

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1089, Monday March 14, 2005  
7:00 PM

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

Duncan Leith, Chair	Alice Livdahl
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Mary Catherine Maher
Cynthia Bazinet	Kelly Maxwell
Elizabeth Brennan	Natalie Mello
Charles Capparelli	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Cheryl Rauh
David Gibbs	Michael Sherman
Mark James	Margaret Watson
John Kane	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Patricia Gates

*Administration Present:*

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Paul K. Soojian, Deputy Superintendent and Director of Operations  
Steven Penka, Director of Administrative Services  
Peter Brennan, Comptroller  
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 7:05 PM. Chair Leith informed the School Committee that the presentation on the *Proposed FY06 Appropriation* would be made first. Following the presentation, representatives from the Member Town Selectboards and Finance/Advisory Committees could ask questions and provide input. The Superintendent reviewed the *Proposed FY06 Appropriation* via a PowerPoint presentation (attachment 2). The Superintendent reported that he had provided information to the School Committee in November which included three possible budget scenarios:

- Status Quo Budget

- State Aid Reinstatement Budget
- Restoration of FY02 Per Pupil Ratios and Programs/Services Budget

The School Committee prioritized its goals at a retreat on January 22, 2005, which directed the Superintendent to develop the value-based restoration budget, rather than the revenue-based budgets of the past.

Following the presentation, Chair Leith entertained questions and comments from representatives from the Member Town Selectboards and Finance/Advisory Committees:

- Paul Challenger, Chair, Holden Finance Committee, read from prepared notes detailing the concerns of the Holden Finance Committee with the increase in the FY06 appropriation (attachment 3). To clarify, Mr. Challenger distributed a copy of Holden's Budget Comparison FY2003 Actual to FY2006 Budget (attachment 4).
- James Jumonville, Vice-chair, Holden Selectboard, read correspondence signed by the Member Town Selectboards of Holden, Paxton, Princeton, and Rutland and encouraged the School Committee to adopt the same resolution. The Superintendent distributed a copy of the correspondence (attachment 5).
- Stanley Moss, Chair, Princeton Selectboard, expressed the concerns of the Princeton Selectboard regarding the substantial increase to the school budget.

Chair Duncan Leith opened the discussion to School Committee Members for questions and comments regarding the presentation. Following inquiry, the Superintendent informed the Committee that if the budget was reduced by \$3.4 million, the reductions would be in personnel and instructional support. The Superintendent explained that special education requirements will be funded and must be absorbed into the total population of staff. An additional classroom at the Early Childhood Center will open on April 1; an additional special education class will be added at one of the elementary school in the fall; an addition special education class will be added to the high school in the fall. These classrooms will add three teachers and paraprofessional support before any other new appointments.

Following a question by a Member, the Superintendent explained that if all restorations were made that are included in the *Proposed FY06 Appropriation*, some special education costs for out-of-District placement could be reduced if there was sufficient support to keep the students in District classrooms.

The Superintendent confirmed, following inquiry, that the *Proposed FY06 Appropriation* was developed based upon the School Committee priorities, and that the fourth item in the highest priority list triggered the development of the restoration budget. The Superintendent advised the Committee that he is observing the wearing out of the teaching staff. The Superintendent reminded the Committee that the *Proposed FY06 Appropriation* does not address technology or facility needs, but does focus on returning the staffing levels to FY02.

When asked to estimate what possible increases to Chapter 70 Aid may come from the legislature, the Superintendent advised the Committee that there has been no indication from either the Senate or the House of Representatives as to whether or not an increase in Chapter 70 Aid will be included in the FY06 budget. Even though the Hancock case has been dismissed, the legislature appears to still be under its shadow.

It was noted by a Member that one school district laid off so many teachers that the requirements for time-on-learning were not being met. The Commissioner of Education directed the school district to comply with the time-on-learning requirements. The Superintendent advised the Committee that the District is at this crossroads as the State is not providing its share of funding necessary to implement the provisions of the *Education Reform Act of 1993*.

The Superintendent advised the Committee that education in the District has been depreciated; money has been invested by the State and the community in facilities, but not enough money has been invested in the students.

Chair Duncan Leith advised the Committee that it is very important to attend the March 28, 2005 School Committee meeting to adopt an appropriation. He reminded Members that an appropriation can be reduced at any time following initial adoption.

Member David Gibbs informed the Committee that the Department of Education has recently posted the FY04 Per Pupil Expenditures. The District's per pupil expenditure for FY04 was \$6,683, nearly \$2,000 behind state average of \$8,584. Member Gibbs listed many like districts to Wachusett which all spend more per pupil. He encouraged the Members to review the data on the Department of Education website. Member Gibbs also reported that information posted on the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services, website reports that Member Towns spend less per capita on education than the majority of municipalities in the State.

It was noted that the School Committee requested a restoration budget and that Members need time to review the budget presented. Further discussion will take place at the *Annual Budget Hearing* on March 28, 2005.

I. Public Hearing

No one from the public wished to speak.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1088<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on February 14, 2005 – approved by consensus, with Members Charles Capparelli, Kelly Maxwell, and Cheryl Rauh abstaining.

B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes – Part 1 of the WRSD Committee held on February 14, 2005

Motion: To approve the Executive Session Minutes – Part 1 of the WRSD Committee held on February 14, 2005, to be released when the subject of the minutes is concluded

(M. Sherman)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Charles Capparelli  
Kelly Maxwell  
Cheryl Rauh

(Motion passed 14-0-3)

- C. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes – Part 2 of the WRSD Committee held on February 14, 2005

Chair Duncan Leith distributed copies of the minutes to School Committee Members only, along with copies of executive session minutes from March 29, 2004, April 12, 2004, and April 26, 2004. Chair Leith requested that Members review the minutes for approval, either under New Business, or at the March 28, 2005 School Committee meeting.

- D. Approval of the 259<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on February 28, 2005 – approved by consensus, with Members Charles Capparelli, Kelly Maxwell, Cheryl Rauh, John Kane, and Margaret Watson abstaining.

### III. 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.

### IV. Committee Reports

- A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Leith responded to a recent *Speak Out in The Landmark* regarding the high school project, which was written by a former School Committee member. Chair Leith wanted to assure the public that the administration, including the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and Director of Operations, Director of Administrative Services and Principal, along with the Building Committee, take the charge of watching the taxpayers funds very seriously. Chair Leith reported that everything is not perfect. He reminded the Committee and the public that a new building would have been less costly and would have had less impact on the site, and therefore the contingency fund.

Chair Leith reported that the School Committee's main function is the education of the students of the District. He was pleased to report that at the WPI Science Fair, there were two first awards,

which went to Wachusett students; four second awards and two fourth awards went to Wachusett students. Chair Leith agreed to write a letter of congratulations to the award winners.

Chair Leith also reported that two District students went to the national track competition with one student coming in sixth in the nation in his race.

Member John Kane requested that it be noted in the minutes that there were many interested representatives from the Member Town Selectboards and Finance/Advisory Committees during the discussion of the budget but that the room emptied, save one Selectboard member, once the budget discussion was concluded.

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

No one was present from the Student Advisory Committee. Chair Leith requested that the Superintendent contact the high school principal to ascertain why there are no student representatives that come to the School Committee meetings.

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

1. Amend *Wachusett Regional School District By-Laws* by Deleting the Last Sentence in Article 3

### Article 3-MEETINGS

#### Section 3. *Vote of the Committee*

Action of the Committee shall require a majority vote of Committee Members present unless otherwise specified by law, by the School Committee's by-laws, or by the Regional Agreement. ~~Passage of the Superintendent's evaluation shall be by majority vote of the Committee membership.~~

Motion: to amend *Wachusett Regional School District By-Laws* by deleting the last sentence in Article 3

### Article 3-MEETINGS

#### Section 3. *Vote of the Committee*

Action of the Committee shall require a majority vote of Committee Members present unless otherwise specified by law, by the School Committee's by-laws, or by the Regional Agreement. ~~Passage of the Superintendent's evaluation shall be by majority vote of the Committee membership.~~

(D. Gibbs)

(M. James)

Following inquiry, Chair Leith advised the Committee that a majority vote is required to amend the by-laws.

#### Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith

John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet

Elizabeth Brennan

Charles Capparelli

Robert Carter

David Gibbs

Mark James

John Kane

Alice Livdahl

Mary Catherine Maher

Natalie Mello

Norman Plourde

Cheryl Rauh

Michael Sherman

Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Kelly Maxwell

(Motion passed 16-1)

2. Recommendation to Establish a Charitable Trust

It was noted that there were issues raised by District Counsel Leo McCabe that had not been addressed by the Management Subcommittee.

Motion: To establish a Charitable Trust, as presented by District Counsel Leo McCabe (attachment 6).

(M. Sherman)

(N. Mello)

Motion to Amend Section 2.2: To substitute, “This trust is for an indefinite duration; however, the trustees may terminate the trust at any time by distributing the remaining funds to the School Committee for the express purposes of the Trust, as defined in Section 2.1 (a).

(M. Sherman)

(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith

John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet

Elizabeth Brennan

Charles Capparelli

Robert Carter

David Gibbs

Mark James

John Kane

Alice Livdahl

Mary Catherine Maher

Kelly Maxwell

Natalie Mello

Norman Plourde

Cheryl Rauh

Michael Sherman

Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion to Amend Section 2.1 (a): To add “educational facilities” after “educational programs



(A. Livdahl)  
(N. Mello)

Following inquiry, the Superintendent explained that a donor may contribute to the Charitable Trust, specifically identifying the school and/or purpose.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

John Kane

(Motion passed 16-1)

Motion to Amend Section 5.6: To substitute “The Trustees shall not receive compensation for their services.”

(D. Gibbs)  
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter

David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion to Amend Section 5.1: Section 5.1 (b) to read: “All trustees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee, provided that there shall be at least one trustee serving from each member Town.

The initial appointment of Trustees shall be as follows:

In 2005 the Chairman of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee will appoint two Trustees for five-year terms, two Trustees for four-year terms, one Trustee for three-year term, one Trustee for two-year term, and one Trustee for one-year term.

All terms shall be effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

All Trustees appointed thereafter, shall be appointed to five-year terms, as terms expire or to the completion of terms for vacated seats.” And Section 5.1(c) deleting “and no more than nine trustees”

(M. Sherman)  
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan

Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Roll call vote on motion as amended:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

Abstained:  
John Kane

(Motion passed 16-0-1)

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

1. Amend Policy P3311 **Policy Relating to Education *Subject Fields and Courses for High School Students*** – second reading

Motion: To amend the following policies:

- Policy P3311 **Policy Relating to Education *Subject Fields and Courses for High School Students*** for the second reading, waiving the reading (attachment 7)
- Policy P3350 **Policy Relating to Education *Experimental and Innovative Programs*** for the second reading, waiving the reading (attachment 8)
- Policy P6436 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Tolerance*** for the second reading, waiving the reading (attachment 9)
- Policy P6433 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Substance Abuse*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 10)
- Policy P6515 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Student Publications*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 11)
- Policy P6562 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Alternate Student Transportation*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 12)
- Policy P6613.1 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Eye Protection*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 13)
- Policy P6616 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Insurance*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 14)
- Policy P6650 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Confidentiality*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 15)
- Policy P6910 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Student Records*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 16)

(M. Watson)

(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. **Amend Policy P3321.1 Policy Relating to Education**  
***Field Trips Involving Late Night and Overnight Travel*** –  
first reading

Copies of the *Proposed Policy: Travel and Study Abroad* were distributed to the Committee (attachment 17).

Motion: To adopt *Proposed Policy: Travel and Study Abroad* for the first reading

(M. Watson)

(A. Livdahl)

Motion: To table the motion to allow the Superintendent to put the policy in the proper format and to allow for review by the principals who will be required to implement the policy.

(D. Gibbs)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Charles Capparelli  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Natalie Mello  
Michael Sherman

Abstained:

John Kane

(Motion passed 12-4-1)

3. Amend Policy P3350 **Policy Relating to Education**  
*Experimental and Innovative Programs* – second reading

See above.

4. Amend Policy P6436 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
*Tolerance* – second reading

See above.

5. Delete Policy P6160 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
*Post-Graduate Students* – first reading

Motion: To delete Policy P6160 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services** *Post-Graduate Students* for the first reading  
(attachment 18)

(M. Watson)  
(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

6. Amend Policy P6433 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
***Substance Abuse*** – first reading

See above.

7. Amend Policy P6515 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
***Student Publications*** – first reading

See above.

8. Amend Policy P6562 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
***Alternate Student Transportation*** – first reading

See above.

9. Amend Policy P6613.1 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
***Eye Protection*** – first reading

See above.

10. Amend Policy P6616 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
***Insurance*** – first reading

See above.

11. Amend Policy P6631 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
***Non-Discrimination*** – first reading

Motion: To amend Policy P6631 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Non-Discrimination*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 19)

(M. Watson)

(K. Maxwell)

The Superintendent advised the Committee that the language in the proposed amendment to the policy is the language provided by the Office of Civil Rights.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:



None

(Motion passed unanimously)

12. Amend Policy P6650 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Confidentiality** – first reading

See above.

13. Amend Policy P6910 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Student Records** – first reading

See above.

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

1. Amend Policy P4100 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Budget** – first reading

Motion: To amend Policy P4100 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Budget** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 20)

(N. Mello)

(D. Gibbs)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Amend Policy P4251 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Student Activity Fee Schedule** – first reading

Motion: To amend Policy P4251 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Student Activity Fee Schedule** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 21) and to amend Policy P4280 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Gifts, Grants and Bequests** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 22)

(N. Mello)

(M. Sherman)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
Patricia Gates  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. Amend Policy P4280 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Gifts, Grants and Bequests** – first reading

See above.

4. Amend Policy P4714 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Periodic Financial Reports** – first reading

Motion: To amend Policy P4714 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Periodic Financial Reports** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 23)

(N. Mello)

(M. Sherman)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

5. Amend Policy P7131 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Buildings and Grounds Management** – first reading

Motion: To amend the following policies

- **Policy P7131 Policy Relating to Support Operations *Buildings and Grounds Management*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 24)
- **Policy P7222 Policy Relating to Support Operations *Contract Services*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 25)
- **Policy P7240 Policy Relating to Support Operations *Safety and Security Procedures*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 26)  
(N. Mello)  
(M. Sherman)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

6. Amend Policy P7222 **Policy Relating to Support Operations *Contract Services*** – first reading

See above.

7. Amend Policy P7240 **Policy Relating to Support Operations *Safety and Security Procedures*** – first reading

See above.

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

1. Amend Policy AP4290 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance *Scholarship Funds*** – First Reading

Motion: To amend Policy AP4290 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance *Scholarship Funds*** for the first reading, waiving the reading (attachment 27)

(D. Gibbs)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Following inquiry as to the process for selecting a scholarship recipient for the Buttrick Scholarship in Sterling, the Superintendent advised the Committee that he would contact Timothy Bragan, Sterling Executive Secretary to clarify the process for selection of a recipient.

Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair David Gibbs reported that the School Council Worksheet included in the Superintendent's Report was revised following conversations with the Superintendent. The Superintendent had discussed with Subcommittee Chair Gibbs the role of School Committee and School Councils in staffing of schools and that the School Committee should focus on the priorities of the School Committee goals. The following School Committee Members will attend the School Council meetings:

Dawson Elementary School – Mark James  
Davis Hill Elementary School – Cynthia Bazinet  
Mayo Elementary School – Margaret Watson  
Mountview Middle School – Michael Sherman  
Central Tree Middle School – Elizabeth Brennan  
Naquag Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan  
Houghton Elementary School – Norman Plourde  
Chocksett Middle School – Charles Capparelli  
Paxton Center School – Alice Livdahl  
Thomas Prince School  
Wachusett Regional High School – Kelly Maxwell

Discussion continued on the revised worksheets, as Members reported that they needed more specific input on the *Proposed FY06 Appropriation* and that the priorities would not provide that input. It was explained that the Community Outreach Subcommittee is attempting to listen during the month of March, prior to the Annual Budget Hearing, and then returning in April to advocate for the adopted *FY06 Appropriation*.

The Superintendent re-stated that the responsibility for staffing rests with the administration and that it is the responsibility of the School Committee to determine the amount of the *Salaries* line item and then the administration would determine the positions necessary.

The Superintendent reminded the Committee that the School Committee requested the budget, as presented.

Motion: To extend the meeting for thirty minutes

(J. Kane)  
(M. Sherman)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

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

Motion: To appropriate \$15,750 from *Excess & Deficiency (E&D)* for Consultant Services for Superintendent Search

(N. Plourde)  
(N. Mello)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Chair Norman Plourde reported that with the appropriation of funds for the consultant the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee has completed its work. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde urged Chair Leith to schedule a special meeting with NESDEC to determine the process. The Superintendent advised the Committee that the District will contact NESDEC to obtain a few dates for a special meeting. Chair Leith would then schedule a special meeting for the purposes of meeting with NESDEC.

H. Building Committees

1. High School

In the interest of time, Chair Leith provided a brief report, noting that the Building Committee and the administration want the erosion problems resolved.



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

Member Elizabeth Brennan reported that the Rutland Building Committee met on March 10, 2005. Tree cutting has begun. The contractor is urging the town to provide a water connection as soon as possible to the site. The Rutland Selectboard is still pursuing options for funding the increase to the project following the unsuccessful debt exclusion vote. The architect is contacting the School Building Authority to provide information for a possible increase in the maximum allowable cost for reimbursement.

- I. 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, and Wachusett Regional High School (K. Maxwell).

V. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report
- B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee
  1. Appropriation of \$15,750 from *Excess & Deficiency (E&D)* for Consultant Services for Superintendent Search  
  
See Item IV G 1 above.
  2. Report on Ratification of Collectively Bargained Agreement Between the Wachusett Regional School District and the Wachusett Administrator's Association (WAA)

The Superintendent reported that the School Committee and the Wachusett Administrator's Association (WAA) have ratified a new contract.

3. Superintendent Recommendation to amend the FY05 Member Town Assessments by reducing the assessments, as follows:

- Holden from \$17,746,006 to \$17,742,596
- Paxton from \$4,073,482 to \$4,070,092
- Princeton from \$3,801,598 to \$3,801,228

The Superintendent reported that the recommendation is to correct for over assessment to three Member Towns due to the omission of School Choice and Charter students when calculating the transportation assessment. The Member Towns of Sterling and Rutland were beneficiaries of this error but the School Committee cannot increase assessments.

Motion: To amend the FY05 Member Town Assessments by reducing the assessments, as follows:

- Holden from \$17,746,006 to \$17,742,596
- Paxton from \$4,073,482 to \$4,070,092
- Princeton from \$3,801,598 to \$3,801,228

(M. Sherman)  
(J. Kane)

Member Elizabeth Brennan left the meeting at 10:08 PM.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman

Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Elizabeth Brennan returned to the meeting at 10:10 PM.

The Superintendent informed the Committee that updated Appendices 7, 8, and 9 will be distributed which will also contain a minor adjustment for the inclusion of Early Childhood students when calculating the assessments.

3. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Strategies for Negotiations and strategies for legal matters

Motion: To enter Executive Session, at the end of the meeting, not to return to public session, for the purpose of discussing strategies for negotiations

(J. Nunnari)

(N. Mello)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VI. Public Hearing

No one from the public wished to speak.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Adjournment

The School Committee entered executive session at 10:14 PM.

The School Committee returned to public session at 10:24 PM.

Motion: To adjourn

(N. Mello)  
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
John Nunnari  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Robert Carter  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
John Kane  
Alice Livdahl  
Mary Catherine Maher  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Norman Plourde

Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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