

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1112, Monday, June 12, 2006

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

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

*Committee Members Absent:*

Norman Plourde

*Administration Present:*

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
John Locke, Interim Director of Operations  
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 Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 PM.

I. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to speak.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on May 24, 2006

Member Gibbs pointed out that Member Sweeney's ballot for School Committee chair should be considered invalid as it was not signed by

Member Sweeney. The minutes of the organizational meeting will be changed to reflect this correction. Corrected minutes were approved by consensus.

- B. Approval of 1111<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on May 24, 2006 – Approved by consensus.
- C. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on May 24, 2006 – Approval of the executive session minutes of May 24, 2006 deferred to this meeting's executive session.
- D. Approval of the 1110<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 24, 2006 – Approved by consensus, with Members Coyle and Newton abstaining.

### 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

Chair Watson updated the School Committee on Member Plourde's recovery from surgery.

Chair Watson reported that the June 20, 2006 meeting location of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate a Non-Union Contract has been changed to the Chocksett Middle School library, meeting beginning at 6:00 PM.

Chair Watson reminded Committee members, both new and veteran, of the MASC school committee orientation offerings, referring to attachment #5 of the June 8<sup>th</sup> Superintendent's Report. Chair Watson explained that new school committee members are required to be oriented and this MASC program is worthwhile.

Chair Watson reminded Committee members of the special School Committee meeting on Monday, June 19, 2006, at which time Jerry Wasserman of Future Management Systems will address the Committee. Chair Watson explained that a Steering Committee is being assembled and this Steering Committee will report to the Superintendent. School Committee representatives will be Michael Sherman and Margaret Watson.

Subcommittee and school council liaison appointments have been made. If any Committee members see any problems, they are to contact Chair Watson.

Chair Watson extended the invitation of the Rutland Building Committee to tour the Glenwood Elementary School on Thursday, July 13, 2006, at 5:00 PM, meeting at the Glenwood site.

Chair Watson asked the Superintendent to introduce *Science Seminar* advisor Carol Sullivan and representative students.

Carol Sullivan gave a history lesson on the background of *Science Seminar* and asked each of the eight students in attendance to give a brief explanation of their most recent project. These presentations to the School Committee were very enthusiastically received. Chair Watson thanked Ms. Sullivan and the students for attending and a round of applause followed.

7:37 PM Ms. Sullivan and students left the meeting.

B. Student Advisory Committee

A strategy to orient Student Advisory Committee representatives is being worked on.

C. Management Subcommittee

The reorganized Management Subcommittee has not yet met.

D. Education Subcommittee

The reorganized Education Subcommittee has not yet met.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, M.

The Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, June 21, 2006, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center. There will be one agenda item – training on the warrant process, as required by Policy 4330.

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee

The reorganized Community Outreach Subcommittee has not yet met.

G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

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

Nothing to report.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate Non-Union Contract (C. Ahearn, Chair, T. Ackerman, J. Bangrazi, K. Maxwell, N. Plourde)

This ad hoc subcommittee met on June 5, 2006. The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 20, 2006, at 6:00 PM. The location of this meeting is being changed to the library at the Chocksett Middle School in Sterling.

7:41 PM Member Hammond left the table.

#### H. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

Member Maxwell gave an update on the project. The next meeting of the Building Committee will be Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

The next meeting of the Rutland Building Committee will be Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

7:43 PM Member Hammond returned to the table.

- I. 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/J. Bangrazi), Wachusett Regional High School (M. Sherman/T. Tod), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (T. Tod/C. Ahearn)

Davis Hill School Council liaison Bazinet reported on the impending retirement of Principal Karen Gaskin.

Motion: To recognize Karen Gaskin for all her years of services to the Wachusett Regional School District.

(C. Bazinet)  
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson  
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  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Dawson School Council liaison James reported on the impending retirement of Principal Charles Gruszka.

Motion: To recognize Charles Gruszka for all his years of services to the Wachusett Regional School District.

(M. James)  
(J. Nunnari)

Member Carter made a friendly amendment to include mention of the Dawson Elementary School IALAC program in the motion. This friendly amendment was accepted by both the maker and the seconder of the motion.

Motion: To recognize Charles Gruszka for all his years of service to the Wachusett Regional School District and to recognize the positive impact Mr. Gruszka's IALAC (I Am Loving and Caring) program has had on the personality of Dawson Elementary School.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson  
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  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Special Education Parent Advisory Council liaison Tod reported that the Special Education PAC met on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed copies of the July 2005 and the June 12, 2006 DRAFT WRSD Table of Organization (attachments 2 & 3). The Superintendent explained the changes. Following a question, it was confirmed that the Comptroller position responsibilities will be absorbed by the Business Manager position. A member asked for an explanation of the difference between a Line Function and a Staff Function, which the Superintendent gave.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Recommendation: To authorize the Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer, acting under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 16(g) as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the

District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 17.

Member Gibbs raised the question as to benefits of the Member Towns making assessment payments on a quarterly basis. Member Nunnari noted that this has been investigated in the past, but the Member Towns did not express interest in making this change.

Member Newton recused herself from voting on the motion, assuring the School Committee that her job will not affect her membership on the Business/Finance Subcommittee.

Motion: To authorize the Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer, acting under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 16(g) as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 17.

(K. Maxwell)

(D. Gibbs)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson  
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  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Newton returned to the table.

2. Approval of Superintendent Vacation Carry-Over

Motion: To approve the request of Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio that five vacation days accrued in FY06 be carried over to be used in FY07.

(D. Gibbs)  
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson  
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  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. Approval of School Improvement Plans

Chair Watson asked members to preserve their copies of the 2006-2007 School Improvement Plans and thanked those members who participated in this annual review.

There was discussion of these plans and how and/or if information is shared among principals.



Motion: To accepted Wachusett Regional School District School Improvement Plans as presented and reviewed on June 7, 2006.

(K. Sweeney)

(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson  
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  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. Approval of FY07 Pre-Approved Vendor List

Motion: To approve the FY07 Pre-Approved Vendor List (attachment 4).

(K. Maxwell)

(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

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

Opposed:  
None

Abstained:  
Melinda Coyle

(Motion passed 17-0-1)

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

VI. Public Hearing

VII. Unfinished Business

The matter of the establishing of a Wachusett Charitable Trust was brought forward for discussion. What present members know of history was shared.

Motion: To refer the matter of establishing a Wachusett Charitable Trust to the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

(D. Gibbs)  
(T. Tod)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson  
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  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VIII. New Business

Member Gibbs referenced attachment 15 of the June 8, 2006 Superintendent's Report, One Man/One Vote Calculation as of 1/1/03, as had been prepared by Attorney Leo McCabe.

Motion: Request District Counsel Leo McCabe to prepare a one man/one vote Calculation of Voter Representation based on current Member Town population.

(D. Gibbs)  
(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson  
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  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The matter of Member Towns paying assessment on a quarterly basis was brought forward again.

Motion: To refer to the Business/Finance Subcommittee the issue of changing Member Town assessment payments to a quarterly basis.

(M. Sherman)

(M. Coyle)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson  
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  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To purchase Robert's Rules of Order for School Committee members.

(S. Conrad)

(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson  
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  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

IX. Adjournment

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

(K. Maxwell)  
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson  
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

Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The regular meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp