

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1230 Monday, February 4, 2013

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	James Mason
Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair (7:17 PM)	Kenneth Mills
William Clute	Norman Plourde
Steven Hammond	Robert Remillard
Stacey Jackson (7:34 PM)	Erik Scheinfeldt
Julianne Kelley	Athas Tsongalis
Deidre Kosky	Margaret Watson
Sarah LaMountain	

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
Lance Harris	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Robert Imber	

Administration Present:

Anthony Gasbarro, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Kelley Gangi, Director of Curriculum
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Emily Lindberg

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

Chair Leith called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Bill Randall, Holden, addressed the School Committee

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1229th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 14, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on January 14, 2013

(S. Hammond)
(M. Watson)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held January 14, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Member Kosky abstaining.

B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 14, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session held on January 14, 2013.

(S. Hammond)
(E. Scheinfeldt)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Deidre Kosky
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard

Motion passed 10-0-3.

C. Release of Previously Approved Executive Session Minutes:

1. August 9, 2012
2. August 20, 2012
3. September 10, 2012 – Executive Session I
4. September 24, 2012
5. October 9, 2012
6. December 10, 2012

Chair Leith explained the need for a vote to release the six sets of executive session minutes, the matters discussed during the six executive sessions are now finalized. Chair Leith cautioned members that matters discussed in executive sessions should stay confidential until minutes are released. Members were in agreement that one motion could cover the release of the six sets of minutes.

Motion: To release executive sessions minutes of August 9, 2012, August 20, 2012, September 10, 2012 (session 1), September 24, 2012, October 9, 2012, December 10, 2012.

(M. Watson)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Leith reminded the Committee that if there are questions regarding the report of the Director of Business and Finance, members should contact the Interim Superintendent; if there are questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Leith expressed thanks to members of the District executive staff for their labors the last several months.

B. Student Representatives

Emily Lindberg reported on some recent WRHS activities: winter athletics are doing well, the annual Madrigal Dinner was held January 31st, February 1st, and February 2nd, a majority of DECA competition participants have qualified for states, the National Honor Society induction ceremony was held January 30th, and WRHS will once again participate in the Soles for Souls campaign.

7:17 PM Vice-chair Cipro joined the meeting.

C. Management Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, C. Cipro, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde, R. Remillard, M. Sciabarrasi, M. Watson)

Chair Leith reported the Management Subcommittee will meet at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, February 13th. Proposed amendment language to Policy 1160 *School Committee Member Ethics* has gone to District Counsel for review. If it is the committee's wish, Chair Leith will approach Glenn Koocher of MASC, asking if Mr. Koocher would attend a special meeting of the School Committee to discuss and explain the new Superintendent evaluation requirements.

1. Deleted Policy – DP5263.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Bonus Incentive Pay** – first reading
(N. Plourde)
(M. Watson)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

- D. Education Subcommittee (S. Hammond, Chair, N. Plourde, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, L. Harris, R. Imber, K. Mills, R. Pelczarski, M. Watson)

Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported the Education Subcommittee will meet on Monday, February 11th, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (R. Remillard, Chair, E. Scheinfeldt, Vice-chair, W. Clute, L. Harris, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, D. Leith, J. Mason, M. Sciabarrasi)

Subcommittee Chair Remillard reported this subcommittee had convened just before this School Committee meeting and three school principals addressed the subcommittee and showed PowerPoint presentations (attachments 2, 3, 4). Presentations were made by Mary Cringan, Thomas Prince School; Erik Githmark, Mountview Middle School; and Director McCall made the Early Childhood Center presentation in Pat Ottaviano's absence. Business/Finance Vice-chair Scheinfeldt took the opportunity to encourage any School Committee member who are able to attend the February 11th and the February 25th Business/Finance Subcommittee meetings, when principal presentations will continue. Subcommittee Chair Remillard reported this subcommittee is scheduled to meet on February 7, 2013 and the agenda item will be "Initial FY14 Budget Discussion."

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (S. Jackson, Chair, M. Sciabarrasi, Vice-chair, L. Harris, J. Kelley, J. Mason, K. Mills, A. Tsongalis, M. Watson)

Discussion deferred until Community Outreach Chair Jackson joins the meeting.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (J. Mason, R. Remillard)

No report was made.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Kelley, Chair, W. Clute, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley reported the last of the five public hearings will be held on February 5th in Princeton at the

Thomas Prince School. This ad hoc subcommittee will then meet on Wednesday, February 6th, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center. Chair Leith reported on his conversations with District Counsel regarding the need for School Committee membership to increase by two, to twenty-two, due to Holden's 2012 census numbers. Chair Leith will send a letter to the Holden Town Clerk advising the town of the need to increase Holden's School Committee representation.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Superintendent Search (S. Hammond, Chair, N. Plourde, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, C. Cipro, R. Imber, D. Leith, R. Pelczarski, R. Remillard, M. Sciabarrasi, M. Watson)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hammond distributed copies of “an invitation to apply” prepared by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees as part of the Superintendent search (attachment 5). He then reported that there have been 900 responses to the online survey. Superintendent search focus groups are on going and the School Committee focus group will be held from 7:00 – 7:30 PM on Tuesday, February 12th, at the start of the regular School Committee meeting. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hammond reiterated that School Committee members should not sit in on focus groups, aside from the one on February 12th.

7:34 PM Member Jackson joined the meeting.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (S. Jackson, Chair, M. Sciabarrasi, Vice-chair, L. Harris, J. Kelley, J. Mason, K. Mills, A. Tsongalis, M. Watson)

Subcommittee Chair Jackson reported this subcommittee will meet next on Wednesday, February 13th, at 7:00 PM in Sterling at the Chocksett Middle School. In order to be sure of a quorum, Subcommittee Chair Jackson asked that members advise if they will not be able to attend that meeting.

- I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported this building committee will meet on February 5th at the Holden Municipal Light Department, and will then meet on February 11th at the Holden Senior Center. Mountview Building Committee Chair Paul Challenger will make a presentation to the School Committee on Monday, February 25th.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee (D. Leith)

Chair Leith had nothing to report at this time. Member Kelley advised and reminded that Green Repair projects need to be closed out when the projects are completed.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (A. Tsongalis), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (S. Jackson, K. Mills), Dawson Elementary School (D. Kosky), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Kelley), Houghton Elementary School (L. Harris/N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (M. Watson), Mountview Middle School (S. Hammond/E. Scheinfeldt), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (W. Clute/R. Pelczarski), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Sciabarrasi), Wachusett Regional High School (C. Bazinet/M. Sciabarrasi/A. Tsongalis), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (J. Mason)

Member Watson – Mayo Elementary School, January 31, 2013

Member LaMountain – Chocksett Middle School, January 22, 2013

Member Scheinfeldt – Mountview Middle School

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

At Member Mill's request, Director of Business and Finance Scanlon spoke about his "moving forward" report which was included in the January 25, 2013 Superintendent's Report.

Member Plourde asked the status of the "windmill project," which District administration will research and provide a report to the School Committee in the near future. Member Kelley asked that a copy of the final SODAR report be provided to the School Committee at that time.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the School Calendar for School Year 2013-2014
(S. Hammond)
(J. Mason)

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro reported that the DRAFT calendar had again been reviewed and discussed with building principals and it was agreed to eliminate one of the professional development half days, December 11, 2013. He also reported that Members Harris and Mason had met with the Sterling Selectboard, who would support moving the

Sterling annual town election to Monday, May 12, 2014, the same date as the other four Member Town annual elections, resulting in District schools being closed that date in order to accommodate the towns using the schools as polling sites.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to address the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished business

Member Watson requested that District administration inquire about the District's legal obligation(s) regarding fees for academic courses and refunding previously paid fees.

VIII. New Business

Member Harris' motion that each school principal shall perform a safety audit and report the finding to the School Committee by February 25, 2013 was not brought before the School Committee since Interim Superintendent Gasbarro will be meeting with area police chiefs on February 11th and school principals are aware of their need to perform a safety audit, all of which Interim Superintendent Gasbarro plans to report on by February 25th.

Motion: That the Education Subcommittee develop a policy regarding student fees.

(M. Watson)
(E. Scheinfeldt)

Member Watson spoke to the motion.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(A. Tsongalis)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills

Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent

AAG:rlp