

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #234 Tuesday, June 25, 2002

7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	David Lowenthal
Duncan Leith, Vice-Chairman	Jane James
Donald Benson	Peter MacDonald (7:07 PM)
Carol Esperti	Kelly Maxwell
David Fedeli	Kathleen Singh
Kimberly Ferguson	Tammy Tod
Jeffrey Gibbs	Edwin Twarog
Alice Livdahl	Patricia Young

Committee Members Absent:

Natalie Mello	Julie Scott
John Nunnari	Margaret Watson

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*
Susan Staudaher, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*
Joseph Giotta, Holden Finance Committee
Mark James, Holden
Maureen Floryan, Holden
Larry Floryan, Holden
David Gibbs, Sterling
Dave Clark, Sterling
Ann Quill, Sterling
John Schneeweis, Sterling

Jeffrey Wentzell, Paxton
Susan Reynolds, Holden
Melinda Johnson, Paxton
Roseann Silva, Holden
Susan Duval, Sterling

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rokicki called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Chairman Rokicki deferred to Agenda Item III.

III. Executive Session for the Purposes of Discussing Strategies for Negotiations

Motion: To ratify the negotiated agreement with AFSCME Council 93 Custodial Employees, pending ratification by the union membership.

(C. Esperti)

(D. Leith)

Member Peter MacDonald arrived at 7:07 PM.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald

(Motion passed 14-0-2)

Motion: To ratify the negotiated agreement with AFSCME Council 93 Clerical Employees, pending ratification by the union membership.

(C. Esperti)

(D. Leith)

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
Kelly Maxwell
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

David Lowenthal

(Motion passed 15-0-1)

Chairman Rokicki returned to Agenda Item II and turned the meeting over to Roger Hoit and Eugene Raymond from Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. and Michael Daley from Financial Advisory Associates, Inc., associated with Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc.

II. Discussion Regarding the Permanent High School Facility Solution

Eugene Raymond distributed Agenda – June 25, 2002, with accompanying attachments (attachments 1 through 6). He reviewed the agenda with the Committee.

Mr. Raymond reported that the Committee must start with the number of pupils, which leads to the square footage of the various models.

Following inquiry from the Superintendent, Mr. Raymond informed the Committee that the SBA square footage reimbursement rate is determined when construction begins, not when the project is approved. He reported that the reimbursement rate is fixed and not tied to the cost of the project. Land is not reimbursable. Also, the projects on the list are prioritized and then “reshuffled” each year.

Strekalovsky & Hoit then introduced their first attempt at SBA reimbursement as it relates to the various WRSD options. He explained that each District has a base rate plus incentive points. The rate determined for the District is rather complicated if some members towns join together to build a separate school.

The determinate for extra points for Major Repairs is based upon application by the District for repair projects. Following inquiry by the Superintendent, Mr. Daley informed the Committee that projects moving forward should be sent in to the state.

During the discussion regarding major repairs, the Superintendent reminded the Committee that Commissioner David Driscoll assured the Holden Selectboard that if the modulars were utilized as part of a larger project then the modulars would be reimbursable. Roger Hoit reported that he had met with SBA in February, April, and May and that the parameters changed at each meeting.

The timelines were reviewed. If the Committee wants to make the June 2003 list, November or December 2002 would be the last dates available. The Superintendent suggested that the date for the beginning of reimbursement should be added to the timeline.

Following inquiry, Mr. Raymond reported that some of the two school options are larger than the square footage allowable by the state. Some members expressed concern that projects over the allowable square footage would be harder to sell to the community.

Mr. Daley informed the committee that the enrollment figures need to be agreed upon as well as the square footage requirements.

Motion: That Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. use the SBA square footage formula as a cap for determining options.

(K. Singh)
(E. Twarog)

Motion: To move the question

(E. Twarog)
(K. Singh)

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
Kelly Maxwell
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Patricia Young

Opposed:

David Lowenthal

(Motion passed 15-1)

Roll call vote on the main motion:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti

David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To adopt Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. student enrollment numbers.

(K. Maxwell)
(D. Leith)

Motion: To move the question

(D. Benson)
(J. Gibbs)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Tammy Tod
Patricia Young

Opposed:
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson

David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Kathleen Singh
Edwin Twarog

(Motion failed 9-7)

Motion: To move the question.

(J. Gibbs)

(T. Tod)

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
Kelly Maxwell
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Patricia Young

Opposed;

David Lowenthal
Edwin Twarog

(Motion passed 14-2)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson

Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Patricia Young

Opposed:

David Lowenthal
Edwin Twarog

(Motion passed 14-2)

By consensus, the Committee agreed to use seven years for the short-term borrowing (Bond Anticipation Note – BAN). The goal in July is to look at options and review pros and cons. Committee members can use attachment 4 as a worksheet to aid in this process.

Motion: To schedule a special meeting on Monday, July 15, 2002, at 7:00 PM

(C. Esperti)
(D. Fedeli)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog

Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Following a request by a member, Strekalovsky & Hoit will come to the next meeting with information on school size and speak for approximately twenty minutes.

Member Alice Livdahl left the meeting at 9:57 PM.

Motion: To extend the meeting by fifteen minutes to allow for a public session.

(D. Leith)

(J. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Patricia Young

Opposed:

David Lowenthal
Edwin Twarog

(Motion passed 13-2)

Member Carol Esperti left the meeting at 10:00 PM.

Member David Lowenthal left the meeting at 10:02 PM.

Maureen Floryan, Holden, reminded the Committee that the one school option nearly passed by two-thirds three times.

Susan Duval, Sterling, asked Michael Daley if things had changed since his presentation in 2000. She indicated that he presented at that time that small schools are educationally better.

David Gibbs, Sterling, represented that dissolution should be taken off the table by taking a vote.

John Kilcoyne, Sterling, thanked the Superintendent for attending the Chocksett Middle School graduation. He is cautiously optimistic that a solution will come forward.

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(D. Leith)
(J. Gibbs)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:ss

School Committee/Minutes