

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ? PAXTON ? PRINCETON ? RUTLAND ? STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1116, Tuesday, October 10, 2006

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Mark James
Kathleen Sweeney, Vice-chair	Kelly Maxwell
John Bangrazi	Judith Newton
Cynthia Bazinet	John Nunnari (7:45 PM)
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Michael Sherman
Melinda Coyle	Tammy Tod
Steven Hammond	

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Ackerman	David Gibbs
Cynthia Ahearn	Edward Pescaro

Student Advisory Committee:

Alexandra (Lexie) O'Connor

Administration Present:

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

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 7:07 PM.

Motion: To amend the agenda of this meeting, shifting VI. Public Hearing, VII. Unfinished Business and VIII. New Business to before entering executive session, not to return to public session.

(R. Carter)
(M. Coyle)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson

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

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

I. Public Hearing

Edwin Meyer, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Melinda Johnson, Dawson Elementary School Nurse, addressed the Committee.

Matthew O'Connor, Princeton, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Trisha O'Connor, Princeton, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 5).

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1115th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on September 11, 2006. Chair Watson requested that Administrator of Special Education Marie Harrington be added to administration listed as present. With this correction being made, the minutes were approved by consensus.

(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

The Chair reminded the Committee that the next meeting of the School Committee will be on Tuesday, October 24, 2006.

Chair Watson mentioned the tour of the high school offered to School Committee members just prior to this meeting. She made note of the Glenwood Elementary School in Rutland dedication ceremony held on September 17th.

Chair Watson reported on Holden Tomorrow meeting held on October 3rd.

Chair Watson reminded members that Jason Newton would attend the October 24th School Committee meeting to give a presentation on MCAS results.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Chair Watson announced that high school student David Mullaney has resigned from the Student Advisory Committee, due to conflicts with his work schedule. Lexie O'Connor addressed the Committee, reporting on recent activities at the high school.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Focus groups will be meeting between October 11th and November 8th.

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** – second reading

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

(R. Carter)

(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The next meeting of the Management Subcommittee is scheduled for October 12, 2006.

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

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported on the September 20th meeting of the Education Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Monday, October 16, 2006.

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

Motion: To postpone action on the second reading of AP6617 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Administration of Medication** in order to give the Education Subcommittee and District nurses the opportunity to review and discuss.

(S. Hammond)
(K. Sweeney)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

1. Draft policy – DP7143 **Policy Relating to Support Operations**
Energy Management Conservation Policy – second reading

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

(M. Sherman)
(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman will be scheduling a meeting of this Subcommittee in the near future.

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

The Community Outreach Subcommittee will meet October 30, 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)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde asked members of the ad hoc subcommittee to see him briefly after the meeting in order to approve the minutes of that ad hoc subcommittee of October 4, 2006.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde distributed materials to be reviewed and digested before School Committee members are asked to take a ballot vote at the October 24th School Committee meeting (attachment 6).

The plan to take a ballot vote on this matter at the October 24th School Committee meeting was questioned. It was explained that the vote on the 24th would only give the direction of School Committee on whether to move forward to downsize or to stay as is.

7:45 PM Member Nunnari joined the meeting.

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

Nothing to report at this time.

3. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Orient the Student Representatives (C. Bazinet, D. Gibbs, J. Newton, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

This ad hoc subcommittee will meet on October 11, 2006.

8:01 PM Tom Pandiscio left the table.

School Council liaisons reported on meetings recently attended.

8:04 PM Tom Pandiscio 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 October 11, 2006. She also noted that a tour of the site for School Committee members had been conducted this date.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

No report as Member Pescaro was absent.

J. 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)

Reported on above.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Carter commended the Superintendent and high school staff on their persistence and diligence in seeking the Smaller Learning Communities grant, recently awarded.

Member Sherman asked what process will be taken to hire a high school principal and a middle school principal, which the Superintendent spoke to.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To accept a Smaller Learning Communities Grant award in the amount of \$1,041,475. for the budget period 10/1/06-9/30/09. Such funds are to be apportioned between Leominster

High School and Wachusett Regional High School, as per conditions specified in the Smaller Learning Communities grant application.

(K. Maxwell)
(T. Tod)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
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)

Motion: To congratulate Superintendent Tom Pandiscio and high school staff on success of the Smaller Learning Communities Grant application.

(R. Carter)
(M. Coyle)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
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)

VI. Public Hearing

No one wished to speak.

VII. Unfinished Business

Chair Watson stressed the importance of guidelines being adhered to during the public hearing portions of School Committee meetings. Educating the public on the role of the School Committee is important.

VIII. New Business

Member Tod spoke as the School Committee liaison to the Special Education Parent Advisory Council.

Motion: The School Committee allot \$325 for the WRSD Special Education Parent Advisory Council's MASSPAC annual membership fee.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
John Nunnari

(Motion passed 14-1)

IX. Adjournment

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

(K. Maxwell)

(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
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 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp