

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1136 Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Mark James
Cynthia Bazinet, Vice-chair	Julianne Kelley
Shirley Conrad	Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro	John Nunnari
Melinda Coyle	Norman Plourde
Steven Hammond	Michael Sherman
Robert Imber	Joseph Sova

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Ackerman	Judith Newton
Cynthia Ahearn	Kathleen Sweeney
Robert Carter	Marcie Zaharee

Administration Present:

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

Student Representatives Present:

Hillary Blakeney
Sean Lane

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.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1135th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on October 22, 2007

The minutes of the regular meeting held October 22, 2007 were approved by consensus, with Members James, Sherman and Sova abstaining.

- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on October 22, 2007

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 executive session minutes of the WRSD Committee held on October 22, 2007, to be released.

(S. Conrad)

(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Mark James
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

(The motion passed 11-0-3)

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 offered congratulations to the District and the high school for full accreditation restoration at WRHS by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Chair Watson also offered congratulations to the 122 members of the WRHS Class of 2008 who have qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

B. Student Representatives

High school student Sean Lane reported on behalf of the student representatives. He recalled Homecoming activities that took place at the high school the last weekend in October. He proudly announced that several high school athletic teams qualified for district playoffs. Mr. Lane informed the Committee that the modulars are being disassembled and are being prepared for removal.

C. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, D. Leith, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, C. Bazinet, R. Carter, R. Imber, J. Nunnari, M. Sherman, J. Sova)

Chair Watson reported on behalf of the Management Subcommittee. She called the School Committee's attention to attachments #15, #16, #14 and #17 of the most recent Superintendent's Report. These attachments deal with the Superintendent of School's evaluation process. For the benefit of new School Committee members and those members who did not participate in the evaluation process last year, Chair Watson reviewed the evaluation process and went over the timeline for the 2007-2008 evaluation.

Motion: To accept the 2006-2007 Superintendent evaluation form and process, to be used to evaluate the Superintendent of Schools in the 2007-2008 academic year.

(C. Bazinet)
(J. Sova)

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions/make comments about this motion. A member voiced the opinion that some questions are difficult for a School Committee member to answer, as they deal with matters with which the School Committee member would not have direct knowledge. Another member asked if common language could be developed to identify evaluation adjectives.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

Melinda Coyle

(The motion passed 13-1)

Chair Watson informed the Committee the next Management Subcommittee meeting will be Monday, December 3rd, at 6:00 PM in the Curriculum Center.

- D. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, J. Kelley, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney, M. Zaharee)

The Education Subcommittee last met on October 23rd and will meet next on November 14th. Subcommittee Chair Bazinet told that high school students (including Sean Lane) kindly attended the October 23rd meeting to participate in the discussion on student backpack use. Mr. Lane and others plan to attend the November 14th Education Subcommittee meeting to provide follow-up/additional information on backpacks. Subcommittee Chair Bazinet sincerely thanked Mr. Lane, and others, for their time and attention to this matter.

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

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman announced the next meeting will be Wednesday, December 5th, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center. At that meeting, the subcommittee will continue policy review and will address the matter of the evaluation of the Treasurer.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (K. Sweeney, Chair, N. Plourde, Vice-chair, C. Cipro, M. Coyle, J. Newton)

In Community Outreach Chair Sweeney's absence, Member Plourde reported on the November 8th meeting, at which time a demonstration was done by EdNets representatives Richard Trembowicz and Bill Connors. Superintendent Pandiscio distributed hard copies of the PowerPoint presentation used at that meeting (attachment 2).

Motion: That the Superintendent be tasked to continue the logistics leading to a recommendation that the District enter a contract with EdNets.

(N. Plourde)

(M. Coyle)

Superintendent Pandiscio went on to give an overview of what EdNets can offer the District. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions about EdNets and what information was provided to the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

G. Audit Advisory Board (Shirley Conrad, Chair, Judith Newton, Vice-chair, School Committee Representatives)

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported that the auditors will be at the Central Office beginning Monday, November 26, 2007. The Audit Advisory Board has not met recently, but a meeting after the first of the year can be anticipated.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Nunnari, Chair, M. Coyle, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Nunnari reported the last meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee was November 7, 2007. On behalf of representatives of the Member Towns, Chair Nunnari conveyed the wishes of the Finance Committees/Advisory Committee that the following budgetary questions be addressed by the appropriate subcommittee:

- Could the District provide the proposed budget to the Member Towns in December/January?
- Could specific percentage increases be agreed to? i.e. 2½% increase for the entire budget or 6% increase in RASA

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman agreed to have these questions included on the agenda for the December 5th Business/Finance meeting.

The Ad Hoc Subcommittee will meet November 19th and November 29th. It is hoped that the work of this subcommittee will be completed and a report will be readied for School Committee review on January 14, 2008, and voted on January 28, 2008, all of this following a public hearing.

I. Building Committees

1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith reported on recent activities at the high school. He stated that progress is moving along, but slowly. It is hoped that the move of the balance of classrooms to B and E buildings can take place just before or just after the winter recess. Building Committee Chair Leith explained the need to extend the contract with URS Construction.

Motion: To extend the contract with URS to February 28, 2008, this increase not to exceed \$70,000.

(D. Leith)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

J. School Council Reports

Central Tree Middle School (J. Nunnari), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Kelley), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (M. Sherman), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (C. Ahearn), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/K. Sweeney), Wachusett Regional High School (D. Leith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (M. Zaharee)

The following school council liaisons reported on recent meetings:

- Julianne Kelley, Glenwood Elementary School, November 8, 2007
- Colleen Cipro, Naquag Elementary School, November 7, 2007
- Michael Sherman, Mountview, November 6, 2007

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

At the request of Member Imber, Superintendent Pandiscio explained the details of the 403b loan program.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Chair Watson explained, for the public, the donation of a microscope to the Wachusett Regional High School, purchased with funds from a Community Outreach Grant through the University of Massachusetts Medical School, further explaining that Dr. William Theurkauf had attended the October 22, 2007 School Committee meeting to make this official presentation.

Motion: To authorize the acceptance of a Model Zeis STEMI 2000C microscope, with Imaging Package and a fiber optic light source, and a 3.1 MP Digital Camera, equipment purchased for the Science Seminar program at the Wachusett Regional High School with funds from a Community Outreach Grant through the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

(J. Sova)

(M. Coyle)

Member Bazinet questioned if the use of the microscope is limited to those students participating in Science Seminar or if members of the general high school population are given the opportunity to access this equipment. Member Bazinet asked that this question be researched and an answer provided.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously)

The Superintendent called the Committee's attention to the energy cost avoidance report that was included in his most recent report to the School Committee. Superintendent Pandiscio explained the savings being realized. The Superintendent praised the District custodial staff of the efforts expended implementing the new energy guidelines, and thanked the building principals for the support behind this initiative.

VI. Public Hearing

No one from the public wished to address the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

High School Building Committee Chair Leith reported he has been in contact with Holden Cable to request an updated filming of the high school project. A tour will be scheduled and Holden Cable has agreed to film the tour for public viewing.

VIII. New Business

Member Leith relayed to the Committee he had been approached by an area resident, who was at the high school for another matter, who voiced her concern over the fact that she has witnessed school buses sitting, idling while empty. Member Leith assured this resident he would pass her concern over to the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of possible litigation, not to return to public session.

(M. James)
(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James

Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp