

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session

Regular Meeting #1103, Tuesday, January 10, 2006
10:15 PM

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Phillip Mighdoll
Michael Sherman, Vice-chair	Judith Newton
Cynthia Ahearn	John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Kathleen Sweeney
Mark James	Margaret Watson
Mary Catherine Maher	

Committee Members Absent:

Elizabeth Brennan	David Gibbs
Charles Capparelli	Kelly Maxwell
Robert Carter	Tammy Tod

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Susan Sullivan, Director of Administrative Services

Others Present:

Kenneth O'Brien, Municipal Representative

Chair Livdahl called the meeting to order and recognized Dr. Pandiscio, who reported on the progress of District negotiations with the Clerical and Custodial AFSCME Local 93 unions. Dr. Pandiscio distributed a written summary of negotiating points he wished to bring to the Committee's attention (attachment 1).

Dr. Pandiscio first addressed the Clerical Union's issues. He stated that the clerical union had about thirty-two members and that adopting his recommendation with regard to eliminating Step II would result in an increased cost of about \$36,000 over three years, based upon the proposed 6% over three year salary increase authorized earlier by the School Committee. He stated that he felt the elimination of the step was justified because the pay was disproportionately low for some of these clerical employees.

A member of the Committee asked who was on the District's negotiating team. Dr. Pandiscio answered: Attorney Naomi Stonberg, Susan Sullivan, two principals and himself. The member requested that one or more School Committee members participate in or observe the negotiations.

Motion: That the Committee authorize the negotiation proposal outlined in paragraph 4 of the Superintendent's summary.

(M. Sherman)
(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Phillip Mighdoll
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Judith Newton

(Motion passed 12-0-1)

Dr. Pandiscio then reported on the Custodial union. He said that there was no progress to date in the negotiations, but thought that we might offer to pay the custodians for five additional days if they would agree to reduce the number of sick days from 15 to 10 per year. They would still be allowed to accrue up to 175 sick days. He pointed out that this group of employees almost always took all sick days every year and that this was not the case with other bargaining groups.

A member questioned whether the fact that custodians took all of the sick days might be a result of custodial work making them more prone to injuries. Susan Sullivan responded that the custodians did have the largest number of workmen's compensation claims. Another member inquired about short and long term disability benefits for these employees.

Motion: To extend the meeting by fifteen minutes. (Note: Time was 10:35 PM)
(M. Sherman)
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Phillip Mighdoll

(Motion passed 12-1)

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to investigate the cost benefit of reduction in sick day benefits to the custodial unit in return for higher wages than the 6% authorized over three years as previously approved by the School Committee.

(C. Bazinet)
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The Chair announced that the second set of issues addressed at the executive session involved the High School construction project. Kenneth O'Brien left the meeting.

Dr. Pandiscio distributed a letter from Attorney Michael Christy of Bourgeois, Dresser, White & Beard, attorneys representing the District in connection with the high school construction project (attachment 2). Attached to the letter was a proposed amendment to the contract between the District and the architectural firm, Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. (originally Strekalovsky, Hoyt & Raymond). Dr. Pandiscio explained that the Wachusett High School Building Committee had reviewed the proposed amendment and was seeking approval from the School Committee to increase the original contract amount by \$475,000. He further explained that the all payments for the work of consultants would be made jointly to the architects and the consultant, that the extra amount would allow the project to be adequately staffed and that the District was giving up no rights to legal recourse against the architects for events to date. Several questions were asked by members.

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to execute the amendment to the contract as presented.
(M. Sherman)
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Nunnari)
(K. Sweeney)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Alice Livdahl
Michael Sherman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Mark James
Mary Catherine Maher
Phillip Mighdoll
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Kathleen Sweeney
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Meeting adjourned at 10:55PM

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Livdahl, Acting Secretary