

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1117, Tuesday, October 24, 2006

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Mark James
Kathleen Sweeney, Vice-chair	Kelly Maxwell
Cynthia Bazinet	Judith Newton
Robert Carter	Edward Pescaro
Shirley Conrad	Norman Plourde
Melinda Coyle	Michael Sherman
David Gibbs (7:45 PM)	Tammy Tod (7:01 PM)
Steven Hammond (7:04 PM)	

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Ackerman	John Bangrazi
Cynthia Ahearn	John Nunnari

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

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 7:00 PM.

Motion: To accept the revised agenda (attachment 2).

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad

Melinda Coyle
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
Edward Pescaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chair Watson addressed those present, explaining the intent of the public hearing session (attachment 3).

I. Public Hearing

7:01 PM Member Tod joined the meeting.

7:04 PM Member Hammond joined the meeting.

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

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

Edwin Meyer, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1116th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on October 10, 2006. The minutes were approved by consensus, with Member Pescaro abstaining.

B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on October 10, 2006.

Motion: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on October 10, 2006, not to be released.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter

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

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Edward Pescaro

(Motion passed 13-0-1)

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 introduced Jason Newton, Director of Student/Information Services. Hard copies of Mr. Newton's PowerPoint presentation "Wachusett Regional School District: MCAS 2006" were distributed (attachment 6). Mr. Newton noted that slide #1 in the handout had been revised just before this meeting, reflecting a recent DOE vote released 10/24/06.

7:45 PM Member Gibbs joined the meeting.

Mr. Newton concluded his presentation at 7:51 PM.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Neither member of the Student Advisory Committee were in attendance.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Focus groups continue to meet, with the last meeting scheduled for November 8th.

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

7:59 PM Member Carter left the table.

Chair Watson directed Members to Attachments 2, 3, 4 in the October 19th Superintendent's Report. Chair Watson read Amended Policy – AP1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Evaluation of the Superintendent** (attachment 7).

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Evaluation of the Superintendent**.

(M. Sherman)
(K. Sweeney)

8:01 PM Member Pescaro left the table.

8:02 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

8:02 PM Director of Student/Information Services Jason Newton left the meeting.

8:03 PM Member Maxwell left the table.

8:04 PM Member Pescaro returned to the table.

8:05 PM Member Maxwell returned to the table.

Following the reading of the amended policy language, Chair Watson reviewed the proposed evaluation document. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the amended policy language, the proposed evaluation document and the evaluation process.

Motion: To move the question.

(T. Tod)
(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Steven Hammond

Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
Edward Percaro
Norman Plourde
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Michael Sherman

Abstained:

Margaret Watson
Melinda Coyle

(Motion passed 12-1-2)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

None

Opposed:

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

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 0-14-1)

Following inquiry by Chair Watson as to the wishes of the full School Committee, it was decided this process/instrument will be referred back to the Management Subcommittee.

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

1. Draft policy - DP6617 **Policy Relating to Education Commercialism and Advertising** – first reading

Education Subcommittee Chair Bazinet read the draft policy.

Motion: To approve the first reading of DP6617 **Policy Relating to Education Commercialism and Advertising**.

(C. Bazinet)

(N. Plourde)

Motion: To amend DP6617 **Policy Relating to Education Commercialism and Advertising**, striking the work “exploitative” in the first sentence.

(D. Gibbs)

Due to lack of second, Member Gibbs withdrew his motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
Edward Percaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Melinda Coyle
David Gibbs

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 12-2-1)

8:54 PM Member Carter left the table.

8:55 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

Education Subcommittee Chair Bazinet read the goals Superintendent Pandiscio had prepared for and submitted to the Education Subcommittee on October 16, 2006 (attachment 8).

8:56 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

8:56 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

Discussion of those goals followed.

Motion: To accept the performance goals submitted on October 16, 2006 to the Education Subcommittee by Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio and to direct the Superintendent to incorporate attainment of these goals into the financial planning and organizational management of the District

(M. Sherman)

(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
David Gibbs
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
Edward Percaro
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)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman announced the next meeting has been scheduled for November 6, 2006 at 7:00 PM. He noted that one of the items on that meeting's agenda will be Business/Finance Subcommittee approval of the Superintendent's out-of-state travel to Washington, D.C. November 15 – 17, 2006 to attend a Smaller Learning Communities Grant Institute.

- 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)

Motion: That the Wachusett Regional School District Committee downsize from its twenty present members.

(N. Plourde)
(T. Tod)

9:15 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde addressed the School Committee.

School Committee Member James read a prepared statement (attachment 9).

9:19 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

School Committee Member Sweeney read a prepared statement (attachment 10).

Chair Watson gave all Members the opportunity to address the Committee.

Motion: To extend the meeting until 10:30 PM.

(M. James)
(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
David Gibbs
Steven Hammond
Mark James

Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
Edward Percaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chair Watson called for a roll call vote on the motion on the table, noting that ten votes in favor are needed to pass the motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Kelly Maxwell
Judith Newton
Norman Plourde
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Margaret Watson
Steven Hammond
Melinda Coyle
Cynthia Bazinet
Mark James
David Gibbs
Edward Percaro
Michael Sherman

(Motion failed 7-8)

10:01 PM Member Gibbs left 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)

Chair Watson reported on the last meeting, held on October 11, 2006, and then discharged this ad hoc subcommittee, thanking members for their participation.

10:02 PM Member Tod left the meeting.

I. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

High School Building Committee will meet October 25, 2006.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

Nothing to report.

10:04 PM Member Carter left the table.

10:04 PM Member Maxwell left the meeting.

- 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)

School Council Liaisons James and Hammond reported on meetings recently attended.

10:05 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

V. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report

The Superintendent addressed the budget.

- B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To appropriate SBA funds in the amount of \$338,045 to the Town of Paxton for reimbursement for the renovation of Paxton Center School.

(M. James)
(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Judith Newton
Edward Percaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To appropriate SBA funds in the amount of \$759,779 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for the renovation/addition at Naquag Elementary School

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Judith Newton
Edward Percaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The Superintendent distributed copies of an October 18, 2006 letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority announcing the winners of the first-ever "School Building Design Awards" contest, Central Tree Middle School in Rutland being one of the winners (attachment 11).

VI. Public Hearing

No one wished to speak.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to address.

VIII. New Business

Member Carter brought up the matter of school security. The Superintendent reported that on October 23, 2006 Mountview Middle School had a comprehensive drill, in cooperation with the Holden Police and Fire Departments, as well as other agencies, and he told how successful the drill was deemed. It was further reported that some of the schools have hosted parent meetings to discuss school safety.

Motion: By the December 11, 2006 School Committee meeting, the Superintendent or designee be prepared to make a presentation to the School Committee on security measures being taken in District schools.

(R. Carter)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Judith Newton
Edward Percaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Newton asked what District policy is with regard to the Pledge of Allegiance. The Superintendent explained that while students are encouraged to be patriotic, no one can be forced to recite the Pledge.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Newton)
(M. Sherman)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
Judith Newton
Edward Percaro
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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