

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1132 Monday, August 13, 2007

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Julianne Kelley
Cynthia Bazinet, Vice-chair	Judith Newton
Thomas Ackerman	John Nunnari
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Colleen Cipro	Joseph Sova
Melinda Coyle	Kathleen Sweeney
Mark James	Marcie Zaharee

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Ahearn	Robert Imber
Shirley Conrad	Duncan Leith
Steven Hammond	Michael Sherman

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Jack Locke, Director of Operations
Darryll McCall, Interim 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 7:03 PM.

I. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1131st Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 23, 2007

It was noted that on Page 9, under VIII New Business, the sentence should read "There was no new business brought before the Committee. The minutes, as corrected, of the regular meeting held

July 23, 2007 were approved by consensus, with Members Ackerman, James, Newton and Sova abstaining.

B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 23, 2007

Chair Watson asked members to review the minutes and if no corrections of substance were noted, these minutes could be approved in public session. If substantive corrections are noted, the minutes would be approved in executive session. It was corrected that the first word of the second sentence in the second paragraph should be plural (Members).

Motion: To approve the executive session minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 23, 2007, as corrected.

(C. Bazinet)

(K. Sweeney)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Colleen Cipro
Julianne Kelley
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Thomas Ackerman
Mark James
Judith Newton
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

(Motion passed 9-0-5)

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 was pleased to announce that Member John Nunnari will receive a Lifetime Achievement 2007 Award from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. This award will be presented at a luncheon at the MASC/MASS Joint Conference in November.

Chair Watson informed the Committee that the New Member Orientation, previously reported as being scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 2007, will now be held on Saturday, November 3, 2007. Members interested in attending were asked to speak with the Chair.

Chair Watson reported that petitions signed by members of the public and forwarded to the District Central Office by the Wachusett Nurses Association are available for review at the Central Office.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Chair Watson reported that for the elections held at the end of the school year, there were no students running for the seats on the Student Advisory Committee. It is hoped that by September interest can be generated.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Copies of the Strategic Plan Goals and Success Measures were distributed and will be addressed later in this meeting (attachment 2).

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

Management Subcommittee Chair Watson will call a meeting of this subcommittee sometime the first part of September.

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 reported there was no quorum at the July 25, 2007 meeting. The Education Subcommittee will meet next on August 22, 2007.

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

Neither Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman nor Vice-chair Conrad was present to report on behalf of the Subcommittee.

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

Community Outreach Chair Sweeney reported on the August 2nd meeting, at which time a demonstration of the District website was given.

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

Nothing to report.

- 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 July 24, 2007 meeting and told that the next meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee will be Wednesday, August 15th.

- J. Building Committees

1. High School

In High School Building Committee Chair Leith's absence, Superintendent Pandiscio gave a report on progress at the high school site. He reported site work is nearing completion; paving of the last parking lot is scheduled for next week. It is anticipated the modular building will be removed no later than mid-October. He gave an update on the status of the auto shop. A member asked if plans are being made for a "grand opening" to give the public the opportunity to tour the facility. The Superintendent reported that there will be an open house, perhaps an early winter event. The next Building Committee meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, August 22, 2007. The up-to-date posting was distributed for the School Committee's information (attachment 3).

- 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)

Member Cipro, on behalf of SEPAC liaison Member Zaharee, reported on an August 2, 2007 Special Education Parent Advisory Council meeting/workshop.

No other school councils have met this summer.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Following inquiry by Member Bazinet, the Superintendent reported that the enrollment capacity of the Alternative Education program at the high school could be as high as twenty-two.

Member Carter asked if the reading initiative impacts the WREA contract. Superintendent Pandiscio reported no conflicts to date.

Member Coyle asked the process if a School Committee member would be interested in attending the MASC/MASS Joint Conference. She was told members should contact Chair Watson directly. It was noted that since Member Nunnari will be honored at a luncheon at the Joint Conference, he should get preferential treatment if he wishes to attend.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the entire Strategic Plan, as presented.

(J. Nunnari)

(J. Sova)

Discussion of the Strategic Plan and making the goals "comprehensible" ensued.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Colleen Cipro
Mark James

Julianne Kelley
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To approve the sale by the District of a \$4,000,000, 4.100 percent coupon rate, Revenue Anticipation Note, dated August 21, 2007 and payable December 28, 2007, to Eastern Bank at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$4,962.08.

(M. Coyle)
(M. James)

The Superintendent distributed copies of the August 13, 2007 memorandum from Treasurer James Dunbar (attachment 4).

Member Newton recused herself and left the table.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Colleen Cipro
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Newton returned to the table.

Motion: To authorize the Business Manager to transfer within the same major Appropriation categories surplus account balances to deficit account balances.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Colleen Cipro
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: That the consent to bid as executed by the Treasurer to First Southwest Company, the financial advisor, to bid the note is hereby confirmed.

(M. James)

(M. Coyle)

Member Newton recused herself and left the table.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Colleen Cipro
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney

Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Newton returned to the table.

Motion: To authorize the Business Manager to transfer from surplus major Appropriation categories to deficit Appropriation categories. (From major Appropriation categories Personnel, Operations & Maintenance, Pupil Services, Transportation and Capital, to major Appropriation categories Instructional Support, Special Education, Tuitions and Other Operating Costs.)

(J. Sova)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

Present:
Melinda Coyle

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

Motion: To approve the Evaluation of the Business Manager, as presented.

(J. Nunnari)
(J. Sova)

Superintendent Pandiscio spoke to the Evaluation of Business Manager Peter Brennan. Chair Watson called the Committee's attention to attachment #11 in the August 9, 2007 Superintendent's Report to the School Committee.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Melinda Coyle
Mark James
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Julianne Kelley

(Motion passed 13-0-1)

Motion: To accept grant funds in the amount of \$14,709.58 from the Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Product Cleanup Fund.

(M. Coyle)

(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Colleen Cipro
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova

Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

Motion: That the School Committee not renew the contract with the Superintendent of Schools and begin a nation-wide search for a new Superintendent of Schools.

(M. Coyle)
(N. Plourde)

Discussion ensued.

Motion: To move the question.

(M. James)
(M. Coyle)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Colleen Cipro
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Vote on main motion:

In favor:

Melinda Coyle

Opposed:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

(Motion failed 1 – 13)

Motion: The School Committee take a vote of confidence in
Superintendent of School Thomas G. Pandiscio.

(J. Nunnari)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

Melinda Coyle

Abstained:

Norman Plourde

(Motion passed 12-1-1)

IX. Adjournment

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

(M. James)

(M. Zaharee)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Colleen Cipro
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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