

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1032, Monday, January 14, 2002
7:00 p.m.

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Alice Livdahl
Sherry Horeanopoulos, Vice-chairman (7:20 PM)	David Lowenthal
Donald Benson (8:25 PM)	Peter MacDonald (7:09 PM)
Carol Esperti	Kelly Maxwell (7:09 PM)
Kimberly Ferguson	Natalie Mello
Michael Gennert	John Nunnari
Jane James	Elizabeth Pape
Sarah Jordan	Julie Scott
Duncan Leith	Kathleen Singh

Committee Members Absent:

Kenneth Fensin	Jeffrey Gibbs
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Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Paul K. Soojian, Director of Operations
Brian O'Connell, Director of Administrative Services
Philip Campbell, Director of Student/Information Services
Susan Sullivan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Others present:

Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*
Stacey M. Grossi, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
Maureen Floryan, Holden
Nancy Hagberg, Sterling
David Gibbs, Sterling
Melinda Johnson, Paxton
Cindy Popp-Hager, Sterling

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. Chairman Rokicki introduced newly appointed Paxton Representative Natalie Mello. Members introduced themselves to Member Mello.

I. Public Hearing

Nancy Hagberg, Sterling, also a member of the After School Music Advisory Committee expressed concern for the lack of music instruction in Sterling. Only instruction on the saxophone and clarinet are being offered in Sterling. She noted that Westboro Middle School has a greater level of instruction. She expressed disappointment in the level of support for the program. (attachment 0)

Cindy Popp-Hager, Sterling, also expressed concern for the lack of instructors in the After School Music Program. Her current concern is the diminishment of the strings program, due to lack of instructors. She expressed concern at where concerned parents should go now.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of the 1031st Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on December 10, 2001 – approved by consensus replacing on page 13 the word “not” with the word “no” in the second motion.

B. Approval and release the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on December 10, 2001 – approved and released by consensus

III. Clarifications relating to Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

A. Presentation of Warrants and Payroll

Warrants were being circulated for signature.

IV. Communications

Member Alice Livdahl mentioned that she had written communication regarding “minimal” improvements at the high school. The Superintendent reported that extensive reports have been done by HMFH and Tappe architectural firms and a School Committee Task Force. He explained that nothing is “minimal”. The Superintendent suggested that the decision needs to be made on the high school facility final solution. The

Superintendent indicated that Representative Bunker reported that he would propose changing the short-term borrowing from five to seven years, which would expedite construction. The Superintendent also reported that the Commissioner of Education reported that modulars could be reimbursable if part of an approved project.

Discussion occurred as to the concerns for the aesthetics and health safety issues of the high school. Chairman Rokicki summarized the issues being expressed by Members:

1. Relook at Tappe Report
2. Look at cosmetic items
3. Report back to the Committee with budgetary numbers

The Superintendent notified the Committee that he would distribute again the Tappe Report and would have the report updated with estimated costs and will review with the principal. He will bring back to the Committee a list of the priorities with cost figures.

Member Liz Pape, School Council liaison for the high school, will bring the issue to the School Council meeting.

Inquiry was made related to the DOE Coordinated Program review surrounding proper documentation of certifications and licensures were resolved. The Superintendent reported that the concerns are being addressed.

Inquiry was made as to when the assessment letters would be issued. The Superintendent reported that the treasurer mails the assessment letters in March. The Superintendent also reported that the DOE legal department had concerns about the Regional Agreement language change to Section 4 and provided no further details.

V. Committee Reports

A. Management Subcommittee (J. Rokicki -- Chair, C. Esperti, S. Horeanopoulos, D. Leith, K. Maxwell, K. Singh)

1. Motion: To adopt the amended 2002 School Committee Calendar, as presented

(S. Jordan)

(C. Esperti)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Jane James
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Motion: To adopt DP5252 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Physical Restraint*** for the second reading, waiving the reading

(P. MacDonald)
(S. Jordan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Michael Gennert
Jane James
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
John Nunnari

Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:
Kimberly Ferguson
Kelly Maxwell

Abstained:
Carol Esperti
Natalie Mello

(Motion passed 13-2-2)

The next Management Subcommittee will be Monday, February 11, 2002, 6:00 PM, Media Center.

B. Business/Finance Subcommittee (D. Leith – Chair, K. Fensin, J. Gibbs, J. James, P. MacDonald, J. Rokicki, J. Scott)

4. Motion: To adopt DP7141 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Inventory Control** for the first reading, waiving the reading
(D. Leith)
(C. Esperti)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Jane James
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott

Kathleen Singh

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

C. Business-related Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (S. Horeanopoulos – Chair, D. Leith, J. Rokicki, K. Singh)

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 16, 2002, at 6:30 PM at the Curriculum Center

Chairman Rokicki appointed Member Natalie Mello to the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee.

2. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – Legislative Corrections to Regional School District Funding (J. Rokicki, D. Leith, J. Nunnari)

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 15, 2002, at the Starbard Building, Holden.

3. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to Review Facilitators (C. Esperti, S. Horeanopoulos, J. James, S. Jordan, P. MacDonald, J. Scott)

The Superintendent distributed the following:

1. Paul McGowan of Education Associates (attachment 1)
2. Education Associates – Professional Summary (attachment 2)
3. Copy of the Request for Proposal (attachment 3)

There was also a summary for Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc., which Member Horeanopoulos indicated had been sent via email to the Superintendent as an attachment but was not received and copied for distribution. The Superintendent indicated he would review the email file and provide an update.

Chairman Rokicki briefly described the process for selecting a facilitator. Member Carol Esperti explained that the approaches of the two companies being recommended were very different.

Paul McGowan of Education Associates was more a facilitator and Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. is an architectural firm, which would help sell the project.

Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. was \$30,000 and Education Associates could be \$10,000.

A member expressed concerned that Michael Daly of Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. was used as a consultant by a group in the District in favor of two schools.

Several members expressed concern regarding the timeline.

Motion: To contract with Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. as the facilitator of choice, within the scope of the Request for Proposal.

(S. Horeanopoulos)
(C. Esperti)

The Superintendent informed the Committee that the proposal presented by Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. goes beyond the RFP and the Superintendent was willing to negotiate with the firm for a cost and scope within the RFP. Following discussion by the Committee, the Superintendent reported that he would not violate the law and that the proposal would be reviewed by counsel in relation to the Request for Proposal, and that he might negotiate with the firm within the scope of he RFP.

Discussion regarding both proposals continued.

Motion: To move the question.

(K. Singh)

The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Further discussion took place among the members as to whether or not a new RFP should be issued for full architectural services or whether or not the District should negotiate within the RFP.

Motion: To move the question.

(K. Maxwell)
(K. Singh)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

:

John Rokicki
Michael Gennert
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Jane James

Abstained:

Natalie Mello

(Motion passed 13-4-1)

Roll call vote on main motion, which reads To contract with Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. as the facilitator of choice, within the scope of the Request for Proposal.

In favor:

Sherry Horeanopoulos
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Sarah Jordan
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott

Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Michael Gennert
Jane James
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari

Abstained:

Natalie Mello

(Motion passed 12-5-1)

Motion: To direct the Superintendent to obtain a legal opinion on the hiring of Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. and if negotiation is necessary to bring back the negotiated contract to the School Committee prior to its execution.

(C. Esperti)
(K. Singh)

Member Singh left the meeting at 9:35 PM.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Sherry Horeanopoulos
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
MICHAEL GENNERT
Sarah Jordan
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
~~Kelly Maxwell~~
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott

Opposed:

John Rokicki
~~Michael Gennert~~
Jane James
Duncan Leith

KELLY MAXWELL
NATALIE MELLO
John Nunnari

Abstained:
~~Natalie Mello~~

(Motion passed 11-6)

Member Kathleen Singh returned to the meeting at 9:37 PM.

4. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to Review District Goals (D. Benson, M. Gennert, S. Jordan, P. MacDonald, E. Pape)

The Ad-Hoc Subcommittee has met twice. The goals are complete and the objectives are being written. The Subcommittee would like to write a Mission Statement in which the goals are formulated.

The next meeting will be January 21, 2002 at 5:00 PM in Sterling. Member MacDonald will confirm the meeting with the Town of Sterling and contact the Superintendent.

- D. School Building Committees requiring the action of the School Committee

1. Holden – (J. Scott)
2. Paxton –
3. Rutland – (J. Rokicki)
4. Sterling – (S. Jordan)

- VI. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of report

Member Gennert asked if the staffing will need to be increased for the high school in FY03. The Superintendent explained that it would and it would be part of the budget proposal.

- B. Recommendations requiring action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To confirm the authorization to reallocate School Building Assistance Funds for the Town of Holden in the amount of \$1,699,227.

(P. Macdonald)
(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Jane James
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Natalie Mello

(Motion passed 17-0-1)

2. Motion: To authorize the amendment to the FY02 Staffing Authorization as contained in the Superintendent's Report

(S. Jordan)
(D. Leith)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki

Sherry Horeanopoulos
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Jane James
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VII. Public Hearing

No member of the public wished to speak.

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

The concern of parents regarding the After School Music Program expressed at the public hearing was discussed. The Superintendent informed the Committee that staffing assignments within a school are a school-based decision. Allocations to the schools are based upon an equity formula.

The Superintendent reported that the After School strings teacher in Sterling resigned with not much notice and another teacher has not been found.

The District is exploring the establishment of a specific strings program for middle schools.

The issue was referred by the Chairman to the Education Subcommittee.
The Superintendent will notify the parents who attended the meeting.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(S. Jordan)
(J. Scott)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Jane James
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

ADT:ss/School Committee/Minutes