

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #271, Monday, December 5, 2005
7:00 PM

Library
Central Tree Middle School

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Capparelli	Cheryl Rauh
Kelly Maxwell	Kathleen Sweeney

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Peter Brennan, Comptroller
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

I. Call to order.

Chair Livdahl called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Chair Livdahl explained as this is a special School Committee meeting, there is no public session.

Chair Livdahl reminded the School Committee of the following:

- Tour of the Rutland elementary school site is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2005, at 3:30 PM. Directions to the site were distributed (attachment 1).
- The at Wachusett Regional High School drama department production of *Oliver* will be December 8 – 11 and Chair Livdahl encouraged all interested to take in this performance.
- Roger Hatch of the Department of Education will speak at the December 12, 2005 School Committee meeting and Chair Livdah encouraged members to read and review the document ***Massachusetts Department of Education Local and State Funding for Public Schools: Restoring the Link with Community Wealth*** prior to that meeting.
- The Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, December 7, 2005. Agendas for that meeting are available for Business/Finance Subcommittee members.
- The first School Committee meeting in January will be Tuesday, January 10, 2006, as the Town of Rutland will be holding a special Town Meeting on Monday, January 9th.
- Member Brennan warned members that the sign at the site of the Rutland elementary school is down, but did explain location of the site and does have directions available.
- Chair Livdahl explained that tonight's meeting will have two components: the public session at which time Attorney Valerio will address draft wording of School Committee policies; and an executive session at which time Attorney John Foskett of the firm Deutsch Williams Brooks DeRensis & Holland, P.C. will speak to the School Committee to discuss potential litigation.

At 7:14 PM Chair Livdahl introduced Attorney Elizabeth Valerio.

Policy 5264.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Payment or Reimbursement for Meals** was reviewed by Attorney Valerio. Although no motion was made, it was the consensus of the Committee that the language capping the meal reimbursement be included in the policy. Directors will not be included in this policy. This was passed by a voice vote.

7:26 PM Member Mighdoll left the meeting.

Following some uncertainty as to how the meeting should be conducted, how to proceed and how School Committee members would comment on Attorney Valerio's suggestions and advice given on the draft policy wording, it was the consensus of the School Committee that all the draft policies would be referred

to the Management Subcommittee for consideration. If School Committee members have comments on the draft policy wording, these comments should be made within the next ten days for consideration at the next Management Subcommittee meeting (a date for which has not yet been set).

Motion: To refer Policy 5273.2 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Reimbursement Mileage, Parking, Tolls**, with Attorney Elizabeth Valerio's comments, to the Management Subcommittee, along with comments offered by School Committee members, for review at the next scheduled Management Subcommittee meeting.

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

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)

Member Plourde shared a copy of General Laws of Massachusetts Chapter 71: Section 52 *Compensation of school committee members* with the School Committee, asking that it be referred to the Management Subcommittee (attachment 2).

Motion: To refer Chapter 71, Section 52 to the Management Subcommittee.

(M. Sherman)
(M. James)

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)

Motion: To refer Policy 5273.3 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Employee Travel for Workshops, Conferences, Visitations**, with Attorney Elizabeth Valerio's comments, to the Management Subcommittee, along with comments offered by School Committee members, for review at the next scheduled Management Subcommittee meeting.

(M. Sherman)
(D. Gibbs)

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)

Motion: To refer Policy 5273.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Alternative to Travel and Travel Expense Reduction**, with Attorney Elizabeth Valerio's comments, to the Management Subcommittee, along with comments offered by School Committee members, for review at the next scheduled Management Subcommittee meeting.

(M. Sherman)
(D. Gibbs)

Member Nunnari made comment that, although in favor of the intent of this policy, he objected to the initial phrase "In order to avoid and limit travel reimbursements," as he does not think such should be limited. It was agreed that the phrase would be removed from the draft wording.

A friendly amendment was made that Policy 5273.1 be prepared for a second reading at the December 12th School Committee meeting. This friendly amendment was then changed to Policy 5273.1 being prepared for a first reading at the December 12th School Committee meeting. This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker of the motion.

Motion: To prepare Policy 5273.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Alternative to Travel and Travel Expense Reduction**, for a first reading at the December 12, 2005 School Committee meeting, removing the phrase "In order to avoid and limit travel reimbursements."

(M. Sherman)

(D. Gibbs)

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)

Motion: To refer Policy 5275, with Attorney Elizabeth Valerio's comments, to the Management Subcommittee, along with comments offered by School Committee members, for review at the next scheduled Management Subcommittee meeting.

(M. Sherman)

(J. Newton)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Elizabeth Brennan
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton

John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
David Gibbs
Mark James

(Motion passed)

Draft policy wording, prepared by Attorney Valerio, was distributed (attachment 3).

8:14 PM Attorney John Foskett joined the meeting.

8:14 PM Members Carter and Sherman left the table, but not the room.

8:16 PM Members Carter and Sherman returned to the table.

Motion: That the Superintendent draft new policy language dealing with incentive pay and mid-year salary increases, incorporating Attorney Elizabeth Valerio's comments and suggestions, as well as comments and concerns raised by School Committee members, and refer such draft language to the Management Subcommittee.

(M. Sherman)
(C. Bazinet)

Vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
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

Abstained:

Elizabeth Brennan

(Motion passed)

Motion: To refer Policy 5290.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Superintendent and Executive Staff Vacation Policy**, with Attorney Elizabeth Valerio's comments, to the Management Subcommittee, along with comments offered by School Committee members, for consideration and redrafting at the next scheduled Management Subcommittee meeting.

(M. Sherman)

(D. Gibbs)

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)

Motion: 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.

(M. Sherman)

(C. Bazinet)

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)

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM, to enter into executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

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