

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1086, Monday January 10, 2005
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Alice Livdahl
Cynthia Bazinet	Kelly Maxwell
Elizabeth Brennan	Natalie Mello
Clifford Connell (7:04 PM)	John Nunnari
David Gibbs	Norman Plourde
Mark James	Michael Sherman
John Kane	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Capparelli	Cheryl Rauh
Patricia Gates	

Administration Present:

Paul K. Soojian, Deputy Superintendent and Director of Operations
Steven Penka, Director of Administrative Services
Susan H. Sullivan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

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

Chair Duncan Leith called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Chair Leith called for a moment of silence for Helen Hamilton, a long-time high school history teacher who died recently at the age of ninety-two.

I. Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Duncan Leith reviewed the By-Laws in regard to the election of the Vice-Chair and advised that the election is conducted by paper ballot, which is to be signed by the Member and to be included in the

public record. Chair Leith accepted the following nominations for Vice-Chair:

Motion: To nominate Michael Sherman as Vice-Chair
(N. Mello)
(A. Livdahl)

Member Natalie Mello spoke in support of Member Sherman's nomination.

Motion: To nominate John Nunnari as Vice-Chair
(J. Kane)
(M. James)

Member John Kane read a prepared statement in support of Member Nunnari's nomination (attachment 2).

Motion: To close nominations
(N. Mello)
(J. Kane)

Vote:

In Favor:

Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Clifford Connell
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member John Nunnari spoke briefly stating that he would accept the position, if so elected. He expressed concern regarding the upcoming budget session and assured the Committee that he could help to lead the Committee through the process. Member Michael Sherman spoke briefly stating that he would accept the position, if so elected. He also expressed confidence in representing the District in the upcoming budget season and noted that he had started the Community Outreach Subcommittee. The ballots were distributed and collected (attachment 3). The results were as follows:

Cynthia Bazinet	John Nunnari
Elizabeth Brennan	John Nunnari
Clifford Connell	Michael Sherman
David Gibbs	John Nunnari
Mark James	John Nunnari
John Kane	John Nunnari
Duncan Leith	John Nunnari
Alice Livdahl	Michael Sherman
Kelly Maxwell	Michael Sherman
Natalie Mello	Michael Sherman
John Nunnari	John Nunnari
Norman Plourde	Michael Sherman
Michael Sherman	Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson	John Nunnari

The results of the vote were:

John Nunnari	8
Michael Sherman	6

John Nunnari was elected Vice-Chair of the School Committee until the Organizational Meeting in May, 2005.

Chair Leith informed the Committee that he would take agenda item VI, B, 1 Transportation Reimbursement Rates/Expenditures out of order. Deputy Superintendent Paul Soojian reviewed State regional transportation rates and expenditures with the School Committee via a PowerPoint presentation (attachment 4). Following the presentation, Deputy Superintendent Soojian reminded the School Committee that at the June 3, 2004 Special School Committee meeting, following assurances by Representative Lewis Evangelidis that Regional School Transportation Reimbursement and Circuit Breaker Reimbursement would be increased, that Chapter 70 Aid would be marginally increased and that special education out-of-District tuition rates would be frozen,

the Superintendent advised the Committee that a reduction of \$900,000 to the Member Towns' assessments would be a reasonable reduction. The \$900,000 reduction voted by the School Committee 14-2 was an act of good faith, anticipating that the Regional School Transportation Reimbursement would indeed increase, along with the other assurances by Representative Evangelidis. Although, as shown in the presentation, the actual reimbursement will not be known until Jun, 2005, the Cherry Sheet from the Department of Revenue projects that the Regional School Transportation Reimbursement will be increased by \$468,606. The amount of Circuit Breaker Reimbursement will not be known until June 2005. The Deputy Superintendent advised the School Committee that a major concern expressed by the Superintendent at the time of the vote to reduce Member Towns' assessment was the rising cost of special education out-of-District tuition costs. The School Committee was assured that the rates would be frozen. However, the rates were not frozen and rates have increased approximately 2.66%.

Following the presentation, discussion occurred regarding the presentation. Chair Leith invited municipal officials to ask questions.

Paul Challenger, Chair, Holden Finance Committee, asked why the Cherry Sheet number of \$1,380,00 was not included on the chart. Deputy Superintendent Paul Soojian explained that although the Cherry Sheet provided an estimate to the District, the true reimbursement amount will not be known until June 2005.

Kimberly Ferguson, Chair, Holden Selectboard, asked if the additional transportation reimbursement would be returned to the Member Towns as the Committee had voted to return any additional funds received by the State. Deputy Superintendent Soojian explained that the Member Towns have already received the funds through a \$900,000 reduction in assessment. If the State comes through with the estimated reimbursement, the District would be even; if not, the District will be short funded and will have to make up the difference.

Following inquiry, Deputy Superintendent Soojian advised that it is more than unlikely that more money, above and beyond the amount on the Cherry Sheet, will be reimbursed to the District. Historically, the District has received less than what was estimated, never more than the estimate.

II. Public Hearing

Louis Cornacchioli, Chair, Rutland Building Committee, thanked the School Committee for calling a special meeting to hear the concerns of the Rutland Building Committee. He reported that the Rutland Building Committee is meeting on Thursday, January 13, 2005, with the architects and the general contractor to review the design. Building

Committee Chair Cornacchioli reported that the project is five or six months behind schedule, but that the Building Committee is hopeful that the building will be ready close to the original opening date.

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 5).

III. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1085th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on December 14, 2004 – approved by consensus, with Members Elizabeth Brennan, Kelly Maxwell, Mark James, and Michael Sherman abstaining

IV. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chairman Duncan Leith reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Comptroller's report that Members should contact the Deputy Superintendent and Director of Operations; if there were questions regarding the Treasurer's report, Members should contact Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Natalie Mello.

Following inquiry, Director of Administrative Services Steven Penka explained that fuel is billed back to the individual schools.

V. Committee Reports

Chair Duncan Leith requested that subcommittees review and approve minutes of previous meetings.

- A. Student Advisory Committee (C. Brennan, K. Getchell, J. Leger, C. Wilde)

No member of the Student Advisory Committee was present.

- B. Management Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, C. Capparelli, P. Gates, D. Gibbs, M. James, N. Mello, J. Nunnari, M. Watson)

Chair Duncan Leith reported that Management Subcommittee met on December 16, 2004 and recommended amending the By-Laws, as proposed.

- 1. Recommendation to Amend Wachusett Regional School Committee By-Laws (attachment 6)

Motion: To amend the Wachusett Regional School Committee By-Laws, as follows:

Article 2, Section 4 *Subcommittees*, the first two paragraphs to read as follows:

The Chair shall appoint standing subcommittees, such as Business/Finance, Education, Community Outreach, and Management. No member of the Committee shall be appointed to more than three standing subcommittees. The Chair may appoint additional ad-hoc subcommittees as necessary. Should a Management Subcommittee be appointed, the Chair of the Committee shall serve as the Chair of the Management Subcommittee. The Vice-Chair of the Committee and the Chairs of any standing subcommittees shall be appointed members of the Management Subcommittee.

The Chair shall appoint a Chair to each Standing or Ad-Hoc Subcommittee. Each subcommittee shall elect its Vice-Chair.

(D. Gibbs)
(M. James)

Discussion occurred regarding the changes originally proposed regarding the responsibilities of the secretary of the School Committee. Chair Duncan Leith reported that following review, the Management Subcommittee decided not to recommend amending the by-laws regarding the secretary.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Clifford Connell
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello

Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To amend the Wachusett Regional School Committee By-Laws, as follows:

Article 3, Section 4, *Agenda*, the agenda to be as follows:

The agenda will be as follows:

- I. Public Hearing
- II. Secretary's Report
- III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement
- IV. Committee Reports
 - Chair's Opening Remarks
 - Student Advisory Committee
 - Management Subcommittee
 - Education Subcommittee
 - Business/Finance Subcommittee
 - Community Outreach
 - Ad-Hoc Subcommittees
 - Building Committees
 - School Council Reports
- V. Superintendent's Report
 - Discussion of report
 - Recommendations
- VI. Public Hearing
- VII. Unfinished Business
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Adjournment

(J. Nunnari)
(N. Mello)

Discussion continued regarding the need to correct the public record. Some expressed concern that a correction may need to be made prior to the next School Committee meeting. Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair

David Gibbs reported that the Community Outreach Subcommittee is working on developing a method of disseminating information to the public, including correcting the record.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Clifford Connell
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. AP8130 ***Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Distribution of Notices by Students*** – first reading

Motion: To adopt AP8130 ***Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Distribution of Notices by Students*** for the first reading, waiving the reading, adding the word “only” after the word “permit” (attachment 7)

(N. Mello)

(J. Nunnari)

Deputy Superintendent Soojian explained the process for approval of flyers. Flyers are sent to the Director of Operations, who approves or disapproves them. The principals are then notified that a flyer has been approved for distribution or not.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Clifford Connell
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chair Leith reported that the next Management Subcommittee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2005, at 5:30 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room at the District Central Office.

- C. Education Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, C. Bazinet, E. Brennan, A. Livdahl, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde)

Education Subcommittee Chair Margaret Watson reported that the Education Subcommittee met on Wednesday, January 5, 2005. Subcommittee Chair Watson read and distributed the *Revised Goal and Responsibilities of the WRSC Education Subcommittee 2005-2009*, which were inadvertently omitted from the Deputy Superintendent's Report (attachment 8). Subcommittee Chair Watson read a prepared statement regarding the Education Subcommittee's position on community service at the high school (attachment 9).

Following inquiry, Deputy Superintendent Soojian advised the Committee that the number of students in community service has increased due to the reduction in the budget as well as increased

enrollment. Traditionally there have been students in the program but it has increased dramatically since the budget reductions. He advised the School Committee that it is necessary to look at reductions overall and not just focus on community service. This year's freshman class is a larger than average and probably has caused an additional burden on the community service program. Deputy Superintendent Soojian commended the Education Subcommittee on the excellent job of reviewing this issue but reminded the School Committee that this is but one component of the impacts of budget reductions. The Committee must support all areas, not just one.

The next Education Subcommittee is scheduled for Monday, January 31, 2005, at 6:00 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room at the District Central Office, where School Committee Member Natalie Mello will make a presentation regarding student international travel. The Education Subcommittee will also review P6436 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Tolerance***, which was referred to the Education Subcommittee for review.

- D. Business/Finance Subcommittee (N. Mello, Chair, C. Connell, D. Gibbs, M. James, J. Kane, D. Leith, K. Maxwell, M. Sherman)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Natalie Mello reported that the District had received a recommendation from Treasurer James Dunbar to establish an account at Fitchburg Savings Bank (attachment 10).

Motion: To establish accounts at Fitchburg Savings Bank, pursuant to Treasurer James Dunbar's recommendation, pending advice from the Inspector General's office.

(N. Mello)

(J. Kane)

Chair Leith informed the School Committee that either he or Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Natalie Mello would contact the Inspector General's office to check on the ethics involved in establishing a bank account at Fitchburg Savings Bank due to Martin Connors being the former Treasurer.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith

John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Clifford Connell
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Mello reported that the Business/Finance Subcommittee met on Tuesday, January 4, 2005, with representatives from the Member Towns regarding agreement on the use of data sources. Subcommittee Chair Mello corrected the minutes included in the Deputy Superintendent's report to reflect that consensus was reached on the suggestion made by Princeton Selectboard Chair Stanley Moss to share the data already gathered by the District with all Member Towns.

Motion: That the Chair of the WRSDC send to the chair of each selectboard the data from the Department of Revenue used in the presentation to the WRSDC on December 14th with a request to return any changes or notes to this data to the Chair by January 31, 2005 (attachment 11).

(N. Mello)
(C. Connell)

Following inquiry as to what the next step would be following the review by the Member Towns, Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Natalie Mello reported that the Business/Finance Subcommittee would review the data, the changes noted by the Member Towns, and suggest how the process would proceed.

A suggestion was made to hold the Business/Finance Subcommittee meetings in the Curriculum Center and not to travel to the Member Towns.

Deputy Superintendent Soojian reminded the School Committee that the District still had not received data from Paxton. It was the consensus of the School Committee to send the information out, even though the data is not available for Paxton.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Clifford Connell
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Following inquiry regarding Holden Selectman Joseph Sullivan's invitation to have the next meeting in one of the Member Towns, Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Mello reported that she did not commit to meet in the Member Towns.

The next Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2005, at 5:30 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Mello and Chair Leith met with Paul LaCava, a facilitator, to discuss the possibility of facilitating the School Committee Retreat on Saturday, January 22, 2005. Mr. LaCava served the City of Worcester and is now

retired. He taught at Worcester State for eighteen years and has done facilitation work in the past. The cost for Mr. LaCava is \$400 for the day. Member David Gibbs reported that he had contacted another facilitator, Pat Fair of Fairhaven Associates LLC, for a much higher cost (attachment 13).

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Paul LaCava, as vendor, to facilitate a School Committee meeting, the funds for which to come from School Committee accounts, not to exceed \$400 (attachment 12).

(N. Mello)

(D. Gibbs)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Clifford Connell
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

- E. Community Outreach Subcommittee (D. Gibbs, Chair, C. Bazinet, E. Brennan, C. Connell, D. Leith, A. Livdahl, M. Sherman)

Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair David Gibbs reported that the Community Outreach Subcommittee has not met, but that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2005, at 6:30 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

F. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Review the Process for Selection of a Superintendent (N. Plourde, Chair, C. Capparelli, C. Connell, M. James, D. Leith, A. Livdahl, N. Mello, J. Nunnari, M. Watson)

Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Chair Norman Plourde reported that the District is looking forward to receiving responses to the RFP for consulting services. The Ad-Hoc Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 12, 2005; a copy of the agenda was included in the Deputy Superintendent's report. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde reported that it is important to get the full Committee involved in the process.

Deputy Superintendent Soojian cautioned the School Committee that, pursuant to the motion made establishing the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee, the Subcommittee would be dissolved once a decision to use a consultant was made. Deputy Superintendent Soojian also expressed concern that many of the items included on the agenda would be done as part of the consultant's contract. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde countered that the School Committee should be prepared before the consultant is hired. He reported that he has already prepared surveys for the School Committee, the Member Towns, and for taxpayers. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde reported that he had done a great deal of research on behalf of the School Committee.

Chair Duncan Leith informed the School Committee that currently the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee has nine members, a quorum of the School Committee. Member Natalie Mello offered to resign, temporarily, from the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee, to avoid the possibility of having a quorum of the School Committee present at the subcommittee level (attachment 14).

Chair Leith reminded the Committee that when NESDEC did a presentation to the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee, it was recommended that an outside source conduct surveys with focus groups.

G. Building Committees

1. High School

Chair Duncan Leith reported that the project is progressing. The next High School Building Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2005, at 6:00 PM in the Media Center at the high school. There will be two meetings a month, rather than one, with more additional meetings with the architect, project management firm, and the general contractor.

Chair Leith reported that at the meeting with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the contractor was told that all items requested were completed but that concern was expressed as to whether the plan approved will be sufficient for the entire project.

The gymnasium will be delayed until the end of October 2006, which will be a problem with scheduling physical education classes.

The School Committee was pleased to hear that the modulars will be included for full reimbursement and that the State would require a reduction in reimbursement should the modulars be sold or leased.

Following inquiry as to the necessity for legal review before payment to contractors, Director of Administrative Services Steven Penka reviewed the process for approval of payment. The request from the contractor is submitted to the architect, who must certify that the work was completed. The request then goes to the project management firm for recommendation for approval. The request then goes to the Building Committee and finally to the Superintendent.

2. Rutland – Naquag/Central Tree

3. Rutland – Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan

There was no report.

4. Sterling

This is complete and can be removed from the agenda.

- H. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School (C. Rauh), Chocksett Middle School (C. Capparelli), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (M. Watson), Mountview Middle School (M. Sherman), Naquag Elementary School (E. Brennan), Paxton Center School (A. Livdahl), Thomas Prince School (C. Connell), and Wachusett Regional High School (K. Maxwell).

Member Margaret Watson reported that the Mayo School Council met and were notified that the donations made in honor of Dr. Mayo will be used to buy books for the media center. The School Council will be reviewing the student handbooks at the next meeting as well as begin developing the School Improvement Plan.

Member Alice Livdahl reported that the Paxton Center School Council has conducted a survey, which will be reviewed by the School Council. Following inquiry regarding replacement windows at the school, Deputy Superintendent Soojian reported that the request for funding would probably come from the Capital Improvement Committee or the Selectboard, but that he would check on this and report back in the next Deputy Superintendent's report.

Member Michael Sherman reported that the Mountview School Council is working on transitioning, both from grades five to Mountview and from grade eight to the high school. A survey is being developed to determine if the transitioning is meeting the needs of the students and the parents. The School Council is hoping to invite members of staff at the high school to speak to parents at Mountview, in addition to the night already planned at the high school.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

There was no discussion of the report.

B. Presentations

1. Transportation Reimbursement Rates/Expenditures

See above.

C. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To appropriate SBA funds in the amount of \$1,699,227 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for the elementary school projects

Member Elizabeth Brennan left the meeting at 9:55 PM.

Motion: To appropriate SBA funds in the amount of \$1,699,227 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for the elementary school projects

(N. Mello)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Clifford Connell
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

David Gibbs

(Motion passed 12-1)

Member Elizabeth Brennan returned to the meeting at 9:55 PM.

Motion: To extend the meeting by thirty minutes

(J. Kane)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith

John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet

Elizabeth Brennan

Clifford Connell

David Gibbs

Mark James

John Kane

Alice Livdahl

Kelly Maxwell

Natalie Mello

Norman Plourde

Michael Sherman

Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Recommendation to Establish a Technology Stabilization Fund

Education Subcommittee Chair Margaret Watson explained that the Education Subcommittee had reviewed this and recommended that the establishment of a technology fund be investigated.

Deputy Superintendent Soojian advised the School Committee that new schools have brought technology to the District. The impetus for the establishment of a technology fund came from the Superintendent as he was concerned with the replacement of information system technology. Some Members expressed concern that establishing a fund would externalize a part of the budget and would need Town Meeting approval, which could prove difficult.

Deputy Superintendent Soojian advised the School Committee that the intent is to build up the fund over time which would alleviate the need to appropriate a large sum in one budget year. Deputy Superintendent Soojian cautioned the Committee that Member Towns could be critical of a request for technology within the budget asking why the District did not prepare in advance for the replacement of technology

There continued to be concerns and questions about the establishment of a fund. Following inquiry, Deputy Superintendent Soojian advised the Committee that he would check with District Counsel Leo McCabe to determine if this is the only route available to the School Committee for such a fund.

Motion: To adopt the proposal for the Wachusett Regional School District to Establish a Stabilization Fund, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, section 16G½, as prepared by District Counsel Leo McCabe:

Whereas the Wachusett Regional School District is desirous of establishing a Stabilization Fund pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, section 16G½ to provide a fund for the upgrading, replacement and improvement of information technology systems within the School District and for such other lawful purposes as provided by the Statute, the Regional District School Committee hereby authorizes and proposes to the Member Towns, the establishment of a stabilization fund for the Regional School District as follows:

1. The Regional School District is authorized, upon a majority vote of all members of the Regional District School Committee and with the approval of a majority of the local appropriating authorities of the Member Towns, to establish a stabilization fund and, may in any year, include in its annual budget for deposit in the stabilization fund an amount not exceeding five percent of the aggregate amount apportioned to the Member Towns for the preceding fiscal year or such larger amount as may be approved by the Director of Accounts.

2. The aggregate amount in the fund at any time shall not exceed five percent of the combined equalized valuations of the Member Towns. Any interest shall be added to and become a part of the fund.
3. The annual report submitted to the member Towns pursuant to Chapter 71, section 16 (k) shall include a statement of the balance in the stabilization fund and all additions to and withdrawals from the fund during the period covered by the report.
4. The Treasurer of the Regional School District shall be the custodian of such fund and may deposit or invest the fund in such deposits or investments as are legal for the deposit or investment of revenue funds of the District or in such securities as are legal for the investment of funds of savings banks under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
5. The stabilization fund may be appropriated by a vote of two thirds of all members of the Regional District School Committee for the upgrade, replacement and improvement of information technology systems within the School District and for any other purpose for which the Regional School District may borrow money as provided in M.G.L Chapter 71, Section 16 or for such other District purpose as the Authorized State Agency may approve. No expenditures may be made from such appropriation unless the procedures set forth in Section 15 of the *Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement* for the approval of a debt issue are complied with, which require two-thirds voter approval of the District either at Town Meetings or by ballot referendum.

(J. Kane)
(J. Nunnari)

Motion: To table the motion

(D. Gibbs)
(M. James)

Roll call vote:
In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Clifford Connell
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 13-1)

VII. Public Hearing

No one from the public wished to speak.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Tabled Motion: To join the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) for an estimated \$5,825.

The motion was not removed from the table for action by the School Committee.

IX. New Business

Member David Gibbs expressed concern that the School Committee had voted to remain neutral in the Holden v WRSD et al suit and its subsequent appeal. Deputy Superintendent Soojian reported that he would find out when the School Committee had taken the position to remain neutral. The Committee was reminded that it was the advice of District Counsel Leo McCabe and the Superintendent for the Committee to remain neutral. A request for re-consideration of the School Committee's vote on neutrality was made by Member Gibbs for a future meeting.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(N. Mello)
(E. Brennan)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Clifford Connell
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul K. Soojian
Deputy Superintendent and Director of Operations