

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1049, Monday, November 25, 2002
7:00 p.m.

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Alice Livdahl
Duncan Leith, Vice-Chairman	Peter MacDonald (7:09 PM)
Donald Benson	Natalie Mello
Carol Esperti	John Nunnari
David Fedeli	Julie Scott
Kimberly Ferguson	Margaret Watson
Jeffrey Gibbs (7:20 PM)	Patricia Young (7:04 PM)
Jane James	

Committee Members Absent:

David Lowenthal	Tammy Tod
Kelly Maxwell	Edwin Twarog
Kathleen Singh	

Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Paul K. Soojian, Director of Operations
Steven Penka, Director of Administrative Services
Philip E. Campbell, Director of Student/Information Services
Susan H. Sullivan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Others Present:

Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*
Marc Sanguinetti, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
Sue Staudaher, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*
Thomas Pandiscio, Principal, Wachusett Regional High School
Larry Floryan, Holden
Maureen Floryan, Holden
David Gibbs, Sterling
Mark James, Holden

David Clark, Sterling
Susan Williams, Rutland
Leonard Gengel, Rutland
Donna Dominguez, Sterling
Ralph Rondinone, Sterling

Chairman Rokicki called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Chairman Rokicki introduced Brad Dore of Dore & Whittier, the architectural firm for the Rutland Elementary School proposal. Mr. Dore introduced Don Walter, Lee Dore, and John Dore, as the other members of the architectural team. Chairman Rokicki recognized attending members of the Rutland Feasibility Study Committee: John Nunnari, Susan Williams, and Len Gengel present at the meeting.

Chairman Rokicki, acting as Chairman of the Rutland Feasibility Study Committee, and Brad Dore of Dore & Whittier narrated the PowerPoint presentation (attachment 1).

The Superintendent reported that Steven Penka, Director of Administrative Services, was the Superintendent's representative on the Committee. The Superintendent reported that Requests for Proposals for land were sent out and to date there have been no responses.

The Superintendent reminded the Committee that many projects will be coming forward, particularly because of the announcement by the Board of Education requesting a reduction in reimbursement rates and that there is a timeliness to submission.

The Superintendent explained what actions were needed:

- To adopt the Addendum for the long range facility plan
- To adopt the warrant language
- To request town meetings

The Superintendent, however, explained that he is exploring with the Department of Education as to whether the Intergovernmental Agreement with Rutland is still in effect and would, therefore, provide that Rutland only would have to schedule a town meeting and until such time as the Department of Education rules, the Committee should move forward as recommended.

Chairman Rokicki entertained Agenda Item VIB, 10.

10. Motion: To adopt Addendum (B) to the Wachusett Regional School District Long Range Facilities Plan – Rutland Public Schools (attachment 2)
(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Peter MacDonald

(Motion passed 14-0-1)

11. Request to Schedule Special Town Meetings for Rutland Elementary School Project

Motion: That contingent upon approval of bond counsel, without substantive changes, that the sum of \$18,600,000 is appropriated for the construction of a new K-5 school facility for the Town of Rutland to accommodate approximately 563 students on the existing Central Tree School facility site and for architectural, engineering and other costs related to the project, and that this appropriation be raised by incurring debt by the issuance of bonds and notes under Chapter 462 of the Acts of 1977,

Section 16 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, and Section 15 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, and to that end, the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Regional District School Committee, be authorized to issue bonds or notes therefore; that pursuant to Section 15.3 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement it is hereby determined that the approval of said debt by member towns shall be by vote taken at special town meetings with vote counts by printed yes/no ballots and to authorize the Superintendent to enter into and execute all contracts necessary or material to such work and to act or do anything relative thereto, and to adopt the following warrant article:

To see if the voters of the member towns of the Wachusett Regional School District will approve the borrowing of \$18,600,000 for the construction of a new K-5 school facility for the Town of Rutland to accommodate approximately 563 students on the existing Central Tree School facility site and for architectural, engineering and other costs related to the project, and that this appropriation be raised by incurring debt by the issuance of bonds and notes under Chapter 462 of the Acts of 1977, Section 16 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, and Section 15 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, and to that end, the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Regional District School Committee, be authorized to issue bonds or notes therefore; that pursuant to Section 15.3 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement it is hereby determined that the approval of said debt by member towns shall be by vote taken at special town meetings with vote counts by printed yes/no ballots and to authorize the Superintendent to enter into and execute all contracts necessary or material to such work and to act or do anything relative thereto (attachment 3)

(J. Nunnari)

(D. Leith)

Motion to Amend: To change to a ballot vote
(P. MacDonald)
(D. Fedeli)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Peter MacDonald

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Abstained:

Julie Scott

(Motion failed 4-10-1)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Kimberly Ferguson
Peter MacDonald

Abstained
Carol Esperti

(Motion passed 12-2-1)

9. Motion: To adopt Addendum (A) to the Wachusett Regional School District Long Range Facilities Plan – Wachusett Regional High School (attachment 4)
(D. Leith)
(N. Mello)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Carol Esperti

Abstained:

Peter MacDonald

(Motion passed 13-1-1)

2. Motion: To take no action on Phase II of Modular Classroom Project at Special Town Meetings on December 3, 2002
(A. Livdahl)
(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Peter MacDonald
Julie Scott
Patricia Young

(Motion passed 9-6)

I. Public Hearing

No member of the public wished to speak.

Chairman Rokicki moved to the remainder of the recommendations by the Superintendent (Agenda Item VIB).

1. Adoption of Revised Science Curriculum

The Superintendent suggested that this be referred to the Education Subcommittee if members show up. Otherwise it could be referred back to the School Committee for action.

3. Motion: That pending Certification of Excess & Deficiency (E & D) Balance by the Department of Revenue, to advance \$200,000 from E & D to the long-term high school project in order to expedite the preparation of documents for submission to the Department of Education (DOE), School Building

Assistance, to ensure that the District's project is accepted by the DOE by June 30, 2003.

(J. Nunnari)

(D. Leith)

The Requests for Proposals are due on December 5, 2002 and the Superintendent would like to move forward.

Motion to Amend: To add contingent upon a two-thirds District-wide vote being successful.

(C. Esperti)

(K. Ferguson)

Roll call vote on the motion to amend:

In favor:

Carol Esperti

Peter MacDonald

Opposed:

John Rokicki

Duncan Leith

Donald Benson

David Fedeli

Kimberly Ferguson

Jeffrey Gibbs

Jane James

Alice Livdahl

Natalie Mello

John Nunnari

Julie Scott

Margaret Watson

Patricia Young

(Motion failed 2-13)

Roll call vote on main motion: That pending Certification of Excess & Deficiency (E & D) Balance by the Department of Revenue, to advance \$200,000 from E & D to the long-term high school project in order to expedite the preparation of documents for submission to the Department of Education (DOE), School Building Assistance, to ensure that the District's project is accepted by the DOE by June 30, 2003.

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Peter MacDonald

(Motion passed 12-3)

4. Motion: To amend the FY03 Appropriation, to appropriate insurance reimbursement to *Instructional Support* to offset the District's advance of funds to ensure the opening of the Chocksett Middle School library (attachment 5)

(P. MacDonald)
(J. Scott)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello

John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

5. Motion: To authorize the Treasurer to Establish a Student Activity Account at the Barre Savings Bank
(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

6. **AP6617 Policy Relating to Pupil Services**
Administration of Medication

This was referred to the Education Subcommittee.

7. **AP6910 Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Student Records***

This was referred to the Education Subcommittee.

8. **To amend by deleting AP6911 *Policy Relating to Pupil Services Access***

This was referred to the Education Subcommittee.

12. **Motion: To enter Executive Session, at the end of the meeting, not to return to public session, for the Purpose of Discussing Strategies for Negotiations**

(J. Nunnari)

(J. Scott)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chairman Rokicki addressed Agenda Item IXA (New Business) and turned the meeting over the Vice-chairman Duncan Leith.

- A. Motion: To reconsider the following motion made at the Special Meeting of November 12, 2002:

To reject Strekalovsky & Hoit's operating budget
(J. Rokicki)
(D. Benson)

The Superintendent explained that the final report from Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. is part of the RFP process for the high school project. The RFP process would need to be restarted, losing critical time.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Peter MacDonald

(Motion passed 12-3)

Motion to Amend: To eliminate from Princeton's Town Meeting
(D. Benson)

The motion to amend died due to a lack of a second.

Motion: To move the question

(J. Gibbs)
(A. Livdahl)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Roll call vote on main motion: To reject Strelakovsky & Hoit's
operating budget

In favor:

Carol Esperti
Peter MacDonald

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson

Patricia Young

(Motion failed 2-13)

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of the 1047th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on November 12, 2002 –

Chairman Rokicki called for a vote to approve the minutes with the following corrections:

- Page 2 -- correction of spelling of Leo Bachant's name
- Page 2 – correction of spelling of Ed Meyer's name
- Page 9 – remove Donald Benson from the vote to adjourn.

Member Carol Esperti requested that it be recorded that she had requested that members be notified in advance that correspondence would be included in the Superintendent's report.

Member Carol Esperti requested that it be recorded that she had informed the Committee that she would bring the issue up under new business.

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Kimberly Ferguson

Abstained:
Donald Benson
John Nunnari

(Minutes were approved 12-1-2)

B. Approval of the 244th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD
Committee held on November 12, 2002

Chairman Rokicki called for a vote to approve the minutes with
the following corrections:

- Page 2 -- correction of spelling of Leo Bachant's name
- Page 5 – add the word “that” in the motion following
“requests”
- Page 6 – change the word “reconsider” to “rescind” in the
paragraph beginning “Chairman Rokicki”

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Kimberly Ferguson

Abstained:

Donald Benson
John Nunnari

(Minutes were approved 12-1-2)

Member Carol Esperti requested that the Management Subcommittee discuss the inclusion of members of the public on the official minutes if the members did not sign the "Visitors List".

III. Communications

Member Carol Esperti asked what the procedure was for copying emails and including in the Superintendent's report. The Superintendent reported that all emails from or to members are copied for inclusion in the reports.

IV. Education Presentation

V. Committee Reports

- A. Student Advisory Committee (K. Brunelle, L. Zambetti, N. Leger, E. DeMarco)
- B. Education Subcommittee (J. Scott, Chair, K. Ferguson, D. Lowenthal, P. MacDonald, J. Nunnari, T. Tod, M. Watson, P. Young)
- C. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School (J. Nunnari), Chocksett Middle School (P. MacDonald), Davis Hill Elementary School (D. Leith), Dawson Elementary School (J. James), Houghton Elementary School (K. Singh), Mayo Elementary School (M. Watson), Mountview Middle School (D. Benson), Naquag Elementary School (J. Gibbs), Paxton Center School (A. Livdahl), Thomas Prince School (D. Lowenthal), and Wachusett Regional High School (N. Mello)

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Following an inquiry regarding the distribution of the Auditor's Report, the Superintendent informed the Committee that the report has been mailed to member town libraries and District school libraries.

The Superintendent clarified a question regarding the Jefferson School expenses in the auditor's report that the costs were for the Early Childhood Center.

Member Peter MacDonald reported that Member Kathleen Singh was not in attendance due to illness and that she had not resigned.

Member Duncan Leith reported that he would not participate in executive session because his wife is a member of the bargaining unit.

Motion: To extend meeting by ten minutes

(D. Leith)

(A. Livdahl)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Carol Esperti

(Motion passed 14-1)

VII. Public Hearing

No member of the public wished to speak.

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

- B. Discussion and decision on future direction to ensure Princeton conducts a Special Town Meeting in a timely manner as to not substantially increase the local costs of the high school project and any legal matters related to same.

No action was taken on this item, as the Princeton Selectboard scheduled a Special Town Meeting for Thursday, December 19, 2002, at 6:00 PM.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Rokicki asked for volunteers to serve on the High School Architect Selection Ad-Hoc Subcommittee. Chairman Rokicki will appoint the following to the subcommittee:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Natalie Mello
Superintendent Alfred D. Tutela

Chairman Rokicki adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM with a thirty-second recess to clear the hall before convening the executive session. Member Duncan Leith left the meeting at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:ss