

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1115, Monday, September 11, 2006

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Steven Hammond
Kathleen Sweeney, Vice-chair	Mark James
Thomas Ackerman	Kelly Maxwell
Cynthia Ahearn	Judith Newton
John Bangrazi (8:18 PM)	John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Michael Sherman
Shirley Conrad	Tammy Tod
Melinda Coyle	

*Committee Members Absent:*

David Gibbs	Edward Pescaro
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*Administration Present:*

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
Jack Locke, Interim Director of Operations  
Jason Newton, Director of Student/Information Services  
Peter Brennan, Comptroller  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent  
Marie Harrington, Administrator of Special Education

*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.

Chair Watson addressed those present, explaining the intent of the public hearing session.

I. Public Hearing

Tony Cammuso, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1114<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 14, 2006. The minutes were approved by

consensus, with Members Ahearn, Conrad, Newton and Sweeney abstaining.

B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 14, 2006

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 14, 2006 executive session, to be released.

(M. James)  
(T. Ackerman)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

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

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Kathleen Sweeney  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Shirley Conrad  
Judith Newton

(Motion passed 12-0-4)

Chair Watson read a prepared statement regarding the terms of the Superintendent's contract (attachment 2). Following the reading of this statement, the School Committee gave a round of applause.

Motion: To release the *Employment Contract Between the Wachusett Regional School District and Dr. Thomas Pandiscio Superintendent of Schools* (attachment 3).

(N. Plourde)  
(K. Sweeney)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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 reminded those present of student safety issues, now that school is back in session.

Chair Watson reported that a tour of the high school project for School Committee members has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2006, at 5:30 PM, meeting at the high school. The regular meeting of the School Committee will follow at 7:00 PM at Davis Hill

At 7:16 PM Chair Watson introduced Jason Newton, Director of Student/Information Services and distributed hardcopies of Mr. Newton's PowerPoint presentation (attachment 4). Mr. Newton showed the PowerPoint and discussed details and specifics of the

District's special education program. Following the viewing of the presentation, School Committee members were invited to ask questions of Mr. Newton. Mr. Newton's presentation concluded at 7:46 PM.

7:50 PM Jason Newton and Marie Harrington left the meeting.

B. Student Advisory Committee

High School students Nathaniel Flynn and Alexandra O'Connor were welcomed and thanked for attending. A third high school student (David Mullaney) will also serve on the Student Advisory Committee. Chair Watson informed the Committee that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Orient Student Representatives will meet on September 18, 2006 to review roles and responsibilities of these student representatives.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Chair Watson read aloud a Report on Strategic Planning Committee (attachment 5). Recommendation was made that a public hearing on the Strategic Plan be held before final approval by the School Committee.

D. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, J. Bangrazi, Vice-chair, T. Ackerman, C. Ahearn, R. Carter, D. Gibbs, K. Maxwell)

1. Draft Policy – DP1431 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Attendance at Conferences by School Committee Members** – first reading

In lieu of reading the draft policy language, Chair Watson summarized the intent of this policy.

Motion: To approve the first reading of DP1431 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Attendance at Conferences by School Committee Members**, waiving the reading.

(K. Maxwell)  
(R. Carter)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle

Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Draft policy – DP3460 **Policy Relating to Education Commercialism, Advertising and Propaganda** – first reading.

Chair Watson read this draft policy language, after which discussion followed.

Motion: To refer DP3460 **Policy Relating to Education Commercialism, Advertising and Propaganda** to the Management Subcommittee, inviting all School Committee members to give suggestions on this draft language no later than October 10, 2006, directing the Management Subcommittee to report to the School Committee by the second meeting in October.

(R. Carter)  
(M. Sherman)

Vote:  
*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The next meeting of the Management Subcommittee is scheduled for September 21, 2006.

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

1. Amended policy - AP6617 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Administration of Medication** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP6617 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Administration of Medication**, following reading.

(C. Bazinet)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

8:18 PM Member Bangrazi joined the meeting.

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

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

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

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Note was made that the deadline for applying to serve on the Audit Advisory Board would be October 1, 2006. Letters of interest, along with a resume, should be directed to School Committee Chair Margaret Watson at the Central Office address 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522.

2. Draft policy – DP7143 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Energy Management Conservation Policy** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of DP7143 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Energy Management Conservation**, waiving the reading.

(M. Sherman)

(S. Conrad)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

8:25 PM Member Carter left the table.

- G. Community Outreach Subcommittee (K. Sweeney, Chair, M. Coyle, J. Newton, E. Pescaro, N. Plourde, M. Sherman)

The Community Outreach Subcommittee will meet September 12, 2006.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Study the Size of the Membership of the School Committee (N. Plourde, Chair, R. Carter, M. Coyle, K. Sweeney, T. Tod)

This ad hoc subcommittee will meet on September 13, 2006, at which time there will be a hearing giving the public the opportunity to address the matter of the size of the membership of the School Committee.



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

This ad hoc subcommittee has not met recently.

8:28 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

I. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

Member Maxwell reported the next meeting of the High School Building Committee will be September 13, 2006 and a tour of the site for School Committee members will be conducted on October 10, 2006.

The Superintendent reported on the first week of school for the high school and gave a update on the building project status.

Student representative Alexandra (Lexie) O'Connor commented on the first week of classes at the high school.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

Chair Watson reminded Committee members of the Glenwood Elementary School open house on Sunday, September 17, 2006, at 12 noon at the school site.

- 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)

School Councils have not met yet this school year.

V. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report

The Superintendent gave an overview of the Administrative Retreat held at the Harrington Farm in Princeton on August 28<sup>th</sup>, following Member Carter's inquiry.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

The Superintendent distributed copies of *FY07 Proposed Appropriation 09.11.06* (attachment 6).

1. Motion: To adopt *FY07 Proposed Appropriation 09.11.06* in the amount of \$64,427,068.

(C. Bazinet)  
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Motion: To authorize the establishment of a cafeteria bank account for Glenwood Elementary School at the Spencer Savings Bank

(J. Nunnari)  
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney

Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Copies of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee 2007 School Committee Meeting Schedule – DRAFT.Revised were distributed (attachment 7).

3. Motion: To approve the Revised 2007 School Committee Meeting Calendar, as presented.

(K. Maxwell)  
(T. Ackerman)

Vote:  
*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman

Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Plourde made a statement to the School Committee addressing the possibility of School Committee meeting locations being on a rotating basis throughout the District.

VI. Public Hearing

Erica Ploof and Colleen Cipro, members of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council, introduced themselves and distributed copies of WRSD SEPAC mission statement and Proposed/Tentative Schedule for the 2006-2007 School year (attachment 8).

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

Member Carter asked the Superintendent to consider the “three biggest problems school systems will confront in the next year and his suggested solutions” and to place this matter on the agenda for the October 10, 2006 School Committee meeting.

There was discussion of full day kindergarten programming. It was suggested that this might be a topic of consideration for the strategic plan.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Sherman)  
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
John Bangrazi  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad

Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Kelly Maxwell  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Tammy Tod

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp