

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1121, Monday, January 8, 2007

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Steven Hammond
Kathleen Sweeney, Vice-chair	Robert Imber
Thomas Ackerman	Mark James
Cynthia Ahearn	John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Michael Sherman
Shirley Conrad (7:09 PM)	Joseph Sova
Melinda Coyle	

*Committee Members Absent:*

David Gibbs	Edward Pescaro
Kelly Maxwell	Tammy Tod
Judith Newton	

*Administration Present:*

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
Jack Locke, Interim Director of Operations  
Peter Brennan, Comptroller  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

Nathaniel Flynn  
Alexandra O'Connor

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

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Watson addressed those present, explaining the intent of the public hearing session.

Kenneth O'Brien, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

Motion: To amend the agenda of this meeting, shifting VI. Public Hearing, VII. Unfinished Business and VIII. New Business to before entering executive session, not to return to public session.

(M. Sherman)

(K. Sweeney)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 14-0-1)

- A. Approval of 1120<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting minutes of the WRSD Committee held on December 11, 2006. Chair Watson noted that the fourth line under II.A. (Secretary's Report) the sentence should read: "To adopt the *School Committee Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools Form - Summer 2006 – Spring 2007* and *Timelines for Superintendent's Evaluation Spring 2007*, as presented." The minutes were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Members Sova and Sweeney abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson told that warrants had been circulated for signing.

Chair Watson reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Comptroller's report that Members should contact the Superintendent; if

there were questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, Members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

#### IV. Committee Reports

##### A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson welcomed Joseph Sova who will serve on the School Committee as a Sterling representative and Robert Imber who will serve as a Princeton representative.

##### B. Student Advisory Committee (Nathaniel Flynn, Alexandra O'Connor)

Chair Watson called on the Student Representatives to address the Committee. Nathaniel Flynn brought to the Committee's attention the fact that often times students assigned to fourth lunch were faced with the cafeteria "running out of food." The Superintendent spoke to the matter, seeking clarification that the students did not have a wide selection by that lunch period, rather than the fact that the cafeteria had "run out of food," which Nathaniel acknowledged was accurate. The Superintendent will speak with the high school principal on this matter.

Lexie O'Connor mentioned the bad press received following a late December high school basketball game. She assured the School Committee that high school administration and staff had dealt with the matter, as well as the fact that Principal Lane had addressed basketball fans at the start of the January 5<sup>th</sup> basketball game.

##### C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Chair Watson reported that the Steering Committee will meet on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

##### D. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, T. Ackerman, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, C. Bazinet, R. Carter, S. Conrad, M. Sherman)

##### 1. Amended Policy AP1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation** Evaluation of the Superintendent – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy AP1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation** Evaluation of the Superintendent, waiving the reading.

(S. Conrad)

(T. Ackerman)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Draft Policy DP1350 ***Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Student Representative to the Wachusett Regional School Committee*** – second reading

Chair Watson read an email from high school teacher Drew Weymouth (Attachment 6 of the January 4, 2007 Superintendent's Report) (attachment 2).

Motion: To approve the second reading of Draft Policy DP1350 ***Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Student Representative to the Wachusett Regional School Committee***, waiving the reading.

(R. Carter)  
(J. Sova)

A friendly amendment was made by Member Imber, seconded by Member Carter, to change wording in the second bullet to read: He/she is encouraged to give..... This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Member Coyle made a friendly amendment to insert the word "Such" at the start of the second sentence in the second bullet. This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Member James made a friendly amendment to change the words of the friendly amendment from "is encouraged to" to "may" in the

first sentence of the second bullet. This friendly amendment was accepted by Members Imber and Carter.

Motion: To amend the second paragraph of Draft Policy 1350 to read "The Student Representative(s) shall be a full-time student at the Wachusett Regional high School during his/her term of service."

(K. Sweeney)

(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Kathleen Sweeney  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
Norman Plourde  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

Margaret Watson  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
John Nunnari  
Michael Sherman

(Motion failed 7-8)

Roll call vote on main motion:

*In favor:*

Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
John Nunnari  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

Shirley Conrad

Mark James  
Norman Plourde

*Abstained:*  
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 11-3-1)

The next meeting of the Management Subcommittee has been called for Tuesday, January 16, 2007, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office.

E. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, Steven Hammond, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney)

1. Amended Policy AP5252 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Physical Restraint** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy AP5252 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Physical Restraint.**

(C. Bazinet)

(S. Hammond)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Amended Policy AP6260 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Assignment of Students to Classes** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy AP6260  
**Policy Relating to Pupil Services Assignment of Students to  
Classes.**

(C. Bazinet)

(N. Plourde)

Member Imber made a friendly amendment: in the fourth paragraph, the third sentence to read “While the Administration provides an opportunity for parental input in the decision affecting a student’s assignment to a class or course, the principal shall make the final assignment decision to a class or course in keeping with the above stated District goals.” This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

8:05 PM Student Representatives Nathaniel Flynn and Alexandra O’Connor left the meeting.

3. Amended Policy AP6617 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
**Administration of Medication** – second reading

Education Subcommittee Chair Bazinet explained that the first reading of this amended policy was done in September 2006, but the second reading was delayed until the Education Subcommittee

had the opportunity to meet with representative from the District school nurses.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy AP6617 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Administration of Medication**, waiving the reading.

(C. Bazinet)

(M. Coyle)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Education Subcommittee Chair Bazinet brought to the Committee's attention Chair Watson's response to the DOE on the application of the Maplewind Charter School (Attachment 20 of the January 4, 2007 Superintendent's Report). Education Subcommittee Chair Bazinet stated that Chair Watson had captured and expressed the opinion of the Education Subcommittee and she thanked Chair Watson for her efforts.

Motion: For the School Committee to endorse Chair Margaret Watson's letter of December 26, 2006 to the Massachusetts Department of Education regarding the Maplewind charter school application.

(R. Carter)

(S. Hammond)

Vote:



*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The next meeting of the Education Subcommittee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

- F. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, T. Ackerman, M. Coyle, M. James, J. Newton)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman reported that the Subcommittee has not met since the December 11<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. He expects to call a meeting within the next two weeks.

He reported that the School Committee Retreat needs to be scheduled. Member Bazinet noted that there is a conflict on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the date suggested by the Superintendent. Because of that conflict, the Retreat will be planned for Saturday, February 10, 2007, from 8:00 AM to 12 noon.

- G. Community Outreach Subcommittee (K. Sweeney, Chair, E. Pescaro, Vice-chair, M. Coyle, J. Newton, N. Plourde))

Community Outreach Chair Sweeney reported that there was no quorum on January 4, 2007. She is seeking School Committee suggestions on the make up and/or size of this subcommittee.

8:14 PM Superintendent Tom Pandiscio left the table.

8:16 PM Superintendent Tom Pandiscio returned to the table.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Employee a District Business Manager (J. Nunnari, Chair, S. Conrad, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Nunnari deferred his report until the executive session to be held at the conclusion of this meeting.

2. Ad Hoc Advisory Board (Shirley Conrad, Chair, Judith Newton, Vice-chair, School Committee Representatives)

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad noted this is not an ad hoc subcommittee.

I. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

The Superintendent reported in Member Maxwell's absence. He reported on the status of the project, on some financial concerns/issues, and on the anticipated plans for completion.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

The Superintendent reported in Member Pescaro's absence.

- J. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School (T. Ackerman), Chocksett Middle School (S. Conrad), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood Elementary School (E. Pescaro), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (J. Newton), Naquag Elementary School (J. Nunnari), Paxton Center School (M. Coyle), Thomas Prince School (K. Sweeney), Wachusett Regional High School (M. Sherman/T. Tod), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (T. Tod/C. Ahearn)

Members James, Hammond and Sweeney reported on recent School Council meeting.

V. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report

Upon inquiry by members, the Superintendent reported on status of high school principal search.

The Superintendent reported on the recent loss of several thousand gallons of oil from the oil tank at the Jefferson School. He will keep the Committee posted as more details are they are learned.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To appropriate additional School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$240,711 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Dawson Elementary School, Davis Hill Elementary School and Dr. Leroy E. Mayo Elementary School.

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VI. Public Hearing

Kenneth O'Brien, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VIII. New Business

Motion: That the School Committee direct the administration to schedule a “Professional Day” in the Wachusett Regional School District on the day of a national or state election.

(N. Plourde)  
(M. Sherman)

Member Plourde spoke to his motion and discussion followed.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

*Present:*

Melinda Coyle

(Motion passed 14-0, with 1 present)

Chair Watson distributed copies of an Affirmation of District Goals Regarding Tolerance, dated 1/8/07 (attachment 3). She proceeded to read this statement.

Motion: To adopt *Affirmation of District Goals Regarding Tolerance*.

(M. Sherman)  
(K. Sweeney)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter

Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Sherman will bring a copy of this affirmation to the High School SIMCO meeting scheduled in January. Member Nunnari suggested this affirmation be shared with the newspapers for the public's information.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies of contract negotiations with non-union personnel, not to return to public session.

(R. Carter)  
(T. Ackerman)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Ahearn  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
John Nunnari  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

TGP:rlp