

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1108, Monday, March 27, 2006  
7:00 PM

Cafeteria  
Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

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

*Committee Members Absent:*

Charles Capparelli	Robert Carter
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*Administration Present:*

Thomas Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
John Locke, Director of Operations  
Susan Sullivan, Director of Administrative Services  
Jason Newton, Director of Student/Information Services  
Peter Brennan, Comptroller  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

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

Chair Livdahl called the regular meeting to order at 7:37 PM. Chair Livdahl reported she would take discussion and action on the adoption of the *FY07 Appropriation* out of order. Chair Livdahl gave each member of the School Committee the opportunity to speak to the budget and the presentation made at the Annual Budget Hearing. Most members of the School Committee took this opportunity speak.

Motion: To accept the *FY07 Revised Proposed Appropriation* in the amount of \$63,905,101 and assessments to the Members Towns of \$41,556,047.

(M. James)

(J. Nunnari)

Two student representatives arrived at 8:03 PM.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
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)

Following the vote, there was a round of applause.

A five minute recess was called at 8:10 PM, with the regular meeting to resume at 8:15 PM.

Director of Administrative Services Sullivan and Director of Student/Information Services Newton left the meeting.

Revised agenda #2 was distributed (attachment 2).

I. Public Hearing

Chris Lucchesi, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1107<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 13, 2006.

Motion: Approval of minutes of March 13, 2006.

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Minutes were accepted by consensus, with Member Bazinet abstaining.

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.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report – 8:30 PM

The Superintendent expressed his disappointment that the Special Management letter being prepared by District Auditors is not yet available. He plans on it being included in the next packet.

Superintendent Pandiscio updated the School Committee on the status of the high school building project, describing the recently completed Media Center as "spectacular." Tours for School Committee members and for the public will be planned for the near future.

Final interviews for the two open principal positions will take place Thursday, March 30, 2006, beginning at 5:00 PM in the cafeteria of Davis Hill Elementary School. School Committee members who will be participating were asked to assemble at Davis Hill at 4:45 PM that date.

Bids submitted for a District strategic plan are due April 4, 2006.

To assist the School Committee with completing the *School Committee Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools* form, Superintendent Pandiscio will provide the School Committee with an update of actions he has taken/completed with regard to his goals.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Adoption of the *FY07 Appropriation* in the amount of \$63,905,101 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden: \$18,979,324

Paxton: \$ 4,304,821

Princeton: \$ 4,113,589  
Rutland: \$ 5,888,547  
Sterling: \$ 8,269,767

See above.

2. To appropriate Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$222,945 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for the Naquag Elementary School.

Motion: To appropriate Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$222,945 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for the Naquag Elementary School.  
(J. Nunnari)  
(E. Brennan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
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)

3. To appropriate to the Member Towns for reimbursement of fuel costs as follows:

Holden: \$601.20

Paxton:	\$180.40
Princeton:	\$564.40
Princeton:	\$118.00
Rutland:	\$110.80
Sterling:	\$156.68

Motion: To appropriate to the Member Towns for reimbursement of fuel costs as follows:

Holden:	\$601.20
Paxton:	\$180.40
Princeton:	\$564.40
Princeton:	\$118.00
Rutland:	\$110.80
Sterling:	\$156.68

(J. Nunnari)  
(E. Brennan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
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)

V. Committee Reports – 9:00 PM

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Livdahl asked that Member Plourde distribute copies of a survey developed to determine School Committee opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of downsizing the number of members on the School Committee (attachment 3).

Chair Livdahl reminded Committee members to complete the Superintendent's evaluation and return it in the envelope provided in the last Superintendent's Report or in hand at the April 10<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. She also asked members to complete and return the School Committee Self-Improvement Questionnaire that had been included in the last packet.

Chair Livdahl informed the members that Attorney John Foskett will attend the April 10, 2006 School Committee meeting.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Marissa Johnson, Holden; Dave Mullaney, Paxton; Chrissie Smith, Holden

Dave Mullaney spoke on the impact of the budget on the availability of late busses. Chrissie Smith addressed the Committee on study halls at the high school. The students were encouraged to keep the School Committee informed of their/students' perspective of how schools are working on a day-to-day basis.

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

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

Chair Livdahl read Amended Policy 8130 and discussion of the amended language ensued. As there were many changes incorporated into the amended language following review by District Counsel, it was recognized that this would constitute a first reading of the amended language.

9:04 PM Member Conrad left the table.

Following lengthy discussion of this policy, it was determined that the language was acceptable, but the ordering of paragraphs and sentences needed to be changed, which Chair Livdahl said she would address and would include review of the policy on the April 4, 2006 Management Subcommittee agenda.

Motion: To accept the first reading of Amended Policy 8130  
**Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations**  
*Distribution of Notices by Students*, with changes in order of  
sentences/paragraphs made before the second reading.

(M. Sherman)

(E. Brennan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Phillip Mighdoll  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Norman Plourde

(Motion passed 14-3)

9:04 PM Member Conrad returned to the table.

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

1. Amended Policy 3130 **Policy Relating to Education Time on Learning** – second reading

Motion: To accept the second reading of Amended Policy  
3130 **Policy Relating to Education Time on Learning**,  
waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)

(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
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. Amended Policy 3431 **Policy Relating to Education *Audit-Visual Materials*** – first reading

Motion: To accept the first reading of Amended Policy 3431 **Policy Relating to Education *Audio-Visual Materials***, noting the correcting of “enrich” to “enriches” in the first sentence, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
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)

3. Amended Policy 6260 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
*Assignment of Students to Classes* – first reading

Motion: To accept the first reading of Amended Policy 6260  
**Policy Relating to Pupil Services** *Assignment of Students to*  
*Classes*, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)  
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
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:  
Phillip Mighdoll

Abstained:  
Alice Livdahl

(Motion passed 16-1-1)

4. Amended Policy 6411 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services  
*Bicycle Helmet Usage*** – first reading

Motion: To accept the first reading of Amended Policy 6411  
**Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Bicycle Helmet Usage*.**

(M. Watson)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
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)

Action on the next two policies was taken out of order.

5. Draft Policy 6437 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services  
*Promoting Civil Rights and Prohibiting Harassment,  
Bullying, Discrimination and Hate Crimes*** – first reading

Motion: To accept the first reading of Draft Policy 6437  
**Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Promoting Civil Rights and  
Prohibiting Harassment, Bullying, Discrimination and Hate***

*Crimes*, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)  
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
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)

Note was made that reference to this policy should be included in all student handbooks.

6. Amended Policy 6436 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Tolerance** – first reading

Motion: To accept the first reading of Amended Policy 6436 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Tolerance**

(M. Watson)  
(D. Gibbs)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn

Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
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)

The two student representatives left the meeting at 9:30 PM.

9:30 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

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

1. Amended Policy 4330 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Warrants** – second reading

Motion: To accept the second reading of Amended Policy 4330 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Warrants**, waiving the reading.

(M. Sherman)  
(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Shirley Conrad  
David Gibbs  
Mark James

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

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

9:33 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

2. Deletion of Policy 4310 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Payroll** – second reading

Motion: To accept the second reading to delete Policy 4310 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Payroll**, waiving the reading.

(M. Sherman)  
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
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)

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

1. Amended Policy 8150 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations *Complaints from the Community*** – second reading

Motion: To accept the second reading of Amended Policy 8150 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations *Complaints from the Community***, waiving the reading  
(E. Brennan)  
(P. Mighdoll)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
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. Amended Policy 8211 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations *Organization and Function of School Councils*** – second reading

Motion: To accept the second reading of Amended Policy 8211 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Organization and Function of School Councils**, waiving the reading.

(E. Brennan)  
(J. Nunnari)

The Superintendent spoke to this policy and the amended language, explaining the budget process.

Questions were raised about training for School Council members, with agreement being reached that such training is beneficial and should be looked into before the start of the next school year. A friendly amendment was made, and accepted by the maker of the motion, to insert the word “annual” in the last sentence of the policy so that sentence reads: “The District shall provide annual training opportunities for School Council members.”

Motion: To accept the second reading of Amended Policy 8211 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Organization and Function of School Councils**, changing the last sentence of the policy to read: “The District shall provide annual training opportunities for School Council members.” waiving the reading.

(E. Brennan)  
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl  
Michael Sherman  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
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)

As this Ad Hoc Subcommittee has completed its assignments, Chair Livdahl thanked the members and dissolved this subcommittee. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Conrad has agreed to provide Chair Livdahl with a summary of how Member Towns will appointment representatives to serve on the Audit Advisory Board.

Chair Livdahl called upon Member Plourde, Chair of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Downsize the School Committee, asking that Member Plourde report to the School Committee on action(s) taken at the first meeting of that subcommittee, which took place March 23, 2006. Chair Plourde distributed a survey on the Advantages & Disadvantages of Downsizing Membership of the School Committee, asking School Committee members to complete the survey and return the forms to him at the April 10, 2006 School Committee meeting. Minutes of the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting will appear in the next Superintendent's Report. It is anticipated that representatives from the Member Towns will attend the next meeting of this subcommittee, scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2006.

H. Building Committees – 9:50 PM

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

The next meeting of the High School Building Committee is March 29<sup>th</sup>. Tours of the project will be scheduled towards the end of April/first part of May.

9:48 PM Member Mighdoll left the table.

9:49 PM Member Ahearn left the table

9:50 PM Member Ahearn returned to the table.



9:51 PM Member Mighdoll returned to the table.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan

The Rutland Building Committee will have a presentation prepared for the April 10<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting in order to update the School Committee on progress being made at that site. It is hoped that a tour for School Committee members can be scheduled in May.

- I. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School (T. Ackerman), Chocksett Middle School (N. Plourde for 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)

Chair Livdahl asked that School Council representatives report on activities at the various School Council meetings.

VI. Public Hearing

Kenneth O'Brien, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

Steve Hammond, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

Chair Livdahl asked Member Nunnari if he wished to have his suggestion regarding the election of School Committee chairs be brought forward at this meeting. Member Nunnari declined, deferring to a later School Committee meeting.

VII. New Business

IX. Adjournment – 10:00 PM

Motion: To adjourn.

(D. Gibbs)  
(C. Bazinet)

Motion was passed by consensus.

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP/rlp/School Committee/Minutes