

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1110, Monday, April 24, 2006
7:00 PM

Cafeteria
Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Mark James
Michael Sherman, Vice-chair	Mary Catherine Maher
Thomas Ackerman	Kelly Maxwell
Cynthia Ahearn	John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet	Norman Plourde
Elizabeth Brennan	Kathleen Sweeney (7:09 PM)
Robert Carter	Tammy Tod (8:00 PM)
Shirley Conrad	Margaret Watson
David Gibbs	

Committee Members Absent:

Phillip Mighdoll	Judith Newton
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Administration Present:

Thomas Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
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 7:03 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2)

II. Secretary's Report – 7:05 PM

Motion: To direct the chair to write a letter to the Boards of Selectmen of the member towns, clarifying that selectmen representatives were not in fact eliminated from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Downsize the School Committee, as the March 1st motion made no allowances for any such appointments in the first

place. Further that a copy of the original motion of March 1st along with the follow up motion April 1st [April 12th] be included in the correspondence.

(M. James)

(D. Gibbs)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Nunnari
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Elizabeth Brennan
Shirley Conrad
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney

Abstained:

Alice Livdahl

(Motion passed 9-6-1)

- A. Approval of 1109th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 12, 2006 – approved by consensus, with Members Ackerman, Bazinet and Conrad abstaining.
- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes (Part 1) of the WRSD Committee held on April 12, 2006

Motion: Approval of minutes of April 12, 2006 Executive Session (Part 1), to be released.

(D. Gibbs)

(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Elizabeth Brennan

Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mary Catherine Maher
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell

(Motion passed 10-0-6)

- C. Approval of Executive Session Minutes (Part 2) of the WRSD Committee held on April 12, 2006 - *Copies of minutes to be distributed at April 24, 2006 School Committee meeting, to be approved in Executive Session*
- D. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on December 12, 2005 - *Copies of minutes to be distributed at April 24, 2006 School Committee meeting, to be approved in Executive Session*

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.

Member Watson questioned why on the Treasurer's Report a checking account for Chaffins School continues to be listed. Comptroller Brennan to look into the matter.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Livdahl expressed her thanks to Committee members for the support given her during her tenure as Chair. She corrected a misquote which appeared in the April 20, 2006 edition of *The Landmark*. She reminded the Committee of the Day on the Hill and the school funding rally planned to take place in Boston on April 26, 2006. Also on that date, there will be a tour of the high school project for members interested in viewing the progress of the construction project.

Chair Livdahl addressed Attachment 4 of the April 19, 2006 Superintendent's Report (*Summary of Actions Taken by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee in Response to a Report Issued by the Massachusetts Inspector General in May 2005*). Lengthy discussion ensued.

B. Student Advisory Committee

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

No student members were present.

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

Management Subcommittee Chair Livdahl distributed copies of the Superintendent Evaluation Period: October 1, 2005 to April 3, 2006 (attachment 3) along with copies of her hand written tally sheets (attachment 4). The School Committee's addressing the Superintendent's evaluation at this time was debated. The Chair reviewed the summary for the School Committee.

Motion: The School Committee take a five minute recess to review the Superintendent Evaluation summary and take a vote on acting on the evaluation this date or at a later date.

(K. Maxwell)
(K. Sweeney)

Following discussion of this matter, Member Maxwell withdrew the motion.

Motion: To approve the report of the data collected by the Chair through the School Committee Evaluation of the Superintendent of

Schools document and further to task the Management Subcommittee to use this data to identify performance areas for goal setting in the coming year.

(M. Sherman)
(E. Brennan)

8:24 PM Member Maxwell left the table.

A friendly amendment was made by Member James to direct the Chair to draft a summative evaluation and to bring that information back to the School Committee for action.

8:26 PM Member Maxwell returned to the table.

Following discussion, the maker and the seconder of the motion accepted the friendly amendment.

Motion: To move the question.

(R. Carter)
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Alice Livdahl

(Motion passed 16-0-1)

Motion: To approve the report of the Chair that summarizes data collected through the School Committee Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools document, to direct the Chair to draft a summative narrative from that data and to task the Management Subcommittee to use this data to identify performance areas for goal setting in the coming year.

(M. Sherman)
(E. Brennan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet
Margaret Watson

Abstained:

Alice Livdahl

(Motion passed 14-2-1)

A special meeting of the School Committee will be posted for Thursday, April 27, 2006, at 7:00 PM in the Davis Hill cafeteria.

Motion: To engage the Superintendent in negotiations to extend or renew his contact.

(M. Sherman)
(E. Brennan)

Member Sherman spoke to his motion.

Motion: To table the main motion to the next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting.

(K. Maxwell)
(T. Tod)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Shirley Conrad
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Margaret Watson

Abstained:

Alice Livdahl

(Motion failed 6-10-1)

8:50 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

The Superintendent addressed the School Committee.

8:51 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

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

David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
Tammy Tod

Abstained:
Norman Plourde

(Motion passed 17-1-1)

8:55 PM Chair Livdahl called for a five minute recess.

9:00 PM the meeting was called back to order.

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

1. Amended Policy 6435 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Weapons** – second reading

Motion: To accept the second reading of Amended Policy 6435 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Weapons**, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:
In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde

Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The following two policy readings were taken out of order.

2. Draft Policy 6618 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Nutrition and Wellness Policy*** – second reading

Motion: To accept the second reading of Draft Policy 6618 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Nutrition and Wellness Policy***, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:
In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. Amended Policy 6540 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Fund-Raising by Students*** – second reading

Motion: To accept the second reading of Amended Policy 6540 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Fund-Raising by Students***, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)

(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. Amended Policy 6910 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Student Records*** – second reading

Motion: To accept the second reading of Amended Policy 6910 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Student Records***, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Education Subcommittee Chair Watson read a Statement RE:
Wachusett Charitable Trust (attachment 5).

Motion: The School Committee, through its Chair, take steps to finalize the trust document according to Attorney Leo McCabe's directions, establishing the Wachusett Regional School District Charitable Foundation.

(M. Watson)
(M. James)

Vote:
In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Alice Livdahl

(Motion passed 15-0-1)

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

The Business/Finance Subcommittee has not met since April 12, 2006

1. Deletion of Policy 4714.5 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Report**, as a result of action by the Business/Finance Subcommittee on March 15, 2006 – first reading

Motion: To accept the first reading to delete Policy 4714.5 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Report**, waiving the reading.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Conrad)

Vote:
In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To authorize the expenditure of up to an additional \$1,350 to Deutsch Williams Brooks DeRensis & Holland for legal

consultation concerning policy review and advice in connection with matters brought forward in the May 2005 Inspector General Report.

(M. Sherman)

(M. C. Maher)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To extend the appointment of sitting members of the Business/Finance Subcommittee until such time as a new Business/Finance Subcommittee is appointed, in order to process warrant articles.

(M. Sherman)

(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher

Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

9:10 PM Member Gibbs returned to the table (following the recess).

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

The Subcommittee met immediately before this School Committee meeting and approved the Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting minutes of April 3, 2006. Subcommittee Chair Brennan reported to the Committee the remaining PTA/PTO meetings the Superintendent is scheduled to attend to discuss the FY07 appropriation. A hard copy of the draft PowerPoint presentation being prepared for showing at Annual Town Meetings was distributed (attachment 6) and the Superintendent outlined contents.

- G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Downsize the School Committee (N. Plourde, Chair, C. Ahearn, R. Carter, K. Sweeney, T. Tod)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde reported that the next meeting will be April 25, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

- H. Building Committees

High School – Kelly Maxwell

A tour of the site is planned for Wednesday, April 26, 2006, starting at 5:00 PM, to be followed by a Building Committee meeting at 6:00 PM.

Rutland – Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan

The Rutland Building Committee met on April 13, 2006. Member Brennan gave a report on progress being made.

9:17 PM Municipal Representative Kenneth O'Brien joined the meeting.

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

Members reported on recent School Council meetings.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

The Superintendent addressed his memo to the School Committee dated April 13, 2006 (Attachment 3, Superintendent's Report of April 19, 2006) RE: School Business Manager.

Motion: To endorse the Superintendent's recommendation with regard to the School Business Manager position, as outlined in his memorandum to the School Committee dated April 13, 2006.

(S. Conrad)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Elizabeth Brennan

(Motion passed 16-0-1)

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To authorize that surpluses in any and all FY06 Appropriation categories be transferred to Instructional Support – District Administration, Regular Education, Special Education and Vocational Education.

(J. Nunnari)

(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VIII. Public Hearing

IX. Unfinished Business

X. New Business

The Team Review Instrument – Summary of Survey (attachment 7) will be available to School Committee members at the end of the School Committee meeting.

Member Bazinet asked that the Chair remind School Committee members that executive session discussions are private, which Chair Livdahl did.

Member Nunnari thanked Chair Livdahl, for her service as School Committee Chair, and the other members of the School Committee who did not seek re-election. A round of applause followed.

Member James asked how/where the *Summary of Actions Taken by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee in Response to a Report Issued by the Massachusetts Inspector General in May 2005* will be handled.

Motion: The School Committee endorse and release the *Summary of Actions Taken by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee in Response to a Report Issued by the Massachusetts Inspector General in May 2005* as presented by Chair Alice Livdahl.

(M. Sherman)
(E. Brennan)

9:56 PM Member Maxwell left the meeting.

9:56 PM Member Tod left the meeting.

Motion: Move the question.

(R. Carter)
(E. Brennan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney

Opposed:
Margaret Watson

Abstained:
David Gibbs

(Motion passed 13-1-1)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney

Opposed:
Cynthia Bazinet
David Gibbs
Mark James
Margaret Watson

Abstained:
Alice Livdahl
Thomas Ackerman
Mary Catherine Maher

(Motion passed 8-4-3)

Members Bazinet, Gibbs, James and Watson requested it be noted in the record that they are dissenters and wish to be absolved from voting on the endorsement of the *Summary of Actions Taken by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee in Response to a Report Issued by the Massachusetts Inspector General in May 2005*. Member Brennan publicly noted that she takes great offense to the assuming that she endorsed this summary on the assumption she would not hold a School Committee seat after the upcoming elections.

Motion: To extend the School Committee meeting for 30 minutes.

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

David Gibbs

(Motion passed 14-1)

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing strategies of collective bargaining and contract negotiations, to return to public session.

(E. Brennan)

(R. Carter)

10:01 Member Gibbs left the meeting.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Return to public session at 10:27 PM.

Motion: To release the approved Agreement between Wachusett Regional School District and Wachusett Regional Nurses Association July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2007.

(M. James)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Nunnari)
(M. Sherman)

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp