

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1123, Monday, February 12, 2007

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Robert Imber
Kathleen Sweeney, Vice-chair	Mark James
Cynthia Ahearn	Kelly Maxwell
Cynthia Bazinet	John Nunnari
Robert Carter (7:30 PM)	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Michael Sherman
Melinda Coyle	Tammy Tod
Steven Hammond	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Thomas Ackerman	Edward Pescaro
David Gibbs	Joseph Sova
Judith Newton	

*Administration Present:*

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
Jack Locke, Director of Operations  
Peter Brennan, Comptroller  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

Nathaniel Flynn

*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 7:04 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Watson addressed those present, explaining the intent of the public hearing session.

Bobbi Kelly, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

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

High School Students Jonathan Behuniak and Daniel Johnson read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1122<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting minutes of the WRSD Committee held on January 22, 2007. Member Coyle noted that on page 8 the minutes should reflect that High School Building Committee and Rutland Elementary School Building Committee representatives were not present at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting which was the reason Building Committee reports were not given. The minutes were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Members Conrad, James, Maxwell and Tod abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson told that warrants had been circulated for signing.

Chair Watson 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.

Member Carter joined the meeting.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson reported that final interviews of three candidates for the Wachusett Regional High School principal position would be conducted on February 13, 2007.

Chair Watson announced that a New Member Orientation, for School Committee members who have not yet attended an orientation program, would be conducted by a representative of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees on Saturday, March 10, 2007, at the District Central Office. She noted that this orientation must be six to eight hours in length.

Chair Watson attended the Regional Selectboard meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>. She reported on that meeting.

Chair Watson introduced Glenn Gaudette, Strategic Plan Steering Committee Chair, who addressed the Committee and read the Draft *Vision Statement for the Year 2012* (attachment 4). There was discussion of the document.

Motion: Endorse the Draft *Vision Statement for the Year 2012*, as presented.

(C. Bazinet)

(M. James)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

B. Student Advisory Committee (Nathaniel Flynn, Alexandra O'Connor)

At the request of Advisor Drew Weymouth, through Student Representative Alexandra O'Connor, Chair Watson extended an invitation to the School Committee to attend the Science Fair at the high school the evening of February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Student Representative Nathaniel Flynn referred to the statement read in public session by the two high school student and commented that he is in agreement with the statement. He also noted that the WRHS Gymnastics Team is undefeated.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Addressed earlier by Mr. Gaudette.

7:40 PM Member Carter left the table.

- D. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, T. Ackerman, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, C. Bazinet, R. Carter, S. Conrad, R. Imber, M. Sherman)

Chair Watson has called a meeting of the Management Subcommittee for Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center. At that meeting the subcommittee will address the Superintendent's Evaluation. Member Watson called the Committee's attention to Attachments 21 and 22 of the Superintendent's Report and explained the process for evaluating the Superintendent of Schools.

7:44 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

7:44 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

- E. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, Steven Hammond, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported on the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Education Subcommittee.

7:47 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

- F. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, T. Ackerman, M. Coyle, M. James, J. Newton, J. Sova)

Subcommittee Chair Sherman reported on the January 30, 2007 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee at which meeting the matter of retirement benefits for former Rutland schools employee Joan Viner was discussed.

Motion: In the absence of any further substantive documentation, the District does not accept any further financial responsibility.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari

Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Subcommittee Chair Sherman called a meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee with members of the Budget Advisory Task Force for Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

Subcommittee Chair Sherman asked Business/Finance Subcommittee Vice-chair Conrad to comment on the recently received reports from the District auditors. Member Conrad reported that the District is in good financial order with very few adjustments made.

Motion: To accept as complete the *Management Letter* and the *Annual Financial Statements* for the Year Ended June 30, 2006, as prepared by Melanson Heath & Co.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Conrad reported that a meeting of the Audit Advisory Board will be called some time late March/early April.

- G. Community Outreach Subcommittee (K. Sweeney, Chair, E. Pescaro, Vice-chair, M. Coyle, J. Newton, N. Plourde))

Chair Watson reported that Member Pescaro has resigned from the Community Outreach Subcommittee and Member Bazinet has been appointed to that subcommittee. Member Plourde will serve as Vice-chair.

Subcommittee Chair Sweeney reported the subcommittee will meet on March 1<sup>st</sup> and will begin reviewing policies in the 8000 series. The subcommittee has also called a meeting for March 7, 2007 to meet with representatives from the Worcester School Committee.

- H. Audit Advisory Board (Shirley Conrad, Chair, Judith Newton, Vice-chair, School Committee Representatives)

- I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Employ a District Business Manager (J. Nunnari, Chair, S. Conrad, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

Peter Brennan has been appointed Business Manager; therefore, this ad hoc subcommittee has concluded its charge and Chair Watson discharged the ad hoc subcommittee, extending her thanks for the work of the members.

- J. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

Building Committee Representative Maxwell asked the Superintendent the status of renovations of the auto shop at the high school. The Superintendent outlined the status and, upon the request of a member, will give another report at the next School Committee meeting.

The Superintendent reported on construction scheduling and financial issues being dealt with.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

Chair Watson dispensed with the Rutland Elementary School Building Committee report, in the absence of the Building Committee representative.

- K. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School (T. Ackerman), Chocksett Middle School (S. Conrad), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood

Elementary School (E. Pescaro), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (J. Newton), Naquag Elementary School (J. Nunnari), Paxton Center School (M. Coyle), Thomas Prince School (K. Sweeney), Wachusett Regional High School (M. Sherman/T. Tod), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (T. Tod/C. Ahearn)

School Council liaisons reported on recently attended meetings.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Watson noted that the presence of the School Resource Officer at Mountview Middle School will continue until the end of this school year.

The Superintendent reported on recent activities relating to the oil spill at the Jefferson School building.

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

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

There were no matters requiring action by the School Committee.

VI. Public Hearing

No one from the public wished to address the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VIII. New Business

Member Carter brought to the Committee's attention revenue lost as a result of school choice. Information was distributed showing School Choice "sending tuition" and "receiving tuition" (attachment 5).

Motion: That the administration collect data from parents of District students enrolled in charter and choice schools in order to evaluate their reasons for making their decision to send students out of the District.

(R. Carter)  
(C. Bazinet)

Discussion continued.

Members Sweeney and Sherman made a friendly amendment to include a similar inquiry to parents of students not residing in the District who attend District schools under School Choice. This friendly amendment was accepted by voice vote, with Member Coyle being present.

Motion: That the administration collect data from parents of District students enrolled in charter and choice schools in order to evaluate their reasons for making their decision to send students out of the District, and to make a similar inquiry to parents of students not residing in the District who attend District schools under School Choice.

(R. Carter)  
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*

None

*Present:*

Melinda Coyle

(Motion passed 14-0, with 1 present)

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To enter executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, not to return to public session.

(M. Coyle)  
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*



Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp