

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1101, Monday, November 28, 2005
7:00 PM

Library
Central Tree Middle School

Committee Members Present:

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Mark James
Michael Sherman, Vice-chair	Mary Catherine Maher (7:07 PM)
Cynthia Ahearn	Judith Newton
Elizabeth Brennan	John Nunnari
Charles Capparelli	Kathleen Sweeney
Robert Carter	Tammy Tod
Shirley Conrad	Margaret Watson
David Gibbs	

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Norman Plourde
Kelly Maxwell	Cheryl Rauh
Phillip Mighdoll	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Director of Operations
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).

Chair Livdahl called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

I. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to speak.

Member Carter reported that he had attended a concert at Mechanics Hall in mid-November and wished all to know of the wonderful performance put on by members of the Wachusett Regional High School Music Department.

Motion: That the School Committee send a note of congratulations to the faculty and singers of the Wachusett Regional High School Music

Department who participated in the November 2005 concert at
Mechanics Hall, commending them on their outstanding performance.
(D. Gibbs)
(K. Sweeney)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1100th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD
Committee held on November 14, 2005 - approved with the following
corrections being made:

- Pg. 7 – In the motion made by P. Mighdoll, insert the words “form for” before *School Committee Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools*.
- Pg. 8 – In the motion made by P. Mighdoll, insert the words “form for” before *School Committee Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools*.
- Pg. 9 – In the motion made by R. Carter, eliminate the three blank bullets:

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman

Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Shirley Conrad

(Motion passed 14-0-1)

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Livdahl 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.

The question was raised as to how often the Treasurer submits the Treasurer's Update.

IV. Negotiation Strategies Presentation by Naomi Stonberg, Esq.

At 7:12 PM Chair Livdahl introduced Attorney Naomi Stonberg. Hard copies of Attorney Stonberg's PowerPoint presentation were distributed (attachment 2). Attorney Stonberg gave overviews of both the collective bargaining process and the open meeting law. Following the presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions of Attorney Stonberg. At 8:03 Chair Livdahl thanked Attorney Stonberg for her willingness to attend the School Committee meeting and for sharing her knowledge of these two important topics.

V. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Livdahl reminded Committee members of the tour of the high school scheduled for November 30th at 5:00 PM and the tour of the Rutland elementary school project on December 8th at 3:30 PM. Member Brennan will provide directions to the Rutland site.

Chair Livdahl reminded those present of the special School Committee meeting on December 5th at which time Attorney Elizabeth Valerio will report to the School Committee her findings following review of materials provided regarding the Inspector General's Report.

Chair Livdahl distributed copies of **Massachusetts Department of Education Local and State Funding for Public Schools: Restoring the Link with Community Wealth**, which had previously been provided to the School Committee as an attachment in a Superintendent's Report (attachment 3)

- B. Student Advisory Committee (K. Getchell, C. O'Connor)

No members of the Student Advisory Committee were present.

- C. Management Subcommittee (A. Livdahl, Chair, C. Ahearn, E. Brennan, C. Capparelli, R. Carter, M. C. Maher, J. Newton, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

Copies of an agenda for the November 30, 2005 Management Subcommittee meeting were distributed (attachment 4). Michael Sherman will chair the November 30th meeting, as Alice Livdahl will be unable to attend.

- D. Education Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, C. Bazinet, D. Gibbs, A. Livdahl, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney)

Education Subcommittee Chair Watson reviewed the minutes of the October 17, 2005 meeting, which had been included in the November 23, 2005 Superintendent's Report. Cynthia Bazinet has been elected Vice-chair of the Education Subcommittee. The next meeting of the Education Subcommittee will be December 14, 2005 at 7:00 PM.

Motion: That the current status of District libraries be assessed in terms of holdings (print and electronic) and services; and devise and implement a long-range library plan to define future directions for all District libraries.

(M. Watson)
(D. Gibbs)

There was discussion regarding this motion. A member questioned who would develop a long-range plan. A member voiced concern about the cost related to this motion.

8:25 PM Member Sherman left the table.

8:27 PM Member Sherman returned to the table.

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, M. James, A. Livdahl, M. C. Maher, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton, T, Tod)

The next meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee will be December 7, 2005. The agenda and related materials will be available to Business/Finance members on December 5th. After discussion, it was agreed the issue of developing some sort of formalized system for the signing of warrants will be on the agenda of the December 7th meeting.

Member Gibbs inquired if a date for the School Committee retreat had been set. Member Sherman told a January date is being looked at.

Comment was made that there should be a standardized format/guidelines for minutes of subcommittee meetings.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (E. Brennan, Chair, C. Ahearn, S. Conrad, K. Maxwell, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton, N. Plourde)

The December 1st meeting of the Community Outreach Subcommittee has been changed to December 5, 2005 at 6:00 PM, immediately before the special School Committee meeting that date at 7:00 PM.

G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Annual Audit Subcommittee for FY05 (C. Conrad, Chair, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton)

This subcommittee has concluded its charge; therefore, Chair Livdahl dissolved the Annual Audit Subcommittee for FY05.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Develop a Plan for Establishing a Permanent Audit Committee (S. Conrad, Chair, R. Carter, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton)

The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2005 at 3:30 PM, location to be determined.

H. Building Committees

1. High School

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed copies of Attorney Leo McCabe's letter of November 28, 2005 RE: High School Building Project/Borrowing, along with data compiled by District staff *for planning purposes only* (attachments 5, 6 & 7). Superintendent Pandiscio assured the School Committee he was sharing this letter and information as quickly as possible, having received Attorney McCabe's letter on the date of this meeting. Superintendent Pandiscio spoke to the Massachusetts School Building Authority fund distribution process.

9:20 PM Member Conrad left the table, but not the room.

9:21 PM Member Conrad returned to the table.

The High School Building Project/Borrowing scenarios were discussed.

Motion: That the School Committee set a date certain, no sooner than January 9, 2006, to review and digest the high school building project/borrowing information shared at this School Committee meeting.

(M. Sherman)
(D. Gibbs)

A friendly amendment was made to add the words “pending no negative information being received” to the end of the motion. This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker of the motion.

Motion: That the School Committee set a date certain, no sooner than January 9, 2006, to review and digest the high school building project/borrowing information shared at this School Committee meeting, pending no negative information being received.

(M. Sherman)
(D. Gibbs)

Member Carter gave his opinion that, in the spirit of openness, Attorney McCabe’s letter be shared with Member Town officials, which was agreed to by the Superintendent.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Alice Livdahl

(Motion passed 14-0-1)

2. Rutland – Naquag/Central Tree.
3. Rutland – Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan

Note was again made of the December 8th tour of the Rutland elementary school project site.

9:34 PM Member Capparelli left the table.

I. School Council Reports:

Those who had attended School Council meetings reported. Member Sherman suggested that summaries of School Council minutes be included in the Superintendent's Reports. Superintendent Pandiscio suggested that principals be asked to give him a report of their School Council meetings and he will share that information with the School Committee.

9:36 PM Member Capparelli returned to the table.

9:38 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To approve the change in location for meetings of the Wachusett Regional School Committee to Davis Hill Elementary School in Holden and to approve the 2006 School Committee meeting schedule.

(D. Gibbs)
(C. Capparelli)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed 14-0)

2. Motion: To approve the amended Rutland School Lease Agreement, as signed by the Rutland Selectboard on November 21, 2005.

(C. Capparelli)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed 14-0)

9:40 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

3. Motion: To revise the job description of the Superintendent of Schools, adding the wording SERVES AS THE DISTRICT'S CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER under Section 4. Budget/Finance.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn

Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed 15-0)

B. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio's correspondence of November 23, 2005, which had been included in the November 23, 2005 Superintendent's Report, was referred to and discussed.

Motion: That the Superintendent have Request for Proposals (RFP) prepared and sent to qualified consultants able to work with District administration to develop a District Strategic Plan.

(R. Carter)

(M. Sherman)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed 15-0)

Discussion of Superintendent Pandiscio's goals continued. These goals will be referred to the Management Subcommittee. School Committee members who have comments regarding these goals, were invited to email their comments to the District office for sharing with the Management Subcommittee.

Motion: To approve Superintendent's goals as presented.

(R. Carter)

(S. Conrad)

Member Carter withdrew his motion, following the request by members the Management Subcommittee review Superintendent Pandiscio's goals and report back to the full School Committee at the December 12, 2005 School Committee meeting.

VII. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 8).

Tim Ethier, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

IX. New Business

Motion: To extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari

Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed 15-0)

Chair Livdahl told the Committee she would move to have unapproved minutes of the School Committee added to the agenda of the December 5, 2005 agenda. It was noted that, in the future, executive session minutes will be distributed at the School Committee meeting at which they are to be approved and then collected, in order to assure minutes are kept confidential until approved and released.

Member Maher asked for clarification regarding the plowing matter at the Rutland schools.

When questioned by Member Carter, Chair Livdahl assured Member Carter that the estimated cost for a stenographer is going to be taken up by the Management Subcommittee and with a report back to the full School Committee.

Motion: To adjourn.

(C. Capparelli)
(D. Gibbs)

Vote:
In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Kathleen Sweeney
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed 15-0)

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP/rlp/School Committee/Minutes