

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1090, Monday March 28, 2005
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	John Kane
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Alice Livdahl
Cynthia Bazinet	Natalie Mello
Elizabeth Brennan	Phillip Mighdoll
Charles Capparelli	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Cheryl Rauh
Patricia Gates	Michael Sherman
David Gibbs	Margaret Watson
Mark James	

Committee Members Absent:

Mary Catherine Maher	Kelly Maxwell
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Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Paul K. Soojian, Deputy Superintendent and Director of Operations
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 8:57 PM and advised the School Committee that he would address Item VB1, Adoption of the *FY06 Appropriation* in the amount of \$61,689,061 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden	\$20,573,512
Paxton	\$ 4,687,637
Princeton	\$ 4,396,171
Rutland	\$ 6,670,141
Sterling	\$ 9,120,292

Motion: To adopt the *FY06 Appropriation* in the amount of \$61,689,061 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden	\$20,573,512
Paxton	\$ 4,687,637
Princeton	\$ 4,396,171
Rutland	\$ 6,670,141
Sterling	\$ 9,120,292

(M. James)
(D. Gibbs)

Member Cynthia Bazinet read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Member Norman Plourde read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair David Gibbs distributed a copy of input from the School Councils regarding the School Committee values (attachment 4).

Discussion continued on the necessity for a restoration budget. The Superintendent advised the Committee that in FY04, had the budget not been adopted in December, the State would have set the District's budget; the State would not have taken over the District.

When asked about the status quo budget, the Superintendent advised the Committee that since November when the status quo budget was presented, special education staff has been added, due to the requirements service. The status quo budget would be \$3.206 million more than FY05. The Committee was reminded that the reduction of \$900,000 in Member Town assessments must be added when determining the assessment increase of Member Towns due to the FY05 \$900,000 assessment reduction adopted by the School Committee.

Chair Leith advised the Committee that pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, the adoption of the budget appropriation requires two-thirds of the membership, or thirteen votes. The appropriation is to be adopted forty-five days prior to the first town meeting.

Motion: To move the question

(R. Carter)
(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Patricia Gates
Mark James
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
Phillip Mighdoll
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
David Gibbs
John Kane
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 12-5)

Roll call vote on main motion, which reads: To adopt the *FY06 Appropriation* in the amount of \$61,689,061 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden	\$20,573,512
Paxton	\$ 4,687,637
Princeton	\$ 4,396,171
Rutland	\$ 6,670,141
Sterling	\$ 9,120,292

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Cheryl Rauh
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Elizabeth Brennan

Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Patricia Gates
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
Phillip Mighdoll
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

(Motion failed 8-9)

The Superintendent advised the Committee, following inquiry, that the last possible date for assessing the Member Towns is November, as the State will determine the District's budget, should four out of the five Member Towns not adopt a budget.

The Superintendent stated that \$3.206 million plus the FY05 appropriation would be the current status quo budget. He advised the Committee that reductions would most likely come from instruction.

The Committee was further advised that the final State Aid figures are not available. The Committee needs a methodology to achieve its goals.

The Superintendent reminded the Committee that the reduction of \$900,000 in Member Town assessments must be included when determining the assessment increase of Member Towns due to the FY05 \$900,000 assessment reduction adopted by the School Committee.

Motion: That Chair Duncan Leith appoint a committee of three School Committee Members, two of whom voted yes on the successful budget motion, to meet separately with a three member committee from the municipal budget responsibility of each District community for the purpose of harmonious discussion and resolution of each community's total budget. This committee should report back to the School Committee by the April 25, 2005 School Committee meeting.

(R. Carter)
(M. Sherman)

Member Michael Sherman offered a friendly amendment to add "with a School Committee representative from the member community participating" after the word "community". The friendly amendment was accepted by Member Carter.

Discussion occurred regarding whether or not a separate subcommittee is needed as the Business/Finance Subcommittee has served that purpose in the past.

Motion: To extend the meeting for thirty minutes, until 10:30 PM.

(J. Kane)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call 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
Natalie Mello
Phillip Mighdoll
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chair Duncan Leith advised the Committee that these would be publicly held posted meetings.

The Superintendent suggested that “and resolution” be stricken from the motion, since the unilateral result would be the delegation of School Committee appropriation authority to a subcommittee. The friendly suggestion was accepted by members Carter and Sherman accepted.

Roll call vote on main motion, which read: That Chair Duncan Leith appoint a committee of three School Committee Members, two of whom voted yes on the successful budget motion, to meet separately with a three member committee from the municipal budget responsibility of each District community with a School

Committee representative from the member community participating for the purpose of harmonious discussion of each community's total budget. This committee should report back to the School Committee by the April 25, 2005 School Committee meeting.

In favor:

John Nunnari
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Patricia Gates
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
Phillip Mighdoll
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Margaret Watson

(Motion ~~failed~~ PASSED 9-8)

Motion: To adopt the *FY06 Appropriation* in the amount of \$60,052,440 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden	\$19,890,714
Paxton	\$ 4,527,829
Princeton	\$ 4,254,710
Rutland	\$ 6,329,364
Sterling	\$ 8,808,516

(N. Mello)
(M. Sherman)

Chair Leith clarified that the State numbers are not yet known and that the House budget is expected on April 28, 2005.

Motion: To extend the meeting for thirty minutes, until 11:00 PM.

(J. Kane)
(J. Nunnari)

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
Natalie Mello
Phillip Mighdoll
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Discussion continued.

Motion: To table the motion

(D. Gibbs)
(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Cynthia Bazinet
David Gibbs
Mark James
Cheryl Rauh
Phillip Mighdoll
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Patricia Gates
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

(Motion failed 6-11)

Motion: To move the question

(J. Kane)
(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Patricia Gates
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
Phillip Mighdoll
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet

(Motion passed 16-1)

Roll call vote on main motion, which reads: To adopt the *FY06 Appropriation* in the amount of \$60,052,440 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden	\$19,890,714
Paxton	\$ 4,527,829
Princeton	\$ 4,254,710
Rutland	\$ 6,329,364
Sterling	\$ 8,808,516

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Patricia Gates
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet
David Gibbs
Mark James

Abstained:

Phillip Mighdoll
Cheryl Rauh

(Motion failed 12-3-2 [two-thirds of membership, or thirteen votes, required for approval])

Motion: To reconsider the following motion: That Chair Duncan Leith appoint a committee of three School Committee Members, two of whom voted yes on the successful budget motion, to meet separately with a three member committee from the municipal budget responsibility of each District community with a School Committee representative from the member community participating for the purpose of harmonious discussion of each community's total budget. This committee should report back to the School Committee by the April 25, 2005 School Committee meeting.

(C. Capparelli)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote on motion to reconsider:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Charles Capparelli
Patricia Gates
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
Phillip Mighdoll
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter

(Motion passed 15-2)

Roll call vote on main motion, which reads: That Chair Duncan Leith appoint a committee of three School Committee Members, two of whom voted yes on the successful budget motion, to meet separately with a three member committee from the municipal budget responsibility of each District community with a School Committee representative from the member community participating for the purpose of harmonious discussion of each community's total budget. This committee should report back to the School Committee by the April 25, 2005 School Committee meeting.

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Elizabeth Brennan
Robert Carter
Patricia Gates
Natalie Mello
Phillip Mighdoll
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Charles Capparelli
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 7-10)

Motion: To reconsider the motion: To adopt the *FY06 Appropriation* in the amount of \$60,052,440 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden	\$19,890,714
Paxton	\$ 4,527,829
Princeton	\$ 4,254,710
Rutland	\$ 6,329,364
Sterling	\$ 8,808,516

(~~N. Mello~~
C. CAPPARELLI)
(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote on motion to reconsider:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
Patricia Gates
David Gibbs
Mark James
John Kane
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
Phillip Mighdoll
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh

Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Roll call vote on main motion, which reads: To adopt the *FY06 Appropriation* in the amount of \$60,052,440 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden	\$19,890,714
Paxton	\$ 4,527,829
Princeton	\$ 4,254,710
Rutland	\$ 6,329,364
Sterling	\$ 8,808,516

In favor:

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

Opposed:
Phillip Mighdoll

(Motion passed 16-1)

Chair Duncan Leith informed the Committee that, due to the lateness of the hour, the remaining items on the agenda would be referred to the April 11, 2005 School Committee Meeting but that a short executive session is requested.

Motion: To enter executive session at the end of the meeting, not to return to public session, for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

(M. Sherman)
(C. Capparelli)

Roll call 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
Natalie Mello
Phillip Mighdoll
Norman Plourde
Cheryl Rauh
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The Committee entered executive session at 10:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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