

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1083, Monday November 8, 2004  
7:00 PM

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

Duncan Leith, Chair	Alice Livdahl
Cynthia Bazinet	Kelly Maxwell
Elizabeth Brennan	Natalie Mello
Charles Capparelli	John Nunnari
Clifford Connell (7:05 PM)	Norman Plourde
Patricia Gates (7:05 PM)	Cheryl Rauh (7:08 PM)
David Gibbs	Michael Sherman
Mark James	Margaret Watson

*Committee Members Absent:*

Donald Benson, Vice-chair	René Rodriguez
John Kane	

*Administration Present:*

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Paul K. Soojian, Director of Operations  
Steven Penka, Director of Administrative Services  
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 7:02 PM. Chair Leith reported that Naomi Stonberg, District Counsel for collective bargaining, would be coming for an executive session at 8:00 PM, or soon thereafter.

Motion: To enter executive session at the end of the meeting, not to return to public session, for the purpose of discussing strategies for collective bargaining  
(C. Capparelli)  
(N. Mello)

Roll call vote

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
Patricia Gates  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

I. Public Hearing

No member of the public wished to speak.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1082<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on October 25, 2004 – approved by consensus, correcting on page 10 Member Cynthia Bazinet's name and adding the phrase, "no longer in publication" after "District" on page 11, third full paragraph. Members Capparelli, Connell, Maxwell, Nunnari, and Sherman abstained.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chairman Duncan Leith reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Comptroller's report that Members should contact the Superintendent; if there were questions regarding the Treasurer's report, Members should contact Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Natalie Mello.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Student Advisory Committee (C. Brennan, K. Getchell, J. Leger, C. Wilde)

No report.

- B. Management Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, D. Benson, C. Capparelli, P. Gates, D. Gibbs, M. James, N. Mello, J. Nunnari, M. Watson)

Chair Duncan Leith reported that the Management Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, November 17, 2004, at 6:00 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room. Due to the high school parent's night, the meeting was re-scheduled to 5:00 PM. Chair Leith reported that District School Choice would be on the agenda, in addition to other items.

- C. Education Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, C. Bazinet, E. Brennan, A. Livdahl, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, R. Rodriguez)

1. **DP3321.1 Policy Relating to Education *Field Trips Involving Late Night or Overnight Travel*** – second reading

Motion: To adopt DP3321.1 **Policy Relating to Education *Field Trips Involving Late Night or Overnight Travel*** for the second reading, waiving the reading

(M. Watson)  
(N. Mello)

Vote

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
Patricia Gates  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Alice Livdahl

Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. **DP3813 Policy Relating to Education *Audio and Video Taping of Meetings*** – first reading

Motion: To adopt DP3813 **Policy Relating to Education *Audio and Video Taping of Meetings*** for the first reading, waiving the reading

(M Watson)  
(M. James)

Following inquiry, Education Subcommittee Chair Margaret Watson reported that during the subcommittee review of the proposed policy, it was pointed out that there automatically is an adversarial situation created when a parent requests the taping of a meeting. The policy, however, provides for situations where video or audio taping would be appropriate.

The Superintendent reported that the request for the policy came from school administration. Staff reported that an adversarial situation is definitely created when a meeting is taped. District counsel for special education reviewed the policy and recommended the policy to not allow taping, except for special circumstances. Counsel advised that a policy would take the adversity from schools and place it in the hands of the School Committee, as the policy board. District Counsel recommended the adoption of a policy.

By consensus, it was agreed to add, “and stenographic recording” in all areas of the policy.

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

Clifford Connell  
Patricia Gates  
Kelly Maxwell

(Motion passed 13-3)

3. Recommendation to Establish a Technology Stabilization Fund

Motion: Recommendation to prepare proposed guidelines for a Technology Stabilization Fund

(M. Watson)

(M. James)

Following inquiry, the Superintendent informed the Committee of the process: warrant articles would be prepared by District Counsel and approved by the School Committee; the establishment of the Technology Stabilization Fund would require approval at Member Town meetings; the School Committee would decide annually if any funds would be recommended for appropriation into the fund, which would need Member Town meeting approval; spending from the fund would be approved by a Technology Stabilization Committee. Any appropriation recommendations to the fund would be reviewed by the Business/Finance Subcommittee, prior to approval at the School Committee.

The Superintendent reminded the Committee that construction in the schools has allowed the District to keep up to date with technology. With the exception of the high school, this will end next year. The Superintendent noted that he would not be recommending funding to the fund for FY06. The Superintendent advised the Committee that reductions have been made over the past three years in bricks and books and cannot add technology as a third area to reduce.

The Superintendent advised the Committee that \$1.8 million has been budgeted for technology in the high school project. If the Committee approves the motion, the Superintendent will obtain from District Counsel the process for establishment of such a fund. Since this is a legal, technical document, the Committee will need time to review and digest it and have questions answered.

Vote

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
Patricia Gates  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Michael Sherman

(Motion passed 15-0-1)

Member Margaret Watson read a prepared statement regarding community service at the high school (attachment 2).

- D. Business/Finance Subcommittee (N. Mello, Chair, C. Connell, D. Gibbs, M. James, J. Kane, D. Leith, K. Maxwell, C. Rauh, M. Sherman)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Natalie Mello reported that a Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, 2004, at 5:30 PM in the Curriculum Center to review the District audit.

- E. Community Outreach Subcommittee (D. Gibbs, Chair, C. Bazinet, E. Brennan, C. Connell, D. Leith, A. Livdahl, M. Sherman)

Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair David Gibbs reported that the subcommittee met on November 3, 2004 and requested that the School Committee adopt the statement of purpose of the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

Motion: To adopt

*The role of the Community Outreach Subcommittee is to promote the attributes of the Wachusett Regional School District, create opportunities that foster communication within the community regarding policies and goals of the District, and to enhance a shared educational identity throughout the region.*

(D. Gibbs)  
(A. Livdahl)

Vote

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
Patricia Gates  
David Gibbs  
Mark James  
Alice Livdahl

Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Cheryl Rauh  
Michael Sherman  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed 16-0)

The next Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, 2004, at 6:30 PM in the Curriculum Center.

F. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Review the Process for Selection of a Superintendent (N. Plourde, Chair, C. Capparelli, C. Connell, M. James, D. Leith, A. Livdahl, N. Mello, J. Nunnari, M. Watson)

Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Chair Norman Plourde reported that the NESDEC workshop was held at Chocksett Middle School on Monday, November 1, 2004. The next Ad-Hoc Subcommittee meeting is November 15, 2004 at Thomas Prince in the Research Lab.

G. Building Committees

1. High School

Chair Duncan Leith reported that an update was provided the Committee in the Superintendent's report. The Superintendent expressed concern that construction of Building F has not begun and release from the Holden Conservation Commission was received two weeks ago. The Building Committee needs to finalize the change in field design. The Superintendent reported that there is anxiety due to various delays; the additions must be completed before renovation begins.

2. Rutland – Naquag/Central Tree



3. Rutland – Elementary School – John Nunnari

Member Brennan reported that the Rutland Building Committee had not met.

i. Decision on School Plans

The Superintendent presented to the Committee a sample of the brick proposed to be used on the elementary school exterior. The architect for the Building Committee reported that this type of brick is more abrasive than either of the two that were previously rejected by the District and the Rutland Building Committee. The Superintendent informed the School Committee that silence would be interpreted by the Rutland Building Committee and the Superintendent as acceptance of the brick.

Member Brennan reported that she had brought the safety concern to the Rutland Building Committee but the Building Committee did not take action to reject the use of the brick product.

The Superintendent advised the School Committee that the final approval of the design of the project rests with the School Committee, pursuant to the Intergovernmental Agreement. The Superintendent is recommending that the Committee approve the design with the original brick, or a comparable product, in order to ensure the safety of the children. If the Committee decides to take action, it may want to include the roof storm drain system as well.

Motion: To adopt the Superintendent's recommendation that approval of the design of the project include the original brick, which was approved by the Superintendent, or a comparable product.

(M. Sherman)  
(N. Mello)

A friendly amendment was offered, and accepted by Members Sherman and Mello, to add “and the original roof storm drain system.”

Vote on motion, which reads: To adopt the Superintendent’s recommendation that approval of the design of the project include the original brick, which was approved by the Superintendent, or a comparable product and the original roof storm drain system.

In favor:

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

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed 16-0)

4. Sterling

- H. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School (C. Rauh), Chocksett Middle School (C. Capparelli), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (M. Watson), Mountview Middle School (M. Sherman), Naquag Elementary School (E. Brennan), Paxton Center School (A. Livdahl), Thomas Prince School (C. Connell), and Wachusett Regional High School (K. Maxwell).

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Following concern expressed by a member, the Superintendent agreed to provide a report on the review of after-school safety measures at the high school.

Member Alice Livdahl shared with the Superintendent a School Safety Audit Checklist, found on the Internet and used in the states of Virginia and New York (attachment 3). The Superintendent thanked Member Livdahl and indicated that staff would review the list.

B. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Strategies for Collective Bargaining

C. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

VI. Public Hearing

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned the regular meeting and entered executive session at 8:28PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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