

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1029, Tuesday, October 9, 2001
7:00 p.m.

Media Center
Dr. Leroy E. Mayo Elementary School

Members present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Alice Livdahl
Sherry Horeanopoulos, Vice-chairman	David Lowenthal
Carol Esperti	Kelly Maxwell
Kimberly Ferguson	John Nunnari
Michael Gennert	Julie Scott
Sarah Jordan	Kathleen Singh
Duncan Leith	Jeffrey Wentzell

Members absent:

Mary Copeland	Jane James
Kenneth Fensin	Peter MacDonald
Jeffrey Gibbs	Elizabeth Pape

Administration present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Paul Soojian, Director of Operations
Philip Campbell, Director of Student/Information Services
Susan Sullivan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Rebecca Petersen, Administrative Assistant

Others present:

Jason Newton, Quality, Assurance and Accountability Support
James Keogh, *The Landmark*
Richard Halloran, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
Christine Nelson, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*
Rosemary Warren, Paxton
Maureen Floryan, Holden
Jessica Prescott, Sterling and guest

Linda Pettloff, Rutland
John Schneeweis, Sterling

Chairman John Rokicki called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

Chairman Rokicki took the following items out of order:

VII. Recommendations and Reports of the Superintendent:

A. Presentation – MAT8 Test Results

Jason Newton, Quality, Assurance and Accountability Support

Jason Newton distributed Metropolitan Achievement Test (attachment 1). Mr. Newton reported on the results of the MAT-8 Test results, comparing the results to the MAT-7 tests in prior years.

A member asked what other schools in Massachusetts utilize the MAT-8 tests. The Superintendent indicated that he would check with the company to obtain names of other Districts in Massachusetts using the test.

The Superintendent distributed copies of Wachusett District Ad Hoc Inequities Study Committee Final Report, Committee Findings and Recommendations (attachment 2).

IV. Public Hearing

Jessica Prescott, Sterling, read a prepared statement and distributed copies to all members (attachment 3).

Member David Lowenthal read an email from Mario Finocchio, Holden, as he could not attend the meeting (attachment 4).

Chairman Rokicki continued with the following:

VII. Recommendations and Reports of the Superintendent:

B. Motion: To amend the education specifications for modular classrooms, as presented by the Superintendent

(D. Leith)

(J. Wentzell)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Jeffrey Wentzell

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

- C. Motion: That the Regional District School Committee authorize the Superintendent to request and schedule special town meetings with the member towns for approval by the registered voters of the member towns of a proposed borrowing for the purchase and installation of a modular addition to the Wachusett Regional High School.

(D. Leith)

(J. Wentzell)

Motion: To amend the motion by substituting “ballot vote” for “town meetings”.

(K. Singh)

(D. Lowenthal)

By agreement with both the maker of the motion and the member who seconded, the motion to amend was withdrawn.

Vote on main motion:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti

Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Jeffrey Wentzell

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

- G. The Superintendent reported that James Scola, Municipal Representative had received a copy of the contract and had been contacted regarding the recommendation of the Superintendent to ratify. Mr. Scola indicated to the Superintendent that he would attend the meeting if possible.

Motion: To ratify the Agreement with the Wachusett Cafeteria Association, as presented by the Superintendent.

(S. Jordan)

(S. Horeanopoulos)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Jeffrey Wentzell

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The Superintendent left the meeting at 9:00 PM ??.

Chairman Rokicki returned to the regular agenda.

I. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the 1028th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on September 10, 2001 – approved by consensus with Members Kimberly Ferguson and Alice Livdahl abstaining.
- B. Approval of the 222nd Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on September 15, 2001 – approved by consensus with Member Kimberly Ferguson abstaining.

II. Treasurer's Report

- D. Presentation of warrants and payrolls – warrants were circulated for signature.

III. Financial Statements

Financial Statements were provided in the previous Superintendent's Report. Chairman Rokicki reported that any questions for the Treasurer be referred to Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Jeffrey Wentzell and questions for the Comptroller should be referred to the Superintendent.

V. Communications

Member John Nunnari received correspondence, a copy of which will be forwarded to the Superintendent's office for inclusion in the next Superintendent's Report.

Chairman Rokicki reiterated the need to have items of communication included in the Superintendent's Report in order to review before the meetings.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Student Advisory Committee (L. McNally, C. Smith)

No report.

B. Management Subcommittee (J. Rokicki -- Chair, M. Copeland, C. Esperti, S. Horeanopoulos, D. Leith, K. Maxwell, K. Singh, J. Wentzell)

- a. Motion: To accept the Regular School Committee Calendar – November 19, 2001 and December 10, 2001, as presented

(D. Leith)
(J. Wentzell)

Motion: To table.

(S. Horeanopoulos)
(S. Jordan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

Jeffrey Wentzell

(Motion passed 13-1)

- C. Education Subcommittee (M. Copeland – Chair, K. Ferguson, M. Gennert, S. Jordan, A. Livdahl, D. Lowenthal, J. Nunnari, E. Pape)

The Education Subcommittee meeting was postponed due to illness and has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2001 at the Curriculum Center, Jefferson School District Offices, 7:30 PM. Director Philip Campbell reported that the Special Education PAC was notified of the cancellation and will be notified of the meeting on October 11, 2001.

- D. Finance/Business Subcommittee (J. Wentzell – Chair, K. Fensin, J. Gibbs, J. James, D. Leith, P. MacDonald, J. Rokicki, J. Scott)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chairman Jeffrey Wentzell reported that the Subcommittee met and discussed the following: FY02 budget update, state revenue shortfalls, updated treasurer's report, DOR Audit report update, transportation issues, INCLUDING DISCUSSION ON A POLICY FOR BUSSING STUDENTS WHO WALK ON UNSAFE STREETS.

The next meeting will be November 13, 2001, at the Curriculum Center at Jefferson School District Offices at 6:30 PM ??

There were a few other questions of Business/Finance Subcommittee Chairman regarding the meeting.

- E. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (S. Horeanopoulos – Chair, D. Leith, J. Rokicki, K. Singh, J. Wentzell)

There was some confusion regarding the dates for the last meeting.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 8, 2001 at the Curriculum Center, Jefferson School District Offices 6:30 PM.

- F. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to Review the School Committee By-Laws

Chairman Rokicki distributed a copy of Member Sarah Jordan's email to members, dated October 8, 2001 (attachment 5). Also distributed was a copy of the current By-Laws (attachment 6).

Members Kimberly Ferguson and Kelly Maxwell left the meeting at 9:52 PM.
Chairman Rokicki took the following items out of order:

VII. Recommendations and Reports of the Superintendent

- E. Motion: To appropriate SBAB funds in the amount of \$759,779 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for the renovation/addition at Naquag Elementary School

(S. Jordan)

(J. Scott)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Jeffrey Wentzell

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

- F. Motion: To appropriate SBAB funds in the amount of \$275,939 to the Town of Paxton for reimbursement for the renovation/addition at Paxton Center School

(M. Gennert)

(J. Scott)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti

Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Jeffrey Wentzell

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Jeffrey Wentzell left the meeting at 10:00 PM.

Chairman Rokicki returned to the discussion regarding By-Law changes. He went through the proposed changes to see what items needed further discussion. Some members wanted discussion on all issues of Section 1 so the Chairman opened up the discussion.

1. Motion: To adopt the proposed By-Law Changes to Article 3, Section 1, as presented
(S. Horeanopoulos)
(C. Esperti)

By agreement with both the maker of the motion and the member who seconded, the motion was withdrawn.

Motion: To adopt Proposed By-Law changes, Article 3, Section 1, paragraph 1, as presented.
(C. Esperti)
(S. Jordan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Sarah Jordan
Alice Livdahl
John Nunnari
Julie Scott

Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Michael Gennert
Duncan Leith
David Lowenthal

(Motion passed 7-4)

Motion: To adopt Proposed By-Law changes, Article 3,
Section 3, as presented.

(S. Horeanopoulos)
(S. Jordan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

David Lowenthal

(Motion passed 10-1)

Motion: To adopt Proposed By-Law changes, Article 3,
Section 1, paragraphs 2 and 3, as presented.

(S. Horeanopoulos)
(S. Jordan)

Motion: To amend by adding the deleted language of
paragraphs 4 and 5.

(A. Livdahl)
(J. Nunnari)

A friendly amendment by Member Michael Gennert to change the ending time from 9:30 PM to 10:00 PM was accepted by the maker of the motion and the person seconding the motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
John Nunnari

Opposed:

Carol Esperti
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

(Motion passed 6-5)

Roll call vote on the main motion as amended

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
John Nunnari
Julie Scott

Opposed:

Michael Gennert
Kathleen Singh

(Motion passed 9-2)

Motion: To adopt Proposed By-Law changes, Article 3,
Section 5, as presented.

(S. Horeanopoulos)
(S. Jordan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
David Lowenthal
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

(Motion failed 1-10)

G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee -- Member Town Funding Inequities (S. Horeanopoulos, K. Maxwell, J. Rokicki, K. Singh, J. Wentzell)

Chairman Rokicki reported that he had scheduled a special meeting on October 23, 2001 to discuss the Plan adopted by the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee, a copy of which was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. All Chairs of Member Town Selectboards and Finance/Advisory Boards will be invited to the special meeting on October 23rd.

H. School Building Committees

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

Chairman Rokicki reported that the Rutland Building Committee would be meeting this week.

4. Sterling – (S. Jordan)

Member Sarah Jordan asked if a report needed to be submitted to the Sterling Building Committee regarding the recent flood at Chocksett. Director Soojian reported that it was not a building committee issue and therefore a report was not needed.

- I. School Council Representatives: Central Tree Middle School – J. Nunnari, Chocksett – P. MacDonald; Davis Hill – M. Copeland; Dawson – J. Scott; Houghton – S. Jordan; Mayo – C. Esperti; Mountview – J. James; Naquag – J. Rokicki; Paxton – R. Warren; Thomas Prince; Wachusett Regional High School – E. Pape

VIII. Recommendations and Reports of the Superintendent

- E. Recommendation to adopt DP5252 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Physical Restraint***

Chairman Rokicki referred the policy to the Management Subcommittee for review.

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. Tabled Motion: To amend the School Committee By-Laws, Article 3, Section 2 to read “Action of the Committee shall require a majority vote OF THE MEMBERSHIP as defined by Robert’s Rules of Order unless otherwise specified by law, by the School Committee By-Laws, or by the Regional Agreement.”

Action was deferred on this tabled motion as the maker of the motion, Member Jeffrey Wentzell, was not in attendance.

X. Public Hearing

No member of the public wished to speak.

XI. New Business

MOTION: THAT ALL WRSD BUSES FLY THE AMERICAN
FLAG IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE

(D. LOWENTHAL)

MOTION DIED DUE TO A LACK OF SECOND.

Motion: To schedule one regular School Committee Meeting for
November on November 19, 2001 at 7:00 PM at the Media Center at
the High School.

(C. Esperti)

(S. Jordan)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(D. Leith)

(A. Livdahl)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki

Sherry Horeanopoulos
Carol Esperti
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:ss/School Committee/Minutes