

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #238 Thursday, September 12, 2002

7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Natalie Mello
Duncan Leith, Vice-Chairman	John Nunnari
Carol Esperti (7:31 PM)	Julie Scott
David Fedeli	Kathleen Singh
Kimberly Ferguson (7:20 PM)	Tammy Tod
Jane James	Edwin Twarog
Alice Livdahl	Margaret Watson
David Lowenthal	Patricia Young (8:30 PM)
Peter MacDonald	

Committee Members Absent:

Donald Benson
Jeffrey Gibbs
Kelly Maxwell

Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Steven Penka, Director of Administrative Services

Others Present:

Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*
Stacy Grossi, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
Susan Staudaher, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*
Douglas Briggs, Chair, Rutland Selectboard
Louis Cornacchioli, Rutland Selectboard
Mark James, Holden
Larry Floryan, Holden
Maureen Floryan, Holden

David Gibbs, Sterling
Melinda Johnson, Paxton
Otto Lies, Holden
John Kilcoyne, Sterling

I. Call to Order

Chairman John Rokicki called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

II. Public Session

Mark James, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 1).

Douglas Briggs, Chair, Rutland Selectboard, spoke, referring to handout, *Compares WRSD School Options Costs to Excess Debt Credit Real Cost to Each Town* (attachment 2).

Larry Floryan, Holden, spoke summarizing cost difference (B1 vs. A1 options) for Holden (attachment 3).

III. Discussion Regarding the Permanent High School Facility Solution

Chairman John Rokicki turned the meeting over to Eugene Raymond from Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. and Michael Daley and Edward Tynan from Financial Advisory Associates, Inc. Michael Daley handed out an adjusted assessment schedule for each option reflecting SBAB reimbursement rates (attachment 4).

Eugene Raymond reviewed the options and recommended consideration of A1, A6 and B1 and suggested going with two articles at one Town Meeting or a priority article.

Motion: That the Wachusett Regional School District Committee bring forward to town meetings three separate warrant articles. The first article is for Option B1 as currently proposed by Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. plus the cost of land. The second article is for Option A1 plus the cost of 22 acres of land adjacent to the current high school site. The third article is for Phase 2 of the modular project if neither B1 or A1 achieve the necessary two thirds majority. Should both B1 and A1 achieve a two thirds majority, the option with the highest percentage would be constructed. The Wachusett Regional School District Committee directs the Superintendent to ask that all town meetings be scheduled for the same date and time. The Wachusett Regional School

District Committee directs the Superintendent to inform the school district communities of the warrant articles, to appropriate \$25,000. from the E&D fund to cover the costs of information distribution and the costs of town meetings. The Wachusett Regional School District Committee also directs the Superintendent to have the necessary warrant articles prepared (attachment 5).

(D. Leith)
(A. Livdahl)

Motion to Amend: To substitute “ballot vote” for “town meetings”.

(K. Singh)
(E. Twarog)

Roll Call Vote:

In favor:

Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Margaret Watson

(Amendment passed 9 - 7)

Motion: To move the question

(K. Singh)
(E. Twarog)

Roll Call Vote

In favor:

Duncan Leith

Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 14 - 2)

Roll call vote on main motion, as amended

In favor:

Julie Scott
Tammy Tod
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Kathleen Singh
Edwin Twarog

(Motion failed 3 - 13)

Motion: To eliminate any options that require demolition of the high school (Options A2, A5, B2, C2, and D2)

(K. Singh)
(C. Esperti)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To direct Chairman Rokicki to request written clarification of Christine Lynch for permanent modular construction and reimbursement.

(C. Esperti)
(E. Twarog)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti

David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog

Abstained:

Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

(Motion passed 15 - 0 - 2)

Motion: To adopt A1 and B1 as the options the School Committee recommends

(J. James)
(N. Mello)

Motion to Amend: To add option C1

(D. Fedeli)
(C. Esperti)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Peter MacDonald
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Patricia Young

Opposed:

John Rokicki

Duncan Leith
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson

(Motion failed 8 - 9)

Motion to Amend: To add Option A4

(P. Young)
(J. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

David Fedeli
John Nunnari
Margaret Watson
Patricia Young

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
Kimberly Ferguson
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog

(Motion failed 4 - 13)

Discussion occurred on the timeline. The Superintendent reminded the Committee that a final decision for Phase II of the modular classrooms must be made by December. Chairman Rokicki suggested that Mr.

Eugene Raymond and the Superintendent meet and prepare a timeline in regards to the timeline of Phase II of the modulars classrooms.

Chairman Rokicki scheduled the next special meeting to discuss the long-term high school facility solution for Tuesday, September 24, 2002 at 7:00 PM.

IV. Unfinished Business

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

V. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(C. Esperti)
(D. Lowenthal)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Carol Esperti
David Fedeli
Kimberly Ferguson
Jane James
Alice Livdahl
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
Natalie Mello
John Nunnari
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh
Tammy Tod
Edwin Twarog
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

John Rokicki
Patricia Young

(Motion passed 15 - 2)

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:rlp

schoolcommittee/minutes