

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1119, Monday, November 27, 2006

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Melinda Coyle
Kathleen Sweeney, Vice-chair	Steven Hammond
Thomas Ackerman	John Nunnari
Cynthia Ahearn	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Michael Sherman
Shirley Conrad	Tammy Tod

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Kelly Maxwell
David Gibbs	Judith Newton
Mark James	Edward Pescaro

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Jack Locke, Interim Director of Operations
Peter Brennan, Comptroller
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent
Kelley Gangi, District Curriculum Supervisor – Reading & Language Arts

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 7:04 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1118th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on November 14, 2006. Chair Watson noted that the memberships of the Business/Finance and Management Subcommittees should be corrected in the minutes. The minutes were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Members Ahearn, Sweeney and Tod 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

Chair Watson reported that Natalie Mello has agreed to be the Town of Paxton representative on the Audit Advisory Board. The Audit Advisory Board held its first meeting on November 20, 2006 and has scheduled its next meeting for December 7th.

Chair Watson introduced Kelley Gangi, District Curriculum Supervisor – Reading & Language Arts. Hardcopies of Mrs. Gangi's PowerPoint presentation "The Literacy Initiative" and K-5 Reading Benchmarks were distributed (attachments 2 & 3).

Following Mrs. Gangi's presentation, School Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions about this new District initiative.

Chair Watson thanked Mrs. Gangi, who left the meeting at 7:52 PM.

B. Student Advisory Committee (Nathaniel Flynn, Alexandra O'Connor)

Lexie O'Connor reported on sports and athletic activities taking place at the high school. Nathaniel Flynn reported there have been complaints about recently distributed progress notes, commenting the thought that these reports should be more meaningful/have more comment options if they are to be effective.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will meet on Monday, December 4, 2006. Chair Watson and Member Sherman will represent the School Committee at the meeting and will make a report to the School Committee on December 11th.

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

Chair Watson directed the Committee's attention to Attachments #4A and #4B in the November 21st Superintendent's Report, *School Committee Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools Summer 2006 – Spring 2007* and *Timelines for Superintendent's Evaluation Spring 2007* (attachments 4 & 5).

Motion: To adopt the form *School Committee Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools Summer 2006 – Spring 2007* and *Timelines for Superintendent's Evaluation Spring 2007*, as presented.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Hammond)

Chair Watson read through the evaluation document and explained the proposed process and she read and reviewed the timelines. Several members commented on this proposed process.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
John Nunnari
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Norman Plourde

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 10-1-1)

The next meeting of the Management Subcommittee will be Tuesday, December 5th, at 7:00 PM.

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

In Subcommittee Chair Bazinet's absence, Member Hammond reported on the November 20th meeting of the Education Subcommittee, noting the next meeting of this subcommittee will be Monday, December 18th.

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

The next meeting of this subcommittee will be December 5, 2006 at 6:00 PM, at which time the evaluation of the Treasurer will be addressed.

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

Subcommittee Chair Sweeney called the Committee's attention to Attachments #11A and 11B in the November 21st Superintendent's Report (Guidelines for Public Hearing and a draft speakers sign in sheet (attachments 6 & 7).

8:19 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

Subcommittee Chair Sweeney read the guidelines and explained the reason for proposing changes to the sign in sheet. Member Coyle noted that guideline #2 should be restated, substituting *Prior to being granted permission to speak.....* with *Upon being granted permission to speak.....* This correction will be made.

8:21 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

Motion: To adopt Guidelines for Public Hearing, as corrected, and revised speakers sign in sheet, as presented

(R. Carter)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously.)

The next meeting of the Community Outreach Subcommittee has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 14th.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

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

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Nunnari will be scheduling a meeting of this subcommittee to be held in the next few weeks.

I. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

The Superintendent gave update in Member Maxwell's absence. He reported on recently opened bids for the modular building.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

The Superintendent reported in Member Pescaro's absence.

- 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), Wachusett Regional High School (M. Sherman/T. Tod), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (T. Tod/C. Ahearn)

School Council Liaisons Sherman, Sweeney and Tod reported on meetings recently attended.

V. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report

The Superintendent advised the Committee that the District may soon be dealing with confusion regarding the responsibility of towns for school maintenance expenses due to the lack of clarity in the Regional Lease Agreements.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the 240 grant (IDEA – Sped Entitlement (\$37,204)) and from the 331 grant (Safe & Drug Free Schools (\$583)) in the total amount of \$37,787 to the Professional Development revolving account

(J. Nunnari)

(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously.)

VI. Public Hearing

No one wished to speak.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to address.

VIII. New Business

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported on the first meeting of that board, held on November 20, 2006, and advised the next meeting is scheduled for December 7th at 7:00 PM. It is hoped that a recommendation for the next auditor can be made by early January.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Coyle)
(K. Sweeney)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp