

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1056, Tuesday, March 25, 2003
7:00 p.m.

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Alice Livdahl
Duncan Leith, Vice-Chairman	Peter MacDonald (8:35 PM)
Donald Benson	Kelly Maxwell
Charles Capparelli	Natalie Mello
Clifford Connell	Julie Scott
Carol Esperti	Tammy Tod
Patricia Gates	Margaret Watson
Jeffrey Gibbs	

Committee Members Absent:

David Fedeli	John Nunnari
Kimberly Ferguson	Patricia Young
Jane James	

Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Paul K. Soojian, Director of Operations
Peter V. Brennan, Comptroller
Susan H. Sullivan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Others Present:

Kelley Nosel, Curriculum Supervisor
Jason Newton, School Psychologist Liaison
Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*
Marc Sanguinetti, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
Susan Staudaer, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*
David Gibbs, Sterling
Maureen Floryan, Holden
Larry Floryan, Holden

Mark James, Holden
Alicia Rokicki, Rutland
Michael Sherman, Holden

Chairman John Rokicki called the meeting to order at 8:32 PM. Chairman Rokicki addressed Agenda Item VI B1, the MCAS Presentation. The Superintendent introduced Jason Newton, School Psychologist Liaison, and Kelley Nosel, Curriculum Supervisor, who discussed the MCAS results using a PowerPoint presentation (attachment 1). Committee members asked questions of the presenters and offered comments regarding the presentation and the achievement of District students.

I. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a letter sent to Holden Selectmen, Holden Finance Committee members, and Holden Representatives to the School Committee from Holden Associated Taxpayers and her own prepared statement (attachments 2 and 3).

Mark James, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

Chairman John Rokicki addressed Agenda Items VB1 and 2.

V. Committee Reports

B. Education Subcommittee (J. Scott, Chair, K. Ferguson, P. MacDonald, J. Nunnari, T. Tod, M. Watson, P. Young)

1. Motion: To adopt DP6812 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Diplomas for Veterans** for the second reading, waiving the reading

(J. Scott)
(D. Benson)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
Carol Esperti
Patricia Gates

Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Motion: To AP7151.1 **Policy Relating to Support Operation *Playground Safety*** for the second reading, waiving the reading

(J. Scott)
(D. Leith)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
Carol Esperti
Patricia Gates
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chairman John Rokicki addressed Agenda Item VIIIA.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Motion: To adopt AP5241.12 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Criminal Record Check*** for the second reading, waiving the reading and adding “CORI” in parenthesis
(D. Leith)
(J. Scott)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
Carol Esperti
Patricia Gates
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chairman John Rokicki addressed Agenda Items VIB 3, 4, and 5

VI. Superintendent’s Report

- B. Recommendations requiring action by the School Committee
3. Amend 2003 School Committee Calendar

Motion: To amend the 2003 School Committee Calendar as presented (attachment 5)

(C. Esperti)
(P. MacDonald)

Motion to Amend: To change the May 27, 2003 meeting to May 29, 2003

(J. Scott)
(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
Patricia Gates
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Carol Esperti
Peter MacDonald

(Motion passed 13-2)

Vote on motion as amended: To amend the 2003 School Committee Calendar as presented, changing the May 27, 2003 meeting to May 29, 2003

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
Carol Esperti

Patricia Gates
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. Appropriation of SBAB funds in the amount of \$222,495 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for the renovation/addition at Naquag Elementary School

Motion: To appropriate SBAB funds in the amount of \$222,495 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for the renovation/addition at Naquag Elementary School

(J. Scott)
(J. Gibbs)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
Carol Esperti
Patricia Gates
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

5. Approval for the establishment of Money Market accounts for the high school renovation/addition project at Hudson Savings Bank and BankNorth

Motion: To approve the establishment of Money Market accounts for the high school renovation/addition project at Hudson Savings Bank and BankNorth

(D. Leith)

(N. Mello)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki

Duncan Leith

Donald Benson

Charles Capparelli

Clifford Connell

Carol Esperti

Patricia Gates

Jeffrey Gibbs

Alice Livdahl

Peter MacDonald

Kelly Maxwell

Natalie Mello

Julie Scott

Tammy Tod

Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chairman John Rokicki addressed Agenda Item VIB2.

VI. Superintendent's Report

B. Recommendations requiring action by the School Committee

2. Approval of Proposed FY04 Budget Appropriation

Motion: To approve the Proposed FY04 Budget Appropriation (attachment 6)

(N. Mello)

(M. Watson)

The Superintendent presented to the School Committee an analysis of the previously voted \$450,000 reduction to the transportation budget (attachment 7). The Superintendent explained that a reduction would result in a fleet of forty busses. Once the students who live beyond two miles were routed and provisions made for students paying a fee for transportation, forty busses would not accommodate the students, five additional busses would be needed. If the one and one-half mile standard were used, the same additional bus for each town would be needed at a cost of \$175,000. The per pupil cost would be higher should the two mile standard be used.

The Superintendent explained that this data was not available when the original vote was taken since it was not considered as an option and that the Committee had opted to institute a fee for transportation rather than to ask the Member Towns to have an additional warrant article, as recommended. Once the analysis was complete, the impact was known and has been made available to the Committee.

The Superintendent recommended that the Committee either use the one and one-half mile standard and add \$175,000 to the budget appropriation, remove the fee basis requirement or implement the Superintendent's original recommendation to ask for an additional warrant article.

Motion to Amend: To add \$175,000 to Proposed FY04 Budget Appropriation, to cover the increase cost for five busses

(C. Esperti)

(P. MacDonald)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
Carol Esperti
Patricia Gates
Jeffrey Gibbs
Peter MacDonald
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Donald Benson
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Tammy Tod

(Motion passed 10-5)

Motion: To extend the meeting for fifteen minutes

(D. Benson)

(J. Scott)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
Carol Esperti
Patricia Gates
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Roll call vote on motion as amended: To approve the Proposed FY04 Budget Appropriation, adding \$175,000 to Proposed FY04 Budget Appropriation, to cover the increase cost for five busses

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
Carol Esperti
Patricia Gates
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod

(Motion passed 13-2)

Chairman John Rokicki addressed Agenda Item VIII B.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- B. Motion: To adopt AP7210 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Routes and Services** for the second reading, waiving the reading
(C. Esperti)
(J. Scott)

Chairman John Rokicki explained to the Committee that a vote in opposition to the amended policy would result in the current one and one-half mile standard to be used for transportation.

Vote:

In favor

None

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
Carol Esperti
Patricia Gates
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Tammy Tod

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 0-14-1)

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the 1055th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 10, 2003 – deferred to the next meeting
- B. Approval of the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 10, 2003 – deferred to the next meeting

IX. New Business

Motion: To enter Executive Session at the end of the meeting, not to return to public session, for the purposes of discussing strategies for negotiations
(C. Esperti)
(P. MacDonald)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
Carol Esperti
Patricia Gates
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The Committee agreed by consensus to not object to the Superintendent's stepdaughter working at Child Works.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:ss/School Committee/Minutes