

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #235 Monday, July 15, 2002

7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Kelly Maxwell
Duncan Leith, Vice-Chairman	John Nunnari
Carol Esperti	Julie Scott
David Fedeli	Kathleen Singh (7:10 PM)
Alice Livdahl	Tammy Tod
David Lowenthal	Edwin Twarog
Jane James	Margaret Watson
Peter MacDonald	Patricia Young

Committee Members Absent:

Donald Benson	Jeffrey Gibbs
Kimberly Ferguson	Natalie Mello

Administration Present:

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

Others Present:

Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*
Richard Halloran, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
Susan Staudaher, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*
Joseph Sullivan, Chair Holden Selectboard
Joseph Giotta, Holden Finance Committee
Maureen Floryan, Holden
Larry Floryan, Holden
Mark James, Holden
David Gibbs, Sterling
David Clark, Sterling

Melinda Johnson, Paxton
Sue Reynolds, Holden
Sue Schneeweis, Sterling
Debbie Croucher, Sterling
Toby O'Reilly, Sterling
Ann Quill, Sterling
Jan Patten, Sterling
John Kilcoyne, Sterling
Lee Merlin, Holden
Jan Laiton, Holden

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rokicki called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

II. Discussion Regarding the Permanent High School Facility Solution

Chairman Rokicki turned over the meeting to Michael Daley and Edward Tynan of Financial Advisory Associates, who distributed *Wachusett Regional School District Estimated Enrollments and Analysis of Facility Occupancy* (attachment 1) and *Wachusett Regional High School Space Needs Study* (attachment 2).

Mr. Daley reported that following the last special meeting, he reviewed the enrollments again and highlighted to the Committee the peak enrollment percentage and actual enrollment for each of the member towns. Included with the numbers are the enrollment leeway percentages for each of the projected year. A few of the numbers for the various options were "tweaked" slightly to accommodate the various school sizes. The School Committee requested to confirm the enrollment numbers for planning purposes.

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

(C. Esperti)
(M. Watson)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti

David Fedeli
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Edwin Twarog

(Motion passed 15-0-1)

Roger Hoit and Eugene Raymond of Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. joined the meeting at 7:25 PM. Michael Daley reviewed the *Space Needs Study* and explained the minor differences to information provided prior to the meeting, particularly in regard to incentive points. The best reimbursement rate would be for renovation/addition of the high school.

Motion: To direct the Superintendent to hire an independent marketing firm to send to every registered voter in the Wachusett Region, three options on the high school solution to vote on. The option that gathers the majority support, the School Committee will present to the voters no later than December 15, 2002

(K. Maxwell)
(J. Scott)

Motion: To table the motion

(D. Fedeli)
(E. Twarog)

Roll call vote:

In favor:
John Rokicki

David Fedeli
Jane James
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
John Nunnari
Edwin Twarog

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

(Motion failed 7-9)

A friendly amendment was accepted to hire the independent marketing firm following the receipt of estimated costs.

Motion: To move the question

(C. Esperti)
(T. Tod)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

John Rokicki
David Lowenthal
Patricia Young

(Motion passed 13-3)

Roll call vote on the main motion:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
Julie Scott
Tammy Tod
Patricia Young

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Jane James
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
John Nunnari
Kathleen Singh
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 5 -11)

Chairman Rokicki announced that per *Robert's Rules of Order*, debate will be limited to twenty minutes on the large school/small schools debate.

Edward Tynan presented a Power Point presentation on the small school/large school debate (attachment 3). Following the presentation, Dr. Tynan distributed *Will Parents and Teachers Get on the Bandwagon To Reduce School Size?* (attachment 4) and *Serving Smaller Learning Communities* (attachment 5).

Member David Lowenthal distributed a memo to the School Committee (attachment 6).

Chairman Rokicki allowed comments on large school/small school for twenty minutes, as previously announced.

The Committee was asked to review the options with the purpose of eliminating options.

Motion: To eliminate A.3, B.3, C.3, and D.3 options
(C. Esperti)
(K. Singh)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

With permission of Chair John Rokicki and being limited to ten minutes, Member David Lowenthal read his memorandum to the Committee.

Motion: To eliminate E.2 and E.2 options
(P. MacDonald)
(D. Leith)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Michael Daley restated to the Committee that the various SBA reimbursement rates are based upon specific students attending specific schools. If open enrollment is available, the regional reimbursement rate would be used. The consultants will continue to price out the various options using the enrollment based on specific students attending specific schools.

Member Peter MacDonald reported that he had spoken to several realtors regarding land values. No realtor wanted to go on record on this issue. The cost per acre is based on site. The consultants indicated that they would figure approximately \$35,000 per acre.

Motion: To extend the meeting by ten minutes for the purpose of voting on the transportation policy

(C. Esperti)
(P. MacDonald)

Member David Lowenthal left the meeting at 10:00 PM.

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Jane James
Peter MacDonald
Julie Scott
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

Alice Livdahl
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Kathleen Singh
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

(Motion passed 8-7)

Member David Lowenthal returned to the meeting at 10:02 PM.

The next special meeting will be August 5, 2002 at 7:00 PM.

III. AP7210 ***Policy Relating to Support Operations Routes and Services***, second reading

Motion: To adopt AP7210 ***Policy Relating to Support Operations Routes and Services***, second reading, waiving the reading

(P. MacDonald)
(C. Esperti)

Motion: To table the motion

(D. Lowenthal)
(E. Twarog)

Vote:

In favor:

David Fedeli
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Patricia Young

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Jane James
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 7-9)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

Carol Esperti
Kelly Maxwell
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
David Fedeli
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson

Patricia Young

(Motion failed 3-13)

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(P. MacDonald)
(J. James)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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