

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1114, Monday, August 14, 2006

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Mark James
Thomas Ackerman	Kelly Maxwell
John Bangrazi	John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet	Edward Pescaro
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Melinda Coyle	Michael Sherman
Steven Hammond	Tammy Tod

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Ahearn	Judith Newton
Shirley Conrad	Kathleen Sweeney
David Gibbs	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Peter Brennan, Comptroller
Jack Locke, Interim Director of Operations
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Before the start of the meeting, School Committee members who were present assembled in the school gymnasium to have a group picture taken by the photographer from *The Landmark*.

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.

Chair Watson distributed copies of the Amended Agenda (attachment 2), seeking a motion and vote to accept.

Motion: To accept the Regular Meeting #1114 Amended Agenda, as presented.

(M. James)

(M. Coyle)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Edward Pescaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

I. Public Hearing

Cynthia Hanson, Princeton, addressed the School Committee, reading a prepared statement (attachment 3).

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1113th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 24, 2006. Chair Watson noted that Member Pescaro's name had been misspelled. Following this correction being made, the minutes were approved by consensus, with Members Maxwell, Pescaro and Tod abstaining.

B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 24, 2006 – Approval of the executive session minutes of July 24, 2006 deferred to this meeting's executive session.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson told that warrants had been circulated for signing.

Chair Watson 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 Watson informed the Committee that in Vice-chair Sweeney's absence at this meeting, Member Bazinet would serve as Vice-chair and Member Sherman would report on behalf of the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

On behalf of Member Sweeney, Chair Watson advised the Committee of Member Sweeney's suggestion that PTA/PTO/School Council liaisons might wish to contact their respective school parent groups to introduce themselves before the start of school year meetings.

Chair Watson reported that a tour for School Committee of the high school project will be scheduled in the near future.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Student representatives for the 2006-2007 school year have not yet been appointed.

C. Management Subcommittee

The Management Subcommittee did not meet on August 7, 2006 due to lack of quorum. This subcommittee will reschedule and will meet in the near future. An agenda item will be a draft policy regarding School Committee members' attendance at conferences.

Chair Watson spoke of the upcoming MASC/MASS Joint Conference scheduled for November 8 – 11, 2006 in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Member Carter has expressed an interest in attending this conference. Other School Committee members interested were asked to speak with Chair Watson.

D. Education Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reviewed the July 26th meeting of the Education Subcommittee and reported that the next meeting will be August 28th at 7:00 PM at the Central Office.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, T. Ackerman, J. Bangrazi, S. Conrad, M. Coyle, D. Gibbs, M. James, J. Newton)

Chair Sherman reported that a meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee will be scheduled in the near future, looking to the week of August 21st or August 28th. He also commented that because

of the substantive changes made to Amended Policy AP4713.1, the reading at this policy will serve as a first reading.

Amended policy - AP4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board**.

(M. Sherman)
(T. Ackerman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Edward Pescaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee

Subcommittee Member Sherman reported on the August 8th meeting of the Community Outreach Subcommittee. One item discussed at that meeting is the role of School Council members and School Council (SIMCO/SIAM) member training that should take place early in the school year.

G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Downsize the School Committee (N. Plourde, Chair, C. Ahearn, R. Carter, K. Sweeney, T. Tod)

Subcommittee Chair Plourde gave a report on activities of this subcommittee. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate Non-Union Contract (C. Ahearn, Chair, T. Ackerman, J. Bangrazi, K. Maxwell, N. Plourde)

In Subcommittee Chair Ahearn's absence, Chair Watson explained to the Committee that the matter of the Superintendent's contract will be discussed in executive session, following this evening's regular meeting.

3. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Employee a District Business Manager (J. Nunnari, Chair, S. Conrad, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Nunnari gave a report of the meeting of August 9th. He reported on certification requirements and the process to be taken to obtain certification as a School Business Manager. As it stands, on behalf of the Subcommittee, Chair Nunnari reported that it may be October or November before the Business Manager position is filled.

H. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

Member Maxwell reported on the high school project, having toured the site on August 9th. The Superintendent also commented on progress.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

Member Pescaro reported on the Glenwood Elementary School project.

- I. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School (T. Ackerman), Chocksett Middle School (S. Conrad), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood Elementary School (E. Pescaro), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (J. Newton), Naquag Elementary School (J. Nunnari), Paxton Center School (M. Coyle), Thomas Prince School (K. Sweeney/J. Bangrazi), Wachusett Regional High School (M. Sherman/T. Tod), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (T. Tod/C. Ahearn)

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Plourde gave a brief history of past MASC/MASS Joint Conferences. Chair Watson explained she plans to discuss School Committee member attendance at this conference under New Business.

At the request of members, Superintendent Pandiscio will seek clarification from Attorney McCabe how voter representation calculation was determined (population vs. voters) when he corresponded with the Superintendent in his letter dated July 31st.

The Superintendent reported that following discussion at the July 24th School Committee meeting, at which time the Committee discussed Bus Radio installing radios in District used buses, a letter was drafted by Attorney McCabe canceling the contract between the District and Bus Radio.

The Superintendent addressed the literacy initiative position paper which he had included with his report. Many members raised questions and made comments regarding this initiative.

Member Bazinet asked the status of implementing the opt-out policy. The Superintendent explained letters will be mailed to all high school students.

In error, page two of Attorney McCabe's August 1st correspondence to Chair Watson RE: Audit Advisory Board/Appointment was not included in the Superintendent's Report to the School Committee. Chair Watson distributed copies of both pages of the letter (attachment 4).

Superintendent Pandiscio called attention to Comptroller Brennan's most recent report to the Superintendent, noting particularly the increase in Heat & Utilities over the prior year. He also pointed out an increase in special education transportation, advising an appropriation adjustment may be necessary.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To approve the sale by the District of a \$4,000,000, 4.25 percent coupon rate, Revenue Anticipation Note, dated August 18, 2006 and payable June 29, 2007, to Eastern Bank at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$19,194.42

(K. Maxwell)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Edward Pescaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Motion: To approve the sale by the District of a \$3,000,000, 4.00 percent coupon rate, Revenue Anticipation Note, dated August 18, 2006 and payable June 29, 2007, to Bank of America at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$7,607.14.

(M. Coyle)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Edward Pescaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. Motion: That the consent to bid as executed by the Treasurer to First Southwest Company, the financial advisor, to bid the \$7,000,000 RAN (Revenue Anticipation Note) is hereby confirmed.

(K. Maxwell)

(T.Ackerman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Edward Pescaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. Motion: That the amount of \$51,639 be appropriated from Chapter 71 Transportation revenues to offset the deficit in the Transportation appropriation category.

(M. Sherman)

(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell

John Nunnari
Edward Pescaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

5. Motion: That the FY06 Final Appropriation Budget be approved as presented. No new funds are to be appropriated except for the \$51,639 in Chapter 71 receipts for FY06.

(M. Sherman)
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:
In favor:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Edward Pescaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VI. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to speak.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

Chair Watson brought before the Committee the matter of School Committee members being reimbursed for expenses incurred when attending a conference/workshop on behalf of the School Committee.

Motion: That the School Committee authorize the District to prepay registration fees for two School Committee members to attend the MASC/MASS Joint Conference scheduled for November 8 – 11, 2006, in Hyannis, Massachusetts

(C. Bazinet)
(J. Nunnari)

Member James made a friendly amendment that the amount authorized be up to \$500 for two “early bird registrations,” plus pay reimbursement for travel, meals and lodging expenses, at the discretion of the Chair. Members Bazinet and Nunnari accepted this friendly amendment.

Motion: That the School Committee authorize the District to prepay registration fees, up to a total of \$500 for conference registration fees, for two School Committee members to attend the MASC/MASS Joint Conference scheduled for November 8 – 11, 2006, in Hyannis, Massachusetts, plus pay reimbursement for travel, meals and lodging expenses, at the discretion of the Chair.

(C. Bazinet)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Edward Pescaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

There was discussion of the article referred to during this evening's first public hearing.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategies of contract negotiations with non-union personnel and pending litigation, not to return to public session.

(M. Sherman)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Edward Pescaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM, taking a ten minute recess before entering executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp