

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1111, Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Cafeteria  
Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Steven Hammond
Kathleen Sweeney, Vice-chair	Mark James
Thomas Ackerman	Kelly Maxwell
Cynthia Ahearn	Judith Newton
John Bangrazi	John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet	Edward Pescaro
Robert Carter (8:15 PM)	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Michael Sherman
Melinda Coyle	Tammy Tod
David Gibbs	

*Committee Members Absent:*

None

*Administration Present:*

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
John Locke, Interim Director of Operations  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent  
Tina Callahan, Administrative Assistant

*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 8:13 PM.

I. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to speak.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1110<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD  
Committee held on April 24, 2006

Because the minutes did not reflect which member seconded a motion made (as recorded on page 17) approval of these minutes was deferred to the June 12, 2006 School Committee meeting. Chair Watson will contact former School Committee member Elizabeth Brennan to determine if she had seconded the motion.

B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 24, 2006

Motion: To approve Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 24, 2006, to be released.

(S. Conrad)

(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Mark James  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson  
John Bangrazi  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Kelly Maxwell  
Edward Pescaro  
Tammy Tod

(Motion passed 11-0-8)

C. Approval of 274<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 27, 2006

Motion: To approve 274<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 27, 2006.

(S. Conrad)  
(K. Sweeney)

Vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Mark James  
Michael Sherman

Opposed:  
None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson  
John Bangrazi  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Tammy Tod

(Motion passed 8-0-11)

- D. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on May 16, 2006

Approval of the executive session minutes of May 16, 2006 deferred to this meeting's executive session.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson 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. Committee Reports

- A. Chair's Opening Remarks
- B. Student Advisory Committee

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

Dave Mullaney reported to the School Committee that this would be his last meeting for this school year. He reported that he and the other two student representatives are frustrated by their lack of knowledge of what role they are to play at School Committee meetings. He suggested meeting with several School Committee members in order to get direction, and that information/direction would be shared with the Student Council before the appointing of Student Advisory Committee representatives for next year. Chair Watson and Members Bazinet, Gibbs, Newton, Nunnari, Plourde and Sherman all indicated a willingness to meet to come up with direction for students serving in the capacity in the future. Member James suggested a written orientation packet for Student Advisory members would be useful. Member Plourde voiced his opinion that having a copy of the Student Council By-Laws to review would be helpful in order to ascertain if there are any conflicts between the By-Laws and Massachusetts General Laws.

Chair Watson thanked Dave for his participation this year and asked that he extend the thanks of the School Committee to Marissa Johnson and Chrissie Smith.

- C. Management Subcommittee

Motion to Commit: That the conduct of contract negotiations with the Superintendent be referred to a committee consisting of one elected representatives from each Member Town and legal counsel.

(M. James)

(R. Carter)

Following discussion of this motion, Member Conrad made the friendly amendment that the committee be an ad hoc subcommittee with representatives being appointed. This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker and the seconder of the motion.

Motion to Commit: That the conduct of contract negotiations with the Superintendent be referred to an ad hoc subcommittee consisting of one appointed representative from each Member Town and legal counsel.

(M. James)  
(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 18-0-1)

Following this vote, Chair Watson asked for volunteers to serve on this ad hoc subcommittee. Members Ackerman (Rutland), Ahearn (Paxton), Bangrazi (Princeton), Coyle (Paxton), Gibbs (Sterling) all volunteered. Chair Watson will name this ad hoc subcommittee shortly. Member James mentioned legal counsel attendance and meetings being held in executive session.

Member Gibbs referred to the two job descriptions which were included with the Superintendent's Report (Business Manager and Director of Human Resources). The Superintendent reminded the members that as he had not yet signed the job descriptions, they were not yet enacted. Further discussion of this topic will continue under Discussion of Report, later on the agenda.

D. Education Subcommittee

Nothing to report.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, M. James, J. Nunnari, J. Newton, T. Tod)

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 – second reading

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

(M. Sherman)

(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 18-0-1)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman noted the FY07 budget passed at all five Annual Town Meetings. A round of applause followed.

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee

Nothing to report.

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 asked members to hold onto Attachments 15 and 16, which were included in the May 19<sup>th</sup> Superintendent's Report. The next meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee will be called for some time in July.

H. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

At the request of Member Maxwell, Superintendent Pandiscio gave an update, as Member Maxwell had to leave the last High School Building Committee before it concluded.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan

Motion: That former School Committee member Elizabeth Brennan continue to serve on the Rutland Building Committee as a liaison/advisor to the School Committee

(R. Carter)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari

Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:  
None

Abstained:  
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 18-0-1)

Member Gibbs voiced his opinion that a current School Committee member should also serve on the Rutland Building Committee. Member Pescaro volunteered to serve on this building committee, but would need to see a schedule of meetings before committing.

- I. School Council Reports: 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, and Wachusett Regional High School

Motion: The Wachusett Regional School District Special Education Parent Advisory Council be added to the School Council Reports listing and a School Committee liaison be appointed to attend the meetings of the Special Education PAC and report on such meetings to the School Committee.

(T. Tod)  
(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell



John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:  
None

Abstained:  
Margaret Watson  
Judith Newton

(Motion passed 17-0-2)

9:04 PM Dave Mullaney left the School Committee meeting.

Chair Watson distributed the Subcommittee/School Council Requests sheet, asking members to add the Special Education Parent Advisory Council to the listing and to indicate their preference for subcommittee membership (attachment 2).

Chair Watson circulated the School Improvement Plan Presentation Schedule, asking members to sign up to show which presentations, scheduled for June 7, 2006, they will sit in on (attachment 3). The suggestion was made that for next year's presentations, schools in each town be grouped together.

Middle school 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduations are scheduled for Friday, June 16, 2006. The following members volunteered to attend and represent the School Committee:

Mountview Middle School, Holden:	Kelly Maxwell
Paxton Center School, Paxton:	Cynthia Ahearn
Thomas Prince School, Princeton:	John Bangrazi
Central Tree Middle School, Rutland:	Thomas Ackerman
Chocksett Middle School, Sterling:	Michael Sherman

Wachusett Regional High School's graduation is planned for Saturday, June 10, 2006, at the DCU Center in Worcester. Members Newton, Nunnari and Tod indicated they plan to attend.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

The proposed job description for the Business Manager was readdressed. The Superintendent spoke to concerns voiced by Committee members. The Superintendent gave the history of

developing the job description, noting the review by the Management Subcommittee before being forwarded to the full School Committee.

Motion: The School Committee approve the Business Manager job description as presented.

(M. Sherman)  
(S. Conrad)

Discussion on this matter continued.

Motion: To table this motion.

(K. Maxwell)  
(D. Gibbs)

Member Sherman suggested postponing action on this motion to a time certain, June 12, 2006. This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Motion: To postpone approval of the Business Manager job description, as presented, to a time certain.

(K. Maxwell)  
(D. Gibbs)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Cynthia Bazinet  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Kathleen Sweeney

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 6-12-1)

Discussion of the Business Manager position continued.

9:38 PM Municipal Representative Kenneth O'Brien joined the meeting.

Motion: To move the question.

(K. Sweeney)  
(T. Ackerman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 18-0-1)

Motion: The School Committee approve the Business Manager job description as presented.

(M. Sherman)  
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

David Gibbs

Abstained:

Margaret Watson  
Melinda Coyle

(Motion passed 16-1-2)

The proposed job description for the Director of Human Resources had been shared with the School Committee for information purposes, as this job description does not need action of the School Committee.

The Superintendent asked the members to brainstorm and make suggestions to develop a list of topical events of interest to the School Committee for monthly presentations. It is hoped that a presentation by those involved with Science Seminar at the high school could be planned for the June 12<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Amend 2006 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion: To amend the 2006 School Committee meeting calendar as presented.

(M. Sherman)  
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 18-0-1)

2. School Improvement Plan Review Schedule – June 7, 2006

Motion: To approve School Improvement Plan Review  
Schedule – June 7, 2006, as presented.

(J. Nunnari)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad

Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:  
None

Abstained:  
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 18-0-1)

3. Recommend that whereas the School Committee on April 24, 2006 authorized the transfer of all remaining balances by Appropriation Category to the Instructional Support appropriation categories (Regular Education, Special Education and Vocational Education), that prior to such transfer the amount of \$126,000 be transferred from the Salaries appropriation category to the Fixed Charges appropriation category; and

recommend that whereas the School Committee on April 24, 2006 authorized the transfer of all remaining balances by Appropriation Category to the Instructional Support appropriation categories (Regular Education, Special Education and Vocational Education), that prior to such transfer the amount of \$100,000 be transferred from the Salaries appropriation category and the amount of \$325,000 be transferred from the Benefits & Insurance appropriate category to the Heat & Utilities appropriation category.

Motion: To extend the School Committee meeting for 30 minutes, until 10:30 PM.  
(D. Gibbs)  
(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman

Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:  
None

Abstained:  
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 18-0-1)

Motion: To approve the recommendation that whereas the School Committee on April 24, 2006 authorized the transfer of all remaining balances by Appropriation Category to the Instructional Support appropriation categories (Regular Education, Special Education and Vocational Education), that prior to such transfer the amount of \$126,000 be transferred from the Salaries appropriation category to the Fixed Charges appropriation category; and

to approve the recommendation that whereas the School Committee on April 24, 2006 authorized the transfer of all remaining balances by Appropriation Category to the Instructional Support appropriation categories (Regular Education, Special Education and Vocational Education), that prior to such transfer the amount of \$100,000 be transferred from the Salaries appropriation category and the amount of \$325,000 be transferred from the Benefits & Insurance appropriate category to the Heat & Utilities appropriation category.

(J. Nunnari)  
(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 18-0-1)

4. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies of collective bargaining and contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel, not to return to public session

VI. Public Hearing

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

Member Carter brought to the attention of the School Committee that the Division 4 election of divisional officers of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees will take place on June 19, 2006, the same date as the special School Committee meeting at which Jerry Wasserman of Future Management Systems, Inc. is scheduled to address the School Committee.



Chair Watson brought to the Committee's attention the School Committee Orientation offerings put in place by MASC. Any members interested in being registered should contact the District Central Office.

10:06 PM Member Gibbs left the table.

Member Newton asked the status of filling the high school principal position. The Superintendent gave an update.

10:14 PM Member Gibbs returned to the table.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing strategies of collective bargaining and contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel, not to return to public session

(M. James)  
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
David Gibbs  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Edward Pescaro  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 18-0-1)

The regular meeting adjourned to executive session at 10:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp