

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN * PAXTON * PRINCETON * RUTLAND * STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting#1107, Monday, March 13, 2006
7:00 PM

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Mary Catherine Maher (7:12 PM)
Michael Sherman Vice-Chair	Kelly Maxwell
Thomas Ackerman	Phillip Mighdoll
Cynthia Ahearn	Judith Newton
Elizabeth Brennan	John Nunnari
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad (7:17 PM)	Kathleen Sweeney
David Gibbs	Tammy Tod
Mark James	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Charles Capparelli
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Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Director of Operations
Peter Brennan, Comptroller
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.

- I. Public Hearing
- II. Secretary's Report
 - A. Approval of 1106th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 1, 2006

A suggestion was made by Member Watson to page 3, Treasurer's Report, last sentence of the second paragraph, add wording, "but none of the

reimbursements were specifically for the modulars”.

Motion: Approval of minutes, with the wording change, of March 1, 2006
(M. James)
(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Michael Sherman
Phillip Mighdoll

(Motion passed 15-0-2)

III. Treasurer’s Report/Financial Statements

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair’s Opening Remarks

Chair Livdahl received a letter from Attorney McCabe regarding the vote taken on February 13, 2006 for returning modular money to the Member Towns for FY07; the vote should have required a simple majority vote not a 2/3 vote. Attorney McCabe’s suggestion was to have a revote. Member Gibbs believes that vote should stand. Dr. Pandiscio felt we should move forward and deal with other pressing business.

Member Gibbs will fill the seat vacated by Member Newton on the Management Subcommittee. Member Todd will be the School Committee's representative to the High School SIMCO.

Chair Livdahl has renamed a newly appointed ad hoc committee "The Ad Hoc Committee to Study Reducing the Size of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee". Appointed Ad Hoc members are, N. Plourde, Chair, C. Ahearn, R. Carter, K. Sweeney, and T. Tod.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Students were not in attendance. Chair Livdahl had spoken to the students and they hope to be in attendance at the next meeting.

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

A quorum was not present at the March 7, 2006. The next meeting will be April 4, 2006 at 6:30.

1. First reading of Amended Policy 8130 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations *Distribution of Notices by Students*** – first reading

Motion: To send the policy back to the Management Subcommittee

(D. Gibbs)
(M. Watson)

Member Brennan spoke against the motion and would like the policy looked at by the full School Committee, and Member Sherman concurred:

Motion: To move the question.

(K. Maxwell)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To refer AP8130 back to the Management
Subcommittee.

(D. Gibbs)

(M. Watson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

David Gibbs
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod

Abstained:

Alice Livdahl

(Motion failed 2-15-1)

Language to amend the amended policy was suggested as follows: the second sentence “PTO/PTA sponsored”, the second to the last sentence, add a hyphen between “for-profit” and the last sentence should read, “No notices from private groups will BE accepted except as specified above.”

Motion: To accept the first reading, with the wording changes noted above, of Amended Policy 8130 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations *Distribution of Notices by Students.*** To seek a legal opinion from District Counsel before the second reading on March 27, 2006.

(E. Brennan)

(M. C. Maher)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

The next meeting will be March 20, 2006. The Subcommittee will start reviewing the 6000 series policies.

1. First reading of Amended Policy 3130 **Policy Relating to Education, *Time on Learning***

Correction was made to remove “TO” in first sentence.

Motion: To accept first reading, with the wording change, of Amended Policy 3130 **Policy Relating to Education, *Time on Learning***

(M. Watson)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. First reading of Amended Policy 3431 **Policy Relating to Education, *Audio-Visual Materials***

Member Watson will bring this policy back to the next Education Subcommittee meeting.

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

1. First reading of Amended Policy 4330 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance, Warrants**

Motion: To accept the first reading of Amended Policy 4330 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance, Warrants**, with adopted language changes by counsel, waiving the reading.

(M. Sherman)

(P. Mighdoll)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. First reading deletion of Policy 4310 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance, Payroll**

Motion: To delete Policy 4310 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance, Payroll.**

(M. Sherman)

(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl

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

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Dr. Pandiscio distributed copies of the updated budget and FY07 projected staffing increases. (Attachment 2)

R. Carter left table 8:43
K. Maxwell left table 8:43

K. Maxwell returned 8:45
R. Carter returned 8:46

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (E. Brennan, Chair, T. Ackerman, C. Ahearn, S. Conrad, P. Mighdoll)

The next meeting is April 3, 2006. Member Brennan encourages members to attend. Several issues were discussed at the March 8th meeting, community involvement in the schools, look into the 8000 series of policies and started planning for the Town Meeting season. Dr. Pandiscio will attend PTO/PTA meeting in April to encourage parents to attend Town Meetings.

1. **First Reading of Policy 8150 Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations, *Complaints from the Community***

Member Brennan read the policy. Questions were raised about some of the wording and an explanation was given. A friendly suggestion was made to make the last paragraph two separate paragraphs, to read: "All complaints made to School Committee members shall be brought promptly to the attention of the superintendent who will manage the solution to the problem. School Committee members shall be informed of resolutions when privacy issues are not compromised.

Complaints made regarding the superintendent shall be referred directly to the School Committee chair".

Dr. Pandiscio distributed Policy 8151 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations, Complaints about District Personnel** for reference. (Attachment 3)

Motion: To accept the first reading, with the changes, to Amended Policy 8150 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations, Complaints from the Community.**

(E. Brennan)
(N. Plourde)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

M. Sherman left 8:51
M. Sherman return 8:53

2. First Reading of Amended Policy 8211 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations, Organization and Function of School Councils**

K. Sweeney left table 8:54
K. Sweeney returned 8:56

AP8211B, (page 2) paragraph beginning with “The agenda” the first sentence should read “The agenda and copies of minutes shall be filed and maintained in the local school. The last sentence should read, “The School Committee recommends that each Council adopt bylaws that meet its needs”. Deleting “and clarify potential points of disagreement”.

Motions: To accept first reading of Amended Policy 8211, **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations, Organization and Function of School Councils**, with the above changes, waiving the reading.

(E. Brennan)
(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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)

H. Building Committee

1. High School – K. Maxwell
Next meeting on March 29, 2006
2. Rutland – Elementary School – E. Brennan
Member Brennan gave an overview of the March 9 2006 meeting: the furniture vendor was approved; the window installation was corrected. The next meeting will be March 23, 2006.

- 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 (T. Tod)

Brief reports of recent Student Council meetings were made by M. James, M. Watson and K. Sweeney. Member Plourde will cover the Chocksett meetings in Member Capparelli's absence.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pandiscio explained the combined process for hiring the new principals at Davis Hill and Dawson. He also stated that future hires would be done school-based. The process for advertising was different this time; Internet and Education Week were used. Ten candidates, including internal candidates will be interviewed.

Dr. Pandiscio addressed the Central Office reorganization. His timeline would be July 2006 for hiring a Business Manager and July 2007 for hiring a Deputy Superintendent. Member James requested an organization chart form.

Chair Livdahl suggested forming an Ad Hoc Committee to Develop Position Descriptions.

Motion: To endorse the plan for the reorganization of the Central Office as outlined in the March 7, 2006 letter from the Superintendent to the Management Subcommittee

(R. Carter)

(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Elizabeth Brennan
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod

(Motion passed 15-0-3)

VII. Unfinished Business

Maureen Floryan expressed concerns about the down sizing of the School Committee.

Paul Challenger spoke about the budget, voicing his opinion that if it stays as is, it will not pass. He urged the committee to take a serious look at the budget.

T. Pandiscio left table 9:42

T. Pandiscio returned 9:45

VIII. New Business

Motion: To reconsider the vote taken on March 1, 2006 to establish an ad hoc subcommittee to study the down sizing of the overall school committee

(M. James)

(M. Watson)

Roll call Vote:

In favor:

David Gibbs
Mark James
John Nunnari
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Alice Livdahl
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Phillip Mighdoll

Abstained:

Michael Sherman

(Motion failed 4-13-1)

Motion: To extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

(S. Conrad)

(E. Brennan)

Roll call Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn

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

Abstained:

Phillip Mighdoll

(Motion passed 17-0-1)

Motion: To adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies of the collective bargaining and contract negotiations, and to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the profession competency of an individual, not to return to public session

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Roll call Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
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

Abstained:

Phillip Mighdoll

(Motion passed 17-0-1)

The regular session adjourned to executive session at 9:55.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP/ctc/School Committee/Minutes