

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1097, Monday, September 12, 2005
7:00 PM

Library
Central Tree Middle School

Committee Members Present:

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

Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Interim Director of Operations
Rebecca Petersen, Interim Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).

Chair Livdahl called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

The Superintendent asked to take an agenda item out of order and presented Maureen Floryan with the Superintendent's Recognition Award, thanking Mrs. Floryan for ten years of dedication and service to the children of the Wachusett Regional School District.

Glenn Gaudette, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 3)

Edwin Meyer, Holden, addressed the School Committee expressing concern about the Superintendent's upcoming vacation pay.

Chair Livdahl moved that the presentation of the Amended FY06 Appropriation be taken out of order.

The Superintendent distributed the 9/12/05 FY06 Appropriation Budget and Adopted Amendments (attachment 4). The Superintendent explained to the School Committee that the 9/12/05 proposal had been finalized as late as the morning of September 12, 2005, indicating that the figures were as up-to-date as reasonably possible. The fact that the educational quality will not be compromised by this proposed Appropriation was affirmed by the Superintendent. There was discussion of the Benefits & Insurance line item. The Superintendent addressed the Heat & Utilities line item, at the request of the Chair. When asked by a Member the amount currently in E & D, the Superintendent said there is less than \$50,000 in that account.

School Committee Members agreed to meet with Member Town representatives prior to the October Special Town Meetings:

Holden – Margaret Watson
Paxton – Alice Livdahl
Princeton – Kathleen Sweeney
Rutland – Elizabeth Brennan
Sterling – Shirley Conrad

Chair Livdahl explained that for a vote on the budget to pass, a two-thirds vote of the School Committee is required (14 votes).

Motion: To adopt proposed amended FY06 appropriation dated September 12, 2005.

(J. Nunnari)
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter

Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Phillip Mighdoll

(Motion passed 19-0-1)

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 265th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 20, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Brennan and Watson abstaining.
- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 20, 2005 – approved, with Member Gibbs voting against and Members Brennan and Watson abstaining.
- C. Approval of 267th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 28, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Bazinet, Nunnari and Watson abstaining.
- D. Approval of the 268th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 5, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Bazinet, Brennan, Capparelli, Maher, Sweeney abstaining.

- E. Approval of 1096th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 8, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Brennan and Rauh abstaining.
- F. Approval of Executive Session Minutes (Part A) of the WRSD Committee held on August 8, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Bazinet, Brennan and Rauh abstaining – not to be released.
- G. Approval of 269th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 23, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Brennan and Sherman abstaining.

Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair Elizabeth Brennan distributed copies of the PowerPoint presentation *A Value-Based Budget FY06 Appropriation*, prepared in anticipation of the October 2005 Special Town Meetings (attachment 5).

A recess was called at 7:46 PM to ready the equipment to show the PowerPoint presentation.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:50 PM.

The Committee viewed the PowerPoint presentation. Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair Elizabeth Brennan explained the content in the various slides. School Committee Members were invited to review the presentation and email comments/suggestions to Chair Brennan. Chair Livdahl asked that it be understood that there was no guarantee that comments/suggestions could be worked into the presentation.

7:50 PM Member Carter left the table.

7:52 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

8:05 PM Member Rauh left the table.

8:07 PM Member Rauh returned to the table.

8:09 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

8:10 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

8:15 PM Member Mighdoll left the meeting.

There was discussion regarding the data source (Massachusetts Office of Educational Quality and Accountability) on slide #5. Member Sherman will send the Superintendent an email seeking clarification, which the Superintendent will address and share with the School Committee. The Superintendent explained that District MCAS results are expected shortly. If received in time, these results can be included in the presentation at the Town Meetings.

Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair Brennan reported on discussion which had taken place at the Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting, which met immediately prior to the School Committee meeting. Community Outreach suggestions to attempt to get this information to the public include:

- School Committee Members attend PTO/PTA meetings;
- School Committee Members attend SIMCO/School Council meetings;
- Campaign to bring information/handouts to the public (soccer games, Big Y, Post Offices, etc.);
- Have signs printed. The cost for this will be investigated. A show of hands indicated Members supported the order of signs;
- Member Sherman is slated to be a guest on the Jordan Levy radio program on Thursday, September 15, 2005;
- Piggyback on community events planned in the Member Towns.

Subcommittee Chair Brennan asked that suggestions be emailed to her.

Motion: The School Committee Chair contact Member Town Recreation Departments and other organizations urging a moratorium on sporting events/games being scheduled the same evening as the Special Town Meetings.

(D. Gibbs)
(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James

Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Childcare will be arranged for the evening of the Special Town Meetings.

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 thanked Superintendent Alfred Tutela for his service to the Wachusett Regional School District during the past eleven years. Chair Livdahl welcomed Thomas Pandiscio as the new Superintendent, effective October 1st.

Member Norman Plourde read a prepared statement recognizing the accomplishments of Doctor Alfred Tutela (attachment 6).

Chair Livdahl distributed a letter to the School Committee from Thomas Pandiscio (attachment 7).

Chair Livdahl is seeking a reversal in the order of School Committee business for the months of October and November. Per School Committee By-Laws, during the months when there are two regularly scheduled School Committee meetings, the first

meeting of the month is dedicated to educational programs and the second meeting of the month is dedicated to School Committee business. In the months of October and November 2005, outside speakers will be attending the second School Committee meeting of those two months, necessitating the switching of the focus of business conducted at those meetings.

Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, has agreed to address the School Committee at the October 24, 2005 School Committee meeting. Because representatives of the Member Towns Selectboards and Finance/Advisory Committees will be informed of Mr. Koocher's attendance at the School Committee meeting, it was suggested the meeting be moved to a larger location.

Attorney Naomi Stonberg has offered to address the School Committee on Collective Bargaining Basics. She will attend the November 28, 2005 School Committee meeting.

Motion: To reverse the order of business conducted at the October 2005 and the November 2005 School Committee meetings, the first meeting of each of those months being the "business" meeting and the second meeting of each month being the "program" meeting, as well as changing the time and location of the October 24, 2005 School Committee meeting to 6:30 PM at the Davis Hill Elementary School cafeteria.

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
John Nunnari

Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

In light of the appointment of Thomas Pandiscio as Superintendent, effective October 1, 2005, Chair Livdahl disbanded the Superintendent Search Committee.

Chair Livdahl gave an update on the audit being conducted by P. L. Jones & Associates.

Member Kelly Maxwell has resigned from the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

Cleon Turner has extended an invitation to regional school committee members throughout the Commonwealth to submit issues of concern to the State House. Chair Livdahl would like to accept this invitation and would like to join other regional school committee members at the State House on September 28, 2005. If any School Committee Members are interested in this undertaking, they were asked to contact Chair Livdahl.

A Member brought to the attention of the School Committee inaccuracies which appeared in an article in the September 8, 2005 edition of the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*.

B. Student Advisory Committee

No members of the Student Advisory Committee were present.

C. Management Subcommittee (A. Livdahl, Chair, C. Ahearn, E. Brennan, C. Capparelli, R. Carter, M. C. Maher, J. Newton, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

1. Draft Policy DP5273.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Alternatives to Travel and Travel Expense Reduction*** – first reading
2. Draft Policy DP5275 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Payment or Reimbursement for Expenses Related to Clothing*** – first reading
3. Draft Policy DP5291 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Buy Back of Vacation Days*** – first reading

Motion: To adopt Draft Policy DP5273.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Alternatives to Travel and Travel Expense Reduction***, Draft Policy DP5275 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Payment or Reimbursement for Expenses Related to Clothing***, Draft Policy DP5291 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Buy Back of Vacation Days***– first reading, waiving the readings - on the condition that a legal opinion be obtained for presentation at the first October 2005 meeting, regarding the wording in these policies

(M. Sherman)
(E. Brennan)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Kathleen Sweeney

Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

- D. Education Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, C. Bazinet, D. Gibbs, A. Livdahl, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney)

The Education Subcommittee will meet Wednesday, September 21, 2005.

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

A meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee was scheduled for September 8, 2005. The meeting did not achieve quorum. Chair Sherman presented wording for a proposed policy change, although this proposed amendment had not been discussed at a Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting (attachment 8).

Motion: To amend Policy 4100 by inserting "Budget" as new Paragraph 3, and re-number subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

3. The budget development process and operating budget proposals will include estimates and analyses of anticipated revenues and correlate the resulting revenue projections to the funding of mandated expenditures, contractual obligations, physical facilities operations, and priorities for program development.

(M. Sherman)
(E. Brennan)

Motion: To refer the wording for an amendment to Policy 4100 back to the Business/Finance Subcommittee before presenting this amendment to the full School Committee.

(D. Gibbs)

9:43 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

9:44 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

Substitute Motion: To send the wording for policy amendment (P4100) back to the Business/Finance Subcommittee, for action at a meeting of that subcommittee where a quorum is present, noting that the School Committee endorses the concept of this amendment.

(M. James)
(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

Abstaining:
Charles Capparelli

(Motion passed 19-0-1)

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (E. Brennan, Chair, C. Ahearn, S. Conrad, K. Maxwell, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton, N., Plourde)

See above.

G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Superintendent Search Committee (R. Carter, Chair, C. Ahearn, C. Bazinet, E. Brennan, A. Livdahl, K. Maxwell, P. Mighdoll, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney)

Chair Livdahl dissolved this committee.

2. Annual Audit Subcommittee for FY05 (C. Conrad, Chair, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton)

It will be suggested that a standing audit committee be named.

3. Subcommittee to Develop the Superintendent's Evaluation (N. Plourde, Chair, K. Sweeney, T. Tod)

At the request of School Committee Member Norman Plourde, the Superintendent distributed copies of the Wachusett Regional School District School Committee Self-Improvement Questionnaire, which had been developed in the past (attachment 9).

H. Building Committees

1. High School

Chair Livdahl called upon Thomas Pandiscio to report on the status of the high school project. Dr. Pandiscio reported the high school had a smooth opening on September 7th, a delay of one week.

The Superintendent complimented high school staff and building project contractors for the yeomen's job done in preparation for the delayed opening schedule.

Motion: To extend the meeting to 10:15 PM.

(D. Gibbs)
(C. Capparelli)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: For the School Committee to accept the Davis Hill Elementary School and the Dawson Elementary School building projects as complete.

(R. Carter)

(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs

Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Motion: That the Management Subcommittee be asked to review pre-meeting materials mailed to each School Committee Member for the purpose of eliminating unnecessary and irrelevant materials and to report back to the full School Committee by the first meeting in November.

(R. Carter)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell

Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

10:03 PM Member Sherman left the table.

10:05 PM Member Sherman returned to the table.

10:06 PM Member Rauh left the table.

10:09 Member Rauh returned to the table.

B. Superintendent's Recognition Presentation

See above.

C. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Amendment to Approval of Disposal of Excess Equipment

Motion: To amend the School Committee vote of July 11, 2005 authorizing the Superintendent to dispose of surplus District supplies and fixtures located in any District buildings to include approval of disposal of an additional fifty computers in accordance with the following procedures:

A. Any such property having a value of less than \$1,000 may be disposed of by the Superintendent in accordance with the following procedures: either by advertisement in the newspaper or by yard sale.

B. Any such property having a value of \$1,000 or more shall be disposed of by competitive bidding in

accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 5 of General Laws Chapter 30B.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of clauses (A) and (B) above, property may be disposed of by the Superintendent by gift or by a transfer for less than fair market value to a charity which has received a federal tax exemption by reason of its charitable nature.

(D. Gibbs)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Amended FY06 Appropriation

See above.

IV. Public Hearing

Brian O'Donnell, Holden, former School Committee Member, addressed the School Committee. Mr. O'Donnell noted how, as time passes, often history of actions and events can be lost. He wanted to remind the School Committee that six years ago the Superintendent's contract contained language regarding the benefit of a stipend to purchase life insurance. Mr. O'Donnell told the School Committee that six years ago the Superintendent had advised the Management Subcommittee of his inability to purchase any meaningful life insurance. At that time the Management Subcommittee advised the Superintendent that in light of that fact, since his contract contained language regarding the life insurance stipend, the Superintendent should take the stipend and invest the cash, since he could not purchase any meaningful life insurance. Mr. O'Donnell quoted the Management Subcommittee of six years ago as stating it is "not our concern."

10:15 PM Member Plourde left the table.

10:16 PM Member Plourde returned to the table.

Motion: To adjourn.

(C. Capparelli)

(K. Maxwell)

Motion was passed by consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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