

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1153 Monday, October 27, 2008

Cafeteria  
Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Melinda Coyle
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Steven Hammond
Thomas Ackerman	Robert Imber
Cynthia Bazinet	Duncan Leith
Robert Carter	Robert Pelczarski
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Joseph Sova

*Committee Members Absent:*

Stacey Jackson	Michael Sherman
Mark James	Marcie Zaharee
Michael Pantos	

*Administration Present:*

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
Jack Locke, Deputy Superintendent  
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations  
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources  
Peter Brennan, Business Manager  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

Keara Aquino  
Hillary Blakeney

*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 7:01 PM.

I. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to address the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1152<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on October 14, 2008

Chair Watson noted that on page 5, under Business/Finance Subcommittee report, first sentence, "Conrad" should be added after Vice-chair.

Motion: To approve the minutes, as corrected, of the regular School Committee meeting held October 14, 2008.

(D. Leith)  
(M. Coyle)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held October 14, 2008 were approved by consensus, with Member Ackerman abstaining.

B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes (Part I) of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on October 14, 2008

Chair Watson asked members to review the minutes and if no corrections of substance were noted, these minutes could be approved in public session. If substantive corrections are noted, the minutes would be approved in executive session.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session, part I, held October 14, 2008.

(J. Nunnari)  
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Duncan Leith  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Thomas Ackerman

(Motion passed 13-0-1)

C. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes (Part II) of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on October 14, 2008

Chair Watson asked members to review the minutes and if no corrections of substance were noted, these minutes could be approved in public session. If substantive corrections are noted, the minutes would be approved in executive session.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session, part II, held October 14.

(D. Leith)  
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Duncan Leith  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Thomas Ackerman

(Motion passed 13-0-1)

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Business Manager'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 turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio, who proceeded to show a PowerPoint presentation entitled **Wachusett Regional School District MCAS 2008 Proficiency by 2014** (attachment 2). At the conclusion of Superintendent Pandiscio's presentation and overview of the spring 2008 MCAS test results, members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Superintendent.

Following the Superintendent's presentation, Chair Watson addressed the Committee. Chair Watson explained to the members that materials included with the Superintendent's Report dealing with the upcoming MASC/MASS Joint Conference and actions that will be taken by the Resolutions Committee are not the resolutions that will be acted upon at this year's Joint Conference. Copies of the four resolutions that Member Carter will be asked to vote on, as the Wachusett delegate, were distributed and will be discussed and voted on at the November 10<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting (attachment 3).

Chair Watson reported on the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Regional Selectboard meeting she attended, along with Superintendent Pandiscio and Business Manager Brennan.

B. Student Representatives

Student Representative Hillary Blakeney gave a report of recent events and activities that have taken place at WRHS. She told the Committee that some fall sports teams have already qualified for Districts, the football team is playing on the new field, a musical concert was presented in the past week, and the drama department will be performing a series of one act plays in the near future. She also told of the many volunteer and community service activities taking place at the high school. A mock election will be held at the high school. Members of the senior class have been receiving SAT and ACT scores. Chair Watson thanked Hillary for her comprehensive report.

C. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, J. Nunnari, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, M. Coyle, R. Imber, D. Leith, M. Pantos, N. Plourde, M. Sherman)

Chair Watson reminded members of the Management Subcommittee meeting scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>, at which meeting the Superintendent's evaluation instrument will be reviewed, as well as there will be discussion of process for School Committee review of School Improvement Plans.

D. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Nunnari, R. Pelczarski, M. Zaharee)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported on the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Education Subcommittee, at which meeting Kelley Gangi gave an update on the literacy initiative. At that meeting, Superintendent Pandiscio distributed his DRAFT goals, which will be further addressed at the November 19<sup>th</sup> Education Subcommittee meeting.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, T. Ackerman, M. Coyle, M. James, D. Leith, M. Pantos, J. Sova)

Business/Finance Vice-chair Conrad reported on the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee. At Vice-chair Conrad's request, Superintendent Pandiscio gave explanation of information he shared in his Report (ESE Budget/District Budget-Report attachment 7).

7:45 PM Member Pelczarski left the table.

7:50 PM Member Pelczarski returned to the table.

7:54 PM Member Nunnari left the table.

7:55 PM Member Nunnari returned to the table.

1. Draft Policy – DP4324 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Disposal of Surplus Supplies & Equipment** – first reading

In lieu of reading the draft policy language, Vice-chair Conrad summarized for the Committee the intent of this new policy. Chair Watson explained policy process for new members and for the public.

Motion: To approve the first reading of draft policy DP4324 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Disposal of Surplus Supplies & Equipment**, waiving the reading.

(S. Conrad)  
(M. Coyle)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle

Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Duncan Leith  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The next meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee will be Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (C. Cipro, Chair, R. Pelczarski, Vice-chair, R. Carter, N. Plourde)

Community Outreach Chair Cipro reported on the meeting that took place immediately before this School Committee meeting. She told of subcommittee members' plans to attend Selectboard meetings in November. School Committee "open house hours" will be conducted in the Member Towns twice a year, in mid-October and again in the spring. This subcommittee will meet next on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (S. Conrad, J. Sova)

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported that the AAB has not met since the last School Committee meeting, but she is attempting to organize a meeting, with the auditors, sometime in the next several weeks.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Study Possible Academic Disparity Among the Schools in the Wachusett District (S. Hammond, Chair, S. Conrad, M. Coyle, R. Imber, J. Nunnari)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported on the meeting held October 20<sup>th</sup>. He gave the Committee an updated timeline: The next meeting will be November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting has been changed to November 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Davis Hill, and the last meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee is planned for December 1<sup>st</sup>, with a report to the full School Committee on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate the Superintendent's Contract (C. Bazinet, Chair, T. Ackerman, D. Leith, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported the ad hoc subcommittee had met on October 16<sup>th</sup>. She further reported that changes to the draft Superintendent's contract language had been sent to Attorney Naomi Stonberg for review. Contract language will be reviewed and discussed in executive session at the conclusion of this meeting.

I. Building Committee

1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith reported the baseball/softball dugouts are under construction and the Wachusett Invitational (cross country meet) had been hosted at Wachusett. The Building Committee is slated to meet on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Pantos), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (R. Carter), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Nunnari), Houghton Elementary School (S. Conrad), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (C. Bazinet), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (R. Pelczarski), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber), Wachusett Regional High School (D. Leith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson)

School Council reports were given by:

Member Bazinet – Mountview  
Member Pelczarski – Paxton Center School  
Member Conrad – Houghton Elementary School

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

8:17 PM Member Conrad left the table.

General discussion of the Superintendent's Report ensued and questions raised were answered.

8:20 PM Member Conrad returned to the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio reported to the School Committee the plans to "go dark" on school campuses. He explained that school sites will be as "dark" as possible (where possible, all interior and exterior lights extinguished) between 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM. He told the

Committee that he has informed the Member Town Police and Fire Departments of this plan, and has not received any pushback.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the grants identified in the Superintendent's Report of October 23, 2008 in the total amount of \$48,875 to the Professional Development revolving account

Motion: To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the grants identified in the Superintendent's Report of October 23, 2008 in the total amount of \$48,875 to the Professional Development revolving account

(J. Nunnari)  
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Duncan Leith  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VI. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to address the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business



There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of non-union negotiations, not to return to public session

(S. Hammond)  
(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Duncan Leith  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp