

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1042, Monday June 10, 2002
7:00 p.m.

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Kelly Maxwell
Duncan Leith, Vice-Chairman	John Nunnari (8:47 PM)
Donald Benson	Julie Scott
David Fedeli	Kathleen Singh
Kimberly Ferguson (8:05 PM)	Tammy Tod
Jeffrey Gibbs	Edwin Twarog
Alice Livdahl	Margaret Watson
Peter MacDonald	Patricia Young

Committee Members Absent:

Carol Esperti	David Lowenthal
Jane James	Natalie Mello

Administration Present:

Paul K. Soojian, Director of Operations
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*
Joseph Sullivan, Chairman, Holden Selectboard
Thomjon Borges, Princeton Selectboard
Stanley Moss, Princeton Selectboard
Joseph Giotta, Holden Finance Committee
Larry Floryan, Holden
Maureen Floryan, Holden
David Gibbs, Sterling
Mark James, Holden
Robert Rauh, Rutland

Debbie Croucher, Sterling
Donna Dominguez, Sterling
Michelle Wronski, Holden
Lew Evangelidis, Holden
Edith Morgan, Princeton
Melinda Johnson, Paxton
Jeffrey Wentzell, Paxton
Paul Stanovich, Sterling
Lynn Stanovich, Sterling
Linda Sawin, Sterling
Ann Quill, Sterling
Andy Christo, Holden
Danny Christo, Holden
Sue Schmidt, Princeton
Lynn Olson, Princeton
Bonnie Garceau, Princeton
Elaine Kay, Princeton
Kandi Perry-Elie, Princeton
Danielle Giaquinto, Sterling
Jackie Campbell, Sterling
Cynthia McIntyre, Sterling
Terence McKiernan, Holden
Keith Bellamy, Holden
Gay Koury, Holden
Jane Todd, Holden
Kathleen Spodick, Holden
Sandy Sullivan, Holden
Andrew Scougal, Sterling
Bradley Junell, Princeton
Mark Horgan, Princeton
Sue Porciello, Sterling
David Malo, Sterling
Amy Malo, Sterling
Marianne Burnham, Sterling
Paul Moreau, Holden
Michele Harkins, Holden
E. Robinson, Holden
Julie Maki, Sterling
Sean Maki, Sterling
Jerry Gannelli, Princeton
Lisa Campbell, Sterling
Andrew Campbell, Sterling
Larry Greene, Princeton

Bob Enberg, Princeton
Joyce Gabay, Princeton
Linda Imber, Princeton
Kathy Getchell, Princeton
Martha McGinn, Holden
Marsha Wiles, Princeton

Chairman Rokicki called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

By consensus, the Special Meeting originally scheduled for Monday, June 24, 2002, was re-scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2002, due to the Special Town Meetings in Sterling and Rutland.

I. Public Hearing

Chairman Rokicki asked that the public session first address high school facility issues, before the consultants leave the meeting.

David Gibbs, Sterling, read a prepared statement (attachment 1).

Maureen Floryan, Sterling, read a prepared statement (attachment 2)

Bob Enberg, Princeton, requested action by the Committee to solve the high school facility issue.

Donna Dominguez, Sterling, strongly urged the Committee to go to the towns for a referendum vote. She expressed no confidence in the Committee to bring a project to the public.

Melinda Johnson, Paxton, reported that the Town of Paxton held its town meeting last week and many were shocked at the tuition to vocational schools, and that perhaps vocational education could be brought back to Wachusett.

Larry Greene, Princeton, expressed that the 2,000 enrollment number is too conservative.

Chairman Rokicki then opened the public session to concerns regarding the new transportation fee schedule.

Paul Moreau, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Eileen Robinson, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

Amy Malo, Sterling, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Mary Ann Burnham, Sterling, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Larry Green, Princeton, read a prepared statement (attachment 5).

Mark Horgan, Princeton, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Patricia Gates, Princeton, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees. She also stated that she had reviewed the law and that the assumption in the law was that safe travel was available to those under one and one-half miles.

Sue Porciello, Sterling, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Jerry Gannelli, Princeton, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees. He also stated that the costs to administer the program would outweigh any cost savings.

Keith Bellamy, Holden, indicated that this program has angered supporters and that the Committee will need supporters when a vote for the high school comes up.

Lew Evangelidis, Holden, indicated that he had reviewed the law and that the law was clearly written by urban supporters for urban communities where safe travel is available. He expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Cynthia McIntyre, Sterling, expressed concern that children may have to walk up to one mile to a bus stop. She expressed concern regarding

safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Joyce Gabay, Princeton, expressed concern for safety on route 62. She also questioned the mileage check after appealing the distance.

Linda Imber, Princeton, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Brad Junell, Princeton, indicated that he lives outside the two mile limit but expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Kathy Getchell, Princeton, distributed pictures of route 62 where accidents have occurred (attachment 6).

Joseph Giotta, Holden, expressed concern that this issue was dividing the community and that a more equitable way to spread out costs should be explored.

Tracey Casey, Holden, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Bob Enberg, Princeton, requested that this issue be voted on each year.

Danielle Giaquinto, Sterling, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Elaine Kay, Princeton, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Jackie Campbell, Sterling, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Paul Stanovich, Sterling, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Martha McGinn, Holden, thought it interesting that swings can be off limits to students because they are unsafe and yet children can walk to school where there are no sidewalks.

Marsha Wiles, Princeton, expressed concern for the safety of students once on school property. She asked that lunch costs be increased even more than planned for next year.

Julie Maki, Sterling, indicated that there is a bill in committee, #3080, that assures safe transportation for students. She urged parents to contact their legislators.

Bill Collins, Princeton, thought that the numbers were unrealistic, that the administration of the program is faulty, and was amused that the “non-badge” kids would not be mingling with the “badge” kids.

Thomjon Borges, Princeton Selectboard, reminded the Committee that the Princeton Advisory and Selectboards have voted not to support the budget at Tuesday’s town meeting. He indicated that if the transportation fee program was reconsidered that he would tell the Princeton Town Meeting that he was proud of the action of the School Committee and recommend support of the budget.

Sue Schmidt, Princeton, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees.

Lynn Olson, Princeton, lives a quarter of a mile from the school but the bus stop would still require her student to walk, away from the school, not towards it.

Robert Ford, Princeton, expressed concern regarding safety of students and asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to implement transportation fees. He also indicated that this issue will create public relations problems for the Committee.

Lisa Campbell, Sterling, believes that this is blatantly unfair and she will not pay the fees but will drive her children

Chairman Rokicki closed the public session.

Motion: Rearrange agenda to address the transportation fee schedule, to return to the original agenda.

(J. Gibbs)
(P. MacDonald)

Seeing no objection, Chairman Rokicki addressed Agenda Item IX New Business for the purposes of discussing the transportation fee schedule, to return to the original agenda.

Motion: To reconsider motion made on May 15, 2002 regarding the development of a transportation fee schedule.

(J. Gibbs)
(D. Benson)

The motion was considered out of order, as the motion was not made at the previous meeting, but that a new motion on the same topic would be in order.

Motion: Due to the numerous safety issues, that the School Committee discontinue the system for implementing transportation fees.

(K. Maxwell)
(P. MacDonald)

Discussion occurred regarding safety and equity in assessing fees. Children's safety is number one priority, not the education of the students, one member noted. A suggestion was made to take more money from athletics. Following a question regarding laying off of teachers, Director of Operations Paul Soojian affirmed that June 15, 2002 is the day, by law, to notify teachers of non-renewals.

Director of Operations Paul Soojian advised the Committee that the District budget as presented included all reductions possible in order to not impact the instructional program. He reminded the Committee that further cuts would affect the classrooms.

Concern was expressed that the Princeton Advisory Committee voted to not recommend approval of the school budget, due to the transportation fee schedule. The Advisory Committee advised that if the transportation fee was discontinued, the Advisory Committee would recommend approval of the budget.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Donald Benson
David Fedeli

Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Patricia Young

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson

Abstained;

John Nunnari

(Motion passed 11-4-1)

Chairman Rokicki returned to the original agenda.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the Organizational Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on May 28, 2002 – approved by consensus
- B. Approval of the 1041st Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on May 28, 2002 – approved by consensus

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

- A. Presentation of Warrants and Payroll

Warrants were circulated for signature.

IV. Communications

No discussion.

V. Committee Reports

Chairman Rokicki will be setting up subcommittees and asked for input from members. Chairman Rokicki distributed communication from District Counsel Leo McCabe (attachments 7 and 8).

A. Management Subcommittee

1. School Committee By-Law Changes

Motion: To amend the School Committee By-Laws by deleting the words, "Three or more subcommittee members will constitute a quorum if the majority is less than three." From Article 2, Section 4 Subcommittees.

(J. Nunnari)
(A. Livdahl)

Motion: To amend the motion by only deleting the words, "if the majority is less than three." From Article 2, Section 4 Subcommittees.

(D. Benson)
(D. Leith)

Motion: To table the amendment/main motion

(J. Nunnari)
(A. Livdahl)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

John Rokicki

Duncan Leith

Abstained:

Alice Livdahl

(Motion passed 13-2-1)

Motion: To amend Article 2, Section 6, by deleting “man” from “Chairman”.

(A. Livdahl)

(J. Scott)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: Article 4, Section 1 Rules of Order by adding the following: “During the entertainment of motions, amendments and other items of discussion, the Committee Chair may exercise discretion to:

- Limit each member to not more than two opportunities (per Roberts Rules) to speak and not longer than two minutes per item of discussion;

- Limit discussion on any item to twenty minutes;
and
- Limit discussion to items relevant to the stated
issue and restrict redundant arguments.

A majority vote of the membership of the Committee would
override the decision of the Chair.”

(D. Leith)

(J. Nunnari)

Motion: To amend by substituting in total the following:

“Section 2

In order to ensure the orderly and timely conduct of business
at school committee meetings, the Wachusett Regional
School District Committee agrees to authorize the Chair of
the Committee to observe the following guidelines in
accordance with Robert’s Rules:

For any given motion, amendment to a motion, topic of
discussion, or agenda item, the Chair shall allow any member
of the Committee two (2) opportunities to speak and each
individual will be given two (2) minutes each time they speak
on a motion, amendment, topic of discussion, or agenda item.

The Chair will use discretion in deciding whether or not to
allow discussion to exceed twenty (20) minutes on any
motion including amendments, other topics of discussion, or
agenda items. The Chair will be responsible for directing the
discussions to the business at hand and will limit discussion
to the relevant issues and restrict arguments, which are
unnecessarily repetitive and redundant.

The Chair may extend the discussion in two ways:

- 1.) by consensus of members present; or
- 2.) by recognizing a non-debatable motion by any
Committee Member to extend the discussion past
the allotted twenty (20) minutes. The motion
should include extending the discussion for a
specific and appropriate amount of time. The
Chair will abide by the majority vote of the
membership.”

(E. Twarog)

(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
David Fedeli
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Donald Benson
Kimberly Ferguson
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

(Motion passed 12-4)

2. District Legal Counsel

Chairman Rokicki referred the matter to the Management Committee.

3. Superintendent's Evaluation

Upon review of P1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation *Evaluation of the Superintendent***, it was noted that the Superintendent's evaluation is to be completed by June 1st.

Motion: To accept the reports of the three subcommittees and propose that these be the basis for the Superintendent's evaluation.

(M. Watson)
(A. Livdahl)

Member Kathleen Singh read a prepared statement (attachment 9)

Motion: To table the motion

(E. Twarog)

The motion died due the lack of a second.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
John Nunnari
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Edwin Twarog

Abstained:

Tammy Tod
Patricia Young

(Motion failed 7-7-2)

Motion: To extend the meeting for fifteen minutes.

(J. Scott)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs

Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chairman Rokicki addressed Agenda Item VI B 2

2. Motion: Recommendation: To authorize the Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer, acting under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16(g) as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, in accordance with Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

(P. MacDonald)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari

Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 15-0-1)

B. Business/Finance Subcommittee

1. Motion: To adopt AP4721 ***Policy Related to Budget/Finance Student Activity Funds, AP7132 Policy Related to Support Operations Maintenance, Repairs, and Renovations, AP7151.1 Policy Related to Support Operations Playground Safety, AP7161 Policy Related to Support Operations Naming of School Property, AP7222 Policy Related to Support Operations Contract Services***, for the First Readings, waiving the readings

(P. MacDonald)

(K. Maxwell)

Motion: To amend the motion AP7222 #10 on page 1 be moved to #10 under “Bus Driver Examination and Training” and to add “of bus drivers and/or other personnel under employ of the contractor after “Drug testing”.

(M. Watson)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl

Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
Julie Scott
Edwin Twarog

(Motion passed 14-2)

Vote on Main Motion as amended:

In favor:
John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(J. Scott)
(D. Benson)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT/ss