

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #232 Wednesday, May 15, 2002

6:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Natalie Mello
Donald Benson	John Nunnari (6:17 PM)
Carol Esperti	Elizabeth Pape
Kimberly Ferguson (7:15 PM)	Julie Scott
Jeffrey Gibbs (6:47 PM)	Kathleen Singh
Sarah Jordan (6:56 PM)	Tammy Tod
Duncan Leith (6:17 PM)	Edwin Twarog
David Lowenthal	Margaret Watson (6:08 PM)
Kelly Maxwell	

Committee Members Absent:

Jane James	Peter MacDonald
Alice Livdahl	

Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Paul K. Soojian, Director of Operations
Philip Campbell, Director of Student/Information Services
Peter Brennan, Comptroller
Susan Sullivan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Others present:

Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*
Stacey M. Grossi, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
Susan Staudaher, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*
Timothy Ethier, Holden Selectboard
Larry Floryan, Holden
Maureen Floryan, Holden
David Gibbs, Sterling

Ralph Caouette, Holden
Jeffrey Wentzell, Paxton
Lee Merlin, Holden
Frank Mero, Rutland
Mark James, Holden

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rokicki called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM. Chairman Rokicki introduced new members Tammy Tod, Rutland and Edwin Twarog, Princeton. He also thanked former members Sherry Horeanopoulos, Princeton, Michael Gennert, Rutland, and Elizabeth Pape, Sterling for their service to the community.

II. Discussion Regarding the Permanent High School Facility Solution

Chairman Rokicki introduced Michael Daley and Dr. Edward Tynan from Financial Advisory Associates, Inc., associated with Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. Mr. Daley distributed *A Review of Enrollment Information* (attachment 1). Eugene Raymond from Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. joined the Committee for discussion. Mr. Daley reviewed the enrollment data and reported that ten-year enrollment averages were used, as recommended by the State. For high school purposes, it is not useful to use birth projections, as the students that will be at the high school are already born. For high school planning, estimating enrollment utilizing construction is not needed. Mr. Daley reviewed data for each of the member towns. Retention could improve with a new facility.

Mr. Daley concluded that 2000 students should be the number considered in any scenario. The conclusions/assumptions included:

- Single school solution – 2,000 students
- Two school solutions
 - Option A
 - Sterling/Princeton – 500 students
 - Holden/Paxton/Rutland – 1,500 students
 - Option B
 - Paxton/Rutland – 700 students
 - Holden/Princeton/Sterling – 1,300 students
 - Option C
 - Holden – 850 students

- Paxton/Princeton/Sterling/Rutland – 1,150 students
- Option D
 - District-wide dual school solution – varied curriculum
- Three school solution
 - Sterling/Princeton – 500 students
 - Holden – 850 students
 - Paxton/Rutland – 700 students

Michael Daley asked if the two school option D could be eliminated by consensus. He is trying to minimize the list not maximize the list.

Motion: to remove Item 2d, replacing it with an additional two school scenario be considered: Holden/Paxton and Rutland/Sterling/Princeton and to remove Item 3A.

(E. Pape)
(E. Twarog)

Motion: To divide the question.

(K. Maxwell)
(C. Esperti)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Jeffrey Gibbs
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Kelly Maxwell
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

David Lowenthal

Natalie Mello

(Motion passed 14-2)

To remove Item 2D

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Jeffrey Gibbs
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Remove Item 3A

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Donald Benson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott

Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Carol Esperti
David Lowenthal
Kathleen Singh

(Motion passed 13-3)

Add an additional two school scenario: Holden/Paxton and
Rutland/Sterling/Princeton

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Jeffrey Gibbs
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

David Lowenthal
Edwin Twarog

(Motion passed 14-2)

Motion: to remove Item 2C

(E. Twarog)
(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Jeffrey Gibbs
Duncan Leith
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Sarah Jordan
David Lowenthal
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

(Motion passed 9-7)

The next meeting with Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. will be held on June 10, 2002 at 6:00 PM.

II. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(E. Pape)
(J. Gibbs)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
David Lowenthal
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello

Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred D Tutela, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

ADT:ss

School Committee/minutes