

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #271, Monday, December 5, 2005
Executive Session
8:40 PM

Library
Central Tree Middle School

Committee Members Present:

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Mark James
Michael Sherman, Vice-chair	Mary Catherine Maher
Cynthia Ahearn	Judith Newton
Cynthia Bazinet	John Nunnari
Elizabeth Brennan	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Tammy Tod
Shirley Conrad	Margaret Watson
David Gibbs	

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Capparelli	Cheryl Rauh
Kelly Maxwell	Kathleen Sweeney
Phillip Mighdoll	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Peter Brennan, Comptroller

Others Present:

Attorney John Foskett, Deutsch Williams Brooks DeRensis and Holland, P.C.
Attorney Elizabeth Valerio, Deutsch Williams Brooks DeRensis and Holland,
P.C.

Chair Alice Livdahl called the meeting to order at 8:40 PM in order to enter into executive session, not to return to open session, to discuss potential litigation to recover District funds that “may have been misspent,” according to a report issued by the Massachusetts Inspector General’s office in May of this year. Chair Livdahl asked Attorney Foskett to address the School Committee. Attorney Foskett then had a discussion with the Committee regarding the Inspector General’s report entitled “An Investigation of Certain Wachusett Regional School District Expenses” dated May 2005. Attorney Foskett discussed with the Committee the potential legal claims which might be available to the Committee in light of the Inspector General’s report; an evaluation of those claims; and the Committee’s option

to request that the Inspector General's office refer this matter to the Attorney General's Office for a civil recovery action based on the Inspector General's findings

Motion: The Wachusett Regional School District Committee request that the Office of the Inspector General make a referral of the findings in its report entitled "An Investigation of Certain Wachusett Regional School District Expenses" dated May 2005, to the Attorney General's Office for a civil recovery action.

(M. James)
(D. Gibbs)

Motion: To move the question.

(S. Conrad)
(T. Tod)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs

Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
Judith Newton

(Motion passed 14-1)

Attorney Foskett and Attorney Valerio then had a discussion with the Committee regarding the Inspector General's findings that the former Director of Student/Information Services was overpaid for certain vacation days and an evaluation of the possible legal claims that might be available to the Committee to recover these alleged overpayments. The discussion then considered the possibility of seeking voluntary repayment from the former Director of Student/Information Services before determining whether any legal claims should be filed.

Motion: That a letter be sent by the administration to the former Director of Student/Information Services requesting the return of the funds.

(R. Carter)

(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Michael Sherman
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Cynthia Ahearn
Shirley Conrad
David Gibbs
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde

Abstained:

Alice Livdahl
Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 7-6-2)

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Sherman)
(J. Newton)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.