

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #250 , Wednesday August 20, 2003
7:00 p.m.

Modular Cafeteria
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chairman	John Nunnari
Donald Benson	John Rokicki
Clifford Connell	Rene Rodriguez
David Dickman	Julie Scott
Patricia Gates	Michael Sherman
Mark James	Tammy Tod
Alice Livdahl	Margaret Watson
	Patricia Young

Committee Members Absent:

Elizabeth Brennan	Natalie Mello
Charles Capparelli	Norman Plourde

Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Paul K. Soojian, Director of Operations
Steven Penka, Director of Administrative Services
Peter Brennan, Comptroller
Rebecca Petersen, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1)

I. Chairman Leith called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Chairman Leith asked Selectboard and Finance/Advisory Committee representatives, School Committee members and District staff, seated around the table, to introduce themselves.

School Committee Members:

Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Clifford Connell
David Dickman
Patricia Gates
Mark James
Alice Livdahl
John Nunnari
René Rodriguez
John Rokicki
Julie Scott
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Town Representatives:

Holden Selectboard Chairman Michael Wronski
Holden Finance Committee Chairman Joe Giotta
Holden Town Manager Brian Bullock
Paxton Selectboard Chairman Scott Runstrom
Paxton Finance Committee Chairman Richard Fenton
Princeton Selectboard Member Stan Moss
Princeton Advisory Board Member William Whiting
Rutland Selectboard Chairman Lou Cornacchioli
Rutland Finance Committee Chairman Joseph Becker
Sterling Selectboard Member Richard Sheppard
Sterling Finance Committee Member Pamela Nashawary
Sterling Finance Committee Member Larry Pape

District Staff:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Paul Soojian, Director of Operations
Steven Penka, Director of Administrative Services
Peter Brennan, Comptroller
Rebecca Petersen, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Chairman Wronski thanked the School Committee for calling this special meeting and inviting town representatives to attend.

- II. Discussion of FYO4 Fiscal Issues by Member Town Representatives:
 - A. Holden presentation –Holden Town Manager Brian Bullock and Selectboard Chairman Michael Wronski

- The District will need to make an additional \$1.7m reduction in order to begin negotiations with Town of Holden
 - “Holden BOS Proposed Starting Point for Budget Reduction Negotiations” (attachment 2)
 - Holden Manager’s FY2004 Budget Message (attachment 3)
 - Finance Committee Chairman made a statement in support of the need to further reduce the School Committee budget by \$1.7m before negotiations can begin
- B. Paxton presentation - Selectboard Chairman Scott Runstrom
- Override needed for \$41,000 difference. Chairman Runstrom does not anticipate an override vote would pass.
- C. Princeton presentation - Selectboard Member Stan Moss
- Princeton Selectboard resisting to go out with an override for anything above Minimum Local Requirement
 - Town of Princeton would only need \$38,000. to meet the needs if it chooses not to go for an override.
 - Town of Princeton has proposed a Special Town Meeting September 9, 2003 (attachment 4)
- D. Rutland presentation - Selectboard Chairman Lou Cornacchioli
- Town supports District budget
 - Chairman Cornacchioli made note of the fact that the assembled group is too large to negotiate this issue.
- E. Sterling presentation – Selectboard Member Richard Sheppard
- Town supports District budget.
 - Sterling has scheduled a Special Town Meeting for September 22, 2003. At this point, the District budget is not on the agenda.

Member Connell left the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Member Connell returned to the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Motion: To set date for a Special School Committee meeting to discuss fiscal issues/budget matters prior to next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting (September 15, 2003)

(T. Tod)

(M. Watson)

Vote

In favor:

Donald Benson

Clifford Connell
David Dickman
Patricia Gates
Alice Livdahl
John Nunnari
René Rodriguez
Julie Scott
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
Mark James
John Rokicki
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 11-4)

Amended Motion: To schedule Special School Committee meeting for Monday, August 25, 2003, 7:00 p.m. to discuss fiscal issues/budget matters prior to next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting (September 15, 2003)

(T. Tod)
(P. Young)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Clifford Connell
David Dickman
Patricia Gates
Mark James
Alice Livdahl
John Nunnari
René Rodriguez
Julie Scott
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Abstained:
John Rokicki

(Motion passed 14-0-1)

III. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(J. Scott)
(J. Nunnari)

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Clifford Connell
David Dickman
Patricia Gates
Mark James
Alice Livdahl
John Nunnari
René Rodriguez
John Rokicki
Julie Scott
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

(Motion passed unanimously)

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:rlp/School Committee/Minutes