

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1124, Monday, February 26, 2007

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Robert Imber
Cynthia Ahearn	Mark James
Cynthia Bazinet	John Nunnari
Robert Carter (7:09 PM)	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Michael Sherman
Melinda Coyle	Joseph Sova
Steven Hammond	Tammy Tod

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Ackerman	Judith Newton
David Gibbs	Edward Pescaro
Kelly Maxwell	Kathleen Sweeney

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
Alexandra O'Connor

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

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

Cynthia Hanson, Princeton, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Member Carter joined the meeting.

II. Secretary's Report

Motion: To amend the agenda of this meeting to add an executive session after new business, for the purpose of approval of minutes and pending litigation, not to return to public session

(M. Coyle)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

- A. Approval of 277th Special Meeting minutes of the WRSD Committee held on February 10, 2007. The minutes were approved by consensus, with Members Ahearn, Imber and Tod abstaining.
- B. Approval of the 1123rd Regular Meeting minutes of the WRSD Committee held on February 12, 2007. On page 7, under V.B, notation should be made that "No actions were taken." The minutes were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Member Sova 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 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 announced that in the absence of Member Sweeney, Member Bazinet would serve as Vice-chair at this meeting.

Chair Watson reminded the Committee that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, because of a special town meeting in Sterling on Monday, March 12th.

Chair Watson reported that the Holden Finance Committee has requested a meeting with Holden School Committee representatives. This meeting will be the evening of March 20th.

Chair Watson informed the Committee that a "new member orientation" will be conducted by MASC staff on Saturday, March 10, 2007, beginning at 8:00 AM. This meeting will be held in the Curriculum Center of the Central Office. Members who will be attending were asked to let Rebecca Petersen know of their participation.

Chair Watson reminded School Committee members of the Science Fair at the high school on February 27, 2007, from 5:30 – 9:00 PM, to which the School Committee has been invited.

At 7:19 PM Chair Watson introduced WRHS Assistant Principal Catherine Astrella who made a presentation to the School Committee on the soon-to-be implemented House Plan. Ms. Astrella distributed materials, showed a PowerPoint presentation and explained the plan (attachments 3, 4, 5 & 6). At the conclusion of Ms. Astrella's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

7:50 PM Member Carter left the table.

7:51 PM Member Conrad left the table.

7:52 PM Member Conrad returned to the table.

7:53 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

At 8:07 PM Chair Watson thanked Ms. Astrella for attending the meeting.

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

Student Representative Alexandra O'Connor reported on recent athletic events and accomplishments.

Student Representative Nathaniel Flynn reported the February 14th Connect-ED telephone notification that school would be closed because of snow seemed to be well received. He also reported on recently opened sections of the high school building.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Chair Watson reported the mission statement is being developed.

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

The Management Subcommittee will meet on February 27, 2007 to conduct it's portion of the Evaluation of the Superintendent.

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 7th meeting of the Education Subcommittee and that the next meeting of the will be March 21st. Policy amendments will be included on the agenda of the March 13th School Committee meeting.

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 the Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting with the Budget Advisory Task Force will be March 6, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center. Subcommittee Chair Sherman gave a report on the February 21st meeting with Holden town officials.

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

In Subcommittee Chair Sweeney's absence, Vice-chair Plourde reported on this subcommittee's recent activities. Vice-chair Plourde referred to attachment 7 of the February 16, 2007 Superintendent Report. Discussion ensued.

Motion: To approve the use of the Biographical Information questionnaire drafted by the Community Outreach Subcommittee, deleting the sections "Background Information" and "Other pertinent

information” and providing a section giving School Committee members the opportunity to write an educational philosophy statement.
(M. Coyle)
(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
John Nunnari
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Robert Carter
Robert Imber
Norman Plourde

Abstained:

Shirley Conrad
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 9-3-2)

8:27 PM Student Representatives Flynn and O’Connor left the meeting.

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported that the Audit Advisory Board will not meet until sometime towards the end of March.

- I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

- J. Building Committees

- 1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

In Member Maxwell’s absence, the Superintendent report on a recent accident at the high school site. He further reported on the status of the project.

- 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)

There were no reports given.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Sherman asked the status of the appointment of the next principal of Wachusett Regional High School. The Superintendent anticipates an announcement will be made in the near future.

Member Ahearn asked the status of the auto shop at the high school. The Superintendent reported the area should be ready for occupancy/utilization soon. The Superintendent assured he will report back to the School Committee as soon as he has more information, expecting such in March.

8:40 PM Member Conrad left the table.

Chair Watson inquired why Glenwood Elementary School is not listed as having a checking account. Business Manager Brennan will check this with the Treasurer.

8:41 PM Member Conrad returned to the table.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

There were no matters requiring action by the School Committee.

VI. Public Hearing

Colleen Cipro, Special Education Parent Advisory Council member, presented information on recent SEPAC activities.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the Committee.

IX. Adjournment

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

(R. Carter)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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