

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1095, Monday, July 11, 2005
7:00 PM

Library
Central Tree Middle School

Committee Members Present:

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Mary Catherine Maher
Michael Sherman, Vice-chair	Kelly Maxwell
Cynthia Ahearn (7:08 PM)	Phillip Mighdoll
Cynthia Bazinet	Judith Newton
Elizabeth Brennan	John Nunnari
Charles Capparelli	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Kathleen Sweeney
David Gibbs	Tammy Tod (7:07 PM)
Mark James	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Shirley Conrad	Cheryl Rauh
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Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Interim Director of Operations
Peter Brennan, Comptroller
Rebecca Petersen, Interim Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

District Counsel Leo McCabe (8:00 PM).

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

Chair Livdahl called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Chair Livdahl requested those members of the public wishing to speak limit their comments to three minutes.

I. Public Hearing

David Lowenthal, Princeton, read a prepared statement (attachment 2)

Edwin Meyer, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1094th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on June 6, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Rauh and Tod abstaining.
- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on June 6, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Gibbs, Maher, Rauh and Tod abstaining.
- C. Approval of the 262nd Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on June 24, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Tod and Watson abstaining.
- D. Approval of the 263rd Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on June 27, 2005 – approved by consensus.
- E. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on June 30, 2005 – approved by consensus, Member Nunnari abstaining.

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.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Livdahl welcomed Tammy Tod, newly appointed School Committee Member representing Rutland.

Chair Livdahl called a meeting of the Management Subcommittee Wednesday, July 20, 2005, 6:30 PM in the Curriculum Center. The Superintendent advised Chair Livdahl

he would be unable to attend that meeting; Members Brennan and Watson will be unable to attend.

B. Student Advisory Committee

No one from the Student Advisory Committee was present.

C. Management Subcommittee (A. Livdahl, Chair, C. Ahearn, E. Brennan, C. Capparelli, R. Carter, M. C. Maher, J. Newton, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

Member Brennan spoke on behalf of the Management Subcommittee, explaining discussions which had taken place regarding the proposed amendment:

Amendment to Wachusett Regional School District By-Laws, Article 2, Section 7.

Article 2, Section 7. *Duties of the Secretary/Assistant Secretary*

The ~~COMMITTEE Superintendent~~ shall **APPOINT A** ~~serve-as~~ Secretary to the Committee ~~and~~ **WHO MAY NOT BE A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND, IF NOT, MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR THIS WORK. THE SECRETARY** shall send out notices of all regular meetings and notices of all special meetings of the Committee, at least forty-eight hours before the meeting. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings and shall be the custodian of all records. The Secretary shall also prepare such reports as may be required by the State Department of Education and shall submit an annual report to the selectmen of the member towns. The Secretary shall be the custodian of the treasurer's bond. ~~The Superintendent may delegate the performance of any of these duties to staff.~~

The Chair shall appoint an Assistant Secretary to perform the routine work ordinarily done by the Secretary. The Assistant Secretary need not be a member of the Committee and, if not, may be reimbursed for this work.

A sign-in sheet will be made available for those who wish to sign in at all meetings of the full School Committee for those who wish to become part of the public record.

Motion: To defer action on this proposed amendment until further study by the Management Subcommittee
(D. Gibbs)
(M. James)

Vice-Chair Sherman made a friendly amendment that action on this proposed amendment be taken by the end of September 2005.

Motion: To defer action on this proposed amendment until further study by the Management Subcommittee, with action to be taken by the end of September 2005.
(D. Gibbs)
(M. James)

Roll Call Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

Education Subcommittee Chair Margaret Watson reported the Education Subcommittee has not yet met.

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

Business/Finance Chair Michael Sherman spoke of the July 14, 2005 meeting to which representatives of the Member Towns had been invited to sit with representatives of the School Committee to discuss the FY06 Appropriation. In the letter of invitation to the Member Towns, RVSP was not mentioned.

The Superintendent distributed copies of a letter dated July 8, 2005 to Chair Livdahl from Holden Selectboard Chair Joseph Sullivan on behalf of the Municipal Working Group (attachment 3). Many questions are contained in Mr. Sullivan's letter and answers to the questions were discussed. A Statement of Revenues and Other Sources, and Expenditures and Other Uses – Budget and Actual for the Year Ended June 30, 2004 was distributed (attachment 4). The Superintendent stressed the fact that the Towns vote on their assessments; the School Committee votes the Appropriation. A Member noted that the July 14, 2005 meeting is suppose to be a negotiation session, not a question and answer meeting. The Municipal Working Group is not an officially recognized body representing the Member Towns. A common date (possibly August 9, 2005) for the five Member Towns to hold Town Meetings is the desire of the Committee.

Motion: To authorize Vice-Chair Michael Sherman to prepare answers to the questions posed in the July 8, 2005 letter from the Municipal Working Group to School Committee Chair Alice Livdahl.

(R. Carter)
(K. Sweeney)

Concern was raised regarding who the response from the School Committee would be speaking to, since the Municipal Working Group is not an official body.

A friendly amendment was made by Member Gibbs, seconded by Member Sweeney, that responses to the questions in the July 8, 2005 letter from the Municipal Working Group to School Committee Chair Alice Livdahl be addressed to the individual Member Town Selectboards.

Motion: To authorize Vice-Chair Michael Sherman to prepare answers to the questions posed in the July 8, 2005 letter from the Municipal Working Group to School Committee Chair Alice Livdahl, with letters addressed to the individual Member Town Selectboards.

(R. Carter)
(K. Sweeney)

Roll Call Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Mark James

(Motion passed 17-1)

The topic of a Chair at the July 14, 2005 School Committee meeting was discussed.

Motion: The Chair of the School Committee will serve as Chair at the meeting on July 14, 2005, 6:30 PM, Davis Hill Elementary School.

(R. Carter)
(M. James)

Discussion continued as to the proposed format of the meeting and if it is known who from the Member Towns will be attending.

Member Tammy Tod made a friendly amendment that Community Outreach Chair Elizabeth Brennan chair the July 14, 2005 School Committee meeting. Friendly amendment died due to lack of second.

Motion: To move the question.

(D. Gibbs)
(M. James)

Roll Call Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:

Phillip Mighdoll

(Motion passed 17-0-1)

Roll Call Vote on Main Motion:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet
Margaret Watson

Abstained:

Alice Livdahl
Charles Capparelli
Phillip Mighdoll

(Motion passed 13-2-3)

Member Mighdoll left the table at 8:18 PM.

A July 7, 2005 letter of understanding from P. L. Jones & Associates, P.C. with regard to services to be provided in connection with an audit was distributed (attachment 5). It is anticipated that this audit work will commence on July 13, 2005 and be completed by August 31, 2005. A purchase order for \$7,500 (100 hrs. @ \$75/hr) is being processed. It is the hope of the Committee that this auditing firm not be inundated with phone calls and/or emails regarding their work on this audit. A Member suggested that the firm be asked to keep a log of calls and/or correspondence received regarding Wachusett.

Member Mighdoll returned to the table at 8:21 PM.

Chair Livdahl distributed a July 8, 2005 letter addressed to her from Kenneth A. Marchurs, First Deputy Auditor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts (attachment 6). Chair Livdahl noted that although the office of the Auditor of the Commonwealth does not have the resources to conduct an audit, that office would be willing to review newly instituted policies and plans when developed by Wachusett in connection to the Inspector General's report.

Chair Livdahl moved forward in the agenda to those items requiring School Committee action.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Approval of FY06 Pre-Paid Vendor List

Motion: To approve the FY06 Pre-Paid Vendor List.
(M. James)
(K. Maxwell)

Question was raised regarding Employee Reimbursements being included on the Pre-Paid Vendor List. The Superintendent reminded the Committee that reimbursements for the Superintendent's expenses are not included on the FY06 Pre-Paid Vendor List.

Amended Motion: To approve the FY06 Pre-Paid Vendor List, striking Employee Reimbursements from the list until a policy is in place.

(P. Mighdoll)
(T. Tod)

Roll Call Vote on Amended Motion:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Kelly Maxwell

Phillip Mighdoll
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 8-10)

Motion: To approve the FY06 Pre-Paid Vendor List
(attachment 7).

(M. James)

(K. Maxwell)

Roll Call Vote on Main Motion:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod

Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. To authorize the Superintendent to dispose of surplus District supplies and fixtures located in any District buildings in accordance with the following procedures:

A. Any such property having a value of less than \$1,000 may be disposed of by the Superintendent in accordance with the following procedures: either by advertisement in the newspaper or by yard sale.

B. Any such property having a value of \$1,000 or more shall be disposed of by competitive bidding in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 5 of General Laws Chapter 30B.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of clauses (1) and (2) above, property may be disposed of by the Superintendent by gift or by a transfer for less than fair market value to a charity which has received a federal tax exemption by reason of its charitable nature.

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to dispose of surplus District supplies and fixtures located in any District buildings in accordance with the following procedures:

A. Any such property having a value of less than \$1,000 may be disposed of by the Superintendent in accordance with the following procedures: either by advertisement in the newspaper or by yard sale.

B. Any such property having a value of \$1,000 or more shall be disposed of by competitive bidding in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 5 of General Laws Chapter 30B.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of clauses (A) and (B) above, property may be disposed of by the

Superintendent by gift or by a transfer for less than fair market value to a charity which has received a federal tax exemption by reason of its charitable nature.

Changing (1) and (2) in Paragraph C to (A) and (B).

(D. Gibbs)

(C. Capparelli)

Roll Call Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. To authorize the sale of excess high school topsoil by the District according to provisions of Massachusetts General Laws.

Motion: To authorize the sale of excess high school topsoil by the District according to provision of Massachusetts General Laws.

(M. Sherman)

(K. Maxwell)

Roll Call Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. Approval of the sale by the District of a \$7,000,000 3.75% Revenue Anticipation Note dated July 15, 2005 and payable June 30, 2006, to Parker/Hunter at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$58,808.00.

Motion: To approve of the sale by the District of a \$7,000,000 3.75% Revenue Anticipation Note dated July 15, 2005 and payable June 30, 2006, to Parker/Hunter at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$58,808.00.

(M. Sherman)

(C. Capparelli)

Roll Call Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman

Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

5. Approval of the sale by the District of a \$16,000,000 Bond Anticipation Note to CIBC dated July 15, 2005 with a Net Interest Cost of 2.5296%, payable October 14, 2005.

Motion: To approve of the sale by the District of a \$16,000,000 Bond Anticipation Note to CIBC dated July 15, 2005 with a Net Interest Cost of 2.5296%, payable October 14, 2005.

(M. Sherman)
(C. Capparelli)

Roll Call Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs

Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

6. Executive Session to discuss strategies related to collective bargaining and to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.

Motion: To enter Executive Session to discuss strategies related to collective bargaining and to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel at the end of the meeting, not to return to public session.

(J. Nunnari)
(K. Maxwell)

Roll Call Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari

Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

IV. Committee Reports (continued)

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (E. Brennan, Chair, S. Conrad, K. Maxwell, J. Newton, N. Plourde)

Community Outreach Subcommittee to meet Tuesday, July 12, 2005.

- G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Superintendent Search Committee (R. Carter, Chair, C. Ahearn, C. Bazinet, E. Brennan, A. Livdahl, K. Maxwell, P. Mighdoll, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney)

2. Annual Audit Subcommittee for FY05 (C. Conrad, Chair, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton)

Annual Audit Subcommittee for FY05 to meet Tuesday, July 26, 2005.

- H. Building Committees

1. High School
2. Rutland – Naquag/Central Tree
3. Rutland – Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman asked that the Business/Finance Subcommittee minutes included in the Superintendent's Report of June 24, 2005 be considered draft minutes.

- I. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School (C. Rauh), Chocksett Middle School (C. Capparelli), 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 (M. C. Maher)

VI. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 8).

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 9, 2004
- B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 28, 2005
- C. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 11, 2005

VIII. New Business

Member Judith Newton asked that the records show that her abstaining when the vote was taken appointing Thomas Pandiscio as Superintendent was not a vote against Dr. Pandiscio. The full School Committee, including Member Newton, is behind Dr. Pandiscio's appointment.

IX. Adjourn to executive session at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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