

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1037, Tuesday, March 26, 2002
7:00 p.m.

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Alice Livdahl
Donald Benson	David Lowenthal
Kimberly Ferguson	Peter MacDonald
Michael Gennert	Kelly Maxwell
Jeffrey Gibbs	Natalie Mello
Jane James	Julie Scott
Sarah Jordan	Kathleen Singh (7:12 PM)
Duncan Leith	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Sherry Horeanopoulos, Vice-chairman	John Nunnari
Carol Esperti	Elizabeth Pape

Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools
Paul K. Soojian, Director of Operations
Philip Campbell, Director of Student/Information Services
Brian O'Connell, Director of Administrative Services
Peter V. Brennan, Comptroller
Thomas Pandiscio, Principal Wachusett Regional High School
Susan Sullivan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Others present:

Leo McCabe, District Counsel
Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*
Stacey M. Grossi, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
Christine Nelson, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*
Douglas Briggs, Rutland Selectboard
Louis Cornacchioli, Rutland Selectboard
David White, Holden Selectboard

Michael Wronski, Holden Selectboard
Joseph Sullivan, Holden Selectboard
Remo Rossi, Sterling Selectboard
Robert Martin, Holden Town Counsel
Christian deMarcken, Paxton Finance Committee
Stanley Moss, Princeton Advisory Board
Joseph Giotta, Holden Finance Committee
Melinda Johnson, Paxton
Jeffrey Wentzell, Paxton
Ruth Briggs, Rutland
James Jumonville, Holden
Maureen Floryan, Holden
Larry Floryan, Holden
Mark James, Holden
David Gibbs, Sterling

Chairman John Rokicki called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. With the indulgence of the Committee, he reported that the order of the agenda would be: Items VI, B and C; Item I, Item IV, VIF, Budget Items VI E and then Unfinished Business. At the request of a member, Chairman Rokicki indicated that he would take Unfinished Business before the budget issues.

VI. Superintendent's Report

B. Presentation of the State Champion Girls Track Team

Chairman Rokicki introduced Curriculum Specialist Richard Lewis who introduced Coach Brian Wallace and Director of Operations Paul Soojian who distributed certificates of recognition to the State Champion Girls Indoor Track Team:

Liz Banks	Elise Parella
Laurie Bernier	Lindsay Schakenbach
Adin Bradley	Caitlin Shooshan
Rebecca Ely	Audrey Starbard
Korie Ferris	Cara Valeri
Carly Holbrook	Jillian Volk
Kristen Kelley	Vicki Weisman
Sarah Kieras	Emily Winaco
Kendra Leith	Elizabeth Woodruff
Nikki Leger	

C. Presentation of the High School Science Fair Award Winners

Chairman John Rokicki then introduced Curriculum Specialist Clif Wheeler who introduced Carol Sullivan, Faculty Coordinator, and the winners of the Wachusett Science Fair and presented the participants with certificates of recognition:

Julie Anderson	Andrea Najamy
Jessica Clark	Sarah Patten
Jimmy Clark	Jackie Roux
Erin Dunbar	Nicolette Schlichting
Isaiah Grigos	Dan Smaltz
Ariannah Mirick	Sara Winkler

I. Public Hearing

Christian deMarcken, Paxton Finance Committee, read a prepared statement (attachment 1).

Donna Dominguez, Sterling, commended the science students recognized and all other science students. She reminded the Committee that the students are the reason for the Committee sitting at the table. If members cannot leave the political issues aside, she recommended that they resign.

Michael Wronski, Holden Selectboard, reported that the Holden Selectboard voted unanimously to support the Superintendent's request for a delay in the District budget process and asked that the Committee vote tonight affirmatively for the "Martin Opinion".

Chairman Rokicki distributed communication from Jeffrey Wulfson, Associate Commissioner for School Finance, Department of Education (attachment 2).

Mark James, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Melinda Johnson, Paxton, commented on the correspondence from Mr. Wulfson, reading portions applicable to the issue. She expressed surprise that the Paxton Boards did not vote to delay submission of the District budget.

Stanley Moss, Princeton Advisory Board, reported on behalf of the Advisory Board and Princeton Selectboard that the Selectboard did not vote to delay the submission of the District budget.

Chairman Rokicki distributed correspondence from the Rutland, Holden, Princeton and Paxton Selectboards (attachments 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8). He also distributed correspondence from Member Alice Livdahl (attachment 9).

David Gibbs, Sterling, read a prepared statement (attachment 10).

Larry Floryan, Holden, urged the Committee to review Mr. Wulfson's correspondence. The advice in the correspondence was to follow the current regional agreement until a firm opinion can be reviewed and finalized from the DOE.

Robert Martin, Holden District Counsel, explained that Mr. Wulfson's correspondence was in response to a request by him, dated March 22, 2002, asking if implementation could be take place in FY03 if a change was made to the regional agreement. He believes that if a problem occurs, then solve it, do not be a blocker. He distributed correspondence from him to Debra Comfort, Legal Counsel at Massachusetts Department of Education (attachment 11). He also distributed *A Method to address the conflict between the Education Reform Law and Section 4 of the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement* (attachment 12).

IV. Education Presentation

Chairman Rokicki introduced Principal Thomas Pandiscio who distributed the high school's "Mission Statement" which was developed for the upcoming review by NEASC and Dr. Pandiscio briefly described the statement and the draft student expectations (attachment 13).

V. Superintendent's Report

E. Presentation of Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc.

Chairman Rokicki introduced Roger Hoit and Edward Tynan from Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. Mr. Hoit gave a brief description of the firm and the success rate. The firm is interested in doing what is best for the region. Their desire is to aid the Committee in decision-making. The firm will look at enrollment, financial

aspects in order to determine reasonable cost. There are now six categories of schools rather than three. In order to get into the higher categories, enrollment is critical. Facility analysis and enrollment analysis will occur simultaneously.

Chairman Rokicki asked for questions from the Committee. A question was raised regarding enrollment figures, pointing out the need in Rutland to build an additional elementary school. Mr. Tynan reported that enrollment is reviewed not only with NESDEC but with talking with building inspectors, etc.

A member asked when they would start and when report to the Committee. Strekalovsky & Hoit reported that they would start tomorrow and would report once a month. The firm would provide information prior to the meetings in order for the members to review the information. They indicated that they would meet as often as needed.

A question was raised regarding the DOE's request for comment on the new rates. Mr. Hoit reported that he was commenting on the rates and thought that the rates were not high enough.

Mr. Hoit reported that DOE has now indicated that all projects would be funded not just fifteen of them as reported earlier.

Member Donald Benson distributed "Framework for a High School Solution" (attachment 14). The document could help to aid the facilitator. Mr. Hoit reported that he welcomes any input from the Committee.

The Superintendent arrived at 8:40 PM.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Tabled Motion: The participating towns of the Wachusett Regional School District adopt the following process in making assessments to the member towns with respect to the apportionment of its budget:

Step One: The District shall annually allocate the amount of funds to be requested that are in excess of the aggregate of the Net Minimum Contribution (NMC) for all of its members and the Chapter 70 allocated to the District (not including Transportation expense and existing outstanding Debt

Service) on a per capita basis. These amounts shall be hereinafter known as the “Regional Agreement Spending Assessment (RASA)”.

Step Two: Allocate the aggregate of the NMC required of each member town among the members based on their respective per capita percentage from the previous October 1, enrollment counts.

Step Three: Compare the amounts determined under Step Two with the actual NMC for those members and assign to any member whose NMC (a) exceeds the amount determined under Step Two a credit equal to that excess or (b) is less than the amount determined under Step Two a debt equal to that deficiency.

Step Four: Apply the credits and debits identified in Step #3 to each member’s RASA as determined in Step #1 with credits being deducted and debits being added to such amounts, subject to the limitation that no refund can be assigned to a town (zero is the lowest allowable entry under this Step).

Step Five: Issue Regional Agreement Spending Assessments to the member towns based on the amounts determined under Step Four.

Motion: To remove the motion from the table.

(J. Scott)

(K. Maxwell)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Donald Benson
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott

Kathleen Singh
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chairman Rokicki opened discussions on the main motion.

Chairman Rokicki asked Holden Town Counsel Robert Martin if he would answer questions regarding the Martin Opinion and was asked if the proposal was legal. Attorney Martin indicated that he had researched and discussed with representatives from DOE who indicated that it was indeed legal. State statute takes precedence. He gave a brief history of his activities regarding this.

District Counsel Leo McCabe was asked whether an amendment would need to be approval by four or five member towns. Attorney McCabe reported that this needs to be clarified as DOE must sign off on any agreement change.

Clarity was requested on what the process outlined in the motion was. A possible solution is to prepare a Regional Agreement change.

Attorney Martin indicated that if the Committee had moved ahead in October, the solution would be in place. The Chairman reminded Mr. Martin that the Committee did approve a Regional Agreement change last fall and brought it to all member towns. Attorney Martin stood corrected.

Attorney Martin was asked how an assessment would be changed once assessment letters had been sent out. Attorney Martin and Holden Town Manager Brian Bullock reported that it was Jeff Wulfson from DOE who had indicated that this would be possible.

A member asked the two attorneys the difference between Chapter 70 and Chapter 71. Chapter 70 came after Chapter 71 chronologically. Attorney McCabe indicated that both can be followed in harmony.

A member indicated that it was a large leap from assessing above minimum spending per capita to charging one town the entire lump sum. It should be an agreement change.

Member Ferguson distributed a copy of a substitute motion to change the Regional Agreement (attachment 15).

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Donald Benson
Kimberly Ferguson
Sarah Jordan
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Michael Gennert
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 8-8)

Motion: That the Wachusett Regional School District Committee notify the member towns to ask for special town meetings within the next three weeks to amend the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement by deleting the existing Section 4 and by substituting therefore the following:

Section 4: Payment of the various costs of the Regional District for a fiscal year shall be apportioned among the member towns as set forth in this Section 4.

4.1.1 As used in this Section 4, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (i) “Minimum Required Local Contribution” and “MRLC” of a member town in any fiscal year shall be the amount thereof as determined for that fiscal year in accordance with General Laws Chapter 70.
- (ii) “Per capita basis” – each member town shall be assigned an enrollment percentage, to be determined by the individual town’s Enrollment as of October 1st of the immediately preceding fiscal year.
- (iii) “Regional Agreement Spending Assessment” and “RASA” for the Regional District in any fiscal year shall be the amount of funds for operating costs to be requested of the member towns that is in excess of the aggregate of (A) the Minimum Required Local Contribution for all member towns and (B) the Chapter 70 aid allocated to the Regional District (not including transportation expense and existing outstanding debt service.)

4.1.2 Each member town shall be assessed an amount to its required Minimum Required Local Contribution.

4.1.3 If the Regional District proposes that there be a Regional Agreement Spending Assessment for a particular fiscal year, then the following steps shall be followed in determining each member town’s apportioned share of the RASA for that fiscal year:

- Step 1: On a preliminary basis the RASA shall be allocated among the member towns on a per capita basis.
- Step 2: The District shall allocate the aggregate of the MRLC required of the member towns among the member towns on a per capita basis.
- Step 3: The amounts determined under Step 2 shall be compared with the actual MRLC for each member town and there shall be assigned to any member town whose MRLC (a) exceeds the amount determined under Step 2, a credit equal to that excess, or (b) is less than the amount determined under Step 2, a debit equal to that deficiency.

Step 4 The credits and debits identified in Step 3 shall be applied to each member town's preliminary RASA as determined under Step 1, with credits being deducted and debits being added to such amounts, subject to the limitation that no refund can be assigned to a member town (zero is the lowest allowable entry under this Step).

Step 5: Issue Regional Agreement Spending Assessments for operating costs to the member towns based on the amounts determined under Step 4.

4.1.4 All costs of the Regional District for any fiscal year not addressed in the prior subsections of this Section 4 shall be apportioned among the member towns on a per capita basis.

(K. Ferguson)
(K. Maxwell)

Motion: To extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

(P. MacDonald)
(J. Scott)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Donald Benson
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Jeffrey Gibbs
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Jane James
Natalie Mello

Abstained:
Kelly Maxwell

(Motion 13-2-1)

Chairman John Rokicki recessed the meeting at 9:55 PM for ten minutes, due to a power failure. When the power was not restored, Chairman Rokicki recessed the meeting at 10:10 PM to a time certain, Wednesday March 27, 2002, at 7:00 PM in the Media Center at the high school.

Chairman Rokicki reconvened the recessed meeting to order on Wednesday, March 27, 2002, at 7:06 PM

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	David Lowenthal
Donald Benson	Peter MacDonald (8:12 PM)
Carol Esperti	Kelly Maxwell
Kimberly Ferguson (8:26 PM)	Natalie Mello
Michael Gennert	John Nunnari
Jane James	Elizabeth Pape (7:30 PM)
Sarah Jordan	Julie Scott
Duncan Leith	Kathleen Singh
Alice Livdahl	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Sherry Horeanopoulos, Vice-chairman Jeffrey Gibbs

Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools
Peter V. Brennan, Comptroller
Susan Sullivan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Others present:

Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*
Richard Halloran, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
Christine Nelson, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*
Louis Cornacchioli, Rutland Selectboard
David White, Holden Selectboard
Joseph Sullivan, Holden Selectboard
Robert Martin, Holden Town Counsel
Christian deMarcken, Paxton Finance Committee
Stanley Moss, Princeton Advisory Committee

Maureen Floryan, Holden
Larry Floryan, Holden
Mark James, Holden
David Gibbs, Sterling
Leo Bachant, Holden
Jeffrey Wentzell, Paxton

Member Carol Esperti distributed correspondence regarding the size of the Committee (attachment 16).

Discussion continued on the main motion.

A member asked if the Superintendent would confer with legal counsel from the State to make sure that the motion was legal before enacting. The Superintendent assured the Committee that should this motion pass, the Superintendent would ask the Department of Education for an expedited review of the legality of the amendment.

Member Kelly Maxwell read a statement from Member Kimberly Ferguson (attachment 17).

Discussion occurred regarding the problem of presenting a proposal to townspeople without the certainty that the Commissioner will sign the amended agreement and that the credibility of the Committee would be in question.

Concern was expressed that the wording of the motion was prepared and shared with some Committee members but not all members and that there was not enough time to properly review the wording.

Holden Town Counsel Robert Martin explained the “nuts and bolts” of the Martin Opinion, explaining each definition and the process.

The Superintendent recommended that the words “Net Minimum Contribution” be replaced by “Minimum Local Required Contribution” and the word “Foundation” before enrollment be deleted.

The difference between the two motions, one without a Regional Agreement change and one with a Regional

Agreement change was discussed. Attorney Martin explained that the motions were the same. District Counsel reported to the Committee that Debra Comfort, Legal Counsel at DOE, concurred with his opinion that assessments were governed by Chapter 71, Section 16B and the Regional Agreement. Either the legislation needs to be changed or the Regional Agreement but the Committee does not have the authority to change the method of assessment without a Regional Agreement change.

Attorney McCabe also advised that Chapter 70 states that a district can ask for money above NSS based on the Regional Agreement. Attorney McCabe asked Attorney Martin if the opinion was similar to the vote at town meetings on December 4, 2001.

Attorney McCabe advised the Committee that after analyzing the wording of the motion line-by-line, his concern is that the method of assessment is being changed, which by Chapter 71, Section 16B, requires an affirmative vote by all towns. He advised that the net affect is that the method of assessment has been changed and that DOE had the same concern. Attorney Martin advised that ultimately the State would be the determinate on the issue.

A member asked for clarity on what was included in the "RASA" number. The Superintendent reported that it includes the recovery of excess debt but not debt payment or transportation.

The Superintendent explained that the assessment letters going out this week would be higher than the amounts being discussed tonight. Once the Chapter 70 aid is determined, the assessments would be lowered. Twenty four million dollars is the unknown portion of the District's budget. Because of the dilemma because of the uncertainty of the State numbers, the District will need to negotiate with the member towns on a final budget.

Chairman Rokicki asked for and received the Committee consensus to change the language and acronym, per the

Superintendent's suggestion, concurred by District and Town of Holden counsels, in order to comply with the language in the State law.

Motion: To move the question.

(J. Scott)
(D. Benson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Donald Benson
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Jane James
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Carol Esperti
Sarah Jordan
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kathleen Singh

(Motion passed 11-7)

Roll call vote on the main motion:

In favor:

Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald

Kelly Maxwell
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Michael Gennert
Jane James
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape

(Motion passed 12-6)

Chairman Rokicki returned to the order announced for the meeting. Stanley Moss, Chair Princeton Advisory Committee, announced that the Princeton Selectboard is posted for Saturday morning at 10:30 ~~PM~~ AM and will most likely reconsider the Superintendent's request to delay submission of the District budget.

VI. Superintendent's Report

E. Recommendations requiring action by the School Committee

The Superintendent is recommending the budget proposed.

1. Motion: To approve of Proposed FY03 Staffing Authorization, as presented by the Superintendent
(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Jane James
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald

Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
David Lowenthal

(Motion passed 17-0-1)

2. Motion: To approve of Proposed FY03 Budget
Appropriation of \$52,326,800

(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Duncan Leith reported that the subcommittee reviewed the budget again. Several members attended the meeting; no members expressed concerns regarding the budget to either the Chair or the Superintendent. The Subcommittee recommended adoption of the budget as presented, knowing that the figure would be lowered once the final figures are available from the state.

The Superintendent suggested possible cuts to the budget including: food service price increases, building and use fees, user fees including: transportation fees (815 grade 1-12 students ride the bus without reimbursement), athletic fees, music fees, art fees, parking fees. The School Committee could consider becoming a "Choice" district. The Superintendent advised that teachers would be the last to be cut. The Committee has been silent as to the policy direction on priorities of the Committee. The Committee should give guidance through policy. The Superintendent would prefer to have policy that guides the cost reduction process. The Superintendent has maintained practices that were here before he came.

Without certain numbers from the State, the Superintendent is recommending a budget including minimum required local contribution, recovery of excess debt, transportation, and debt service.

The Superintendent and District staff are reviewing the member towns revenue sources, including stabilization funds, free cash and cash levy limits. The District is conducting fact-finding in order to negotiate from an informed position, looking at reductions, revenue enhancement, and ability of the towns to pay. The bottom line is that the education takes place in the classroom, with the principal at the helm.

As to the role of the Committee after the budget is passed and cuts have to be made, the Superintendent indicated that the budget would come back to the Committee with possibilities and then decisions would be made through policy decisions from the Committee.

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Duncan Leith informed the Committee that the Business/Finance Subcommittee would be meeting on April 2, 2002 at 6:30 PM at the Central Office.

The Superintendent reported that the list of possible retirements was being finalized, as any staff layoffs would occur as last in, first out.

It was expressed that negotiating with the town could be adversarial and expressed hope that the players would work cooperatively to finalize the budget.

Following a questions from a member the Superintendent reported that the per-pupil of \$7873 is based on total budget; the \$7248 per pupil is based on the operating budget only.

The Superintendent reminded the members that last year a \$250,000 contribution by the District was made towards transportation to reduce the amount assessed to the towns.

Roll call vote on the main motion:

In favor:

John Rokicki
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
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed 18-0)

Chairman Rokicki, with the consensus of the Committee, will eliminate agenda items II, III, and V and complete the Superintendent's Report, Public Hearing and New Business. Other items would be deferred to the next meeting.

3. Approval of Adoption of Stabilization Fund

The Superintendent advised that this matter would be deferred but was a concern since the technology advances must be protected.

4. Approval of Transfer of \$500,000 from Excess & Deficiency to the Stabilization Fund

No action was taken.

5. Approval of Phase II of the Modular Classroom Proposal in the amount of \$2,127,234

No action was taken on this recommendation and would be considered at a later date, perhaps a special meeting.

6. Motion: To approve the transfer of \$34,260, the indirect cost value of state and federal grants to professional development revolving account, as delineated in the Superintendent's Report.

(J. Scott)
(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
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
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

7. Motion: To approve the 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

(J. Nunnari)
(M. Gennert)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
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
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

A. Discussion of Report

A member asked for clarity of an item in the Superintendent's Report regarding the quorum of Subcommittee. The Superintendent's comments were based on the Superintendent's participation in subcommittee meetings with three members, and explained the history of quorum of subcommittees in the District. The practice has been, since 1999, that the quorum is three. The Superintendent recommended clarity be made in the Committee By-Laws if members think differently. This issue was referred to Management Subcommittee.

VII. Public Hearing

Louis Cornacchioli, Rutland Selectboard, stated that the inequity, if it indeed exists, was created by the State and should be solved by the

State. He reminded the Committee that Rutland participated in the recovery of excess debt, even though the town received no excess debt credit. He believes that the two school people want a negative tone to prevail. He stated that the people in Rutland understand the politics. The Rutland people have sat quietly and now will fight every inch of the way.

IX. New Business

Member Donald Benson spoke on the framework distributed earlier (attachment 14). Some members expressed concern that this would put constraints on the consultants. Members will review and discuss at a later date. The Superintendent concurred that the consultants should not be constrained.

A member asked if Medicaid Reimbursement should be included as revenue. The Superintendent explained that Medicaid funds are treated like grants to support the program. To include them as part of the revenue projections would give an appearance of inflation, which would not be true inflation.

Member David Lowenthal asked that an article from the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* be part of the record (attachment 18).

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(N. Mello)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
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
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The remaining items were deferred to the next meeting.

II. Secretary's Report.

- A. Approval of the 1034th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on February 11, 2002 – approved by consensus.
- B. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on February 11, 2002 -- approved by consensus.
- C. Approval of the 1035th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on February 25, 2002 – approved by consensus.
- D. Approval of the Minutes of the Budget Hearing Minutes held on March 11, 2002 -- approved by consensus.
- E. Approval of the 1036th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 11, 2002 -- approved by consensus.

III. Communications

V. Committee Reports

- A. Student Advisory Committee (L. McNally, C. Smith)
- B. Education Subcommittee (J. Nunnari – Chair, D. Benson, K. Ferguson, M. Gennert, S. Jordan, A. Livdahl, D. Lowenthal, E. Pape, M. Watson)

- C. Education-related Ad-Hoc Subcommittees requiring the action of the School Committee
 - 1. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to Review District Goals (E. Pape, D. Benson, M. Gennert, S. Jordan, P. MacDonald)
 - a. Discussion of School Committee Goals

- D. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School – J. Nunnari, Chocksett – P. MacDonald; Davis Hill; Dawson – J. Scott; Houghton – S. Jordan; Mayo – C. Esperti; Mountview – J. James; Naquag – J. Rokicki; Paxton – A. Livdahl; Thomas Prince – S. Horeanopoulos; Wachusett Regional High School – E. Pape

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:ss/School Committee/Minutes