

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1158 Monday, January 26, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Duncan Leith
Thomas Ackerman	Robert Pelczarski
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Colleen Cipro	Michael Sherman
Steven Hammond	Joseph Sova
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Mark James
Shirley Conrad	Michael Pantos
Melinda Coyle	Marcie Zaharee

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Deputy Superintendent
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representative Present:

Hillary Blakeney	Greg Savageau
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Guests Present:

William Beando, Principal, WRHS
Catherine Knowles, Assistant Principal, WRHS
Freshmen Mentoring Students:
Audrey Braley
Ben Frechette
Courtney Letourneau
Zachary St. George

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

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1157th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on January 12, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held January 12, 2009, as corrected.

(R. Carter)

(J. Sova)

Chair Watson called the Committee's attention to page 8 of the draft minutes, suggesting the following language be added to the third paragraph on that page: "School will also be held on Saturdays March 7th and March 21st." The makers of the motion accepted this correction.

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held January 12, 2009 were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Members Hammond and Jackson abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson 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 Watson welcomed WRHS Assistant Principal Catherine Knowles and Freshmen Mentoring students Audrey Braley, Ben Frechette, Courtney Letourneau and Zachary St. George and then turned the meeting over to them for their presentation. A PowerPoint presentation was shown (attachment 2) and each student spoke about the Freshmen Mentoring Program. The students' presentation concluded at 7:20 PM and they were given a round of applause by the members of the Committee.

7:21 PM the Freshmen Mentoring students left the meeting.

Chair Watson introduced WRHS Principal William Beando, who addressed the Committee, giving an overview of the many highlights at Wachusett Regional High School (the Freshmen Mentoring Program, student activity

periods, PowerSchool parental access, Rachel's Challenge, the Implementation Team).

7:25 PM Catherine Knowles left the meeting.

At the conclusion of Mr. Beando's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

7:36 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

Chair Watson reminded the Committee of the Annual School Committee Retreat planned for Saturday, February 7th, from 9:00 AM until 12 noon, in the Media Center at the high school. Chair Watson also informed the Committee that the New Member Orientation has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 21st.

Chair Watson called the Committee's attention to attachment 9 of the Superintendent's January 22nd Report, the instrument to be used to evaluate the superintendent. Chair Watson informed the Committee the Management Subcommittee will meet next on Tuesday, February 3rd, at which time that subcommittee will look at Standard 2 of the evaluation instrument. Chair Watson extended the invitation to any School Committee members interested in attending the Management Subcommittee meeting.

B. Student Representatives

Student Representative Hillary Blakeney told of many recent activities that have taken place at the high school: the Freshmen Mentoring Program, Rachel's Challenge, mid-terms will be taken January 29th – February 3rd, a concert was performed in the Black Box theatre, "Are you smarter than a freshman?" game night, the Math Team and the Booster Club are working together on a January 30th fundraiser, a holiday concert, delayed because of the ice storm, was held, the Madrigal Dinner will be the weekend of January 31st, previously cancelled because of weather. Hillary also gave a winter sports update. Greg Savageau added a few comments to what Hillary had said, noting this time of year is a very hectic at WRHS.

7:48 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

C. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, J. Nunnari, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, M. Coyle, R. Imber, D. Leith, M. Pantos, N. Plourde, M. Sherman)

1. Amended Policy – AP1660 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Public Participation** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP1660 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Public Participation**, waiving the reading.

(J. Sova)
(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

2. Amended Policy – AP1160 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School Committee Member Ethics**– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP1160 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School Committee Member Ethics**.

(M. Sherman)
(R. Carter)

Chair Watson partially read the policy and discussion ensued.

Motion: To add the following language to the first bullet under #1.
The Member’s Responsibilities Toward the Community: “
supported by a sense of fiscal responsibilities.”

(R. Carter)
(N. Plourde)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Stacey Jackson
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

Margaret Watson
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski

(The motion passed 7-6.)

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP1160 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School Committee Member Ethics**, as amended.

(M. Sherman)
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

3. Amended Policy – AP1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Evaluation of the Superintendent**– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Evaluation of the Superintendent**.

(J. Sova)
(D. Leith)

Chair Watson spoke to the amendments and read the amended language.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

4. Amended Policy – AP1410 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation New Member Orientation**– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP1410 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation New Member Orientation**.

(J. Nunnari)

(J. Sova)

Chair Watson read the amended language.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

8:02 PM Mr. Beando left the meeting.

5. Amended Policy – AP1680 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Minutes of School Committee**– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP1680 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Minutes of School Committee**.

Chair Watson read the amended language and discussion ensued.

Motion: To amend the amended language in the last paragraph of AP1680 to read as follows: “Minutes of public meetings and minutes of executive sessions that have been released will be made available to interested citizens. Copies of minutes of standing subcommittees and ad hoc subcommittees shall be made available upon request. Minutes of meetings of the full School Committee shall also be published on the District website.” Also, in the last sentence of the last paragraph of this policy, the word “released” will replace the word “declassified.”

(M. Sherman)

(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP1680 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Minutes of School Committee**, as amended.

(M. Sherman)
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

6. Amended Policy – AP5221 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Promotion, Recruitment, Selection**– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP5221 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Promotion, Recruitment, Selection**, waiving the reading.

(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Chair Watson pointed out the amendments.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith

Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Chair Watson reported the opinion of the Management Subcommittee that Policy 1320 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer** should fall under the purview of the Business/Finance Subcommittee.

Motion: To commit Policy 1320 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer** to the Business/Finance Subcommittee for review.

(M. Sherman)
(J. Sova)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Chair Watson said the next meeting of the Management Subcommittee will be February 3rd

- D. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Nunnari, R. Pelczarski, M. Zaharee)

Subcommittee Vice-chair Hammond announced the next scheduled meeting of the Education Subcommittee is Wednesday, January 28th.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, T. Ackerman, M. Coyle, M. James, D. Leith, M. Pantos, J. Sova)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman will call a brief meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee for Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 7:00 PM, to be followed by a meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee with the Budget Advisory Task Force, which will begin at 7:30 PM. Both meetings will be held in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office.

Business Manager Brennan's memorandum dated January 22, 2009 to the Superintendent of Schools, Business Manager Goals 2008-2009-Status, will be mailed to members of the Business/Finance Subcommittee for their review before it is discussed at the February 12th meeting.

Subcommittee Chair Sherman called the Committee's attention to attachment 6 of the Superintendent's Report of January 22nd, January 6, 2009 correspondence from the Paxton Board of Selectmen to the Superintendent of Schools, and he read the first paragraph aloud, for the record: "Please be informed that due to loss of revenue to the Town, the Board of Selectmen find that we are unable to support any Regional Agreement School assessment (\$0.00) in FY10. The reduction of revenues including the projected reduction in State Aid imposes a significant deficit in the next fiscal year, as we are sure you are aware."

Chair Watson directed the Committee's attention to the recently received NESDEC projections.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (C. Cipro, Chair, R. Pelczarski, Vice-chair, R. Carter, N. Plourde)

Community Outreach Chair Cipro told the next meeting of this subcommittee will be February 23rd at 6:30 PM.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (S. Conrad, J. Sova)

In Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad's absence, Member Sova reported the AAB has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

- I. Building Committee

- 1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith gave a heads up that the January 28th meeting of the Building Committee may need to be canceled due to incoming weather. If that is the case, he would seek electronic approval from the Building Committee members to pay bills, and these electronic approvals would be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the Building Committee. Building Committee Chair Leith expects the committee will be disbanded in the near future, as their work is approaching completion. He would request that the members of the High School Building Committee be invited to a meeting of the School Committee to be recognized for their many years of service on this Building Committee.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Pantos), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (R. Carter), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Nunnari), Houghton Elementary School (S. Conrad), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (C. Bazinet), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (R. Pelczarski), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber), Wachusett Regional High School (D. Leith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson)

Member Jackson – Special Education Parent Advisory Council

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Carter complimented the Superintendent on his January 16th letter to parents explaining the revised 2008-2009 calendar and also commended Superintendent Pandiscio for his suggestions made to the DESE on adding time to school days in the event additional snow days need to be made up. The Superintendent spoke to the Committee, asking the Committee for direction if it is their wish to work towards adding time to school days to make up for additional snow days in the event they are needed. He explained this plan would be implemented going forward (if schools are closed additional days this winter season), with the extended days being scheduled sometime the end of March/first part of April, if need be. He does not see the sense in "banking days" before they are needed. If the Superintendent gets the endorsement of the School Committee to investigate this plan, he would direct building principals to solicit input from parents and the communities. Superintendent Pandiscio explained if this is something that does take shape, it would need to be impact bargained with the WREA. The Student Representatives gave their opinions on both the Saturday school day option and the extended school day option.

Motion: To endorse the Superintendent's proposal to solicit input from parents and the communities regarding extending the school day in the event of additional snow days in the winter of 2009.

(R. Carter)

(D. Leith)

Discussion continued. The question was raised why such action on the part of the Superintendent would need a School Committee vote. Following discussion, Member Carter withdrew his motion.

Superintendent Pandiscio reported on the January 22nd meeting of the Regional Finance Committees, which he attended with Chair Watson, Member Sherman and Business Manager Brennan. He told the Committee he and Chair Watson have been invited to the February 2nd meeting of the Princeton Selectboard, which they will attend.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: Whereas the District currently has a three-year contract with Blackboard Connect, Inc. (f/k/a Notification Technologies Inc.) that expires December 31, 2008 (with a one-month extension) that can be extended upon mutual agreement and amendment for a one (1) year period, thus making the Contract a multi-year contract; that the School Committee hereby grants approval of said contract extension and amendment, to a new expiration date of December 31, 2009.

(D. Leith)

(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The Superintendent distributed the January 26, 2009 memorandum he received from Director of Operations Darryll McCall (attachment 3). He explained the suggested changes that can be made to the full-day kindergarten proposal, calling the Committee's attention to the Full-Day Kindergarten Options – WRSD 2009-2010 chart attached to Director McCall's memorandum (attachment 4).

Motion: To modify the full-day kindergarten program proposal by endorsing the option outlined in the column entitled "Tuition Reduction – Glenwood and Mayo" on the Full-Day Kindergarten Option chart.

(M. Sherman)

(C. Cipro)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Motion: To accept the wind tunnel donated by Alden Research Laboratory of Holden.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith

Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

A letter of thanks will be written to Alden Research Laboratory of Holden.

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

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp