

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1126, Monday, March 26, 2007

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Steven Hammond
Kathleen Sweeney	Robert Imber
Thomas Ackerman	Mark James
Cynthia Ahearn	Kelly Maxwell
Cynthia Bazinet	John Nunnari
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Michael Sherman
Melinda Coyle	Joseph Sova
David Gibbs	Tammy Tod

*Committee Members Absent:*

Judith Newton	Edward Pescaro
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*Administration Present:*

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
Jack Locke, Director of Operations  
Jason Newton, Director of Student/Information Services  
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources  
Peter Brennan, Business Manager  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

Nathaniel Flynn

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 8:36 PM.

Chair Watson noted that the agenda for the meeting was amended, moving the Superintendent's Report (including Discussion of Report and Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee) to immediately following the Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements in order for action to be taken on the adoption of the *FY08 Appropriation*.

Motion: To approve the meeting agenda as amended.

(R. Sova)  
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously.)

I. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to speak.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1125<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 13, 2007.

Motion: To approve the 1125<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 13, 2007, with the following correction: on page 13, the last sentence, the word "Committee, should be inserted between "The" and "left."

(R. Imber)  
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter

Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*  
None

*Abstained:*  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Kelly Maxwell  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

(Motion passed 11-0-7)

- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 13, 2007

This was deferred to the Executive Session.

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. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report

Member Sherman questioned why the removal of the tank on Paxton Center School property would be the responsibility of the District. The Superintendent responded that the removal is the responsibility of the Town of Paxton according to the Lease Agreement.

Member Ahearn asked what plans are being made in preparation for the June 2007 departure of Director of Student/Information Services Jason Newton. The Superintendent explained this situation is being reviewed and while no decisions have been made, he said that this might be a time to look at reorganization of the Central Office staff.

Member Imber asked the status of the auto shop at the high school. Superintendent Pandiscio responded that since he has not heard otherwise, he assumes milestones have been met. The Superintendent will include an update in his next report to the School Committee.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To accept the *FY08 Proposed Appropriation* in the amount of \$70,243,312 and assessments to the Member Towns of \$46,098,073.

(K. Maxwell)

(S. Conrad)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman spoke to the proposed appropriation, noting he is endorsing the proposed appropriation on his own behalf, not on behalf of the Business/Finance Subcommittee, as that subcommittee has not taken a voted position.

Member Plourde noted the School Committee should be looking to pass the proposed appropriation this evening, with possible refining being done at the April 10, 2007 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee with the Budget Advisory Task Force.

Member Carter expressed his wish to show the Member Towns that the School Committee respected their concerns about the budget.

Member Nunnari agreed with Member Carter, wanting to be sensitive to the Member Towns, but believes the budget as presented is a good starting point.

Member Hammond commented that the budget represents the real needs of the District.

Member Tod told she plans to vote in favor of the proposed appropriation, but does not feel the Town of Rutland will be able to support the budget on Town Meeting floor.

Member Gibbs expressed opinion that later votes would be beneficial, as more firm financial numbers would be in hand.

Member Sweeney addressed the Committee, stating that the proposed appropriation is unaffordable for the Town of Princeton.

Chair Watson explained the need for an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the membership (14 votes in favor) in order to pass the *FY08 Appropriation*.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*

Melinda Coyle  
Robert Imber  
Kathleen Sweeney

(Motion passed 15-3)

2. Motion: To approve the sale by the District of a \$6,100,000 Bond Anticipation Note to Banc of America with a Net Interest Cost of 3.5874%, payable on December 28, 2007, and further that the consent to bid dated March 16, 2007 by the Treasurer to First Southwest Company, the financial advisor, bidding the note is hereby confirmed.

(M. Sherman)  
(J. Nunnari)

The Superintendent explained the need for the sale of this BAN.

Member Coyle asked for confirmation that Banc was the correct spelling, which was confirmed.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman

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

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

9:20 PM Member Maxwell left the meeting.

9:20 PM Member Tod left the meeting.

9:22 PM Member Ahearn left the meeting.

Chair Watson shared with members who had not yet received a copy Holden Finance Committee Chair Paul Challenger's materials "ESTIMATING IMPACT OF WRSD ASSESSMENT INCREASES ON MEMBER TOWNS" (attachment 10).

V. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

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

Nathaniel Flynn thanked the School Committee for passing the budget this evening.

9:24 PM Member Gibbs left the meeting.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee (M. Watson, M. Sherman – School Committee Representatives)

Chair Watson reported on the March 22, 2007 meeting of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee and told that three documents will be ready

for School Committee review on April 9, 2007 (Preamble, Core Values and Beliefs, and Mission Statement).

- 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 April 4, 2007 to review that subcommittee's portion of the Superintendent's evaluation. Chair Watson asked Management Subcommittee members to review policies in the 5000 series before the April 4, 2007 meeting of the Subcommittee.

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

1. Amended Policy AP3130 **Policy Relating to Education Time on Learning** – second reading
2. Amended Policy AP3311 **Policy Relating to Education Subject Fields and Courses for High School Students** – second reading
3. Amended Policy AP3311.1 **Policy Relating to Education Graduation Requirements** – second reading
4. Amended Policy AP3313 **Policy Relating to Education Controversial Issues** - second reading
5. Amended Policy AP3313.1 **Policy Relating to Education Parent Notification of Human Sexuality Issues** – second reading
6. Amended Policy AP3314 **Policy Relating to Education Ethics Policy** - second reading
7. Amended Policy AP3350 **Policy Relating to Education Experimental and Innovative Programs** – second reading
8. Amended Policy AP3450 **Policy Relating to Education Non-Discrimination of Educational Materials** - second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy AP3130 **Policy Relating to Education Time on Learning**, Amended Policy AP3311 **Policy Relating to Education Subject Fields and Courses for High School Students**, Amended Policy AP3311.1 **Policy Relating to Education Graduation Requirements**, Amended Policy AP3313.1 **Policy Relating to Education Parent Notification of Human Sexuality Issues**, Amended Policy AP3314 **Policy Relating to Education Ethics**

**Policy, Amended Policy AP3350 Policy Relating to Education Experimental and Innovative Programs, Amended Policy AP3450 Policy Relating to Education Non-Discrimination of Educational Materials, and Amended Policy AP3313 Policy Relating to Education Controversial Issues.**

(C. Bazinet)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported on the March 21, 2007 meeting at which time the subcommittee met with the Superintendent for evaluation purposes. She then announced the next meeting of the Education Subcommittee would be Thursday, April 5, 2007, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center. The narrative to the Superintendent's evaluation would be reviewed and policy review would continue.

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

Business/Finance Chair Sherman reported on the March 9, 2007 meeting of the subcommittee, at which time the subcommittee met with the Superintendent for evaluation purposes. A meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee with the Budget Advisory Task Force has been scheduled for April 10, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

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



A meeting of the Community Outreach Subcommittee needs to be scheduled to review the Superintendent's evaluation narrative and for policy review. Subcommittee Chair Sweeney will poll members and set a date for this meeting.

Note was made that the form to be used to gather School Committee member biographical information will be included in the next Superintendent's Report. This information will be submitted by members for inclusion on the District website.

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

The Audit Advisory Board will meet Thursday, April 12, 2007, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center.

I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

J. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

In Member Maxwell's absence, no report was given.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

In Member Pescaro's absence, no report was given.

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 (C. Ahearn)

None of the School Council liaisons had reports to give.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Carter inquired the status of the School Choice Survey for those students who choice in or choice out of the District. The Superintendent reported the survey is being developed and he will report to the School Committee shortly.

Member Conrad asked about the previously discussed formation of a charitable foundation. Member Sweeney addressed this question, explaining the Community Outreach Subcommittee is awaiting the outcome of the strategic plan before moving forward with this.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of approval of minutes and pending litigation, to return to public session.

(J. Nunnari)

(M. James)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The regular meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:34 PM.

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:41 PM.

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Sova)  
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp