

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1127, Monday, April 9, 2007

Cafeteria
Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Mark James
Kathleen Sweeney	Judith Newton
Cynthia Ahearn	John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Michael Sherman
Steven Hammond	Joseph Sova
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Ackerman	Kelly Maxwell
Shirley Conrad	Edward Pescaro
Melinda Coyle	Tammy Tod
David Gibbs	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Jack Locke, Director of Operations
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Nathaniel Flynn
Alexandra O'Connor

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

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:07 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Watson addressed those present, explaining the intent of the public hearing session.

Glenn Gaudette, Holden, addressed the School Committee, speaking of the upcoming Stand for Children rally to take place April 25, 2007.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the Annual Budget Hearing Minutes of the WRSD held on March 26, 2007.

The minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing held March 26, 2007 were approved by consensus, with Member Newton abstaining.

- B. Approval of the 1126th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 26, 2007

The minutes of the regular meeting held March 26, 2007 were approved by consensus, with Member Newton abstaining.

- C. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 26, 2007

Motion: To approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on March 26, 2007, not to be released.

(J. Sova)
(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

Abstained:
Cynthia Ahearn
Judith Newton

(Motion passed 11-0-2)

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. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson reminded the Committee of the May 1, 2007 MASC Day on the Hill rally in Boston and asked members who are interested in attending to speak to her. Member Carter asked about transportation, which has not yet been organized. Chair Watson also mentioned the Stand for Children rally, which Mr. Gaudette spoke of.

Chair Watson asked members to hold aside Monday, April 30th, in the event a special School Committee needs to be scheduled. She also informed the Committee that the May meetings (organizational and regular) have been scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, 2007.

Chair Watson introduced Glenn Gaudette, Strategic Plan Steering Committee Chair, who addressed the Committee and gave an update on the progress being made.

Following Mr. Gaudette's address, Chair Watson introduced Chuck Klingler and Dan Felten of Environmental Compliance Services, Inc. who addressed the School Committee on oil remediation needed at the Jefferson School. A PowerPoint presentation was shown (attachment 2). Following Mr. Klingler's and Mr. Felten's presentation, the Committee asked questions of them. Following the question and answer period, Chair Watson thanked Mr. Klingler and Mr. Felten, who then left the meeting.

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

Mr. Flynn updated the Committee on the status of the auto shop at the high school. He also reported on a trip to Spain that high school students are on.

Ms. O'Connor reported to the School Committee on recent sports activities and on the upcoming junior class and senior class proms and the end-of-the year senior class trip. She also reported on the April 3, 2007 lock down drill conducted at the high school.

Member Carter acknowledged how involved and informed both Nathaniel and Lexie have been this year and the students' commitment to serving on the Student Advisory Committee was recognized by a round of applause.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Chair Watson reported on the March 29th meeting of the Steering Committee and informed the Committee of the next meeting scheduled for April 12th.

Chair Watson referred to Attachments 18, 19 and 20 of the Superintendent's April 5th report (attachments 3, 4 & 5). Calling the Committee's attention first to Attachment 19 (Mission Statement), she read aloud the "mission statement," explaining that the first paragraph on Attachment 19 is not a part of the "statement."

Motion: Endorse the Draft *Mission Statement*, as presented.

(M. Sherman)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney

Robert Carter

Steven Hammond

Judith Newton

John Nunnari

Norman Plourde

Michael Sherman

Joseph Sova

Opposed:

Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Mark James
Robert Imber

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 8-4-1)

Motion: Endorse the Draft *Preamble*, as presented.

(M. Sherman)

(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chair Watson explained that the first paragraph under “Values and Beliefs” will be stricken from the approved Core Values and Beliefs.

Motion: Endorse the Draft *Core Values and Beliefs*.

(J. Sova)

(R. Carter)

There was much discussion of the language contained in #1 Commitment to Excellence. During this discussion, Member Sherman noted that the amended language being suggested was not the intent of the Steering Committee and suggested that the Core Values and Beliefs be sent back to the Steering Committee to amend, rather than the full School Committee amending the language.

Motion: To amend Core Values and Beliefs paragraph #1, Committee to Excellence to read: **1. Commitment to Excellence** All must share the **educational** experience by **providing of learning, and provide** the collaborative learning environment necessary for the other core values to be achieved. Educational excellence requires that everyone strive for continual growth and improvement.

(K. Sweeney)

(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney
Robert Imber
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 3-9-1)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter

Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet
Mark James
Joseph Sova

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 9-3-1)

D. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, T. Ackerman, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, C. Bazinet, R. Carter, S. Conrad, R. Imber, M. Sherman)

Chair Watson reported on the April 4, 2007 meeting of the Management Subcommittee. She explained the amendments to policies, noting one correction on policy 1311 (“policy District” should read “District policies”), waiving the reading.

8:34 PM Member Carter left the table.

The Superintendent explained that Policy 5241.11 (**Policy Relating to Personnel Management Standards for Employment**) needs administrative attention before School Committee approval and should be omitted from the first reading at this meeting.

8:36 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

Student Representative Lexie O’Connor asked if there is a policy relating to students similar to AP5281.7 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Leaving the Building During the School Day**. She explained the rules at the high school on this matter are “gray.” The Superintendent explained this is addressed in the student handbook, but further explained he can appreciate the feelings of students about the increase in structure at the high school this year.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy AP1111 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School Committee Member Authority**, Amended Policy AP1311 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Committee-Superintendent Relationship**, Amended Policy AP5240 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Fraud Prevention Policy**, Amended Policy AP5281.7 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Leaving the Building During the School Day**, Amended Policy AP5281.8 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Small Necessities Leave**, Amended Policy AP5290.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Superintendent and Executive Staff Vacation Policy**.
(R. Imber)
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To remand Amended Policy AP5241.11 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Standards for Employment** to the Management Subcommittee.
(J. Sova)
(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported on the April 5, 2007 meeting of the Education Subcommittee and announced that subcommittee has concluded its work for this year.

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

Subcommittee Chair Sherman told the Committee that the Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet at 6:00 PM on April 10th to review that subcommittee's portion of the Superintendent's evaluation and, following that meeting, the subcommittee will meet with the Budget Advisory Task Force at 7:00 PM.

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

The Community Outreach Subcommittee met immediately before the School Committee meeting this date. Subcommittee Chair Sweeney asked School Committee members to submit their biographical information to Chair Watson, who would then

pass along the information to the Central Office for inclusion on the District website.

Subcommittee Chair Sweeney reported that no action will be taken to arrange activities between WRHS students and Worcester school students until the new principal at Wachusett has taken on his duties. The Superintendent did report that on April 26, 2007 representatives of Wachusett Regional High School Best Buddies program will visit Worcester Technical High School.

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

In Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad's absence, Vice-chair Newton reported the Audit Advisory Board will meet on April 12, 2007 in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

- I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

Chair Watson spoke of the previously mentioned ad hoc subcommittee, which was to be the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Study the Towns' Representation on the School Committee. She explained that the charge does not seem to be complete enough since the Regional Agreement needs to be reviewed in its entirety in the upcoming year. Member Nunnari gave further explanation.

Motion: To change the name of the proposed Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Study the Towns' Representation on the School Committee to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement.

(J. Nunnari)
(M. Sherman)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Robert Imber

Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

J. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

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

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

In Member Pescaro's absence, there was no report 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)

Member Bazinet reported on the April 5th Davis Hill School Council meeting.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Newton asked the Superintendent to explain how the use of a breathalyzer at high school functions will be administered. The Superintendent responded to her question, explaining student rights will not be violated, reasonable cause will warrant use, and it will be used as a deterrent. Student

Representative O'Connor explained that the tickets to the proms will clearly state there will be a breathalyzer at these functions.

At Member Sova's request, the Superintendent reported on the April 3rd lock down drill at the high school.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To appropriate Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$222,495 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for Naquag Elementary School.

(J. Nunnari)

(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a multi-year contract with Environmental Compliance Services, Inc. (ECS).

(J. Sova)

(S. Hammond)

Upon inquiry, it was explained that this vote will allow the administration to negotiate a contract with Environmental Compliance Services, Inc. Discussion of the Jefferson School oil remediation ensued.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Carter)
(J. Sova)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney

Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp