

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

**Annual Budget Hearing**

Monday, March 26, 2007

7:00 PM

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 (7:08 PM)
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

*Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).*

I. Call to Order

Chair Watson called the Annual Budget Hearing to order at 7:02 PM.

Chair Watson introduced Superintendent of Schools Thomas Pandiscio and turned the meeting over to him for presentation of the *FY08 District & School Improvement Budget*.

II. Presentation of the *Proposed FY08 Appropriation*

A PowerPoint presentation was shown and hardcopies were made available (attachment 2). Also distributed were: Appropriation History, FY08 Appropriation Changes from FY07, FY08 Projected Staffing Increases, FY08 Appropriation Planning – Level Service, and FY08 Proposed Appropriation (attachments 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7). Superintendent Pandiscio's presentation concluded at 7:25 PM.

III. Public Hearing

Chair Watson opened the public hearing portion of this meeting, inviting members of the School Committee to ask questions of the Superintendent, which many members did.

Chair Watson then invited members of the public to address the School Committee.

Alan Berg, Vice Chairman of the Holden Finance Committee, read a prepared statement (attachment 8).

Tim Ethier, a Holden resident and a teacher at Wachusett Regional High School, spoke in support of the FY08 proposed appropriation.

Joseph Sullivan of Holden addressed the School Committee, noting that he was speaking as a Holden resident not as a member of the Holden Selectboard and his comments were his views only, not those of the Holden Selectboard. He explained that his angst is due to the District seeking 102% of Holden's new growth, plus 2½ % of the levy limit.

Phillip Mighdoll of Princeton read a prepared statement (attachment 9).

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the Annual Budget Hearing.

(M. James)  
(K. Maxwell)

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.)

The Annual Budget Hearing adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP/rlp