

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #262 Friday, June 24, 2005
6:30 PM

Library
Central Tree Middle School
Rutland

Committee Members Present:

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Mark James
Michael Sherman, Vice-chair	Mary Catherine Maher (7:05 PM)
Cynthia Ahearn	Kelly Maxwell
Cynthia Bazinet	Judith Newton
Elizabeth Brennan	John Nunnari
Charles Capparelli	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Cheryl Rauh
Shirley Conrad	Kathleen Sweeney
David Gibbs	

Committee Members Absent:

Phillip Mighdoll	Margaret Watson
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Administration Present:

Rebecca Petersen, Interim Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

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

Chair Alice Livdahl called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Livdahl explained members of the public who wished would be allowed to speak, but asked that comments be limited to 90 seconds.

James Covello addressed the School Committee as a member of Wachusett Regional High School teaching staff, the WREA union president and an individual with common sense. Mr. Covello spoke in

favor of Doctor Pandiscio's proposal, citing his opinion that Doctor Pandiscio would be an excellent choice to serve as superintendent.

John Sullivan, Mountview Middle School Principal, spoke in support of Doctor Pandiscio.

Duncan Leith, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Maureen Caouette, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Ralph Rondinone, Sterling, spoke in support of Doctor Pandiscio.

Ralph Caouette, Holden, spoke in support of Doctor Pandiscio.

Jack Brennan, Rutland, spoke in support of Doctor Pandiscio.

Melissa Rondinone, Sterling, spoke in support of Doctor Pandiscio.

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

Doug Briggs, Rutland, spoke in support of Doctor Pandiscio.

John Rokicki, Rutland, prepared a letter in support of Doctor Pandiscio (attachment 5), but was not at the meeting to read his statement.

Chair Livdahl closed the public hearing portion of the meeting at 6:55 PM.

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Livdahl thanked all present for attending the meeting, particularly since it was called for a Friday evening in June. Chair Livdahl stressed the importance of filling the Superintendent's position, noting that time is short between the present and September 30, 2005, Doctor Tutela's date of retirement.

III. Recommendation of the Superintendent Search Committee

Superintendent Search Committee Chair Robert Carter stated the recommendation of that committee was to bring Doctor Thomas Pandiscio's proposal forward to the full School Committee and that the full School Committee interview Doctor Pandiscio.

Chair Livdahl explained the format of the interview process. Members would be given the opportunity to question Doctor Pandiscio, in a randomly selected order, in the areas of Education, Business/Finance and Management/community issues.

Doctor Pandiscio's resume was distributed to Committee Members. Doctor Pandiscio addressed the Committee.

Member Rauh left the table at 7:00 PM.

Member Maher joined the meeting at 7:04 PM.

Member Rauh returned to the table at 7:05 PM.

Members asked questions in the following order:

Education:

Member Ahearn
Member Rauh
Member Conrad
Member Capparelli
Member Newton
Member Brennan
Member Plourde
Member Gibbs
Member Maher
Member Carter
Member James
Member Sherman
Member Bazinet
Member Sweeney
Member Maxwell
Member Nunnari

Business/Finance:

Member Conrad

Member Carter left the table at 7:46 PM

Member Carter returned to the table at 7:50 PM.

Member Sherman
Member Gibbs
Member Plourde
Member Nunnari
Member Ahearn
Member Newton
Member Rauh – pass
Member Maher
Member Maxwell
Member James
Member Sweeney

Member Rauh left the table at 8:12 PM

Member Capparelli
Member Brennan

Member Capparelli left the table at 8:15 PM

Member Sweeney left the table at 8:16 PM

Member Capparelli returned to the table at 8:17 PM

Member Carter
Member Bazinet

Members Rauh and Sweeney returned to the table at 8:21 PM.

Chair Livdahl explained the format for this final set of questions would be an open forum.

Management/Community Relations

Member Plourde
Member Capparelli
Member Brennan
Member Conrad
Member Newton
Member Carter
Member Sherman
Member Gibbs

At 8:38 PM Chair Livdahl closed the interview of Doctor Thomas Pandiscio.

Member Plourde read a prepared statement (attachment 7).

Motion: Move to appoint Dr. Thomas G. Pandiscio as superintendent of the Wachusett Regional School District beginning on a mutually agreeable starting date, on or before October 1, 2005, and ending on June 30, 2007, with a decision whether or not to renew on or before June 30, 2006, and to enter into negotiations with him.

(K. Maxwell)

(M. James)

Member Maxwell read the *Qualities and Qualifications* portion of the Draft NESDEC brochure prepared in anticipation of the Superintendent Search (attachment 8).

Member Bazinet read a prepared statement (attachment 9).

Motion: To move the question

(M. James)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Cheryl Rauh

Opposed:

Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Judith Newton
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney

(Motion passed 11-6)

Motion: To adjourn.

(C. Bazinet)

Motion was withdrawn by Member Cynthia Bazinet.

Motion: Reconsider motion so as to have vote of Committee be unanimous support of Doctor Thomas Pandiscio.

(D. Gibbs)

(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Kathleen Sweeney

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Judith Newton

(Motion passed 16-0-1)

Motion: Reconsider motion to appoint Dr. Thomas G. Pandiscio as superintendent of the Wachusett Regional School District beginning on a mutually agreeable starting date, on or before October 1, 2005, and

ending on June 30, 2007, with a decision whether or not to renew on or before June 30, 2006, and to enter into negotiations with him.

(D. Gibbs)

(R. Cater)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Kathleen Sweeney

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Judith Newton

(Motion passed 16-0-1)

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(C. Bazinet)

(M. James)

Motion passed by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

ADT:rlp/School Committee/Minutes