

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1131st Monday, July 23, 2007

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Robert Imber
Cynthia Bazinet	Julianne Kelley
Robert Carter	Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro	John Nunnari
Shirley Conrad	Norman Plourde
Melinda Coyle	Kathleen Sweeney
Steven Hammond	Marcie Zaharee

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Ackerman	Judith Newton
Cynthia Ahearn	Michael Sherman
Mark James	Joseph Sova

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Jack Locke, Director of Operations
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
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 7:04 PM.

Motion: To amend the agenda, moving the first public hearing to immediately follow the Committee Reports (IV.).

(C. Bazinet)

(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson

Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
Melinda Coyle

(Motion passed 13-1)

I. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1130th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD
Committee held on June 11, 2007

The minutes of the regular meeting held June 11, 2007 were approved by consensus, with Member Carter abstaining.

II. 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.

III. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson informed the Committee that a New Member Orientation has tentatively been scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 2007, from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. Coffee and lunch will be provided. She asked members to speak with her directly if there is a problem with that date.

Chair Watson has nominated Member John Nunnari for the MASC Lifetime Achievement Award. She will keep the Committee posted on this nomination.

Chair Watson called the Committee's attention to attachment #6 in the Superintendent's Report, reporting that the membership of the Audit Advisory Board is complete for the upcoming year.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Student representatives have not yet been appointed.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Superintendent Pandiscio called the Committee's attention to attachment #6 in his last report, the Goals arrived at by the Strategic Plan Steering Committee. He explained how he envisions success measures/goals being implemented. Chair Watson opened the floor to questions from Committee members regarding these goals.

Motion: For the purpose of a thorough discussion and review of a strategic plan, a special School Committee meeting will be scheduled devoted to review of the goals prepared by the Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

(R. Carter)

(K. Sweeney)

7:20 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

Discussion continued. It was suggested that the Community Outreach and Education Subcommittees be given the opportunity to review the portions of the goals document that pertain to action by those subcommittees. The Superintendent reminded the Committee that two days of professional development are being planned for August 21 and 22, during which implementation of the Strategic Plan will be addressed. School Committee approval of the process before those dates is important.

7:24 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde

Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Shirley Conrad

Present:
Melinda Coyle

(Motion passed 12-0-1-1 recorded as present)

Motion: To approve the process to develop the strategies and activities that address the goals arrived at by the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, as outlined by Superintendent Tom Pandiscio in his July 19, 2007 report to the School Committee and as further explained at this School Committee meeting.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

Present:
Melinda Coyle

(Motion passed 13-0-1 recorded as present)

- D. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, D. Leith, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, C. Bazinet, R. Carter, R. Imber, J. Nunnari, M. Sherman, J. Sova)

Motion: Since no evidence has been brought forward to substantiate the allegation of racism and discrimination, the claim has no merit, and the School Committee considers the matter closed.

(C Bazinet)

(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

Present:

Melinda Coyle

(Motion passed 13-0-1 recorded as present)

Motion: It is recommended that the Wachusett Regional Nurses Association address their issues through the agreed-upon bargaining process, and access to the School Committee during the public hearing portion of regularly scheduled meetings would be premature.

(C. Bazinet)

(D. Leith)

Discussion ensued.

Motion: To move the question.

(N. Plourde)

(M. Coyle)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter

Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney

Opposed:
Julianne Kelley

Abstained:
Margaret Watson
Colleen Cipro
Marcie Zaharee

(Motion passed 10-1-3)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Robert Imber
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde

Opposed:
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Kathleen Sweeney

Abstained:
Margaret Watson
Colleen Cipro
Julianne Kelley
Marcie Zaharee

(Motion failed 7-3-4)

- E. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, J. Kelley, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney, M. Zaharee)

Education Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reminded the Committee that the next meeting of the Education Subcommittee will be July 25, 2007.

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

In Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman's absence, Vice-chair Conrad reported on that subcommittee's meeting on July 19, 2007, to which representatives of the Member Towns had been invited.

- G. Community Outreach Subcommittee (K. Sweeney, Chair, N. Plourde, Vice-chair, C. Cipro, M. Coyle, J. Newton)

The Committee's attention was called to attachment #19 in the July 19, 2007 Superintendent's Report – **Guidelines for Public Hearing**. The Guidelines were read aloud.

Motion: To accept the Guidelines for Public Hearing as amended by the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

(M. Coyle)

(N. Plourde)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported on the June 14, 2007 meeting of that Board.

- 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 on the June 10, 2007 meeting and told that the next meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee will be Tuesday, July 24, 2007.

J. Building Committees

1. High School

Member Leith reported progress continues to be made. Superintendent Pandiscio answered questions asked by Committee members.

K. School Council Reports

Central Tree Middle School (J. Nunnari), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Kelley), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (M. Sherman), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (C. Ahearn), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/K. Sweeney), Wachusett Regional High School (D. Leith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (M. Zaharee)

The School Councils have not met this summer.

IV. Public Hearing

Chair Watson read the Prologue to the Public Hearing (attachment 2).

Cyndy Janik, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Craig Bovaird, Princeton, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

Melinda Johnson, Paxton, read a prepared statement (attachment 5).

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Watson questioned why a Student Activity Account for Houghton Elementary School is not listed in the Treasurer's Report. It was explained that Houghton Elementary School does not have a Student Activity Account.

There was discussion about the School Choice Survey, the results of which were included in the Superintendent's Report.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

There were no items requiring action by the School Committee

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

There was no new business brought before the Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and contract negotiations, not to return to public session.

(D. Leith)

(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp