

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #251 Monday, August 25, 2003

Modular Cafeteria
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chairman	John Nunnari
Donald Benson	Norman Plourde
Charles Capparelli	René Rodriguez
Clifford Connell	Julie Scott
David Dickman	Michael Sherman
Patricia Gates	Tammy Tod
Mark James	Margaret Watson
Alice Livdahl	Patricia Young
Natalie Mello	

Committee Members Absent:

Elizabeth Brennan	John Rokicki
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Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Paul K. Soojian, Director of Operations
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 7:03 PM.

II. Discussion of FYO4 Fiscal Issues

Statement read by Member James.

David Gibbs, Sterling, shared a written statement, to be part of record (attachment 2)

The Superintendent distributed copies of correspondence to Member Town Selectboards and Finance/Advisory Committees (attachment 3).

Motion: To suspend further budget cuts until such time as the towns come back to the table with realistic proposals

(M. James)
(C. Capparelli)

Following this motion, there was much discussion among members of the Committee. Member Rodriguez stated he felt a decision should be made at this meeting. Member Dickman did not feel any future overrides would pass. Member Benson feels District residents are pleased with education provided by District; residents are upset about taxes they pay. Member Capparelli cannot see any additional cutting of the FY04 budget. Member Plourde would like to keep budget as it stands; get FY04 passed and start work on FY05 budget ASAP. Member Livdahl suggested reducing assessment by \$400,000 and then hold fast with that number and go to towns.

Substitute Motion: To reduce the assessment to Member Towns by \$400,000 and to authorize the Chairman of the Wachusett Regional School Committee and the Chairman of the WRSD Business/Finance Subcommittee to negotiate with the Towns of Holden, Paxton and Princeton not to exceed \$400,000

(A. Livdahl)
(D. Dickman)

Discussion ensued.

A friendly amendment was offered by Member Benson to “reduce assessment to Towns by \$400,000.”

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Natalie Mello
Donald Benson
Charles Capparelli
Clifford Connell
David Dickman
Patricia Gates
Alice Livdahl
John Nunnari

Norman Plourde
René Rodriguez
Julie Scott
Michael Sherman
Tammy Tod
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Mark James
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 15-2)

Member Sherman suggested that the Chairman consider forming an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Community Outreach to strengthen ties between the School Committee and residents of the District. Chairman Leith will address this suggestion at the September 15, 2003 regular School Committee meeting.

III. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(N. Plourde)
(R. Rodriguez)

Vote:

In favor:

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

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:rlp/School Committee/Minutes