

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1043, Monday July 8, 2002
7:00 p.m.

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Jane James
Duncan Leith, Vice-Chairman	Kelly Maxwell
Carol Esperti	Tammy Tod
Kimberly Ferguson	Edwin Twarog
Jeffrey Gibbs	Margaret Watson
Alice Livdahl	Patricia Young
David Lowenthal	

Committee Members Absent:

Donald Benson	John Nunnari
David Fedeli	Julie Scott
Peter MacDonald	Kathleen Singh
Natalie Mello	

Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Susan Sullivan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Others present:

Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*
Richard Halloran, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
David Gibbs, Sterling
Larry Floryan, Holden
Maureen Floryan, Holden
Mark James, Holden
Christina Suchocki, Rutland
Dennis Suchocki, Rutland
Jeffrey Wentzell, Paxton
Steve Penka, Rutland

Chairman Rokicki called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

Chairman Rokicki distributed correspondence from the District Attorney's office (attachment 1).

I. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

David Gibbs, Sterling, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Christina Suchocki, Rutland, reported that she had sent a letter to each member and is concerned about the safety of the bus route in her area. She has contacted the Superintendent's office over the past year and is seeking the help of the School Committee before the year begins. She reported that tractor-trailers travel fast on the road.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of the 1042nd Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on June 10, 2002 – approved by consensus noting that attachment 9 was missing and would be added to the record and provided to the Committee.

B. Approval of the 233rd Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on June 10, 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

A concern was expressed regarding the communication from the District Attorney's office regarding the content of the executive session minutes. The public release of the correspondence released publicly the contents of the executive session.

A concern was expressed regarding the issue of the footings of the modulares. The Superintendent reported that the issue has been resolved to the District's satisfaction.

Following a request by a member, the Superintendent reported that he would gather all articles distributed to the School Committee this past year regarding the high school facility issue and will re-distribute them.

V. Committee Reports at the Discretion of the Chair

A. Management Subcommittee

Chairman Rokicki reported that he would distribute the subcommittee assignments soon.

B. Business/Finance Subcommittee

1. Motion: To adopt AP4721 ***Policy Related to Budget/Finance Student Activity Funds***, for the second reading, waiving the reading

(D. Leith)
(J. Gibbs)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

2. Motion: To adopt AP7132 ***Policy Related to Support Operations Maintenance, Repairs, and Renovations***, for the second reading, waiving the reading

(D. Leith)
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. Motion: To adopt AP7151.1 ***Policy Related to Support Operations Playground Safety***, for the second reading, waiving the reading

(D. Leith)

(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. Motion: To adopt AP7161 ***Policy Related to Support Operations Naming of School Property***, for the second reading, waiving the reading

(D. Leith)
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

5. Motion: To adopt AP7222 ***Policy Related to Support Operations Contract Services***, for the second reading, waiving the reading, making a few typographic corrections

(D. Leith)
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti

Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

C. Education Subcommittee

No report.

D. School Building Committees

1. Holden – (J. Scott)
2. Paxton –
3. Rutland – (J. Rokicki)
4. Sterling

The Superintendent reported on the progress of the repair of the Chocksett library due to the flood. The library looks like a three-foot swath has been made through the entire library and hallway. The Superintendent reported that the insurance company has been very supportive and cooperative during this time.

5. Rutland Feasibility Committee

The Committee will meet Wednesday July 10, 2002 at the Central Office.

E. Education Subcommittee

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of report

The Superintendent updated the Committee on the status of the modulars. Nine of the thirty-two trailers have been installed, with the remaining units to be completed by the end of this week. The flagpole will be moved, now that the crane is on site. The gas line was being installed today. The cafeteria units are scheduled for installation next week. The Superintendent again commended the town of Holden, particularly the Building Inspector and the Fire Chief.

The film on the windows is being replaced. The lockers are being refurbished and painted. The asbestos has been removed from the stage and the new sound material is being installed. The security system contract bids are due this week. The bathroom partitions will be replaced along with the replacement of broken fixtures. Lighting will need to be improved as the modulars will cast shadows and make areas very dark.

The Superintendent introduced Steven Penka as the new Director of Administrative Services.

B. Recommendations requiring action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To authorize the Wachusett Regional School District to implement Chapter 116 of the Acts and Resolves of 2002, with a retirement date of December 31, 2002

(C. Esperti)

(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl

David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. AP7210 ***Policy Relating to Support Operations Routes and Services***

Chairman Rokicki suggested a small Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to review the policy. The Superintendent expressed a time concern as routes and services will be established this summer.

Motion: To adopt AP7210 ***Policy Relating to Support Operations Routes and Services***, for the first reading, waiving the reading

(C. Esperti)

(K. Maxwell)

The Superintendent explained the rationale behind the proposed change to the policy.

Member Carol Esperti reported that she had gathered material on this subject from many other school districts and will share it with the Committee.

Following an inquiry the Superintendent reported that the Regional Agreement details how excess costs are assessed to Member Towns. The Superintendent reminded the Committee that transportation reimbursement has been reduced this year, a \$300,000 reduction to the District.

Motion to Amend: To replace “Business/Finance” with “Standing Transportation” on page 1

(K. Ferguson)

(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote on amendment:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
Patricia Young

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 10-2-1)

Motion: To move the question

(T. Tod)
(E. Twarog)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jane James
David Lowenthal
Patricia Young

Abstained
John Rokicki

(Motion failed 7-5-1)

Member Jeffrey Gibbs left the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Motion: To move the question

(C. Esperti)

(T. Tod)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog

Opposed:

Jane James
David Lowenthal
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Abstained
John Rokicki

(Motion failed 7-4-1)

Member Jeffrey Gibbs returned to the meeting at 9:02 PM.

Roll call vote on main motion, as amended:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod

Edwin Twarog

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Patricia Young
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 7-6)

Motion: To add the second reading of AP7210 ***Policy Relating to Support Operations Routes and Services*** to the Agenda for the Special meeting on July 15, 2002.

(C. Esperti)
(J. Gibbs)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog

Opposed:

Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

(Motion passed 8-5)

3. Motion: To appropriate SBAB funds in the amount of \$1,077,495 to the Town of Sterling for reimbursement for the renovation at Houghton/Chocksett Schools

(C. Esperti)
(E. Twarog)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The Superintendent distributed a copy of Treasurer Martin Connors request to the School Committee for approval of the borrowing in anticipation of receipt of funds (attachment 4).

3. Motion: To approve the sale of a \$7,000,000 3.00 percent Revenue Anticipation Note of the District dated July 15, 2002 and payable June 30, 2003, to First Southwest Company at par and accrued interest plus the premium of \$65,030. Further, to confirm the consent dated July 2, 2002 to the financial advisor (First Southwest Company) bidding for the note.

(C. Esperti)

(D. Leith)

Member Kimberly Ferguson left the meeting at 9:12 PM.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti

Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Kimberly Ferguson returned to the meeting at 9:15 PM.

VII. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan, Holden, urged the Committee to adopt a quorum of three for subcommittees.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Tabled 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.

Motion: To place the motion on the table
(C. Esperti)
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:
In favor:

John Rokicki
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod

Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
David Lowenthal

(Motion passed 11-2)

Motion: To amend the motion by substituting the following:
“Three subcommittee members will constitute a quorum”.

(A. Livdahl)
(J. Gibbs)

Amendment: That this quorum of three will not apply as criteria
as concerns the Open Meeting Law

(E. Twarog)
(D. Lowenthal)

Chairman Rokicki left the meeting at 9:39 PM and turned the
gavel over to Vice-chair Duncan Leith.

Chairman Rokicki returned to the meeting at 9:40 PM.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

David Lowenthal
Edwin Twarog

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Abstained

John Rokicki

(Motion failed 2-10-1)

Member Tammy Tod left the meeting at 9:50 PM.

Roll call vote on the amendment, which reads: “To amend the motion by substituting the following: “Three subcommittee members will constitute a quorum”.

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Edwin Twarog
Patricia Young

(Motion failed 5-7)

Member Tammy Todd returned to the meeting at 9:52 PM

Roll call vote on the motion, which reads: 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.

In favor:

Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Patricia Young

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Jeffrey Gibbs
Alice Livdahl
Jane James
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 8-5)

- B. Tabled Motion: To amend the motion by only deleting the words, “if the majority is less than three.” from Article 2, Section 4 Subcommittees.

No action was taken on this motion since Article 2 had been previously amended to address this issue.

IX. New Business

Member Edwin Twarog reported to the Committee that Member David Lowenthal communicated with Christine Lynch of the School Finance Office at Department of Education and was informed that 10% additional enrollment for building is not a firm number, but is negotiable.

Following inquiry, the Superintendent reported that the high school had shown no interest in participating in ROTC but that the Superintendent would pass on the information to Principal Thomas Pandiscio.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(M. Watson)
(J. Gibbs)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James

Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
John Rokicki

(Motion passed 12-1)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:ss/School Committee/Minutes