

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #229 Wednesday, December 5, 2001

7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

John Rokicki, Chairman	Duncan Leith
Sherry Horeanopoulos, Vice-chairman	David Lowenthal
Donald Benson	Peter MacDonald
Carol Esperti	John Nunnari (7:06 PM)
Michael Gennert	Elizabeth Pape
Jane James	Julie Scott
Sarah Jordan	Kathleen Singh

Committee Members Absent:

Kenneth Fensin	Alice Livdahl
Kimberly Ferguson	Kelly Maxwell
Jeffrey Gibbs	

Administration Present:

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

Others present:

Thomas Pandiscio, Principal, Wachusett Regional High School
Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*
Richard Halloran, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*
Christine Nelson, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*
David Gibbs, Sterling
Maureen Floryan, Holden
Malcolm Smiley, Sterling

I. Call to Order

The Superintendent distributed copies of the Agenda (attachment 1).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman John Rokicki. He introduced Donald Benson, the newly appointed representative from Holden.

II. High School Plan Questions

There was discussion regarding whether or not the modulars would ever be reimbursable. The Superintendent reported that reimbursement will only occur if the modulars are part of a permanent solution. They would also have to be leased not purchased.

The Chairman distributed copies of High School Plan Questions (attachment 2).

The reimbursement for projects is based upon the prosperity of the State. State officials have informed the Superintendent that the estimate for next year is to only fund twenty-five projects. There are currently more than 200 projects on the list.

There was discussion as to the process for moving forward. Some members felt that the educational program should be developed first, others felt that any and all proposals should be brought forward and then discussed. Some felt that a vision for the District was necessary before discussion of size and population, others did not.

By consensus, the Committee agreed that basic working assumptions must be agreed upon and that regional alignment needs to be acknowledged as an issue.

What are questions that the Committee needs answers for before the assumptions are crafted? What are the educational values of the constituency?

A suggestion was made to brainstorm a number of questions and then go to the public and ask for input.

Member Duncan Leith left the meeting at 7:55 PM.

The stronger the assumptions list is, the better the chances for a positive result. The assumptions should be agreed upon and then any proposal must meet those assumptions.

The Superintendent suggested that members remove themselves from the personal issues and bring in professionals who can focus and facilitate the decision-making process, to work with the Committee and the community.

Motion: To request the Superintendent to provide a list of professionals/facilitators/marketers who could facilitate the HIGH SCHOOL FACILITY SOLUTION process and the Chairman to establish an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to aid in this process.

(C. Esperti)
(S. Jordan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Sherry Horeanopoulos
Donald Benson
Carol Esperti
Michael Gennert
Jane James
Sarah Jordan
Peter MacDonald
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

David Lowenthal

Abstained:

John Rokicki

(Motion passed 11-1-1)

Member Carol Esperti left the meeting at 8:38 PM.

Chairman Rokicki appointed the following members to the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to Review Facilitators:

Carol Esperti
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Jane James
Sarah Jordan
Peter MacDonald
Julie Scott

Member Duncan Leith returned to the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Chairman Rokicki established an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to Review the District Goals. This committee will review those goals submitted by members and to come to the Committee in January with a draft. The following members were appointed to this Subcommittee:

Sarah Jordan
Michael Gennert
Elizabeth Pape
Peter MacDonald
Donald Benson

A suggestion was made for all members to bring a list of assumptions to the next meeting for discussion. Chairman Rokicki reported that he would communicate to all members this suggestion.

Chairman Rokicki asked if the Committee agrees with the questions which were distributed with the addition of an area of assumptions.

Motion: To accept the document as parameters to measure any proposal, subject to change.

(S. Jordan)
(J. Scott)

Member Jane James left the meeting at 9:07 PM.

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Donald Benson
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

III. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(S. Jordan)
(J. Scott)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki
Sherry Horeanopoulos
Donald Benson
Michael Gennert
Sarah Jordan
Duncan Leith
David Lowenthal
Peter MacDonald
John Nunnari
Elizabeth Pape
Julie Scott
Kathleen Singh

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ADT:ss

School Committee/Minutes