

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1096, Monday, August 8, 2005
7:00 PM

Library
Central Tree Middle School

Committee Members Present:

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Kelly Maxwell
Michael Sherman, Vice-chair	Phillip Mighdoll
Cynthia Ahearn	Judith Newton
Charles Capparelli	John Nunnari
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Kathleen Sweeney
David Gibbs	Tammy Tod
Mark James	Margaret Watson
Mary Catherine Maher	

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Cheryl Rauh

Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Interim Director of Operations
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 7:04 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Edwin Meyer, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1095th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 11, 2005 – approved by consensus, Member Conrad abstaining.
- B. Approval of Executive Session (Part A) Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 11, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Capparelli and Carter abstaining, not to be released.
- C. Approval of Executive Session (Part B) Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 11, 2005 – no minutes made available.
- D. Approval of the 264th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 14, 2005 – approved by consensus.
- E. Approval of the 265th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 20th, 2005 – Distributed by Chair Livdahl, to be addressed at next regular School Committee meeting, not to be released.
- F. Approval of the 266th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 27th, 2005 – no minutes made available.

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 is seeking volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to address the Superintendent's Evaluation document.
Chair Livdahl advised the next agenda item to be addressed, Business/Finance Subcommittee, would be taken out of order.

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

Business/Finance Chair Michael Sherman distributed copies of the Proposed Amended FY06 Appropriation (tan sheet) dated 8/8/05 (attachment 2) and a memo of August 4, 2005 from Treasurer James Dunbar to Michael Sherman, Chairman, Business and Finance Subcommittee (attachment 3).

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman moved that the School Committee adopt the “tan sheet.” Member Watson moved that the School Committee reconsider the “blue sheet.”

Motion: To adopt proposed amended FY06 appropriation dated August 8, 2005.

(M. Sherman)

(M. Watson)

Discussion continued regarding this proposed amended FY06 appropriation.

Motion: To move the question.

(P. Mighdoll)

(R. Carter)

A friendly amendment was made by Members Conrad and Gibbs to adjust the proposed amended FY06 appropriation by reducing state aid line by \$245,678 and increasing the transfer from revolving accounts by \$245,678. Friendly amendment was accepted.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl

Michael Sherman

Cynthia Ahearn

Charles Capparelli

Robert Carter

Shirley Conrad

David Gibbs

Mark James

Mary Catherine Maher

Kelly Maxwell

Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
John Nunnari

(Motion passed 16-1)

The Superintendent distributed copies of his August 8, 2005 correspondence to the School Committee outlining the three proposed Appropriation Budget scenarios as had been requested by the School Committee at the July 28, 2005 Special School Committee Meeting (attachment 4). The Superintendent explained these were not budget reduction *proposals*, but were budget reduction *scenarios*.

7:30 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

7:32 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

Motion: To refer the three budget reduction scenarios to the Business/Finance Subcommittee for Business/Finance Subcommittee input.

(P. Mighdoll)
(M. James)

Member Watson made a friendly amendment to also refer the three budget reduction scenarios to the Education Subcommittee for that committee's input with regard to educational impact. Members Mighdoll and James accepted Member Watson's friendly amendment.

Motion: To refer the three budget reduction scenarios to the Business/Finance Subcommittee and the Education Subcommittee for subcommittee input.

(P. Mighdoll)
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Phillip Mighdoll
John Nunnari
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod

Abstained:

Charles Capparelli

(Motion failed 5-11-1)

Member Sherman made the comment that referral of a proposed budget to the subcommittees would be beneficial, but such should have been done earlier in the budget process, rather than after Annual Town Meetings.

8:02 PM Member Nunnari left the table.

8:03 PM Member Nunnari returned to the table.

Motion: To reduce the appropriation budget of \$59,914,459 by \$500,000, taking the reduction from Instructional Support line and reducing assessments proportionally.

(M. Sherman)
(C. Capparelli)

Chair Livdahl advised the Members she would let there be discussion regarding this matter, but discussion would be limited to 10 minutes at which point a vote would be taken or the motion tabled in order to go

into executive session by 8:25 PM. Members voiced comments and concerns regarding the motion.

Motion: To table.

(D. Gibbs)
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Michael Sherman
Charles Capparelli
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Judith Newton
Tammy Tod

Abstained:

Alice Livdahl

(Motion passed 12-4-1)

Motion: To recess to executive sessions, to return to public session, to review strategies related to legal matters and to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn

Robert Carter
Charles Capparelli
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed unanimously)

The School Committee entered Executive Session at 8:25 PM.

The School Committee meeting returned to public session at 9:45 PM.

Motion: To extend the meeting to 10:30 PM.
(C. Capparelli)
(M. Sherman)

Motion passed by consensus.

Motion: To take motion from table.
(M. Sherman)
(R. Carter)

Motion passed by consensus.

Motion: To reduce the appropriation budget of \$59,914,459 by \$500,000, taking the reduction from Instructional Support line and reducing assessments proportionally.
(M. Sherman)
(C. Capparelli)

Member Sherman spoke to this motion, wishing to be on record as stating he would not move from this appropriation number, not by \$1. The Superintendent once again advised the Committee that the law states the assessments to the towns must be reduced, even if the budget does not pass. The Superintendent also

reminded the School Committee that in addition to voting on the appropriation, they are also appropriating E&D and Revolving Fund transfers.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Charles Capparelli
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Phillip Mighdoll
John Nunnari
Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 11-6)

The Superintendent advised Chair Livdahl it would be the Chair's responsibility to direct Treasurer James Dunbar regarding amended assessment letters to the Member Towns.

Motion: To extend the meeting to 11:00 PM.

(R. Carter)

(K. Sweeney)

Members Carter and Sweeney agreed to hold this motion.

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Marie Harrington, Ph.D. as Administrator of Special Education.

Members debated this appointment, noting some Members' interest in being a part of the interview process for the

Administrator of Special Education position. Other Members commented that it is not the role of the School Committee to hire District staff.

Motion: To table the appointment of Marie Harrington, Ph.D. as Administrator of Special Education until October 1, 2005 when the new superintendent takes office.

(C. Capparelli)
(T. Tod)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Charles Capparelli
Cynthia Ahearn
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Norman Plourde
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Alice Livdahl
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Michael Sherman
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 6-11)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher

Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Cynthia Ahearn
Charles Capparelli
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Tammy Tod

(Motion passed 12-5)

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to transfer \$299, the indirect cost value of summer 2005 MCAS grant, to professional development revolving account.

(D. Gibbs)

(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To endorse the application of the Wachusett Regional School District to the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative for certification of the high school renovation/addition project as a Massachusetts Green School and to sign a School Committee resolution so stating.

(M. James)

(D. Gibbs)

Motion was passed by consensus.

Member Conrad distributed copies of her letter of August 3, 2005 to Scott McIntire, CPA of Melanson Heath & Company and the attached proposed resolution (attachment 5).

Motion: To endorse Member Conrad's letter of August 3, 2005 to Scott McIntire, CPA of Melanson Heath & Company and the attached proposed resolution, not to exceed \$3,000.

(M. Sherman)

(C. Capparelli)

Motion was passed by consensus.

The Superintendent distributed copies of correspondence dated July 28, 2005 from Ken Pereira, President of Massachusetts Association of School Committees, to Massachusetts School Committee Members extending an invitation to School Committee Members to meet with Lt. Governor Kerry Healy at roundtable discussion meetings (attachment 6).

Member Carter inquired as to what the School Committee's stance would be at the August 9th Town Meetings. Chair Livdahl had copies of discussions that took place at the Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting which would give School Committee Members guidance when preparing for their Town Meeting (attachment 7).

Member James distributed a sheet entitled "Reasons to Defeat Article 2 Holden (The Joint Resolution Formula)" to guide School Committee Members in preparation for the August 9th meetings (attachment 8).

Motion: To adjourn.

Motion was passed by consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:rlp/School Committee/Minutes