynthia Ahearn	Norman Plourde
Elizabeth Brennan	Kathleen Sweeney
Robert Carter	Tammy Tod (7:55 PM)
Shirley Conrad	Margaret Watson
Mark James	

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Mary Catherine Maher
Charles Capparelli	Kelly Maxwell
David Gibbs	John Nunnari

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Administrative 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 7:03 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Donna Dominquez, Sterling, addressed the School Committee, thanking the Committee for addressing concerns of parents with regard to the sharing of student information.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 272nd Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on January 18, 2006

Motion: Approval of minutes of January 18, 2006 special School Committee meeting.

(M. Sherman)
(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

- B. Approval of 1103rd Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on January 10, 2006

Motion: Approval of minutes of January 10, 2006.

(M. Sherman)
(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll

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

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Robert Carter questioned the status of obtaining a second round of quotes for secretarial services for the School Committee. Member Sherman suggested that this matter be brought up later in this meeting under Management Subcommittee business; Member Carter accepted this suggestion.

III. Wachusett Regional Nurses Association

Chair Livdahl welcomed the school nurses in attendance. Chair Livdahl asked that the nurses and School Committee members introduce themselves. Three members of the nurses union (Randi Hettinger, Houghton Elementary School, Cynthia Janik, Chocksett Middle School, Melinda Johnson, Dawson Elementary School) addressed the School Committee. Following their presentation, packets of materials assembled by the nurses were distributed to School Committee members (attachment 2).

IV. 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.

V. Committee Reports

Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Livdahl reminded those present that a vote on high school financing will be taken at the February 13, 2006 School Committee meeting and strongly encouraged members to attend, as a 2/3 vote of the Committee will be needed.

Chair Livdahl recapped three meetings that had taken place the previous week (special School Committee meeting of 1/18/06, School Committee Retreat on 1/21/06 and Holden for Children event on 1/19/06). Chair Livdahl told the Committee that the February 27th School Committee meeting will be rescheduled to February 28th as the Town of Sterling will be holding a special Town Meeting on February 27th. She also told the membership that the first meeting of the Budget Advisory Task Force would take place on January 26,

2006 and a meeting of School Committee Subcommittee chairs would be held on January 31, 2006 at 5:30 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Chair Livdahl took the report from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Develop a Plan for Establishing a Permanent Audit Committee out of order.

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

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

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Conrad read the draft policy, noting and correcting punctuation errors.

Motion: To approve first reading of Draft Policy 4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board**, incorporating punctuation corrections.

(S. Conrad)
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To refer Policy 4714.5 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Report**, to the Business/Finance Subcommittee for review and amending, if deemed necessary.

(S. Conrad)
(P. Mighdoll)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

B. Student Advisory Committee

No members of the Student Advisory Committee were present, but Chair Livdahl explained that three students have recently been named and letters welcoming the students to the Student Advisory Committee and informing them of the February 13th meeting had been mailed.

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

Chair Livdahl distributed copies of Attorney Leo McCabe's correspondence dated January 20, 2006 regarding the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools (attachment 3).

7:53 PM Member Carter left the table.

Attorney McCabe's opinion was discussed.

1. Approve the second reading of Amended Policy 1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation** *Evaluation of the Superintendent*

(M. Sherman)
(J. Newton)

7:55 PM Member Tod arrived at the table.

7:56 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

As discussion of this amended policy continued, Member Sherman withdrew his motion to approve the second reading of Amended Policy 1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Evaluation of the Superintendent**

The following language was suggested for paragraph #3: Each member of the School Committee ~~who has served on the School Committee at least 90 days~~ shall complete the evaluation form and return it to the Chairman of the School Committee within seven (7) days prior to the set evaluation date, **which shall occur prior to the annual Member Town elections. A NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBER WHO HAS SERVED ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE LESS THAN 90 DAYS MAY ELECT TO ABSTAIN FROM THE EVALUATION PROCESS.**

Motion: To accept the following new language for paragraph #3 in Amended Policy 1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Evaluation of the Superintendent**: Each member of the School Committee ~~who has served on the School Committee at least 90 days~~ shall complete the evaluation form and return it to the Chairman of the School Committee within seven (7) days prior to the set evaluation date, **which shall occur prior to the annual Member Town elections. A NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBER WHO HAS SERVED ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE LESS THAN 90 DAYS MAY ELECT TO ABSTAIN FROM THE EVALUATION PROCESS.**

(M. Sherman)
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

M. Sherman
S. Conrad
M. James
J. Newton
M. Watson

Opposed:

C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
P. Mighdoll
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney

Abstained:
Alice Livdahl
Robert Carter
Tammy Tod

(Motion failed 5-5-3)

Further discussion continued. Changes to the presented amended policy were made.

Motion: To accept the first reading of Amended Policy 1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation *Evaluation of the Superintendent***, incorporating the changes made to paragraphs #3, #4 and #6.

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

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

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

Member Conrad made the friendly amendment to remove the word “annually” in the first sentence of the third paragraph. This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker of the motion.

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 5273.2 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management, Reimbursement Mileage, Parking, Tolls**

(M. Sherman)

(N. Plourde)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
N. Plourde

K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 5273.3 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management, *Employee Travel for Workshops, Conferences, Visitations***

(M. Sherman)
(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Sherman opened the discussion regarding the position of Secretary of the School Committee. All seemed to be in agreement that the direction the School Committee wishes to take is not completely clear. The history of activity regarding proposed amended wording was discussed and reviewed.

Member Mighdoll made a motion to table discussion of this topic.
This motion died due to lack of a second.

Motion: To retain the present system, with the
Superintendent serving as Secretary of the School Committee with
assistance from District staff.

(M. Watson)

(M. James)

Member Carter voiced he still has concerns about note taking at
subcommittee meetings. Member Conrad said she would like to see
policy language outlining what would be expected to be included in
meeting minutes.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

P. Mighdoll

(Motion passed 12-0-1)

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

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

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 6532 **Policy
Relating to Pupil Services, *Videotaping and Photographing of
District Students***, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Second reading of Amended Policy 6910 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services, *Student Records***

Member Mighdoll pointed out capitalization errors, which should be corrected.

Motion: To accept the second reading of Amended Policy 6910 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services, *Student Records***, waiving the reading, incorporating noted capitalization corrections.

(M. Watson)

(N.Plourde)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney

T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:
J. Newton

(Motion passed 12-1)

Subcommittee Chair Watson announced the next meeting of the Education Subcommittee would be Wednesday, January 25, 2006.

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

Subcommittee Chair Sherman reminded members of the first meeting of the Budget Advisory Task Force, called for January 26, 2006.

Subcommittee Chair Sherman informed the full School Committee that Amended Policy 4330 **Policy Relating to Business/Finance Warrants** will be on the agenda of the next Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting, for one more review by that subcommittee before it is passed on to the full School Committee.

8:39 PM Member Plourde left the table.

Member Watson stated that she feels the numerical ranking given the Treasurer on the evaluation sheets does not match the content of the letter sent to the Treasurer after the evaluation was conducted.

8:42 PM Member Plourde returned to the table.

Member Watson's comments and concerns will be taken under advisement and included at the time of the next Treasurer's evaluation.

8:43 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

8:46 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

Motion: The Business/Finance Subcommittee rework the Treasurer's Evaluation Form, prior to the next Treasurer evaluation period.

(M. Watson)
(S. Conrad)

Vote:
In favor:
A. Livdahl

M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:
P. Mighdoll

(Motion passed 12-1)

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

Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair Brennan gave an overview of the meeting of this subcommittee, which took place immediately before the School Committee meeting on this date. The next meeting of the Community Outreach Subcommittee has tentatively been scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2006.

- 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**

See above

8:50 PM Tom Pandiscio left the table.

Building Committees

1. High School

See below.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan

Member Brennan reported on the progress being made on the Rutland elementary school project. The selection of a name for the new school is underway. Fifty-two suggested names have been received; of all the suggested names, ten will be forwarded to the Rutland Building Committee for selection. Member Brennan offered to coordinate a presentation on the Rutland project for the School Committee. This offer was accepted and will be included on a School Committee meeting agenda in April.

8:52 PM Tom Pandiscio returned to the table.

1. High School

Superintendent Pandiscio gave an update of progress being made on the high school project, making mention of erosion problems being dealt with.

I. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (E. Brennan), Chocksett Middle School (C. Capparelli), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (M. Watson), Mountview Middle School (J. Newton), Naquag Elementary School (E. Brennan), Paxton Center School (C. Ahearn), Thomas Prince School (K. Sweeney), and Wachusett Regional High School (D. Gibbs)

Brief reports of recent School Council meetings were made by Members James (Dawson), Watson (Mayo), Sweeney (Thomas Prince), Brennan (Naquag and Central Tree), Ahearn (Paxton Center), Newton (Mountview), Tod (WRHS).

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio updated the School Committee on the status of preparations being made to arrange dealings with Energy Education, Inc., Chambers Advisory Group and Connect-ED.

Attachment 4 of the January 19, 2006 Superintendent's Report was reviewed (Invitation for Bid for a Strategic Plan Consultant).

Copies of January 5, 2006 correspondence from Superintendent Pandiscio to the School Committee RE: Update of Entry Plan were distributed (attachment 4).

Motion: To endorse the recommendations contained in Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio's Update of Entry Plan dated January 5, 2006.
(M. James)
(M. Sherman)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Strategies for Negotiations

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing strategies of collective bargaining and contract negotiations and to review strategies related to legal matters, to return to public session.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
N. Plourde

K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

At 9:25 PM the School Committee recessed to executive session, to return to public session at the conclusion of the executive session.

9:31 PM Member Mighdoll left the building.

At 10:04 PM the School Committee returned to public session.

10:03 Member Conrad left the table.

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

Motion: Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 9, 2004, note being made that only five members of the School Committee present at this meeting (January 24, 2006) were in attendance at the August 9, 2004 Executive Session and, therefore, are eligible to vote on the minutes of the August 9, 2004 Executive Session.

(M. Sherman)
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
M. James
N. Plourde
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:

C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
J. Newton
K. Sweeney
T. Tod

(Motion passed 5-0-6)

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

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

(M. Sherman)
(E. Brennan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
E. Brennan
R. Carter
N. Plourde
M. James
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

C. Ahearn
J. Newton
K. Sweeney
T. Tod

(Motion passed 7-0-4)

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

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

(R. Carter)
(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
E. Brennan
R. Carter
N. Plourde
M. James
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

C. Ahearn
J. Newton
K. Sweeney
T. Tod

(Motion passed 7-0-4)

- D. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 27, 2005

Following Member James' questioning of the recording of a vote taken at the July 27, 2005 meeting, the vote to approve these minutes was tabled until Chair Livdahl has the opportunity to speak with the member who seconded the motion (David Gibbs) to seek clarification.

- E. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes Part B of the WRSD Committee held on August 8, 2005

Motion: Approval of the Executive Session Minutes Part B of the WRSD Committee held on August 8, 2005

(M. Sherman)

(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
R. Carter
M. James
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod

M. Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
E. Brennan

(Motion passed 10-0-1)

IX, New Business

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(K. Sweeney)

(E. Brennan)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl
M. Sherman
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
M. James
J. Newton
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP/rlp/School Committee/Minutes