

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1106, Wednesday, March 1, 2006  
7:00 PM

Cafeteria  
Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Mary Catherine Maher (7:20 PM)
Thomas Ackerman	Kelly Maxwell
Cynthia Ahearn	Judith Newton
Cynthia Bazinet	John Nunnari
Elizabeth Brennan	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Kathleen Sweeney (7:15 PM)
Shirley Conrad	Tammy Tod
David Gibbs	Margaret Watson
Mark James	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Charles Capparelli	Michael Sherman, Vice-chair
Phillip Mighdoll	

*Administration Present:*

John Locke, Director of Operations  
Susan Sullivan, Director of Administrative Services  
Peter Brennan, Comptroller  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent  
Tina Callahan, Administrative Assistant

*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 expressed condolences to Superintendent Pandiscio on the death of his brother.

I. Public Hearing

Glenn Gaudette, Holden, addressed the School Committee to inform members of the School Funding Rally at the State House on April 26, 2006 from 12:30 to 1:30 PM (attachment 2). Mr. Gaudette advised those interested that there would be bus transportation available to transport people to the State House. Those interested

in bus transportation can sign up online at [www.stand.org/ma/rally](http://www.stand.org/ma/rally) or by calling Mr. Gaudette directly.

## II. Secretary's Report

### A. Approval of 1105<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on February 13, 2006

As the minutes that had been included with the Superintendent's Report were incomplete, members were given a complete copy of the minutes and were asked to take a moment to read and review before voting on approval of the minutes (attachment 3).

The following corrections to be made to the minutes:

Page 2, Public Hearing, the following language to be removed: "under High School Building Committee business."

Page 7, motion to accept first reading of DP 5263.1, Member Conrad was in favor.

Motion: Approval of minutes of February 13, 2006, noting the corrections.

(M. James)

(R. Carter)

#### Vote:

##### In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
Norman Plourde  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Margaret Watson

##### Opposed:

None

##### Abstained:

Robert Carter  
John Nunnari  
Tammy Tod

(Motion passed 14-0-3)

### 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.

After review of the reading file at the Central Office, Member Watson was seeking clarification of status of reimbursement(s) received from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Comptroller Brennan explained that to date, three checks have been received (in December, January and February), but none of the reimbursements were specifically for the modulars.

### IV. Committee Reports

#### A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Livdahl told of the gymnasium at the high school being opened and basketball games being played in the new facility.

The next Budget Advisory Task Force meeting will be Thursday, March 2, 2006, in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office.

The Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet next on March 15, 2006, at which meeting the auditors will be present.

Chair Livdahl appointed Member Ackerman to the Community Outreach Subcommittee and as the School Committee liaison on the Central Tree Middle School School Council.

Member Newton will no longer serve on the Community Outreach or Management Subcommittees.

Chair Livdahl explained that the School Committee does not need to vote on/approve the naming of the new elementary school in Rutland, which will be known as the Glenwood Elementary School.

Chair Livdahl informed the membership that two members have business they wish to address under "New Business" and there will be a brief executive session, at the end of the regular meeting, not to return to public session.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Note was made that the student representatives were not in attendance. Chair Livdahl will attempt to make contact with the students to encourage their attendance at future meetings. Comment was made that these students should plan to stay for the better part of the School Committee meetings in order to more actively participate in all items on the agenda.

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 5240 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Fraud Prevention Policy***

Motion: Approval of the second reading of Draft Policy 5240 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Fraud Prevention Policy***, waiving the reading.

(R. Carter)

(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Second reading of Draft Policy 5263.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management, *Bonus Incentive Pay***

Member Brennan recused herself from this part of the meeting and left the table.

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 5263.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management, *Bonus Incentive Pay***, waiving the reading.

(R. Carter)

(S. Conrad)

Member Maher stated her opposition to this policy and made the suggestion that it be tabled at this time. Following much discussion, language to amend the draft policy was suggested, as follows:

“The Superintendent may, SUBJECT TO AN APPROPRIATION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, agree to provide an annual...”

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 5263.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management, *Bonus Incentive Pay***, amending the second paragraph as follows: “The Superintendent may, SUBJECT TO AN APPROPRIATION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, agree to provide an annual...”

(M. C. Maher)

(K. Sweeney)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Robert Carter  
Mary Catherine Maher  
John Nunnari  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell

Judith Newton  
Norman Plourde  
Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 6-10)

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 5263.1  
**Policy Relating to Personnel Management, *Bonus Incentive Pay***, waiving the reading.

(R. Carter)  
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Norman Plourde  
Tammy Tod

(Motion passed 12-4)

7:54 PM Member Brennan returned to the table.

3. Second reading of Draft Policy 5290.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management, *Superintendent and Executive Staff Vacation Policy***

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 5290.1  
**Policy Relating to Personnel Management, *Superintendent and Executive Staff Vacation Policy***, waiving the reading.

(R. Carter)  
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The next meeting of the Management Subcommittee will be Tuesday, March 7, 2006. Member Maxwell asked for update on request for copies of Central Office administrators' job descriptions. Chair Livdahl will have Central Office administrator job descriptions on the March 7, 2006 Management Subcommittee agenda.

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

1. Second reading of Draft Policy 3421 **Policy Relating to Education, *Library/Media Services***

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 3421 **Policy Relating to Education, *Library/Media Service***, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)

(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Thomas Ackerman

Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The next meeting of the Education Subcommittee will be March 20, 2006, at which meeting policies in the 6000 series will be reviewed.

Education Subcommittee Chair Watson read a prepared statement *Statement/Recommendation from the Education Subcommittee* (attachment 4). Chair Livdahl asked that Director of Operations Lock be sure the Superintendent is made aware of the Education Subcommittee statement.

Motion: To move that the suggestions made here be endorsed by the full Committee and given to the Superintendent for his consideration as he moves to improve student performance in math and English.

(M. Watson)  
(D. Gibbs)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad



David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

Chair Livdahl passed over the report of the Business/Finance Subcommittee at this point on the agenda.

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

The next meeting of the Community Outreach Subcommittee will be Wednesday, March 8, 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. Second reading of Draft Policy 4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance, Audit Advisory Board**

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance, Audit Advisory Board**, waiving the reading.

(S. Conrad)  
(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl

Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Subcommittee Chair Conrad said there will be one more meeting of this Ad Hoc Subcommittee before it can be dissolved. She also mentioned that one policy (P4714.5 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance, Audit Report**) should be referred to the Business/Finance Subcommittee for consideration for deletion.

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

Chair Livdahl returned to the Business/Finance Subcommittee agenda item. Chair Livdahl spoke to AP4330 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance, Warrants**.

8:19 PM Member Maxwell left the table.

8:21 PM Member Maxwell returned to the table.

Questions were raised about this amended language. Whether the amendment language had been reviewed by counsel was asked.

8:26 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

In the absence of the Superintendent, it was decided that no action on this amended policy would be taken at this meeting. If the language has not been reviewed by counsel, the Superintendent will request a

legal opinion from Attorney Elizabeth Valerio, in the hope that this item can be addressed at the March 13, 2006 School Committee meeting.

8:28 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

H. Building Committees

1. High School

Member Maxwell told that the High School Building Committee had met this date, immediately before the School Committee meeting. Member Maxwell gave an update. Chair Livdahl asked about the DEP fine, which was addressed.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan

Member Brennan gave overview of February 5<sup>th</sup> and February 23<sup>rd</sup> Rutland Building Committee meetings. That building committee is looking to work with the Massachusetts School Building Authority to take advantage of “pay as you go” payment system, similar to the high school project funding. To date, there have been slight delays in the project, but opening on time is still the plan.

Director of Operations explained that a School Committee vote on the approval of the name of a new school building is not required. Member Brennan told the School Committee the new Rutland elementary school has been named the Glenwood Elementary School.

8:43 PM Member Carter left the table.

8:46 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

The final Report of the Rutland School Boundaries and Transition Committee was discussed.

Motion: To approve the Final Report Regarding Districting of Rutland’s Elementary Schools made by the Rutland School Boundaries and Transitional Committee.

(E. Brennan)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

I. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (T. Ackerman), 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 Bazinet (Davis Hill), James (Dawson), Watson (Mayo), Newton (Mountview), Brennan (Naquag and Central Tree), Ahearn (Paxton Center), Sweeney (Thomas Prince).

Member Gibbs asked to be absolved of responsibilities as Wachusett Regional High School School Council liaison.

9:05 PM Municipal Representative Kenneth O'Brien joined the meeting.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio was not in attendance.

The role of Student Advisory representatives was discussed. The students remaining at the table while the School Committee meets would be beneficial, as they could give input during the meetings. Section 4, Part B of the "Student Council Constitution" may not be in line with Massachusetts General Laws. Administration will be asked to review this document to ensure student representative actions are in line with responsibility requirements. In light of work load high school students must deal with, it was suggested that the School Committee agenda be adjusted so as to put items of interest to the student representatives appear at the beginning of the School Committee agenda. Chair Livdahl will consider this and will also attempt to speak with the students to encourage their attendance.

VI. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan, Holden, reported on the most recent Wachusett Regional High School School Council meeting.

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

1. Member Plourde read a prepared statement (attachment 5).

Motion: That the Chair of the School Committee create an ad hoc committee for the purpose of studying the reduction in size of the School Committee. That the ad hoc committee be comprised of one present member from each town. That the ad hoc committee be charged with the responsibility of gathering input from the leadership of each town. That the ad hoc committee set forth a timeline leading from community information meetings to the setting of a town meeting to vote on the recommendation of the School Committee. That the ad hoc committee make a recommendation to the full committee.

(N. Plourde)

(T. Tod)

Discussion of this motion followed. Members asked that copies of previous research be shared with the School Committee in the next packet.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Robert Carter

Shirley Conrad  
Mark James  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet  
David Gibbs  
Margaret Watson

Abstained:

Alice Livdahl

(Motion passed 13-3-1)

2. Member Nunnari “proposed an idea” to change the way the Chair of the School Committee is elected in an attempt to bring an equitable and equal representation to the leadership of the School Committee. The positions of Chair and Vice Chair would rotate each year (Holden & Paxton, Paxton & Princeton, Princeton & Rutland, Rutland & Sterling) with the most senior member from each town to serve. Note was made that such a change may require Regional Agreement and/or School Committee By-Law changes. This suggestion to be referred to legal counsel and Massachusetts Association of School Committees for opinion.

3. Motion: That the School Committee establish the position of Deputy Superintendent.

(D. Gibbs)  
(K. Maxwell)

Member Gibbs spoke to this motion. Discussion followed. Seeing this Central Office restructuring coordinated with the upcoming Strategic Plan was suggested.

Motion: To move the question.

(K. Maxwell)  
(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Thomas Ackerman

Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Cynthia Ahearn  
Robert Carter

(Motion passed 15-2)

Roll call vote on main question:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Judith Newton  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kathleen Sweeney

(Motion passed 14-3)

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

(M. James)  
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP/rlp/School Committee/Minutes