

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1118, Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Steven Hammond
Thomas Ackerman	Mark James
Cynthia Bazinet	Judith Newton
Robert Carter	John Nunnari (7:12 PM)
Shirley Conrad	Norman Plourde
Melinda Coyle	Michael Sherman (8:03 PM)

*Committee Members Absent:*

Cynthia Ahearn	Edward Pescaro
David Gibbs	Kathleen Sweeney
Kelly Maxwell	Tammy Tod

*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 7:02 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1117<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on October 24, 2006. The minutes were approved by consensus, with Member Ackerman abstaining.

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

At this meeting, in Member Sweeney's absence. Member Bazinet will sit in as Vice-char.

Chair Watson encouraged members to check and use their wrsd.mecnet.net email accounts.

Chair Watson reported that the Audit Advisory Board membership seats have been filled by representatives from the five Member Towns. Member Conrad will serve as Chair of the Audit Advisory Board and Member Newton will serve as Vice-chair. The first meeting of this Board will be scheduled shortly.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Lexie O'Connor reported on behalf of the Student Advisory Committee. She told of a new bell schedule recently implemented, which is helping with congestion in the hallways. She told of a pep rally held in the gymnasium and commented how special it was that members of all four high school classes could be together in one setting.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Now that the focus groups have concluded their meetings, the Steering Committee will meet soon, the date to be determined.

D. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, T. Ackerman, C. Ahearn, C. Bazinet, R. Carter, S. Conrad, M. Sherman)

Chair Watson directed the Committee's attention to Attachment #5 in the November 9<sup>th</sup> Superintendent's Report, a letter from District Counsel Leo McCabe, in which Attorney McCabe advises that all written materials included in evaluations are considered to be public record. The Management Subcommittee is looking for School Committee direction as to how to proceed with the process to be used

when conducting the next evaluation of the Superintendent. She referred to Attachment #6 (of the November 9<sup>th</sup> Superintendent's Report), explaining the rationale for having the evaluation instrument divided among the subcommittees of the School Committee.

7:12 PM Member Nunnari joined the meeting.

Motion: That each School Committee member follow the process of completing the evaluation form along with submitting a narrative, in order to evaluate the Superintendent of Schools.

(R. Carter)

(J. Newton)

Discussion continued.

Following discussion, Member Carter withdrew his motion and Member Newton withdrew her second.

Chair Watson told the members that following this discussion, she now has a sense of what the School Committee is looking for and will refer this matter to the Management Subcommittee, which will then report back to the full School Committee.

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

1. Draft policy – DP3460 **Policy Relating to Education Commercialism and Advertising** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of DP3460 **Policy Relating to Education Commercialism and Advertising**, waiving the reading.

(C. Bazinet)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Thomas Ackerman

Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter

Shirley Conrad

Steven Hammond

Mark James

Judith Newton

John Nunnari

Norman Plourde

*Opposed:*  
Melinda Coyle

*Abstained:*  
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 9-1-1)

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

Member Conrad reported in Business/Finance Chair Sherman's absence. The subcommittee has reviewed Draft Policy DP4324 **POLICY RELATING TO BUDGET/FINANCE Disposal of Surplus Supplies & Equipment** but has not yet referred it to the full School Committee for action.

The evaluation of the treasurer needs to be addressed soon, as Mr. Dunbar's contract expires December 31, 2006. This evaluation is the responsibility of the Business/Finance Subcommittee. The Business/Finance Subcommittee expects to meet in December.

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

No report was made.

- 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)

As this ad hoc subcommittee has completed its assignment, Chair Watson thanked the members for their work and attention and discharged this ad hoc subcommittee. Chair Watson gave all Members the opportunity to address the Committee.

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

Some final details are being investigated before this ad hoc subcommittee moves forward.

- I. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

The Superintendent gave update in Member Maxwell's absence.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

- 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 Ackerman, Conrad and Nunnari reported on meetings recently attended.

8:03 PM Member Sherman joined the meeting.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

The Principal's Monthly Report (November 1, 2006) which was included in the November 9<sup>th</sup> Superintendent's Report had an error, which was corrected. A copy of the corrected Principal's Monthly Report (November 1, 2006) was distributed (attachment 2)

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

8:06 PM Member Carter left the table.

Motion: To approve the 2007-2008 Wachusett Regional School District school calendar, as presented.

(J. Nunnari)  
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Thomas Ackerman  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James

Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman

*Opposed:*

Margaret Watson  
Cynthia Bazinet

(Motion passed 9-2)

8:08 PM Lexie O'Connor left the meeting.

8:09 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

Motion: To authorize adding the Leominster School District to the approved FY07 Pre-Approved Vendor List.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VI. Public Hearing

No one wished to speak.

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Carter suggested that in light of there being two vacancies on the School Committee, perhaps an invitation could be extended to Sterling and Princeton citizenry to volunteer to serve on the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

Member Carter and Coyle gave oral reports on their recent attendance at the MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Nunnari)  
(S. Conrad)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Mark James  
Judith Newton  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp