

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1129, Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Mark James
Cynthia Bazinet, Vice-chair	Duncan Leith
Thomas Ackerman	Judith Newton
Cynthia Ahearn	John Nunnari
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Colleen Cipro	Michael Sherman
Shirley Conrad	Joseph Sova
Melinda Coyle	Kathleen Sweeney
Steven Hammond	Marcie Zaharee
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

None

Administration Present:

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

Student Representatives Present:

None

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 7:20 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Tammy Tod, Rutland, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Al Ferron, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Lee Ross, Rutland, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the 1128th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 23, 2007

Note was made that the copy of the Superintendent's Evaluation attached to the draft minutes contains errors, as that was the copy that was presented and discussed at the April 23, 2007 School Committee meeting. Chair Watson explained the minor typographical and spelling errors have been corrected and a clean copy of the Superintendent's Evaluation will be available for all School Committee members, once signed by both the Chair of the School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools.

Approval of the 1128th regular meeting minutes was deferred until the June 11, 2007 School Committee meeting, in order for the vote recorded on page 15 of the draft minutes, which reflects a roll call vote of the School Committee, to be researched. A member pointed out it was a voice vote, not a roll call vote.

- B. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on May 3, 2007.

Chair Watson explained to new members that if a member was not at a particular meeting, they should abstain from voting on the acceptance of the minutes.

The minutes of the May 3, 2007 special meeting of the School Committee were approved by consensus, with Members Ackerman, Cipro, Imber, Leith, Sova and Zaharee abstaining.

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 welcomed new elected/newly re-elected Members Bazinet, Cipro, Imber, Leith, Nunnari, Sova and Zaharee.

Chair Watson pointed out to the members that the form polling members on their desire to serve on certain subcommittees was included in the Superintendent's Report. Members should complete

the form and turn it into Chair Watson. She will be working on subcommittee assignments.

Copies of the 2007-2008 School Improvement Plans were made available to members. Chair Watson reminded members of the School Improvement Plan review scheduled for Friday, June 1, 2007, in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. She asked members to sign up for the time slots they expected to sit in on these reviews.

The high school graduation will take place on Saturday, June 9, 2007, at 1:00 PM at the DCU Center in Worcester. Chair Watson plans to attend and encouraged other members to attend if they are able. The middle school 8th grade graduations are scheduled for Tuesday, June 19th. Chair Watson asked for volunteers to attend these ceremonies. The following will attend on behalf of the School Committee: Mountview Middle School, Cynthia Bazinet; Paxton Center School, Melinda Coyle; Thomas Prince School, Kathleen Sweeney; Central Tree Middle School, John Nunnari; Chocksett Middle School, Joseph Sova.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Neither student representative was present.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Chair Watson reported the next meeting of the Steering Committee will be May 24, 2007.

D. Management Subcommittee

There is nothing to report at this time.

E. Education Subcommittee

There is nothing to report at this time.

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

The members of this subcommittee will continue to serve until Chair Watson appoints the new Business/Finance Subcommittee. It was noted that pursuant to policy, when appointed the members of the new Business/Finance Subcommittee and the Chair of the School Committee will receive training by The District administration and the Treasurer in warrant-related policy and procedure. This training will take place within thirty (30) days after the School Committee's annual organizational meeting.

G. Community Outreach Subcommittee

Member Sweeney spoke on behalf of the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy AP8150 *Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations* Complaints from the Community, waiving the reading.

(K. Sweeney)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Colleen Cipro
Robert Imber
Joseph Sova

Present:

Melinda Coyle

(Motion passed 15-0-3-1 recorded as present)

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy AP8211 *Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations* **Organization and Function of School Councils**, waiving the reading.

(K. Sweeney)
(M. James)

There was discussion of the third bulleted item on page B. More than one School Committee representative can be annually designated to serve as an ex-officio member. A friendly motion was made, and accepted by the makers of the motion, to add “(s)” in the third bullet on page B, following the words “representative”, “member,” “non-voting member.”

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy AP8211 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Organization and Function of School Councils**, pluralizing the words “representative,” “member,” and non-voting member” in the third bullet on page B of amended policy 8211.

(K. Sweeney)
(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Robert Imber
Joseph Sova

(Motion passed 15-0-4)

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported the next meeting has been called for June 14, 2007.

I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Nunnari, Chair, M. Coyle, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Nunnari reported this newly formed subcommittee met on May 22, 2007 and will meet again on June 6, 2007. The ad hoc subcommittee has prepared a timeline, with 2/1/08 being the projected conclusion.

J. Building Committees

1. High School

Member Leith, who is Chair of the High School Building Committee gave an update on activities at the high school site. He reported it is anticipated the modulars will be kept on site until fall 2007. The Superintendent also spoke on the progress of the project. Members asked questions of the Superintendent and Member Leith.

- K. Central Tree Middle School, Chocksett Middle School, Davis Hill Elementary School, Dawson Elementary School, Glenwood Elementary School, Houghton Elementary School, Mayo Elementary School, Mountview Middle School, Naquag Elementary School, Paxton Center School, Thomas Prince School, Wachusett Regional High School, Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Member Sweeney reported on the Thomas Prince School School Council meeting held May 22, 2007. She informed the School Committee that on June 6, 2007, a program will be presented by Evan Graber at TPS; she invited all interested to attend.

V. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report

Members asked a variety of questions relating to materials contained in the Superintendent's Report. There was a discussion regarding full day kindergarten vs. half day. Chair Watson and Member Sherman will take this topic under advisement for Strategic Plan Steering Committee consideration.

8:22 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

8:24 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Amend 2007 School Committee Meeting Schedule (attachment 5)

Motion: To approve the amended 2007 School Committee Meeting Schedule, as presented.

(S. Hammond)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Colleen Cipro
Robert Imber
Joseph Sova

(Motion passed 16-0-3)

When asked about changing the location of the School Committee meetings back to the high school, the Superintendent made comment that the Media Center at the high school probably won't be a viable option.

2. School Improvement Plan Review Schedule – June 1, 2007 (attachment 6)

Motion: To accept the School Improvement Plan Review Schedule
– June 1, 2007, as presented.

(C. Bazinet)
(S.Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Colleen Cipro
Robert Imber
Joseph Sova

(Motion passed 16-0-3)

VI. Public Hearing

No one from the public wished to address the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VIII. New Business

Member Leith praised the School Committee for the way the meetings are conducted.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Carter)
(M. Coyle)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Colleen Cipro
Robert Imber
Joseph Sova

(Motion passed 16-0-3)

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

