

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #237 Monday, August 26, 2002

7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Peter MacDonald
Duncan Leith, Vice-Chairman	Kelly Maxwell
Donald Benson	Natalie Mello
Carol Esperti	Julie Scott
David Fedeli	Kathleen Singh
Jeffrey Gibbs (7:12 PM)	Tammy Tod
Jane James	Edwin Twarog
Alice Livdahl	Margaret Watson
David Lowenthal	Patricia Young

Committee Members Absent:

Kimberly Ferguson	John Nunnari
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Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Susan Sullivan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Others present:

Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*
Stacey M. Grossi, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
Susan Staudaher, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*
Joseph Sullivan, Chairman, Holden Selectboard
Louis Cornacchioli, Rutland Selectboard
Larry Floryan, Holden
David Gibbs, Sterling
Mark James, Holden
Susan Marsh, Holden

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rokicki called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. and distributed the Agenda (attachment 1), *A Recommended Model for Clustering* (attachment 2), *The Matthew Project: National Report* (attachment 3).

II. Public Session

Mark James, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

III. Discussion Regarding the Permanent High School Facility Solution

Motion: That the Committee stay tonight until no more than three options are left on the table.

(K. Maxwell)
(J. James)

A friendly amendment was offered by Member Donald Benson to limit the options to three by the end of the next special meeting. The friendly amendment was not accepted by the maker of the motion.

Motion: To table the motion

(M. Watson)
(D. Fedeli)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
David Fedeli
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Natalie Mello
Kathleen Singh
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell

Julie Scott
Tammy Tod
Patricia Young

Abstained:
John Rokicki

(Motion passed 10-7-1)

Chairman Rokicki turned the meeting over to Eugene Raymond and Roger Hoit from Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. Michael Daley and Edward Tynan from Financial Advisory Associates, Inc., associated with Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc., arrived at 7:45 PM.

Eugene Raymond distributed information regarding a new Option A6, as requested by Member Alice Livdahl, of an upper school and a lower school on the current site with a shared core (attachment 5). This resulted from previous discussions and could be three separate new buildings or a combination of renovation and building new.

The Superintendent expressed concern regarding some of the recommendations for space usage, for example the need for twenty-five curriculum offices.

Following discussion the Superintendent advised the Committee that the District owns ninety-one acres but that only approximately forty-five acres are usable.

As a follow-up to questions raised at a prior meeting, the Superintendent distributed *Proposed School Construction Project* (attachment 6). District staff worked with the District's financial advisors to develop financial information regarding the cost of borrowing. On the reverse side of the attachment, the per pupil cost of each project was calculated along with the highest per pupil cost for debt service to determine the cost of towns for voluntary transfers.

Eugene Raymond distributed *Preliminary Development Options* (attachment 7). Michael Daley distributed financial information regarding the "A" options, including Member Town tax impacts based on declining debt service (attachment 8). Similar information has been developed for the other options. The new A6 option will be completed shortly. Michael Daley distributed *Comparative Cost Analysis*

(attachment 9). He explained that overall option A1 has the lowest cost. Michael Daley will forward to the Superintendent the detailed information on the remaining options, along with information regarding Option A6 and the Superintendent will forward the information to the School Committee.

Level funding is another method of financing for the Committee to consider.

Following discussion on the various financial options presented, Chairman Rokicki asked the Committee to consider the "Pros and Cons". Chairman Rokicki informed the Committee that a "brainstorming" format would be used and the results will be collated and distributed to the Committee (attachment 10).

Chairman Rokicki informed the Committee that the next Regular Meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2002, and that is the State Primary Voting Day. With the consensus of the Committee, Chairman Rokicki re-scheduled the Regular Meeting for Wednesday, September 18, 2002, at 7:00 PM at a site to be determined. A tour of modulars will take place at 6:30, for any interested members.

Chairman Rokicki scheduled the next special meeting for Thursday, September 12, 2002, at 7:00 PM at a site to be determined.

II. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(J. Scott))

(E. Twarog)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Jeffrey Gibbs
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal

Peter MacDonald
Kelly Maxwell
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:ss

School Committee/Minutes